

Connelly, J.W., S.T. Knick, M.A. Schroeder, and S.J. Stiver. 2004. Conservation Assessment of Greater Sage-grouse and Sagebrush habitats. Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Unpublished report. Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Executive Summary (pg ES-3): Energy development for oil and gas influences sagebrush habitats by physical removal of habitat to construct well pads, roads, and pipelines. Indirect effects include habitat fragmentation and soil disturbance along roads, spread of exotic plants, and increased predation from raptors that have access to new perches for nesting and hunting. Noise disturbance from construction activities and vehicles also can disrupt sage-grouse breeding and nesting. Development of oil and gas resources will continue to be a significant influence on sagebrush habitats and sage-grouse because of advanced technological capability to access and develop reserves, high-demand for oil and gas resources, and the large number of applications submitted (4,279 in fiscal year 2002) and approved each year.