



NEWS RELEASE

BLM-MONTANA/DAKOTAS

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Sept. 27, 2013

Release: 130927A

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BLM draft N.D. sage grouse plan amendment released

DICKINSON, N.D. ----The Bureau of Land Management has released the Draft North Dakota Greater Sage-Grouse Resource Management Plan Amendment and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for a 90-day public comment period.

The document considers four possible management alternatives for maintaining and increasing habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse on BLM-administered lands in southwestern North Dakota. Approximately 33,030 acres of North Dakota's Greater Sage-Grouse habitat is on BLM-administered surface lands, and another 396,053 acres of federal mineral estate in the North Dakota Field Office.

The BLM will issue Record of Decision by Sept. 30, 2014.

On Oct. 22, a public open house will be held in Bowman, N.D. to answer questions on the document. The event will be held 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Bowman City Hall located at 101 First Street N.E.

Copies of the North Dakota Greater Sage-Grouse Draft RMP Amendment/Draft EIS are available at the North Dakota Field Office at: 99 23rd Ave. West, Dickinson, in CD-ROM format, or online

at: http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/fo/north_dakota_field.html

Interested persons may submit comments related to the North Dakota Greater Sage-Grouse Draft RMP Amendment/Draft EIS by any of the following methods:

- Email: blm_mt_nd_sage_grouse@blm.gov
- Fax: (406) 896-5293
- Mail: BLM – Greater Sage Grouse EIS, 5001 Southgate Drive, Billings, MT 59101

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 US Fish and Wildlife Service determined that listing the Greater Sage-Grouse as a threatened or endangered species was “warranted, but precluded” and determined that current and potential threats to Greater Sage-Grouse habitat and inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms pose “a significant threat to the Greater Sage-Grouse now and in the foreseeable future.”

The North Dakota Greater Sage-grouse EIS is one of 15 separate EISs that are being conducted as part of the BLM’s west-wide National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Effort, to provide additional measures to maintain and enhance Greater Sage-Grouse habitat on public lands.

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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. The BLM’s multiple-use mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. In Fiscal Year 2012, activities on public lands generated \$4.6 billion in revenue, much of which was shared with the States where the activities occurred. In addition, public lands contributed more than \$112 billion to the U.S. economy and helped support more than 500,000 jobs.

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