



United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Washington, D.C. 20240  
<http://www.blm.gov>



DEC 30 2016

In Reply Refer to:  
2300 (WO-350)

Dear Reader;

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has released the Draft Environmental Statement (Draft EIS) for the proposed Sagebrush Focal Area Withdrawal. The purpose of the proposed withdrawal is to protect the Greater Sage-Grouse and its habitat from adverse effects of locatable mineral exploration and mining. The proposed action analyzed in the Draft EIS considers a withdrawal of approximately 10 million acres of public and National Forest System lands administered by the BLM and the United States Forest Service from location and entry under the United States mining laws for a period of 20 years, subject to valid existing rights. All of the lands (unless otherwise subject to an existing withdrawal) will remain open to the public land laws, leasing under the mineral and geothermal leasing laws, and disposal under the mineral material sales laws. The areas proposed for withdrawal are located in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming. The Draft EIS analyzes and discloses the potential effects of the Proposed Action, No Action, and three other action alternatives.

Publication of the *Notice of Amended Proposed Withdrawal, Release of Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and Notice of Public Meetings, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming* (Notice) initiates a 90-day public comment period that will end **90 days after Notice publication**. The Notice announces that the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management proposes to amend the September 24, 2015 proposal to include approximately 388,000 acres in Nevada and announces the refinement of the legal land descriptions contained in the withdrawal application so that they conform with the public land survey system standards.

You can make a difference by providing the BLM with your specific comments or concerns about the proposed withdrawal. The Draft EIS and materials related to the withdrawal may be viewed online at the web address below. Copies may also be viewed at the following BLM and Forest Service offices and libraries locations during regular business hours:

#### Idaho

- Boise District Office, 3948 Development Ave., Boise, ID 83705
- Owyhee Field Office, 20 First Avenue West, Marsing, ID 83639
- Idaho Falls District Office, 1405 Hollipark Dr., Idaho Falls, ID 83401
- Pocatello Field Office, 4350 South Cliffs Drive, Pocatello, ID 83204
- Twin Falls District Office, 2878 Addison Ave. E, Twin Falls, ID 83301
- Shoshone Field Office, 400 West "F" Street, Shoshone, ID 83352
- Salmon Field Office, 1206 South Challis Street, Salmon, ID 83467
- Burley Field Office, 15 East 200 South, Burley, ID 83318
- Challis Field Office, 1151 Blue Mountain Road, Challis, ID 83226
- Mountain Home Public Library, 790 N 10th E Street, Mountain Home, ID 83647
- Boise Public Library, 715 S Capitol Boulevard, Boise, ID 83702
- Twin Falls Public Library, 201 Fourth Avenue East Twin Falls, ID 83301
- Idaho Falls Public Library, 457 W Broadway Street, Idaho Falls, ID 83402

## **Montana**

- HiLine District Office, 1101 15th Street North, Great Falls, MT 59401
- Glasgow Field Office, 5 Lasar Drive, Glasgow, MT 59230
- Malta Field Office, 501 S. 2nd Street East, Malta, MT 59538
- Central Montana District Office, 920 Northeast Main, Lewistown, MT 59457
- Lewistown Public Library, 701 West Main Street, Lewistown, MT 59547
- Phillips County Library, P.O. Box 840, Malta, MT 59538
- Glasgow City-County Library, 408 3rd Avenue South, Glasgow, MT 59230

## **Nevada**

- BLM Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Blvd., Reno NV 89502
- Elko District Office, 3900 Idaho St., Elko, NV 89801
- Winnemucca District Office, 5100 E. Winnemucca Blvd., Winnemucca, NV 89445
- BLM Battle Mountain District Office, 50 Bastian Road, Battle Mountain, NV 89820
- Humboldt County Library, U.S. Highway 95, McDermitt, NV 89421
- Humboldt County Library, 85 East 5th Street, Winnemucca, NV 89445
- Elko County Library, 720 Court Street, Elko, NV 89801
- Battle Mountain Branch Library, P.O. Box 141, Battle Mountain, NV 89820
- Jackpot Branch Library, 2301 Progressive Road, Jackpot, NV 89825
- Washoe County Library, P.O. Box 2151, Reno, NV 89520

## **Oregon**

- Burns District Office, 28910 Hwy 20 West, Hines, OR 97738
- Lakeview Field Office, 1301 South G. Street, Lakeview, OR 97630
- Vale District Office, 100 Oregon St, Vale, OR 97918
- Harney County Library, 80 West D Street, Burns OR 97720
- Malheur County Library, 388 SW 2nd Avenue, Ontario, OR 97914
- Lake County Library, County Courthouse, Lakeview, OR 97630

## **Utah**

- West Desert District Office, Salt Lake Field Office, 2370 S. Decker Lake Blvd., West Valley City, UT 84119
- BLM Utah State Office, 440 West 200 South, Suite 500, Salt Lake City, Utah 84101
- Box Elder County Bookmobile Library, 80 W 50 S, Willard, UT 84340-0595
- Cache County Library at Providence, 15 North Main, Providence, UT 84332
- Rich County Library and Bookmobile, 20 N Main, Randolph, UT 84064
- Salt Lake City Public Library, 210 E 400 S, Salt Lake City, UT 84111

## **Wyoming**

- High Desert District Office, 280 Highway 191 North, Rock Springs, WY 82901
- Kemmerer Field Office, 430 North Highway 189, Kemmerer, WY 83101
- Wind River / Bighorn Basin District Office, 101 South 23<sup>rd</sup>, Worland, WY 82401
- Lander Field Office, 1335 Main Street, Lander, WY 82520
- Pinedale Field Office, 1625 West Pine Street, Pinedale, WY 82941
- Fremont County Library, 244 Amoretti Street, Lander, WY 82520
- Rock Springs Library, 400 C Street, Rock Springs, WY 82901
- Lincoln County Library, 519 Emerald Street, Kemmerer, WY 83101
- Sublette County Public Library, 155 S. Tyler Avenue, Pinedale, WY 82941

The BLM has a limited number of digital copies of the Draft EIS on CD; you may request a CD of the Draft EIS through the website and comment addresses below. Please be sure your request includes the address where you want the CD to be mailed.

## Public Meetings

Public meetings have been scheduled during the public comment period for the Draft EIS and proposed withdrawal amendment. The planned dates and locations for the public meetings are listed below. The purpose of the public meetings is to present the Draft EIS to the public, answer questions about the document, and solicit substantive comments.

Meeting Locations	Meeting Dates and Times
Great Northern Hotel, 2 S 1st Street E, Malta, MT	February 13, 2017, 2-4 p.m.
BLM West Desert District Office, 2370 S. Decker Lake Blvd., West Valley City, UT	February 14, 2017, 5-7 p.m.
BLM Rock Springs Field Office, 280 Highway 191 North, Rock Springs, WY	February 15, 2017, 5-7 p.m.
Shilo Suites, 780 Lindsay Blvd., Idaho Falls, ID	February 16, 2017, 5-7 p.m.
Nugget Casino Resort, 1100 Nugget Ave., Sparks, NV	February 21, 2017, 5-7 p.m.
BLM Lakeview District Office, 1301 S G Street, Lakeview, OR	February 22, 2017, 5-7 p.m.
Elko Convention Center, 700 Moren Way, Elko, NV	February 23, 2017, 5-7 p.m.
Best Western Vista Inn, 2645 W Airport Way, Boise, ID	February 24, 2017, 5-7 p.m.

## How to Comment

The BLM will consider all comments; however, only substantive comments will be addressed as part of the decision making process. Substantive comments received during the comment period, which ends **90 days after publication of the Notice (see above)**, will be reviewed and addressed; comments received after the comment period will be considered to the extent feasible. According to the BLM's guidance in Handbook H-1790-1, substantive comments address one or more of the following:

- the accuracy of information in the EIS;
- the adequacy of, methodology for, or assumptions used for the environmental analysis;
- new information relevant to the analysis;
- reasonable alternatives additional to those analyzed in the EIS; and/or
- changes or revisions in one or more of the alternatives.

To be most helpful, comments on the Draft EIS should be as specific as possible, mentioning particular pages, sections, or chapters. Written comments may be submitted via the following methods:

- Public Meeting: See above for locations, dates and times
- Email: [sagebrush\\_withdrawals@blm.gov](mailto:sagebrush_withdrawals@blm.gov)
- Online: <https://www.blm.gov/node/3282>
- Mail: Mark Mackiewicz, Bureau of Land Management WO, c/o Price Field Office, 125 South 600 West, Price, Utah 84501

Please note that personal identifying information (PII) submitted (including names, phone numbers, street addresses, and email addresses of persons who submit comments) will be available for public review and disclosure. Before including PII in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your PII – may be made publicly available at any time. While you may ask us in your comment to withhold your PII from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

After the comments are reviewed, any significant new issues are investigated, and modifications are made to the Draft EIS, a Final EIS will be published and distributed. The Final EIS will contain responses to timely substantive comments received on the Draft EIS. After evaluation of public comments and completion of studies and analysis, the Secretary of the Interior, or other authorized official, will decide whether or not to withdraw all, some, or none of the lands proposed for 20-year withdrawal for the conservation of the greater sage-grouse.



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