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# Appendix A

## Scoping Materials



# APPENDIX A

## SCOPING MATERIALS

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Public scoping for the Greater Sage-Grouse LUPAs/EISs has included a newsletter, 39 scoping open houses, press releases, notices in local newspapers, and a public Web site, <http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/sagegrouse.html>. The formal public comment period as required by NEPA began on December 9, 2011, with the publication of a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register, and ended on March 23, 2012.

The following material is included in this appendix:

1. Notice of Intent
2. Project Newsletter I
3. Press Releases
4. Scoping Comment Form

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accessioned into the applicant's collection for scientific research. This notification covers activities to be conducted by the applicant over a 5-year period.

Applicant: Duke Lemur Center, Durham, NC; PRT-56737A

The applicant requests a permit to import biological specimens collected from silky sifakas (*Propithecus diadema candidus*) in the wild in Madagascar for the purpose of scientific research.

**Multiple Applicants**

The following applicants each request a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of one male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*) culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa, for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

Applicant: Ronald Bain, New Haven, MO; PRT-59367A.

Applicant: James Moses, Houston, TX; PRT-59496A.

Applicant: Glen Hudson, Weston, FL; PRT-59085A.

Applicant: Paxton Motheral, Fort Worth, TX; PRT-58509A.

Applicant: Lloyd Douglas, Aledo, TX; PRT-59287A.

Applicant: Jill Holstead, Houston, TX; PRT-59495A.

**Correction**

On October 28, 2011, we published a **Federal Register** notice inviting the public to comment on several applications for permits to conduct certain activities with endangered species (76 FR 66954). We made an error by omitting one animal in Leonard Voyle's application (PRT-57362A), which starts in the first column on page 66955. The omission is for an additional male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*), for a total of two animals, not one. All the other information we printed was correct. With this notice, we correct that error and reopen the comment period for PRT-57362A. The corrected entry for this application is as follows:

Applicant: Leonard Voyles, Richmond, TX; PRT-57362A

The applicant requests a permit to import the sport-hunted trophy of two male bontebok (*Damaliscus pygargus pygargus*), culled from a captive herd maintained under the management program of the Republic of South Africa,

for the purpose of enhancement of the survival of the species.

**Brenda Tapia,**

*Program Analyst/Data Administrator, Branch of Permits, Division of Management Authority.*

[FR Doc. 2011-31590 Filed 12-8-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

[LLMT930000-12-L1820000-XX0000]

**Notice of Administrative Boundary Change for Bureau of Land Management Offices in Montana To Eliminate the County Split of Lewis and Clark County**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The administrative boundaries between the Central Montana District Office, Lewistown Field Office, and the Western Montana District Office, Butte Field Office, are being changed. The administrative boundary change will realign Lewis and Clark County, currently a split county between the two offices, to the Western Montana District Office, Butte Field Office.

**DATES:** The boundary change is effective October 1, 2011.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gary Benes by telephone at (406) 538-1945 or by email at [gbenes@blm.gov](mailto:gbenes@blm.gov); or Richard Hotaling by telephone at (406) 533-7629 or by email at [rhotalin@blm.gov](mailto:rhotalin@blm.gov); or Scott Haight by telephone at (406) 533-7630 or by email at [shaight@blm.gov](mailto:shaight@blm.gov). Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-(800) 877-8339 to contact the above individuals during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individuals. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The primary purpose of the administrative boundary change is to improve service to the public and coordination efforts with local, Federal, State, and county agencies. The benefits of this change will result in the following improvements:

- Consolidation of resource receipts, workloads (*i.e.*, range, forestry, recreation) into one office location;

- Consolidation of law enforcement coordination between the county sheriff and one BLM office;

- Consolidation of fire response and coordination between the county interagency dispatch and one BLM office; and

- Improved coordination with local and county officials on a number of land resource issues such as lands and realty, rights-of-way, and land use planning.

The boundaries for the Butte Field Office are described as follows:

**Butte Field Office**

The Bureau of Land Management, Butte Field Office administrative boundary now encompasses all of Broadwater, Deer Lodge, Gallatin, Jefferson, Lewis and Clark, Park, Silver Bow and the northern portion of Beaverhead Counties, in the state of Montana.

**Authority:** BLM Manual 1203 Delegation of Authority Sec 1202 and Sec 1201 relates to functions of BLM. The delegation manual shows the various delegations of functions to BLM officials, *et al.*, which includes "Approve changes in District and Field Office boundaries." (See the table of delegations in the manual, specifically subject code 1202). This authority is retained by the Director, with concurrence by the "Office of the Assistant Secretary" (see footnote 3 in the 1203 Manual).

**Jamie E. Connell,**

*State Director.*

[FR Doc. 2011-31651 Filed 12-8-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-DN-P

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

[LLWO230.11100000.PH0000]

**Notice of Intent To Prepare Environmental Impact Statements and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statements To Incorporate Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Measures Into Land Use Plans and Land Management Plans**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (FLPMA), and the Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act 1976 (NFMA), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Forest Service (FS) intend to prepare Environmental Impact Statements (EIS)

and Supplemental EISs, and by this notice are announcing the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues. The BLM is the lead agency on these EISs and Supplemental EISs and the FS is participating as a cooperating agency.

These EISs/Supplemental EISs will be coordinated under two regions: An Eastern Region and a Western Region. The Eastern Region includes BLM land use plans in the States of Colorado, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, and portions of Utah and Montana. The Western Region includes BLM land use plans in California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and portions of Utah and Montana. For each of these regions, the FS will include those areas that were identified by the FWS as high priority areas for greater sage-grouse within the NFS units listed below.

**DATES:** This notice initiates the public scoping process for the EISs/Supplemental EISs. Comments on issues may be submitted in writing until February 7, 2012. The date(s) and location(s) of all scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, newspapers and the BLM Web site for the Eastern Region at <http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/sagegrouse/eastern.html>, and for the Western Region at <http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/sagegrouse/western.html>. In order to be included in the Draft EISs/Supplemental EISs, all scoping comments must be received prior to the close of the scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. Comments that are specific to a particular area or land use plan should be identified as such. We will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EISs/Supplemental EISs.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments related to the greater sage-grouse planning effort by any of the following methods:

- Eastern Region
  - Web site: <http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/sagegrouse/eastern.html>
  - Email: [sageeast@blm.gov](mailto:sageeast@blm.gov)
  - Fax: (307) 775-6042
  - Mail: Eastern Region Project Manager, BLM Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009
- Western Region
  - Web site: <http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/sagegrouse/western.html>
  - Email: [sagewest@blm.gov](mailto:sagewest@blm.gov)
  - Fax: (775) 861-6747

- Mail: Western Region Project Manager, BLM Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Blvd., Reno, Nevada 89502

Documents pertinent to the Eastern Region will be coordinated through the BLM Wyoming State Office. Documents pertinent to the Western Region will be coordinated through the BLM Nevada State Office.

Though BLM and NFS lands in Utah are distributed between the Western and Eastern Regions, all such lands will be addressed in one EIS, or through ongoing plan revision processes. All comments applicable to the Utah EIS should be sent to the Western Region.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact Chuck Otto, Eastern Region Project Manager, telephone (307) 775-6062; address 5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009; email [cotto@blm.gov](mailto:cotto@blm.gov), or: Brian Amme, Western Region Project Manager, telephone (775) 861-6645; address 1340 Financial Boulevard, Reno, Nevada 89520; email [bamme@blm.gov](mailto:bamme@blm.gov). Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-(800) 877-8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FIRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** In April 2010, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) published its listing decision for the greater sage-grouse indicating that listing was "Warranted but Precluded" due to higher listing priorities under the Endangered Species Act. The inadequacy of regulatory mechanisms to conserve the greater sage-grouse and its habitat was identified as a significant threat in the FWS finding on the petition to list the greater sage-grouse as a threatened or endangered species. The FWS has identified conservation measures to be included in the respective agencies' land use plans as the principal regulatory mechanisms to assure adequate conservation of the greater sage-grouse and its habitat on public lands. For the BLM, these land use plans are Resource Management Plans (RMP). For the FS, these are Land and Resource Management Plans (LMP). In view of the identified threats to the greater sage-grouse, and the FWS timeline for making a listing decision on this species, the BLM and FS propose to incorporate consistent objectives and conservation measures for the

protection of greater sage-grouse and its habitat into relevant RMPs and LMPs by September 2014 in order to avoid a potential listing under the Endangered Species Act. These conservation measures would be incorporated into RMPs and LMPs through the plan amendment and revision processes of the respective agencies. The BLM and FS expect to prepare EISs to analyze proposed amendments to some land use plans that are not currently undergoing amendment or revision. For plans already undergoing amendment or revision, the BLM and FS will consider incorporating conservation measures either through the ongoing amendment or revision processes, or through supplemental environmental analyses as appropriate.

The BLM and FS intend to evaluate the adequacy of sage-grouse conservation measures in RMPs and selected LMPs, and consider conservation measures, as appropriate, in proposed RMP and selected LMP amendments and/or revisions throughout the range of the greater sage-grouse (with the exception of the bi-state population in California and Nevada and the Washington State distinct population segment, which will be addressed through other planning efforts).

The BLM currently expects to evaluate sage-grouse conservation measures in 68 planning areas, and the FS expects to evaluate sage-grouse conservation measures in 9 LMPs. The plans applicable to these planning areas are listed below.

BLM Wyoming has already begun undertaking a programmatic EIS specific to the greater sage-grouse. This programmatic EIS will analyze amendments to all of the State's RMPs not currently being amended or revised to address needed changes to the management and conservation of greater sage-grouse habitats. The ongoing RMP revisions in Wyoming will evaluate conservation measures through existing planning processes.

Below is a list of RMPs and LMPs that the BLM and FS intend to evaluate. Some RMPs/LMPs are already undergoing either revision or amendment. In cases in which an ongoing plan revision or amendment may not be completed by September 2014, the underlying completed RMP is also listed, as it may be amended. FS LMPs are denoted below in parentheses.

Within the Eastern Region, the potentially affected BLM RMPs and FS LMPs include:

- Colorado
  - Colorado River Valley RMP

- revision
    - Grand Junction RMP revision (and existing 1987 Grand Junction RMP)
    - Kremmling RMP revision
    - Little Snake RMP (2011)
    - White River RMP Oil and Gas amendment
  - Montana/Dakotas
    - Billings RMP revision (and existing 1984 Billings RMP)
    - Headwaters RMP (1984)
    - HiLine RMP revision (and existing 1988 West HiLine RMP)
    - Judith, Valley, and Phillips RMP (1992)
    - Miles City RMP revision (and existing 1985 Powder River and 1995 Big Dry RMPs)
    - North Dakota RMP (1988)
    - South Dakota RMP revision (and existing 1986 South Dakota RMP)
    - Upper Missouri River Breaks NM RMP (2008)
  - Utah
    - Park City Management Framework Plan (MFP) (1975)
    - Price RMP (2008)
    - Randolph MFP (1980)
    - Salt Lake District Isolated Tracts Planning Analysis (1985)
    - Vernal RMP (2008)
    - Uinta National Forest Revised Forest Plan (2003) (FS)
  - Wyoming (please note that BLM Wyoming has already issued a Notice of Intent to begin an EIS that will amend all completed plans to address needed changes in the management and conservation of greater sage-grouse habitat)
    - Bighorn Basin RMP revision
    - Buffalo RMP revision (and existing 1985 Buffalo RMP)
    - Casper RMP (2007)
    - Kemmerer RMP (2010)
    - Lander RMP revision
    - Newcastle RMP (2000)
    - Pinedale RMP (2008)
    - Rawlins RMP (2008)
    - Rock Springs RMP revision (and existing 1997 Green River RMP)
    - Thunder Basin National Grassland LMP (not included in BLM Wyoming Notice of Intent above) (FS)
- Within the Western Region, the potentially affected RMPs and LMPs include:
- California
    - Alturas RMP (2008)
    - Eagle Lake RMP (2008)
    - Surprise RMP (2008)
  - Idaho
    - Birds of Prey NCA RMP (2008)
    - Bruneau RMP revision (and existing 1983 Bruneau RMP)
    - Challis RMP (1999)
    - Craters of the Moon NM RMP (2006)
  - Montana
    - Butte RMP (2009)
    - Dillon RMP (2006)
  - Nevada
    - Battle Mountain RMP revision (and existing 1997 Tonopah and 1986 Shoshone-Eureka RMPs)
    - Black Rock Desert NCA RMP (2004)
    - Carson City RMP revision (and existing 2001 Carson City RMP)
    - Elko RMP (1987)
    - Ely RMP (2008)
    - Wells RMP (1985)
    - Winnemucca RMP revision
    - Humboldt National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1986) (FS)
    - Toiyabe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1986) (FS)
  - Oregon
    - Andrews RMP (2005)
    - Baker RMP revision (and existing 1989 Baker RMP)
    - Brothers-Lapine RMP (1989)
    - John Day RMP revision
    - Lakeview RMP amendment (and existing 2003 Lakeview RMP)
    - Southeastern Oregon RMP amendment (and existing 2003 Southeastern Oregon RMP)
    - Steens RMP (2005)
    - Three Rivers RMP (1992)
    - Two Rivers RMP (1989)
    - Upper Deschutes RMP (2005)
  - Utah
    - Box Elder RMP (1986)
    - Cedar City RMP revision (and existing 1983 Pinyon and 1986 Cedar-Beaver-Garfield-Antimony RMPs)
    - Grand Staircase-Escalante NM RMP (1999)

- House Range RMP (1987)
- Kanab RMP (2008)
- Pony Express RMP (1990)
- Richfield RMP (2008)
- Warm Springs RMP (1986)
- Dixie National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1986) (FS)
- Fishlake National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (1986) (FS)

The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues relating to the conservation of the greater sage-grouse and its habitat that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the process for developing the EISs/Supplemental EISs.

At present, the BLM has identified the following preliminary issues:

- Greater Sage-grouse Habitat Management
- Fluid Minerals
- Coal Mining
- Hard Rock Mining
- Mineral Materials
- Rights-of-Way (including transmission)
- Renewable Energy Development
- Fire
- Invasive Species
- Grazing
- Off Highway Vehicle Management and Recreation

Preliminary planning criteria include:

- The BLM and FS will utilize the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) *Conservation Assessment of Greater Sage-grouse and Sagebrush Habitats* (Connelly, *et al.* 2004), and any other appropriate resources, to identify greater sage-grouse habitat requirements and best management practices.
  - The approved RMP amendments/revisions will be consistent with the BLM's National Sage-grouse Conservation Strategy.
  - The approved RMP amendments/revisions will comply with FLPMA, NEPA, and Council on Environmental Quality regulations at 40 CFR parts 1500–1508 and Department of the Interior regulations at 43 CFR part 46 and 43 CFR part 1600; the BLM *H-1601-1 Land Use Planning Handbook*, "Appendix C: Program-Specific and Resource-Specific Decision Guidance Requirements" for affected resource programs; the 2008 BLM NEPA Handbook (H-1790-1), and all other applicable BLM policies and guidance.
    - The approved LMP amendments/revisions will comply with NFMA, NEPA, Council on Environmental Quality regulations at 40 CFR parts 1500–1508, Regulations of the Secretary

of Agriculture at 36 CFR part 219 and FSM 1920 and FSH 1909.12.

- The RMP and LMP amendments/revisions will be limited to making land use planning decisions specific to the conservation of greater sage-grouse habitats.

- The BLM and FS will consider allocative and/or prescriptive standards to conserve greater sage-grouse habitat, as well as objectives and management actions to restore, enhance, and improve greater sage-grouse habitat.

- The RMP and LMP amendments/revisions will recognize valid existing rights.

- Lands addressed in the RMP and LMP amendments/revisions will be public lands (including surface-estate split estate lands) managed by the BLM, and National Forest System lands, respectively, in greater sage-grouse habitats. Any decisions in the RMP and LMP amendments/revisions will apply only to Federal lands administered by either the BLM or the FS.

- The BLM and FS will use a collaborative and multi-jurisdictional approach, where appropriate, to determine the desired future condition of public lands and National Forest System lands for the conservation of greater sage-grouse and their habitats.

- As described by law and policy, the BLM and FS will strive to ensure that conservation measures are as consistent as possible with other planning jurisdictions within the planning area boundaries.

- The BLM and FS will consider a range of reasonable alternatives, including appropriate management prescriptions that focus on the relative values of resources while contributing to the conservation of the greater sage-grouse and sage-grouse habitat.

- The BLM and FS will address socioeconomic impacts of the alternatives. Socio-economic analysis will use an accepted input-output quantitative model such as IMPLAN or RIMSII, and/or JEDI for renewable energy analysis.

- The BLM and FS will endeavor to use current scientific information, research, technologies, and results of inventory, monitoring, and coordination to determine appropriate local and regional management strategies that will enhance or restore greater sage-grouse habitats.

- Management of greater sage-grouse habitat that intersects with Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) on Public lands administered by the BLM will be guided by the *Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review (IMP)*. Land use allocations made for WSAs must be consistent with the IMP and

with other laws, regulations, and policies related to WSA management.

- For BLM-administered lands, all activities and uses within greater sage-grouse habitats will follow existing land health standards. Standards and guidelines (S&G) for livestock grazing and other programs that have developed S&Gs will be applicable to all alternatives for BLM lands.

- The BLM and FS will consult with Indian tribes to identify sites, areas, and objects important to their cultural and religious heritage within greater sage-grouse habitats.

- The BLM and FS will coordinate and communicate with State, local, and tribal governments to ensure that the BLM and FS consider provisions of pertinent plans, seek to resolve inconsistencies between State, local, and tribal plans, and provide ample opportunities for state, local, and tribal governments to comment on the development of amendments or revisions.

- The BLM and FS will develop vegetation management objectives, including objectives for managing noxious weeds and invasive species (including identification of desired future condition for specific areas), within greater sage-grouse habitat.

- The RMP and LMP amendments/revisions will be based on the principles of Adaptive Management.

- Reasonable Foreseeable Development Scenarios and planning for Fluid Minerals will follow the BLM Handbook H-1624-1 and current fluid mineral (oil and gas, coal-bed methane, oil shale) and geothermal resources. For NFS lands, the FS will use applicable and relevant policy and procedures.

- The RMP and LMP amendments/revisions will be developed using an interdisciplinary approach to prepare reasonable foreseeable development scenarios, identify alternatives, and analyze resource impacts, including cumulative impacts to natural and cultural resources and the social and economic environment.

- The most current approved BLM and FS corporate spatial data will be supported by current metadata and will be used to ascertain greater sage-grouse habitat extent and quality. Data will be consistent with the principles of the Information Quality Act of 2000.

- State Game and Fish agencies' greater sage-grouse data and expertise will be utilized to the fullest extent practicable in making management determinations on Federal lands.

The BLM and FS will utilize and coordinate the NEPA commenting process to help fulfill the public

involvement process under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f), if applicable, as provided for in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3). Native American tribal consultations will be conducted in accordance with policy, and tribal concerns will be given due consideration, including impacts on Indian trust assets. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with other stakeholders that may be interested or affected by the BLM's or FS's decision on this proposal are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM to participate as a cooperating agency. The public is also invited to nominate or recommend areas on public lands for greater sage-grouse and their habitat to be considered as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern as a part of this planning process (BLM Manual 1613.3.31). Parties interested in leasing and development of Federal coal in the planning area should provide coal resource data for their area(s) of interest. Specifically, information is requested on the location, quality, and quantity of Federal coal with development potential, and on surface resource values related to the 20 coal unsuitability criteria described in 43 CFR part 3461. This information will be used for any necessary updating of coal screening determinations (43 CFR 3420.1-4) in the Decision Area and in the environmental analysis.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Authority:** 40 CFR 1501.7, 43 CFR 1610.2.

**Edwin Roberson,**

*Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning.*

[FR Doc. 2011-31652 Filed 12-8-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-84-P

Great Bay NWR to address these issues and to achieve the refuge's establishment purposes, and the vision and goals we developed. The full description of the alternatives is presented in the draft CCP/EA. The alternatives identify several actions in common. All alternatives include measures to protect the rocky shoreline habitat, control invasive species, protect cultural resources, monitor for climate change impacts, distribute refuge revenue sharing payments, and continue participation in conservation and education partnerships. There are also several actions that are common to both alternatives B and C. These include constructing a new joint administrative office and visitor contact station, and evaluating the need for additional land protection.

There are other actions that differ among the alternatives. The draft CCP/EA describes each alternative in detail and relates it to the issues and concerns that arose during the planning process. Below, we provide summaries for the three alternatives.

#### *Great Bay NWR Alternatives*

##### Alternative A (Current Management)

This alternative is the "No Action" alternative required by the National Environmental Policy Act. Alternative A defines our current management activities, including those planned, funded, or underway, and serves as the baseline against which to compare alternatives B and C. Under alternative A, Great Bay NWR would remain unstaffed, and we would not change our current visitor services facilities, including existing trails and viewing platforms. Our biological program priorities would continue to be managing impoundments for migratory birds, managing grasslands for upland sandpipers and other grassland-dependent species of concern, and inventorying and controlling invasive plants. We would continue to provide wildlife observation and photography opportunities on two trails, and implement a 2-day, fall deer hunt in partnership with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFG).

Management on the Karner blue butterfly easement would not change. We would continue to cooperate with NHFG to implement habitat management. One undeveloped trail would provide access, with limited information about the butterfly and management posted on a kiosk.

Alternative B (Habitat Diversity and Focal Species Emphasis; Service-Preferred Alternative)

Alternative B is the Service-preferred alternative. It combines the actions we believe would best achieve the refuge's purposes, vision, and goals and respond to public issues. Under alternative B, we would emphasize the management of specific refuge habitats to support focal species whose habitat needs would benefit other species of conservation concern that are found in the Great Bay region. Focal species include migrating and wintering waterfowl, migratory songbirds, breeding upland sandpiper, and rare and declining species, such as the New England cottontail and Karner blue butterfly. Habitat restoration work on refuge lands would also benefit forest-dwelling bats and migratory fish. We would also expand our conservation, research, and management partnerships to help restore and conserve the Great Bay estuarine ecosystem.

This alternative would enhance our visitor services programs, which have been limited under current management due to lack of staff. On Great Bay NWR, our improvements would include new interpretive materials, more programs for visitors to learn about the refuge and the surrounding landscape, and an extension to an existing trail that provides opportunities for wildlife observation and photography. We would also evaluate opportunities to expand the hunting program to include turkey hunting and a bow season for deer. On the Karner blue butterfly easement, we propose to install new interpretive signs, offer guided interpretive walks, and enhance our Web site with updated information.

##### Alternative C (Enhanced Public Use Management)

Alternative C would rely primarily on ecosystem processes and natural disturbances to restore the biological integrity, diversity, and ecological health of the refuge. All grassland and shrubland habitat on Great Bay NWR would be allowed to naturally succeed to forest. All three refuge impoundments would be removed, restoring Peverly Brook to stream habitat and returning Stubbs Pond to salt marsh. We would also remove all remaining structures in the former weapons storage area.

Under this alternative, we would expand the refuge visitor services program and public access. We would construct two new trails, and after shrubland and grassland habitats transition to forest, we would open up

larger portions of the refuge to public use. The management of the Karner blue butterfly easement would be the same as that proposed under alternative B.

#### **Public Availability of Documents**

In addition to any methods in **ADDRESSES**, you can view or obtain documents from the agency Web site at: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/planning/Great%20bay/ccphome.html>.

#### **Next Steps**

After this comment period ends, we will analyze the comments and address them in the form of a final CCP and finding of no significant impact.

#### **Public Availability of Comments**

Before including your address, phone number, electronic mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comments, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Dated: January 20, 2012.

**Wendi Weber,**

*Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.*

[FR Doc. 2012-3108 Filed 2-9-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[LLWO230.11100000.PH0000]

#### **Notice of Correction to Notice of Intent To Prepare Environmental Impact Statements and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statements To Incorporate Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Measures Into Land Use Plans and Land Management Plans**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Correction.

**SUMMARY:** The BLM published a Notice of Intent (NOI) on December 9, 2011 [76 FR 77008]. This Notice of Correction changes/clarifies the names of the regions that are coordinating the Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) and Supplemental EISs, extends the scoping period, and adds 11 Forest Service Land Management Plans (LMPs) to this process. The Eastern Region referred to in the previous NOI is now known as the Rocky Mountain Region; while the Western Region referred to in

the previous NOI is now known as the Great Basin Region. The added Forest Service LMPs include:

- Rocky Mountain Region
  - Colorado—Routt National Forest Plan (1998)
  - Utah—Ashley National Forest Plan (1986)
  - Utah—Manti-Lasal National Forest Plan (1986)
  - Utah—Wasatch-Cache National Forest Plan (2003)
  - Wyoming—Bridger-Teton National Forest Plan (1990)
  - Wyoming—Medicine Bow National Forest Plan (2004)
- Great Basin Region
  - Idaho—Boise National Forest Plan (2003)
  - Idaho—Challis National Forest Plan (1987)
  - Idaho—Salmon National Forest Plan (1988)
  - Idaho—Targhee National Forest Plan (1997)
  - Montana—Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Plan (2009)

**DATES:** This notice extends the public scoping process for the EISs/ Supplemental EISs an additional 45 days. Comments on issues may now be submitted in writing until March 23, 2012. Although the majority of all scoping meetings have been completed the date(s) and location(s) of any additional scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, newspapers and the BLM Web site for the Rocky Mountain Region at <http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/sagegrouse/eastern.html>, and for the Great Basin Region at <http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/sagegrouse/western.html>. Comments that are specific to a particular area, Resource Management Plan, or LMP should be identified as such. We will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft EISs/SEISs.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact Johanna Munson, Rocky Mountain Region Project Manager, telephone 307-775-6329; address 5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, WY 82009; email [jmunson@blm.gov](mailto:jmunson@blm.gov), or: Lauren Mermejo, Great Basin Region Project Manager, telephone 775-861-6400; address 1340 Financial Boulevard, Reno, NV 89520; email [lmermejo@blm.gov](mailto:lmermejo@blm.gov).

**Authority:** 40 CFR 1501.7, 43 CFR 1610.2.

**Edwin Roberson,**

*Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning.*

[FR Doc. 2012-3193 Filed 2-9-12; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-84-P

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[CACA 53257, LLCAD06800 L1711 0000 FD0000]

#### Notice of Intent To Prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for a Proposed Land Exchange Between the Bureau of Land Management and Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, Riverside County, CA

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of intent.

**SUMMARY:** In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office intends to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a proposed land exchange between the BLM and the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (Tribe) in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument (Monument). This notice announces the beginning of the BLM scoping process, invites public participation, and describes how the time and place of public scoping meetings will be announced.

**DATES:** One or more public scoping meetings will be held in Palm Springs, California, to solicit public input on the issues and impacts that will be addressed in the Draft EIS as well as the extent to which those issues and impacts will be analyzed. All public scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance of their occurrence through local news media and the BLM Web site at <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/palmsprings.html>. In order to be addressed in the Draft EIS, all comments must be received no later than 30 days after the last public scoping meeting. Additional opportunities for public participation and formal comment will occur upon publication of the Draft EIS.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit written comments on issues and impacts to be

addressed in the Draft EIS by any of the following methods:

- **Email:**  
[AguaCalienteExchange@blm.gov](mailto:AguaCalienteExchange@blm.gov).
- **Mail:** Field Manager, Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office, 1201 Bird Center Drive, Palm Springs, California 92262.

Documents pertinent to this proposed land exchange will be available for public review at the BLM Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office located at 1201 Bird Center Drive, Palm Springs, California, during regular business hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the EIS.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact Jim Foote, National Monument Manager, (760) 833-7136, or by email, [jfoote@blm.gov](mailto:jfoote@blm.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On October 24, 2000, Public Law 106-351 established the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. In accordance with section 2(b) of the Monument's enabling legislation, its purpose is to "preserve the nationally significant biological, cultural, recreational, geological, educational, and scientific values found in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains and to secure now and for future generations the opportunity to experience and enjoy the magnificent vistas, wildlife, land forms, and natural and cultural resources in these mountains and to recreate therein."

On October 13, 1999, the BLM and the Tribe entered into an agreement to coordinate and cooperate in the management of Federal lands within and outside the boundaries of the Agua Caliente Indian Reservation (Reservation) within the Monument. The BLM and the Tribe agreed to meet annually to identify specific resource management, land tenure adjustment, and joint management goals, including implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding for joint identification of opportunities for acquisition and exchange of lands within the Monument.

On July 27, 2010, the BLM released Environmental Assessment (EA) No. CA-060-0010-0005 and Finding of No Significant Impact for public review and comment. This EA addressed the environmental effects of the proposed land exchange between the BLM and the Tribe. The public comment period for the EA concluded on November 19, 2010; 141 individuals, eight organizations, and three governmental entities submitted comments.

**Dear Readers**

This is the first in a series of newsletters that you will receive from the BLM and FS about their plans to protect the greater sage-grouse and its sagebrush habitat across the western US. This newsletter provides an overview of the planning strategy and guidance on how to get involved, including a schedule of public meetings, as well as where and how to submit comments. Contact us if you would like to be removed from the mailing list or to receive future mailings via email.

**Public Meetings Scheduled**

- |                          |                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Tonopah, NV - Jan 9      | Salt Lake City, UT - Jan 19 |
| Boise, ID - Jan 9        | Ontario, OR - Jan 23        |
| Ely, NV - Jan 10         | Randolph, UT - Jan 23       |
| Idaho Falls, ID - Jan 10 | Baker City, OR - Jan 24     |
| Elko, NV - Jan 11        | Snowville, UT - Jan 24      |
| Salmon, ID - Jan 11      | Burns, OR - Jan 25          |
| Winnemucca, NV - Jan 12  | Twin Falls, ID - Jan 25     |
| Dillon, MT - Jan 12      | Prineville, OR - Jan 26     |
| Lakeview, OR - Jan 17    | Pocatello, ID - Jan 26      |
| Price, UT - Jan 17       | Reno, NV - Jan 30           |
| Alturas, CA - Jan 18     | Richfield, UT - Jan 30      |
| Vernal, UT - Jan 18      | Kanab, UT - Jan 31          |
| Susanville, CA - Jan 19  | Cedar City, UT - Feb 1      |



**National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy**

Issue No. 1, December 2011



**BLM and FS Launch National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy**

This is the first in a series of newsletters about the National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service (FS) are implementing this strategy to aid in the conservation of the greater sage-grouse and to assure that conservation measures are included in each agency's respective land use plans (LUPs). This newsletter contains background information, an overview of the planning strategy, and guidance on how to get and stay involved throughout the process.

As land management agencies, the BLM and FS are responsible for managing sage-grouse habitat. Since LUPs provide the regulatory mechanism for such management, the BLM and FS, through the planning process, are incorporating explicit objectives and appropriate conservation measures into LUPs. For those LUPs not already in a revision process, the BLM intends to complete revisions within the next three years to aid conservation of the greater sage-grouse and avert a potential listing under the ESA.

To initiate this process, the two agencies published a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register* on December 9, 2011, announcing the beginning of a scoping period to solicit public comments and identify issues. The BLM is the lead agency on these EISs and SEISs, and the FS is participating as a cooperating agency. This process is being completed in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, and the Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976. The BLM and the FS are preparing environmental impact statements (EISs) and supplemental EISs (SEISs) to identify and incorporate explicit objectives and appropriate sage-grouse conservation measures into LUPs.

The planning strategy will evaluate the adequacy of LUPs and address, as necessary, revisions and amendments throughout the range of the greater sage-grouse.

*The sage-grouse Bi-State Distinct Population Segment (DPS) in California and Nevada and the Columbia Basin DPS in Washington are not part of this process and are being addressed through other planning efforts.*

The BLM and FS have determined that the proposed strategy is a major federal action which requires the preparation of EISs in accordance with NEPA. The agencies will seek public and agency input to identify issues to address in the EISs and coordinate with other federal, tribal, state, and local government agencies in preparing the EISs. The BLM will conduct detailed environmental studies on the proposed and alternative strategies, and analyze how implementation of each approach may affect the quality of the environment.

**Background**

In April 2010, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) found that the greater sage-grouse warrants protection under the ESA but that listing the species was precluded by the need to address other, high-priority species first. One reason for this decision was an identified need for more adequate regulatory mechanisms to ensure species conservation.

**Overview of the National Planning Strategy**

The BLM is developing a national strategy to preserve, conserve, and restore sagebrush habitat, the ecological home of the greater sage-grouse. The BLM will issue national policy and direction, based on the best available science, resource and environmental needs and information, and their multiple-use mission to guide the

**How to Get Involved**

**Get on the mailing list** by sending a request to [sagewest@blm.gov](mailto:sagewest@blm.gov)

**Visit the National Strategy Web site** at: [www.blm.gov/sagegrouse](http://www.blm.gov/sagegrouse)

**Visit the Western Region's strategy Web site** at: [www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/sagegrouse/western.html](http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/sagegrouse/western.html)

**Attend public meetings:** Public meetings will be held in 26 cities across the Western Region. See previous page and schedule above.

**Submit questions:** Questions regarding the National Sage-Grouse Strategy can be submitted to [SageQuery@blm.gov](mailto:SageQuery@blm.gov)

**Submit comments** at a public meeting or via one of the methods listed below. Comments will be considered as part of the scoping process until February 16th 2012. You can submit comments even if you haven't attended a public meeting.

**E-mail:** [sagewest@blm.gov](mailto:sagewest@blm.gov)

**Fax:** 775-861-6747

**US Mail:** Western Region Project Manager, BLM Nevada State Office  
1340 Financial Blvd., Reno, NV 89502



*\*Acting as contracted agent for the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service*

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Bureau of Land Management  
c/o EMPSI\*  
26 O'Farrell Street, 7th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94108

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**Sage Grouse**

agency's actions in future planning efforts. At the local level, the BLM and FS will work on formal plan "amendments" for LUPs that will implement ongoing and new conservation and habitat restoration measures. As many as 98 BLM LUPs address greater sage-grouse, while the FS expects to evaluate conservation measures in as many as 9 LUPs that cover FS planning units considered high priority for the conservation of sage-grouse. LUPs to be amended are listed in the NOI, available through the project Web site.

For this planning effort, the BLM has divided the greater sage-grouse's range into Eastern and Western Regions. Grouse and grouse habitat are affected by a variety of factors that vary in intensity in different parts of its range. Habitat alteration due to wildfire impacts the Western Region more strongly, while habitat fragmentation due to

human development has a greater influence in the Eastern Region. Dividing the species' range into two regions makes it easier to tailor conservation actions to the specific conditions of an area. This division also allows for closer cooperation and partnerships on region-specific conservation and habitat restoration measures.

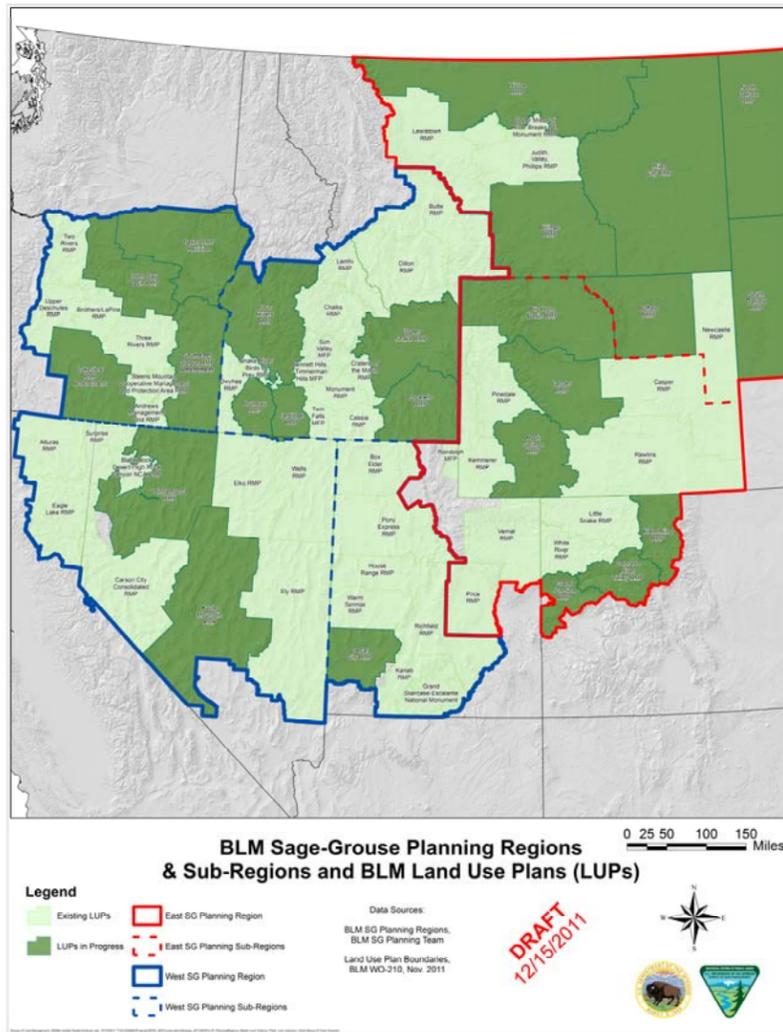
**Western Regional Planning Strategy**

You are receiving this newsletter because you have expressed interest in BLM and FS activities within at least one of the four sub-regions for this planning strategy: Nevada and northeastern California; Oregon; Idaho and southwestern Montana; and Utah. Each sub-region will undertake its own EIS. Each sub-region-specific EIS will specifically address identified key issues and will analyze the impacts of amending all pertinent LUPs with that guidance. The Record of Decision issued at the end of the EIS process will amend the LUPs to include the new management direction.

**Next Steps**

The initial step in the EIS process is *scoping*, during which the agencies coordinate with the public and other agencies to identify issues of concern to be addressed in the EIS, potential effects, and the degree to which these effects will be analyzed. The BLM will host 26 scoping meetings across the four sub-regions where the public may submit comments on FS and BLM LUPs. While all meetings will accept scoping comments on the newly initiated plan amendments started with the recent NOI, some areas may have plan changes already underway in their local BLM District. In these areas, meetings will also provide information regarding the stage of the process that the local plan is in, which may be too far along to accept additional scoping comments on that particular plan. Meeting dates and locations are listed on the next page.

A Scoping Report will summarize all public input and will be made available on the project Web site (see back page). The project team will then incorporate public input, as appropriate under NEPA, into the sub-region-specific EISs. In the latter part of 2012, each sub-region will release its Draft EIS. You will then have an opportunity to review what the team has prepared and comment on changes you would like to see. With that feedback, each sub-region team will develop a Final EIS, which are scheduled for release in the fall of 2013. Finally, each BLM sub-region team will have its own EIS and accompanying Record of Decision and will complete the process by incorporating the planning strategy into the respective LUPs.



**Public Meetings Scheduled for Early 2012**

Visit our Web site and attend the public scoping and informational meetings to learn more about the project, visit with BLM and FS staff, view maps, and submit comments. All meetings (except Ely) will run from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm and will include informational materials and an opportunity to submit comments. Note the Ely meeting will run from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Presentation materials will be on display throughout the meeting and will be available on the project Web site. Specific locations for these meetings will be announced through local media and on the BLM's greater sage-grouse Web site, listed on the back page.



City/State	Date	Location
Tonopah NV	Mon 1/9	Tonopah Convention Center 301 Brouger Avenue Tonopah, Nevada
Boise ID	Mon 1/9	Red Lion Boise Hotel 1800 Fairview Avenue Boise Idaho
Ely NV	Tue 1/10	Ely District BLM Office 702 North Industrial Way Ely, Nevada * 4-6 pm meeting
Idaho Falls ID	Tue 1/10	Red Lion Hotel 475 River Parkway Idaho Falls, Idaho
Elko NV	Wed 1/11	Hilton Garden Inn 3650 Idaho Street Elko, Nevada
Salmon ID	Wed 1/11	Salmon Valley Business & Innovation Center 803 Monroe Street, Salmon, Idaho
Winnemucca NV	Thurs 1/12	Winnemucca Inn 741 W. Winnemucca Boulevard Winnemucca, Nevada
Dillon MT	Thurs 1/12	National Guard Armory 1050 Highway 41 Dillon, Montana
Lakeview OR	Tues 1/17	BLM Lakeview District Office 1301 South G Street Lakeview, Oregon
Price UT	Tues 1/17	Carbon County Event Center 310 South Fairgrounds Road Price, Utah
Alturas CA	Wed 1/18	Sacred Heart Catholic Church Parish Hall 507 E 4th Street, Alturas, California
Vernal UT	Wed 1/18	Western Park Convention Center 300 East 200 South Vernal, Utah
Susanville CA	Thurs 1/19	Jensen Hall, Lassen County Fairgrounds, Susanville, California

City/State	Date	Location
Salt Lake City UT	Thurs 1/19	Hampton Inn & Suites 307 North Admiral Byrd Road Salt Lake City, Utah
Ontario OR	Mon 1/23	Four Rivers Cultural Center 676 SW 5th Avenue Ontario, Oregon
Randolph UT	Mon 1/23	Randolph Senior Center 5 North Main Street Randolph, Utah
Baker City OR	Tues 1/24	Baker County Library 2400 Resort Street Baker City, Oregon
Snowville UT	Tues 1/24	Snowville Town Hall 20 West Main Street Snowville, Utah
Burns OR	Wed 1/25	Harney County Senior Center 17 S. Alder Avenue Burns, Oregon
Twin Falls ID	Wed 1/25	Canyon Springs Red Lion Inn 1357 Blue Lakes Boulevard Twin Falls, Idaho
Prineville OR	Thurs 1/26	Stafford Inn 1773 NE Third Street Prineville, Oregon
Pocatello ID	Thurs 1/26	The Clarion 1399 Pocatello Bench Road Pocatello, Idaho
Reno NV	Mon 1/30	Hyatt Place 1790 East Plumb Lane Reno, Nevada
Richfield UT	Mon 1/30	Sevier County Clerks Room #B46 Auditorium 250 N. Main Ave., Richfield Utah
Kanab UT	Tues 1/31	Kane City Library 374 North Main Street Kanab, Utah
Cedar City UT	Wed 2/1	Heritage Center -Festival Hall 105 N. 100 E. Cedar City, Utah

Release Date: 12/22/11  
Contacts: Craig Flentie 406-538-1943

### **Bureau of Land Management Begins Scoping in Lewistown for Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy**

As part of a national strategy to evaluate greater sage-grouse conservation measures in land use plans, the BLM Lewistown Field Office is asking the public to help identify issues to be addressed in an environmental impact statement and land use plan amendment. A scoping open house will be held January 10, 2012, at the Yogo Inn in Lewistown from 5 to 8 p.m. Members of the public can drop into the open house at any time between those hours. A short overview of the sage-grouse planning strategy will be presented at 5, 6, and 7 p.m.

The Lewistown Field Office will be amending the Judith Valley Phillips Resource Management Plan to apply greater sage-grouse habitat conservation measures to land use activities.

Based on ongoing threats to the greater sage-grouse and its habitat throughout the West, as well as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2015 deadline for making a decision whether to list the species under the Endangered Species Act, the BLM will be incorporating consistent objectives and conservation measures into relevant resource management plans by September 2014.

For those unable to attend the scoping meeting, scoping comments may be submitted by a variety of methods. More information on how to submit comments can be found at <http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/prog/wildlife/mtdksplanning.html>.

The scoping period began December 9 and ends February 7, 2012.

For more information on the scoping process and greater sage-grouse habitat conservation measures, visit the BLM's greater sage-grouse website at <http://www.blm.gov/sagegrouse>.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, recreational and other activities on BLM-managed land contributed more than \$130 billion to the U.S. economy and supported more than 600,000 American jobs. The Bureau is also one of a handful of agencies that collects more revenue than it spends. In FY 2012, nearly \$5.7 billion will be generated on lands managed by the BLM, which operates on a \$1.1 billion

budget. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

--BLM--

Lewistown Field Office 920 NE Main Lewistown, MT 59457

Release Date: 12/22/11

Contacts: Mark Jacobsen 406-233-2831

## **BLM Begins Scoping for Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy in North Dakota**

As part of a national strategy to evaluate greater sage-grouse conservation measures in land use plans, the BLM North Dakota Field Office is asking the public to help identify issues to be addressed in an environmental impact statement and land use plan amendment by attending a scoping open house on Jan. 17, 2012, at the City Hall in Bowman.

The open house will run from 5 to 8 p.m. and the public can drop by the open house at any time between those hours. A short overview of the sage-grouse planning strategy will be presented at 5, 6, and 7 p.m.

The North Dakota Field Office will be amending the North Dakota Resource Management Plan (RMP) to apply greater sage-grouse habitat conservation measures to land use activities.

Based on ongoing threats to the greater sage-grouse and its habitat throughout the West, as well as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2015 deadline for making a decision whether to list the species under the Endangered Species Act, the BLM will be incorporating consistent objectives and conservation measures into relevant resource management plans by September 2014.

For those unable to attend the scoping meeting, scoping comments may be submitted by a variety of methods. More information on how to submit comments can be found at: <http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/prog/wildlife/mtdksplanning.html>.

The scoping period began Dec. 9 and ends Feb. 7, 2012.

For more information on the scoping process and greater sage-grouse habitat conservation measures, visit the BLM's greater sage-grouse website at <http://www.blm.gov/sagegrouse>.

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--BLM--

North Dakota Field Office 99 23rd Avenue West Dickinson, ND 58601

## ***BLM Nevada News***

NEVADA STATE OFFICE NO. 2012-09

FOR RELEASE: Jan. 4, 2012

CONTACT: JoLynn Worley, 7775-761-6515, [jworley@blm.gov](mailto:jworley@blm.gov)

### **Scoping Meetings Start Planning Process for Sage-Grouse**

Reno, Nev.--The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) are holding scoping meetings to provide an opportunity for interested parties to talk to staff and resource specialists to identify issues to address in environmental impact statements to evaluate greater sage-grouse conservation measures in land use plans in 10 Western states. Five scoping meetings will be held in Nevada and written comments will be accepted during a 60-day public comment period that ends Feb. 7, 2012.

The scoping meetings will follow an open house format; no formal presentations will be given so participants may arrive at any time during the meeting. The meetings will be held from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at all Nevada locations except for the meeting in Ely, which will be held from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Tonopah, Jan. 9, Tonopah Convention Center, 301 Brougner Ave

Ely, Jan. 10, BLM Office, 702 N. Industrial Way

Elko, Jan. 11, Hilton Garden Inn, 3650 Idaho Street

Winnemucca, Jan. 12, Winnemucca Inn, 741 W. Winnemucca Blvd

Reno, Jan. 30, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Hyatt Place, 1790 E. Plumb Lane

The BLM and the USFS have identified the following preliminary issues to address in its environmental analysis: greater sage-grouse habitat management, fluid minerals, coal mining, hard rock mining, mineral materials, rights-of-way, renewable energy development, wildfire, invasive species, grazing, off highway vehicle management and recreation.

Comments and requests to be added to the mailing list may be made to the BLM during the scoping meetings, by email: [sagewest@blm.gov](mailto:sagewest@blm.gov), or by mail: Western Region Project Manager, BLM Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Blvd., Reno, NV 89502. Additional information is available at the BLM's greater sage-grouse website at: [www.blm.gov/sagegrouse](http://www.blm.gov/sagegrouse). Questions may be emailed to: [sagequery@blm.gov](mailto:sagequery@blm.gov).

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can

ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

In March 2010, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) ruled that listing the species for protection under the Endangered Species Act was “warranted but precluded.” The FWS said that it had other, higher priority species it needed to address first, but that it would subsequently address the greater sage-grouse and determine if it needed to be listed at a later date.

In its finding, the FWS said the BLM and the USFS are not “fully implementing the regulatory mechanisms available” to ensure species conservation. The BLM and the USFS are addressing the FWS concerns through the planning process.

--BLM--



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
**News Release**

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For Immediate Release: Jan. 4, 2012

CA-N-12-16

Contact: Jeff Fontana (530) 252-5332 ([jfontana@blm.gov](mailto:jfontana@blm.gov))

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### **Scoping Meetings Set in Alturas, Susanville on Sage Grouse Conservation**

**Susanville, Calif.** -- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) are holding scoping meetings in northeast California to provide an opportunity for anyone interested to help identify issues that should be addressed in environmental impact statements related to conservation of sage grouse habitat.

The meetings, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., will be held as follows:

- Alturas, Wednesday, Jan. 18, Sacred Heart Church Parish Hall, 507 E. 4<sup>th</sup> St.
- Susanville, Thursday, Jan. 19, Jensen Hall, Lassen County Fairgrounds.

The scoping meetings are part of the process to develop environmental impact statements to evaluate greater sage-grouse conservation measures in land use plans in 10 Western states. Following the scoping meetings, written comments will be accepted during a 60-day public comment period that ends Feb. 7, 2012.

The scoping meetings will follow an open house format. No formal presentations will be given, so participants may arrive at any time during the meeting.

The BLM and the USFS have identified the following preliminary issues to address in the environmental analysis: greater sage-grouse habitat management, fluid minerals, coal mining, hard rock mining, mineral materials, rights-of-way, renewable energy development, wildfire, invasive species, grazing, off highway vehicle management and recreation.

Comments and requests to be added to the mailing list may be made to the BLM during the scoping meetings, by email: [sagewest@blm.gov](mailto:sagewest@blm.gov), or by mail: Western Region Project Manager, BLM Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Blvd., Reno, NV 89502.

Additional information is available at the BLM's greater sage-grouse website:

[www.blm.gov/sagegrouse](http://www.blm.gov/sagegrouse).

Questions may be emailed to: [sagequery@blm.gov](mailto:sagequery@blm.gov).

Before including an address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in comments, participants should be aware that entire comments, including personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While participants can ask that personal information be withheld, the BLM cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so.

## **Sage Grouse 2 2 2**

In March 2010, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) ruled that listing the species for protection under the Endangered Species Act was “warranted but precluded.” The FWS said that it had other, higher priority species it needed to address first, but that it would subsequently address the greater sage-grouse and determine if it needed to be listed at a later date.

In its finding, the FWS said the BLM and the USFS are not “fully implementing the regulatory mechanisms available” to ensure species conservation. The BLM and the USFS are addressing the FWS concerns through the planning process.

**BLM**

**Release Date:** 01/04/12**Contacts:** JoLynn Worley, 775-761-6515, [jworley@blm.gov](mailto:jworley@blm.gov)**News Release No.** 2012-09

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Reno, Nev.--The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) are holding scoping meetings to provide an opportunity for interested parties to talk to staff and resource specialists to identify issues to address in environmental impact statements to evaluate greater sage-grouse conservation measures in land use plans in 10 Western states. Five scoping meetings will be held in Nevada and written comments will be accepted during a 60-day public comment period that ends **Feb. 7, 2012**.

The scoping meetings will follow an open house format; no formal presentations will be given so participants may arrive at any time during the meeting. The meetings will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at all Nevada locations except for the meeting in Ely, which will be held from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

- Tonopah, Jan. 9, Tonopah Convention Center, 301 Brougner Ave
- Ely, Jan. 10, BLM Office, 702 N. Industrial Way
- Elko, Jan. 11, Hilton Garden Inn, 3650 Idaho Street
- Winnemucca, Jan. 12, Winnemucca Inn, 741 W. Winnemucca Blvd
- Reno, Jan. 30, Hyatt Place, 1790 E. Plumb Lane

The BLM and the USFS have identified the following preliminary issues to address in its environmental analysis: greater sage-grouse habitat management, fluid minerals, coal mining, hard rock mining, mineral materials, rights-of-way, renewable energy development, wildfire, invasive species, grazing, off highway vehicle management and recreation.

Comments and requests to be added to the mailing list may be made to the BLM during the scoping meetings, by email: [sagewest@blm.gov](mailto:sagewest@blm.gov), or by mail: Western Region Project Manager, BLM Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Blvd., Reno, NV 89502. Additional information is available at the BLM's greater sage-grouse website at: [www.blm.gov/sagegrouse](http://www.blm.gov/sagegrouse). Questions may be emailed to: [sagequery@blm.gov](mailto:sagequery@blm.gov).

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

In March 2010, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) ruled that listing the species for protection under the Endangered Species Act was "warranted but precluded." The FWS said that it had other, higher priority species it needed to address first, but that it would subsequently address the greater sage-grouse and determine if it needed to be listed at a later date.

In its finding, the FWS said the BLM and the USFS are not "fully implementing the regulatory mechanisms available" to ensure species conservation. The BLM and the USFS are addressing the FWS concerns through the planning process.

The BLM manages more land - over 245 million acres - than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

--BLM--

Last updated: 02-03-2012

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# BLM News Release

U.S. Department of the Interior ▼ Bureau of Land Management

Idaho BLM State Office | 1387 S. Vinnell Way | Boise, ID 83709 | 208-373-3000

## For Immediate Release:

January 5, 2012

**Contacts:** Jessica Gardetto  
(208) 373-4060

## Idaho BLM Invites Public to Sage-Grouse Scoping Meetings

BOISE – Beginning January 9, 2012, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) are inviting the public to participate in public scoping meetings to evaluate greater sage-grouse conservation measures in land use plans and land management plans throughout Idaho and Southwest Montana.

The scoping meetings, in an open-house format, will be held in the following locations, beginning at 5:30 p.m. and ending at 7:30 p.m.

Date	City	Venue
January 9	Boise, ID	Red Lion Boise Hotel 1800 Fairview Ave.
January 10	Idaho Falls, ID	Red Lion Hotel 475 River Parkway
January 11	Salmon, ID	Salmon Valley Business & Innovation Center 803 Monroe St.
January 12	Dillon, MT	National Guard Armory 1050 MT Hwy 41
January 25	Twin Falls, ID	Canyon Springs Red Lion Inn 1357 Blue Lakes Blvd.
January 26	Pocatello, ID	The Clarion Hotel 1399 Pocatello Bench Road

A complete list of scoping meeting times and locations can also be found on the BLM's greater sage-grouse website at <http://www.blm.gov/sagegrouse> .

These scoping meetings are being held in conjunction with the 60-day public comment period to the Notice of Intent for the two agencies to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to incorporate greater sage-grouse conservation measures into land use plans and land management plans. The Notice of Intent was published in the Federal Register on December 9, 2011.

The 60-day public comment period provides the public an opportunity to comment on issues that should be addressed in the EIS. The public scoping meetings provide the public an additional

opportunity to talk to staff and resource specialists and to submit written comments on the proposal in person.

Based on ongoing threats to the greater sage-grouse and its habitat throughout the West, as well as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2015 deadline for making a decision whether to list the species under the Endangered Species Act, the BLM and the USFS plan to incorporate consistent objectives and conservation measures into all relevant plans by September 2014.

The two agencies have identified the following preliminary issues to address in their environmental analysis, including but not limited to: Greater Sage-grouse habitat management, wildfire, invasive species, rights-of-way, renewable energy development, grazing, off highway vehicle management and recreation.

To ensure that comments and information are fully considered, comments must be received by close of business on February 7, 2012. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

1. Web: <http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/sagegrouse/western.html>
2. Email: [sagewest@blm.gov](mailto:sagewest@blm.gov)
3. Fax: 775-861-6747
4. Mail: Western Region Project Manager, BLM Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Blvd., Reno, NV 89502

For more about the BLM's Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy, visit the following Website: <http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/sagegrouse.html> .

-BLM-

The BLM manages more land - over 245 million acres - than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

The Forest Service manages 155 units (e.g. National Forests, National Grasslands) on 190 million acres. Approximately 30 National Forests include shrub-steppe habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse. Habitats on USFS lands are peripheral to BLM lands, and generally provide summer brood-rearing habitat for the species, though some units also include other seasonal habitats. The FWS identified nine National Forests and Grasslands considered important for the conservation of this species. These are the Thunder Basin and Curlew National Grasslands; and the Uinta, Dixie, Fishlake, Sawtooth, Caribou, Malheur and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests. The Malheur NF is currently in plan revision. Consequently, this Forest will incorporate conservation measures through the revision process and is not expected to be included in this larger effort at this time.

**For Immediate Release:** January 9, 2012  
**Contact:** Erin Darboven, 801.539.4061

## **BLM Utah Invites Public to Sage-Grouse Scoping Meetings**

As part of a national strategy to evaluate greater sage-grouse conservation measures, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Utah and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) are inviting the public to participate in public scoping meetings to help identify issues to be addressed in an environmental impact statement. Public scoping began on December 9, 2011, when the Notice of Intent was published in the Federal Register.

The scoping meetings, in an open-house format, will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the following locations:

<b>Price</b>	<b>January 17</b>	<b>Carbon County Event Center</b>	310 S. Fairgrounds Road
<b>Vernal</b>	<b>January 18</b>	<b>Western Park Convention Center</b>	300 East 200 South
<b>Salt Lake City</b>	<b>January 19</b>	<b>Hampton Inn &amp; Suites-SLC Airport</b>	307 North Admiral Byrd
<b>Randolph</b>	<b>January 23</b>	<b>Randolph Senior Center</b>	5 North Main Street
<b>Snowville</b>	<b>January 24</b>	<b>Snowville Town Hall</b>	20 West Main Street
<b>Richfield</b>	<b>January 30</b>	<b>Sevier County Clerk</b>	Room #B46 250 North Main
<b>Kanab</b>	<b>January 31</b>	<b>Kanab City Library</b>	374 North Main
<b>Cedar City</b>	<b>February 1</b>	<b>Heritage Center-Festival Hall</b>	105 North 100 East

A complete list of scoping meeting times and locations can also be found on the BLM's greater sage-grouse website at <http://www.blm.gov/sagegrouse>.

These scoping meetings are being held in conjunction with the 60-day public comment period to the Notice of Intent for the two agencies to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) to incorporate greater sage-grouse conservation measures into land use plans and land management plans.

The 60-day public comment period provides the public an opportunity to comment on issues that should be addressed in the EIS. The public scoping meetings provide the public an additional opportunity to talk to staff and resource specialists and to submit written comments on the proposal in person.

Based on ongoing threats to the greater sage-grouse and its habitat throughout the West, as well as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2015 deadline for making a decision whether to list the species under the Endangered Species Act, the BLM and the USFS plan to incorporate consistent objectives and conservation measures into all relevant plans by September 2014.

The two agencies have identified the following preliminary issues to address in their environmental analysis, including but not limited to: Greater Sage-grouse habitat management, wildfire, invasive species, rights-of-way, renewable energy development, grazing, off highway vehicle management and recreation.

To ensure that comments and information are fully considered, comments must be received by close of business on February 7, 2012. Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

1. Web: <http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/sagegrouse/western.html>
2. Email: [sagewest@blm.gov](mailto:sagewest@blm.gov)
3. Fax: 775-861-6747
4. Mail: Western Region Project Manager, BLM Nevada State Office,  
1340 Financial Blvd., Reno, NV 89502

For more about the BLM's Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy, visit the following Website:  
<http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/sagegrouse.html>.

The BLM manages more land - over 245 million acres - than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

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# NEWSRelease

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

P.O. Box 2965 (333 SW 1st Avenue) • Portland, Oregon 97208 • <http://www.blm.gov/or>

BLM  
Oregon State Office

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT OR-12-03**  
**For release: Jan. 10, 2012**

**Contact: Jeff Clark**  
**(503) 808-6028**

## Meetings Engage Public in Planning Process for Sage-Grouse

**PORTLAND, Ore.** – On Dec. 9, 2011, The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) initiated a planning process to address sage-grouse conservation measures in land use plans in ten western states. Seeking public input, the BLM is now holding meetings to provide an opportunity for interested parties to discuss sage-grouse conservation with agency specialists and to identify issues related to greater sage-grouse conservation. Five meetings will be held in Oregon.

The meetings will follow an open house format; no formal presentations will be given so participants may arrive at any time during the meeting. The meetings will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the following Oregon locations:

**Lakeview**, Jan. 17, BLM Lakeview District Office, 1301 S. G St.

**Ontario**, Jan. 23, Four Rivers Cultural Center, 676 SW 5th Ave.

**Baker City**, Jan. 24, Baker County Library, 2400 Resort St.

**Burns**, Jan. 25, Harney County Senior Center, 17 S. Alder Ave.

**Prineville**, Jan. 26, Stafford Inn, 1773 NE Third St.

The BLM has identified the following preliminary issues to address in its environmental analysis: greater sage-grouse habitat management, fluid minerals, coal mining, hard rock mining, mineral materials, rights-of-way, renewable energy development, wildfire, invasive species, grazing, off highway vehicle management and recreation.

Written comments will be accepted throughout the 60-day public comment period that ends Feb. 27. Comments or requests to be added to the mailing list may be made to the BLM during the scoping meetings, by email: [sagewest@blm.gov](mailto:sagewest@blm.gov), or by mail: Western Region Project Manager, BLM Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Blvd., Reno, NV 89502. Additional information is available at the BLM's greater sage-grouse website at: [www.blm.gov/sagegrouse](http://www.blm.gov/sagegrouse). Questions may be emailed to: [sagequery@blm.gov](mailto:sagequery@blm.gov).

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**About the BLM:** The BLM manages 245 million acres of public land known as the National System of Public Lands. The lands are primarily located in 12 Western states, including 75 million acres in Alaska. With a budget of about \$1 billion, the bureau also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT NEWS RELEASE

State Office

**Release Date:** 01/17/12**Contacts:** Justin Abernathy, 775-861-6504, jabernathy@blm.gov

## BLM Defers Parcels due to Sage-Grouse Concerns for Competitive Geothermal Lease Sale

Reno, Nev.—The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Nevada is holding a competitive geothermal lease sale on Tuesday, Jan. 24. The sale room opens at 8 a.m. for registration and bidding numbers and the sale begins at 9 a.m. The sale will be held at BLM State Office, 1340 Financial Blvd., in Reno.

To comply with the BLM's Greater Sage-Grouse Interim Management Policies and Procedures, Instruction Memorandum No. 2012-043, the BLM Nevada collaborated with the Nevada Department of Wildlife. As a result, one parcel is deferred and two parcels are partially deferred because those areas are within sage-grouse population management units and overlap priority habitat area. Additionally, there are active sage-grouse leks in or in very close proximity to these parcels. Another parcel was reconfigured due to a boundary of a Wilderness Study Area that was not well defined at the time the sale notice was posted. The boundary has since been surveyed and the boundary defined resulting in the reconfiguration. Accordingly, an amendment to the sales notice reduces the number of parcels from 34 to 33 and reduces the number of acres from 99,469 to 94,829 acres. The parcels offered are located around the state: eight in the Carson City District; two in the Battle Mountain District; two in the Elko District; and 21 in the Winnemucca District.

The notice, a parcel list, associated stipulations, and amendment are available in the Information Access Center at the BLM Nevada State Office at 1340 Financial Blvd., and online at the BLM Nevada website at: [www.blm.gov/nv](http://www.blm.gov/nv). The website also provides a Geographic Information System shapefile of the parcels.

Geothermal leases are for a 10-year period. Annual rental for a competitive lease is \$2 per acre for the first year, and \$3 per acre for lease years 2-10. Annual rental for a noncompetitive lease is \$1 per acre for lease years 1-10. Additional environmental analysis would need to be conducted to receive permits to drill or build a facility to develop the energy from the geothermal source.

The BLM manages more land - over 245 million acres - than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

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State Office 1340 Financial Blvd. Reno, NV 89502

Last updated: 02-03-2012

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**Release Date:** 01/18/12  
**Contacts:** Cindy Wertz (307) 775-6014  
 Larry Sandoval (307) 745-2520

**BLM and Forest Service Schedule Public Meetings on Sage-Grouse Conservation**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Wyoming and Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland have scheduled a series of public meetings to discuss greater sage-grouse conservation measures in Wyoming.

Meetings will include information on how BLM Wyoming and Thunder Basin National Grassland will incorporate the new National Sage Grouse Strategy into their current management.

BLM will also give an update on the status of its current sage-grouse amendments and BLM Wyoming's resource management plan revisions.

These meetings will also be a forum for collecting scoping comments related to the Thunder Basin National Grassland and Resource Management Plan LRMP amendment process.

BLM informational meetings will be held at the following locations, dates and times:

Location	Address	Date	Time
BLM Casper Field Office Conference Room	2987 Prospector Drive Casper, WY 82604	Monday, Jan. 30	4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
BLM Buffalo Field Office Conference Room	1425 Fort Street Buffalo, WY 82834	Tuesday, Jan. 31	4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
BLM Worland Field Office Conference Room	101 South 23rd Worland, WY 82401	Wednesday, Feb. 1	4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
BLM Rock Springs Field Office Conference Room	280 Highway 191 North Rock Springs, WY 82901	Thursday, Feb. 2	4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Forest Service scoping meetings will be held at the following locations, dates and times:

Location	Address	Date	Time
National Guard Armory Meeting Room	315 North Pearson Douglas, WY 82633	Tuesday, Feb. 7	4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Meeting Room	1225 Washington Blvd., Suite 2 Newcastle, WY 82701	Thursday, Feb. 9	4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Campbell County Public Library	2101 South 4j Road Gillette, WY 82718	Wednesday, Feb. 15	4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

For more information on the Forest Service meetings contact the Douglas Ranger District at 307-358-4690. For information on the BLM meetings, contact Chuck Otto at (307) 775-6105.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, recreational and other activities on BLM-managed land contributed more than \$130 billion to the U.S. economy and supported more than 600,000 American jobs. The Bureau is also one of a handful of agencies that collects more revenue than it spends. In FY 2012, nearly \$5.7 billion will be generated on lands managed by the BLM, which operates on a \$1.1 billion budget. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

--BLM--

Last updated: 01-18-2012



## **NEWS RELEASE**

Jan. 20, 2012

Contact: David Boyd, Public Affairs Specialist, (970) 876-9008

### **BLM begins greater sage-grouse planning effort with public open house meetings**

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. – The Bureau of Land Management’s Northwest Colorado District will begin a district-wide greater sage-grouse planning effort with four open house meetings to hear from the public.

The BLM is writing an Environmental Impact Statement to analyze incorporating new sage-grouse conservation measures into its Resource Management Plans for the five field offices within the District: the Colorado River Valley Field Office in Silt, the Grand Junction Field Office, the Kremmling Field Office, the Little Snake Field Office in Craig and the White River Field Office in Meeker.

More than 1.8 million acres of Colorado’s greater sage-grouse habitat are on BLM lands in the Northwest District. That’s almost half of the entire greater sage-grouse habitat in Colorado.

“We are working to proactively address sage-grouse conservation through science-based measures to maintain and restore flourishing populations of greater sage-grouse and sagebrush habitat,” said Jim Cagney, BLM Colorado Northwest District Manager. “We want to do this in a way that protects the health of our land while also facilitating safe and responsible energy development and recreational opportunities, which are so important to our economy in northwestern Colorado.”

Four public open house meetings will be held from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the following locations:

- Jan. 31 in Walden at the Wattenberg Center, 682 County Road 42
- Feb. 1 in Lakewood at the Sheraton Denver West, 360 Union Boulevard
- Feb. 2 in Silt at the BLM Field Office, 2300 River Frontage Road
- Feb. 7 in Craig at the BLM Field Office, 455 Emerson

“Before we begin writing the Environmental Impact Statement, we want to hear any issues or concerns from the public and our partners,” Cagney said. “The open house

meetings will provide an excellent venue to let people know about this process, and how their involvement can be most effective.”

In December, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced new greater sage-grouse conservation guidance aimed at conserving the greater sage-grouse and its sagebrush habitat in 10 western states. This included new long-term conservation measures found in the BLM National Greater Sage-Grouse Land Use Planning Strategy, which is available at <http://blm.gov/g4jd>.

The BLM will accept these preliminary public scoping comments through Feb. 22, 2012. Written comments will be accepted at the open house meetings, or they can be sent via regular mail to Erin Dreyfuss, NW CO District NEPA Coordinator at 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, CO 81506, via email to [gjfo\\_webmail@blm.gov](mailto:gjfo_webmail@blm.gov), or via fax to (970) 244-3062. Please be sure to reference the CO Sage-Grouse EIS in the subject line of your fax or email.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT NEWS RELEASE

Release Date: 02/07/12  
Contacts: Mitch Snow, 202-912-7368

### Comment Period for Greater Sage-Grouse Scoping Extended by BLM and Forest Service

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) are seeking public comment on issues that should be addressed in Environmental Impact Statements (EIS's) and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statements (SEIS's) that will evaluate and provide greater sage-grouse conservation measures in land use plans in 10 Western states. To address requests for additional time to provide comment, the two agencies have extended the public scoping period an additional 45 days and will continue to accept scoping comments through March 23, 2012.

Comments may be submitted to the BLM by any of the following methods:

- Eastern Region
  - o web site: <http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/sagegrouse/eastern.html>
  - o email: [sageeast@blm.gov](mailto:sageeast@blm.gov)
  - o fax: 307-775-6042
  - o mail: Eastern Region Project Manager, BLM Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone, Cheyenne, WY 82009
  
- Western Region
  - o web site: <http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/sagegrouse/western.html>
  - o email: [sagewest@blm.gov](mailto:sagewest@blm.gov)
  - o fax: 775-861-6747
  - o mail: Western Region Project Manager, BLM Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Blvd., Reno, NV 89502

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Last updated: 02-07-2012

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# BLM NEWS RELEASE

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U.S. Department of the Interior • Bureau of Land Management • Washington, D.C., Office • 1849 C Street N.W. • Washington, D.C.

Bureau of Land Management  
For immediate release: February 7, 2012

Contact: Mitch Snow (202) 912-7368

## **Comment Period for Greater Sage-Grouse Scoping Extended by BLM and Forest Service**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) are seeking public comment on issues that should be addressed in Environmental Impact Statements (EIS's) and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statements (SEIS's) that will evaluate and provide greater sage-grouse conservation measures in land use plans in 10 Western states. To address requests for additional time to provide comment, the two agencies have extended the public scoping period an additional 45 days and will continue to accept scoping comments through March 23, 2012.

Comments may be submitted to the BLM by any of the following methods:

- Eastern Region
  - web site: <http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/sagegrouse/eastern.html>
  - email: [sageeast@blm.gov](mailto:sageeast@blm.gov)
  - fax: 307-775-6042
  - mail: Eastern Region Project Manager, BLM Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone, Cheyenne, WY 82009
- Western Region
  - web site: <http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/sagegrouse/western.html>
  - email: [sagewest@blm.gov](mailto:sagewest@blm.gov)
  - fax: 775-861-6747
  - mail: Western Region Project Manager, BLM Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Blvd., Reno, NV 89502



## **NEWS RELEASE**

Feb. 8, 2012

Contact: David Boyd, Public Affairs Specialist, (970) 876-9008

### **BLM Colorado Greater Sage-grouse comment period extended**

GRAND JUNCTION, Colo. – The public scoping period for the Bureau of Land Management’s Northwest Colorado District greater sage-grouse planning effort has been extended through March 23, 2012.

The BLM is writing an Environmental Impact Statement to analyze incorporating new sage-grouse conservation measures into its Resource Management Plans for the five field offices within the District: the Colorado River Valley Field Office in Silt, the Grand Junction Field Office, the Kremmling Field Office, the Little Snake Field Office in Craig and the White River Field Office in Meeker.

“We are working to proactively address sage-grouse conservation through science-based measures to maintain and restore flourishing populations of greater sage-grouse and sagebrush habitat,” said Jim Cagney, BLM Colorado Northwest District Manager. “We want to do this in a way that protects the health of our land while also facilitating safe and responsible energy development and recreational opportunities, which are so important to our economy in northwestern Colorado.”

More than 1.8 million acres of Colorado’s greater sage-grouse habitat are on BLM lands in the Northwest District. That’s almost half of the entire greater sage-grouse habitat in Colorado.

“Before we begin writing the Environmental Impact Statement, we want to hear any issues or concerns from the public and our partners,” Cagney said.

In December, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced new greater sage-grouse conservation guidance aimed at conserving the greater sage-grouse and its sagebrush habitat in 10 western states. This included new long-term conservation measures found in the BLM National Greater Sage-Grouse Land Use Planning Strategy, which is available at <http://blm.gov/g4jd>.

The comment period on this effort has been extended nationally through March 23.

Written comments will be accepted at the open house meetings, or they can be sent via regular mail to Erin Dreyfuss, NW CO District NEPA Coordinator at 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, CO 81506, via email to [gjfo\\_webmail@blm.gov](mailto:gjfo_webmail@blm.gov), or via fax to (970) 244-3062. Please be sure to reference the CO Sage-Grouse EIS in the subject line of your fax or email.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT NEWS RELEASE

Release Date: 02/09/12

Contacts: Erin O'Connor, 801-625-5347  
Mitch Snow, 202-912-7368

## National Forests Added and Comment Period Formally Extended on Planning for Sage-Grouse Conservation Measures

In cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will issue a corrected Notice of Intent to address sage-grouse in 10 additional National Forest System Lands and Resource Management Plans and formally extended the comment period through March 23, 2012. The notice will appear in the February 10, 2012, *Federal Register*.

The BLM and the Forest Service are seeking public comment on issues that should be addressed in Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statements (SEIS) that will evaluate and provide greater sage-grouse conservation measures in land use plans in 10 Western states. This notice extends the time period for public comment on the scoping process for the EIS/SEIS through March 23, 2012.

The EIS/SEIS will be coordinated under two regions: The Rocky Mountain Region, previously designated as the Eastern Region, which includes land use plans in the states of Colorado, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota and portions of Utah and Montana; and the Great Basin Region, previously designated as the Western Region, which includes land use plans in northeastern California, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, and portions of Utah and Montana.

Within the Rocky Mountain Region, the potentially affected National Forest System Land Management Plans include:

- Colorado's Routt National Forest
- Wyoming's Thunder Basin National Grassland, Medicine Bow National Forest and the Bridger-Tetons National Forest.

Within the Great Basin Region, the affected Land Management Plans include:

- Idaho's Boise National Forest, Salmon National Forest, Challis National Forest, Targhee National Forest, Caribou National Forest and the Curlew National Grassland;
- Montana's Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest;
- Nevada's Humboldt and Toiyabe National Forests;
- Utah's Ashley National Forest, Manti-LaSal National Forest, Wasatch Cache National Forest, Uinta National Forest, Dixie National Forest and the Fishlake National Forest.

The BLM and the Forest Service aim to incorporate conservation measures into all affected Land Management Plans by September 2014 in order to make the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) timeline for making a listing decision on this species. As a result, the accompanying EIS's/SEIS's will be conducted under expedited timeframes.

All comments and submissions to be considered for the environmental analysis process must be received by the BLM by close of business on March 23, 2012.

Comments may be made to the by any of the following methods:

- Rocky Mountain Region
  - o web site: <http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/sagegrouse/eastern.html>
  - o email: [sageeast@blm.gov](mailto:sageeast@blm.gov)
  - o fax: 307-775-6042
  - o mail: Rocky Mountain Region Project Manager, BLM Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone, Cheyenne, WY 82009
- Great Basin Region
  - o web site: <http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/sagegrouse/western.html>
  - o email: [sagewest@blm.gov](mailto:sagewest@blm.gov)
  - o fax: 775-861-6747
  - o mail: Great Basin Region Project Manager, BLM Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Blvd., Reno, NV 89502

For further information or to have your name added to the mailing list, contact: Johanna Munson, Rocky Mountain Region Project Manager, (307) 775-6329; mailing address 5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, WY 82009; email [jmunson@blm.gov](mailto:jmunson@blm.gov); or Lauren Mermejo, Great Basin Region Project Manager; (775) 861-861-6400; mailing address 1340 Financial Boulevard, Reno, NV 89520; email [lmermejo@blm.gov](mailto:lmermejo@blm.gov).

The BLM manages more land - over 245 million acres - than any other Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

--BLM--

Last updated: 02-09-2012

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# BLM NEWS RELEASE

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## *National Forests Added and Comment Period Formally Extended on Planning for Sage-Grouse Conservation Measures*

**For Immediate Release**

Date: February 9, 2012

**Contact:** Erin O'Connor (801) 625-5347

Mitch Snow (202) 912-7368

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--BLM--



# NATIONAL GREATER SAGE-GROUSE PLANNING STRATEGY

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_



MEETING DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## SCOPING COMMENT CARD

Please check your affiliation below:



<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual (no affiliation)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Private Organization
<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal, State, or Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/>	Citizen's Group
<input type="checkbox"/>	Elected Representative
<input type="checkbox"/>	Regulatory Agency

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

If you wish to provide written comments, please write your comments below (use back if needed). Written comments may be submitted using this card, an e-mail, or any other written format provided to the BLM by the means noted below and within the scoping period.

Comments:

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**Please submit tonight or mail/fax by February 16, 2012 to:**  
 Western Regional Project Manager, BLM Nevada State Office  
 1340 Financial Blvd., Reno, NV 89502  
**Fax:** 775-861-6747  
**E-mail:** [sagewest@blm.gov](mailto:sagewest@blm.gov)

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Citizen's Group
<input type="checkbox"/>	Elected Representative
<input type="checkbox"/>	Regulatory Agency

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

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