



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, Colorado 80215-7210
www.co.blm.gov



In Reply Refer To:
1610 (COS050)

AUG 09 2013

Dear Reader:

The Greater Sage-Grouse Draft Land Use Plan Amendment/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft LUPA/EIS) for the Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Northwest Colorado District is available for your review and comment. The Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse Draft LUPA/EIS and supporting information is available on the project website at: <http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/sagegrouse.html>

The BLM and U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (USFS) prepared this document in consultation with 22 cooperating agencies and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, the National Forest Management Act of 1976, implementing regulations, the BLM's Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1), the Forest Service's Land Management Manual 1900, and other applicable law and policy.

The planning area consists of approximately 8.6 million acres of land, which includes approximately 1.7 million acres of BLM-administered and National Forest System land and approximately 2.8 million acres of BLM-administered subsurface federal mineral estate that may lie beneath other surface ownership. Surface and subsurface federal mineral estate is managed by five BLM field offices (Colorado River Valley, Grand Junction, Kremmling, Little Snake, and White River) and one national forest (Routt) that span portions of 10 northwest Colorado counties: Eagle, Garfield, Grand, Jackson, Larimer, Mesa, Moffat, Rio Blanco, Routt, and Summit. If approved, this LUPA would amend the existing BLM RMPs in these field offices and the USFS land and resource management plan and would guide the management of Greater Sage-Grouse habitat on public lands administered by the BLM and USFS, including federal mineral estate, into the future.

The BLM and USFS encourage the public to provide information and comments regarding the analysis presented in the Draft LUPA/EIS. We are particularly interested in comments concerning the adequacy and accuracy of the proposed alternatives, the analysis of their respective management decisions, and any new information that would help the BLM and USFS as it continues to develop the LUPA.

In developing the Proposed LUPA/Final EIS, which is the next phase of the planning process, the BLM decision maker may select management decisions from each of the alternatives analyzed in the Draft LUPA/EIS for the purpose of creating a management strategy that best meets the needs of the resources and values in this area under the BLM multiple-use and sustained-yield mandate. As a member of the public, your timely comments on the Draft LUPA/EIS will help formulate the Proposed LUPA/Final EIS. Comments will be accepted for ninety (90) calendar days following the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's publication of its Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*. The BLM can best utilize your comments and resource information submissions if received within the review period.

Comments may be submitted electronically by e-mail to: blm_co_nw_sage_grouse@blm.gov or at the project Website: <http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/sagegrouse.html>. Comments may also be submitted by mail to:

NEPA Coordinator
Bureau of Land Management, Northwest Colorado District
2815 H Road
Grand Junction, CO 81506

To facilitate analysis of comments and information submitted, we strongly encourage you to submit comments in an electronic format. There is no need to submit the same comment more than once or in more than one format.

If you wish to submit comments on the Draft LUPA/EIS, we request that you make your comments as specific as possible. Comments will be more helpful if they reference a section or page number and include suggested changes, sources, or methodologies. Comments containing only opinion or preferences will be considered and included as part of the decision-making process, although they will not receive a formal response from the BLM.

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, be advised 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 from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Public meetings to provide an overview of the document and to respond to questions will be announced by local media, the project website, and/or public mailings at least 15 days in advance. Public meetings will be held at a time and date to be determined.

The Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse Draft LUPA/EIS has been sent to affected federal, state, and local government agencies and tribal governments. Copies are also available for public inspection at the following BLM and USFS locations:

Bureau of Land Management
Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, CO 80215

Bureau of Land Management
Northwest Colorado District
2815 H Road
Grand Junction, CO 81506

USDA Forest Service
Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests
925 Weiss Drive
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487

USDA Forest Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
740 Simms Street
Golden, CO 80401

USDA Forest Service
Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests
2468 Jackson Street
Laramie, WY 82070

A limited number of the Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse Draft LUPA/EIS have been printed. Viewing the document electronically from the project website or from a CD is encouraged.

Thank you for your continued interest in the Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse LUPA. We appreciate the information and suggestions you contribute to the planning process. For additional information or clarification regarding this document or the planning process, please contact Ms. Erin Jones at (970) 244-3008.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Helen M. Hankins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "H".

Helen M. Hankins
Colorado State Director