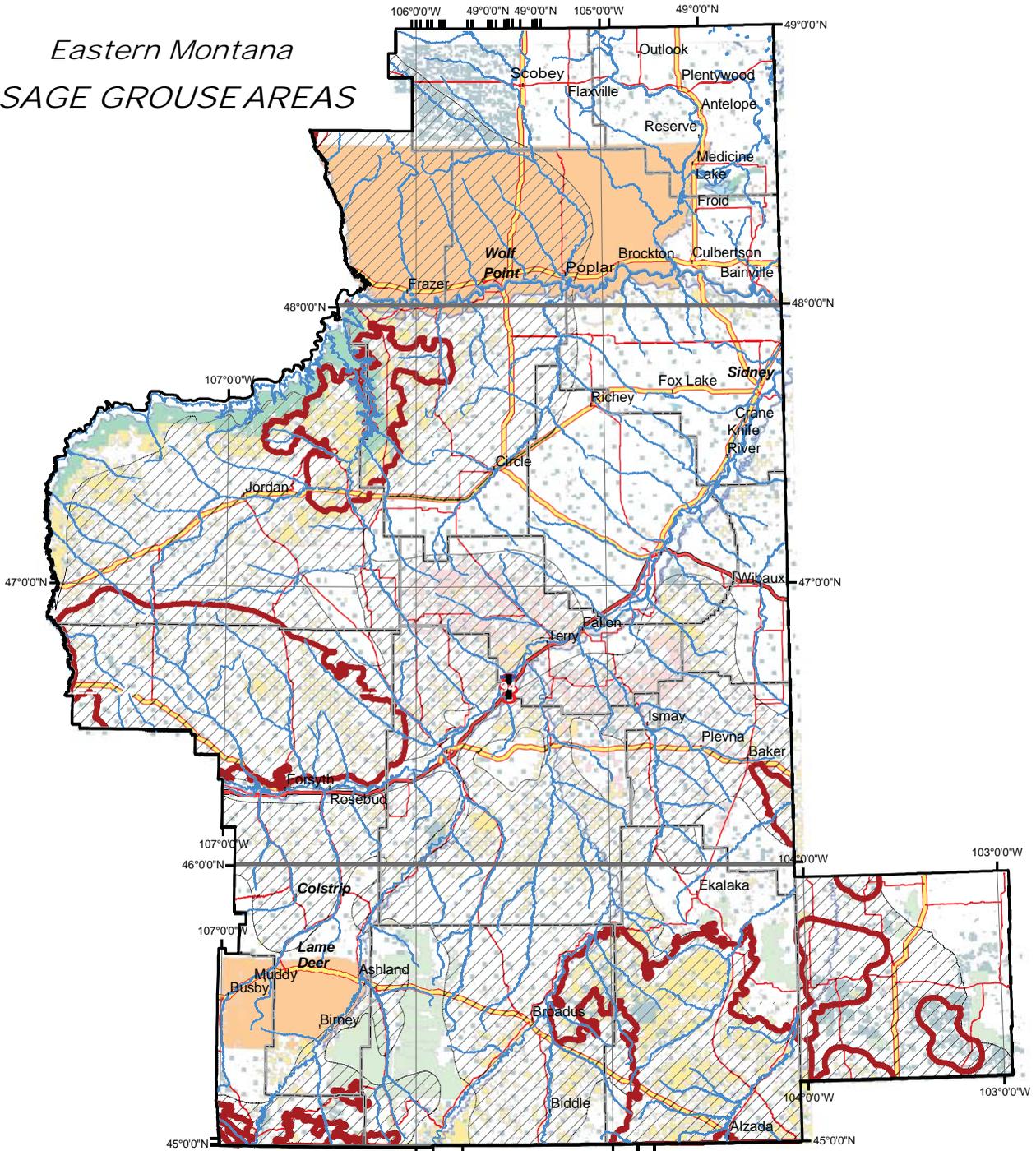


Eastern Montana SAGE GROUSE AREAS



Legend

- | | | | | | | | |
|----------|----------------------------|----------|-----|-----|-----|-------|---------|
| General | Major Roads | BLM | BIA | COR | STL | STP | USFS |
| Priority | Road Classification | BLM - LU | BOR | NP | STW | USFWS | Private |
| | Limited Access Highway | | | | | | WATER |
| | Highway | | | | | | |
| | Local Roads | | | | | | |

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Fire Operations Best Management Practices for Sage Grouse Conservation

1. Maintain firefighter and public safety as the overriding priority.
2. Request a resource advisor for all extended attack fires in or near sage grouse areas.
3. Utilize Resource Advisors (READ) to identify critical areas within general or priority habitats.
4. Minimize unnecessary cross country travel during fire operations in sage grouse habitat.
5. When safe and practical minimize burnout operations in key sage grouse habitat.
6. Use retardant, mechanized equipment, and available resources to limit acres burned.
7. As safety allows, mop up islands, dog legs, and other features to minimize sage brush burned.
8. Use existing fuel breaks to minimize fire spread.
9. Locate fire camp and facilities such as helibases, staging areas, etc. in areas where physical disturbance to sage grouse habitat can be minimized; i.e. disturbed areas, grasslands, near roads/trails or in other areas with minimal sagebrush cover. Use READs to assist with these efforts.
10. Power wash all fire fighting vehicles prior to the first assignment in sage grouse habitat and between calls to prevent the spread of noxious weeds.
11. On critical fire weather days preposition resources to optimize an efficient response in sage grouse habitat.
12. Document fire operations in sage grouse habitat to facilitate rehab and follow up actions after the fire has been contained.

13. Notify Miles City Dispatch of fires in Sage Grouse habitat. (406) 233-2913