

Peer Review Summary Document

(01/19/2021)

Peer Review Plan

<https://www.usgs.gov/atom/109227> [73 KB PDF].

Title and Authorship of Information Product Disseminated

Range-Wide Greater Sage-Grouse Hierarchical Monitoring Framework: Implications for Defining Population Boundaries, Trend Estimation, and a Targeted Annual Warning System
By Coates, P.S., Prochazka, B.G., O'Donnell, M.S., Aldridge, C.L., Edmunds, D.R., Monroe, A.P., Ricca, M.R., Wann, G.E., Hanser, S.E., Wiechman, L.A., and Chenaille, M.P.

Peer Reviewers Expertise and Credentials

Peer Reviewer #1: USGS Ecologist specializing in population and community modeling in sagebrush ecosystems.

Peer Reviewer #2: Biologist for the State of Wyoming specializing in greater sage-grouse ecology and population monitoring and management.

Charge Submitted to Peer Reviewers

The reviewers were asked to make an objective evaluation of the methods, results, and conclusions described in the manuscript.

Summary of Peer Reviewers Comments

Overall comments from the reviewers were favorable. A common thread among the comments was the need for additional clarification that addressed potential biases associated with modeling lek count data.

Reviewer #1 inquired about some of the technical aspects of the methods, specifically why intrinsic, population-level factors (e.g., density-dependence) were not incorporated into the modeling process. The reviewer suggested minor changes to key terminology used throughout the manuscript. The reviewer identified certain sections of text, which as written, seemed contradictory. The reviewer also made suggestions to reorganize sections of text based on certain concepts being sequentially dependent.

Reviewer #2 comments primarily related to clarifications about interpretation of methods and results. The reviewer provided multiple suggestions to help explain limitations and caveats of this study for the reader. The reviewer also raised questions about how results from the lek clustering analysis may have changed based on changes to certain data inputs.

Summary of USGS Response to Peer Reviewers Comments

Revisions made to the manuscript in response to both reviewers technical comments, included clarifying, expanding, and rearranging text as suggested. Revisions were also made to incorporate appropriate editorial suggestions from the reviewers.

The Dissemination

The published information product will be released as a USGS Open File Report and will be available at <https://pubs.usgs.gov/>.