



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Colorado State Office

2850 Youngfield Street

Lakewood, CO 80215-7210

www.co.blm.gov



In Reply Refer To:
1610 (CO-910)

JUL 26 2016

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Gunnison Sage-Grouse (GUSG) Rangewide Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendment/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) prepared this Draft RMP Amendment/Draft EIS in consultation with 21 cooperating agencies and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (as amended), Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (as amended), BLM Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1), and other applicable laws, policies, and implementing regulations.

The planning area for the Draft RMP Amendment/Draft EIS consists of approximately 2.1 million acres of federal, state, city, county and private lands in Colorado and Utah (including just over 740,000 acres of BLM-administered lands), along with an estimated 1.3 million acres of BLM-administered federal mineral estate. BLM lands and federal mineral estate in the planning area are managed by seven BLM field offices (Grand Junction, Gunnison, San Luis Valley, Tres Rios and Uncompahgre in Colorado; Moab and Monticello in Utah) spanning portions of 10 Colorado counties (Chaffee, Delta, Dolores, Hinsdale, Gunnison, Mesa, Montrose, Ouray, Saguache and San Miguel) and two Utah counties (Grand and San Juan). If approved, the plan could amend up to 11 existing BLM RMPs (including one national monument RMP and three national conservation area RMPs) in order to provide current guidance for managing and conserving GUSG habitat on BLM-administered lands and federal mineral estate.

The BLM encourages the public to provide information and comments pertaining to the analysis presented in the Draft RMP Amendment/Draft EIS. We are particularly interested in feedback 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 as we develop the plan. As a member of the public, your timely comments will help us formulate the Proposed RMP Amendment/Final EIS. Comments will be accepted for ninety (90) calendar days following the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 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.

Your review and comments on the content of this document are critical to the success of this planning effort. If you wish to submit comments on the Draft RMP Amendment/Draft EIS, we request that you make your comments as specific as possible. Comments will be more helpful if they include suggested changes, sources, or methodologies, and reference a section or page

number. Comments containing only opinion or preferences will be considered and included as part of the decision making process, but they will not receive a formal response from the BLM.

Comments may be submitted electronically through the project website: <http://1.usa.gov/1Uusw8C>. Submissions will also be accepted by email to: GUSG_amend@blm.gov; facsimile to: (303) 239-3699; or mail to: Gunnison Sage-Grouse EIS, BLM Colorado State Office, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, CO 80215. Please avoid duplicate comments by submitting them only once and in one format.

Before including your address, phone number, email address or other personally identifiable information, be advised that your entire comment—including personally identifiable information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can request to have your personally identifiable information withheld from public review, the BLM cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Public meetings to provide an overview of the document, respond to questions, and take public comments will be announced by local media, website, and/or public mailings at least 15 days in advance.

Copies of the Draft RMP/Draft EIS have been sent to affected Federal, state and local government agencies. Interested parties can view the Draft RMP Amendment/Draft EIS electronically through the project website, <http://1.usa.gov/1Uusw8C>. The BLM has printed a limited number of paper copies as well. Paper copies are available for public review at the following BLM locations:

- Colorado State Office, 2850 Youngfield Street, Lakewood, CO 80215
- Colorado Southwest District Office, 2465 South Townsend Avenue, Montrose, CO 81401
- Grand Junction Field Office, 2815 H Road, Grand Junction, CO 81506
- Gunnison Field Office, 210 West Spencer Avenue, Gunnison, CO 81230
- San Luis Valley Field Office, 1313 E. Highway 160, Monte Vista, CO 81144
- Tres Rios Field Office, 29211 Highway 184, Dolores, CO 81323
- Utah State Office, 440 West 200 South, Suite 500, Salt Lake City, UT 84101
- Utah Canyon County District Office, 82 East Dogwood, Moab, UT 84532
- Monticello Field Office, 365 North Main, Monticello, UT 84535

Thank you for your continued interest in and contributions to this important planning effort. For additional information or clarification regarding this document or the planning process, please contact BLM Colorado Sage Grouse Coordinator Bridget Clayton at (970) 244-3045.

Sincerely,



Ruth Welch
State Director