



NW\_Sage\_Grouse, BLM\_CO <blm\_co\_nw\_sage\_grouse@blm.gov>

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## Individual Comments from Audubon Supporters on the Greater Sage-Grouse Draft Land Use Plan Amendment/Draft Environmental Impact Statement

2 messages

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**Pomper, Liz** <lpomper@audubon.org>

Mon, Dec 2, 2013 at 1:39 PM

To: "blm\_co\_nw\_sage\_grouse@blm.gov" <blm\_co\_nw\_sage\_grouse@blm.gov>

Dear NEPA Coordinator:

Please find attached a Microsoft Excel file (.xlsx format) containing 449 comments of National Audubon Society supporters about the Greater Sage-Grouse Draft Land Use Plan Amendment/Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Northwest Colorado District.

Many people submitted personalized comments, which you will find in a separate tab; others signed on to the comments below:

I am submitting comments to the Bureau of Land Management on the Colorado Resource Management Plan as it pertains to the NW Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse Resource Management Plan Amendment.

The Greater Sage-Grouse is an iconic western species that has seen its numbers drop precipitously in the last 50 years. Decisions on how best to protect the grouse and the large amounts of intact habitat it needs will benefit from the best available science and strong management practices. I believe that with common sense protections, grouse can persist on our western landscapes to the benefit of our communities and economic health. Business-as-usual is no longer acceptable.

In particular, here are some points that I feel deserve consideration as the plan takes form:

\*\* Priority Habitats need strong long-term protections (like designating Areas of Critical Environmental Concern) to sustain healthy grouse populations into the future.

\*\* BLM should consider using tools like lease buy-backs, amending or canceling oil and gas leases in important habitat to address one of the primary threats to grouse--energy development.

\*\* Management decisions should be based on the best available science. For example, the 0.25 mile protective buffer around breeding grounds (leks) has repeatedly been shown to be inadequate to protecting birds from nearby leasing and development activities. This stipulation should not be used by BLM. Areas around leks provide important breeding and nesting habitat.

\*\* For effective grouse conservation, all efforts should be made to minimize habitat loss and fragmentation.

Of the alternatives under consideration, Alternative D is not adequate and a new alternative should be considered by the BLM that includes portions of Alternatives B and C.

I appreciate the opportunity to offer these comments.

If you have any questions about the comments, or prefer to receive them in a different format, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached via e-mail at [lpomper@audubon.org](mailto:lpomper@audubon.org) or by telephone at (202) 600-7960.

Please accept our thanks for your agency's collaboration in ensuring that the comments of these concerned individuals are considered.

Sincerely yours,

Elizabeth Pomper  
Director of Online Outreach  
National Audubon Society

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 **CO Greater Sage-Grouse Comments (Audubon).xlsx**  
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**NW\_Sage\_Grouse, BLM\_CO** <blm\_co\_nw\_sage\_grouse@blm.gov>  
To: nwcosagegrouse\_eis@empsi.com

Mon, Dec 2, 2013 at 2:38 PM

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