



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT NEWS RELEASE

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BLM Colorado greater sage-grouse comment period extended (02-08-12)

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, 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.

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--

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