

SIGNIFICANT FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA) REQUESTS RECEIVED

On March 15, 2001, *USA Today*, and the *Wilderness Society* filed similar requests with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Office of Surface Mining, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Mineral Management Services, and the Office of the Solicitor for “a copy of the report prepared by the Department of the Interior (DOI) for the National Energy Policy Development Group headed by Vice President Cheney. The report includes information on energy reserves on federal lands, restrictions on development of those energy resources and what would be required to expedite development.” The Office of the Secretary will respond to this request on behalf of DOI. The Office of Policy and Analysis will coordinate the collection and review for release of responsive documents.

FOIA/non-FOIA Litigation

On March 14, 2001, the *Oregon Natural Desert Association*, the *Western Watersheds Project*, and the *Committee for Idaho's High Desert* sued the BLM for failing to implement a plan to limit grazing in stream-side pasture in the 268,000 acre Bully Creek region. The groups asked a judge to order cattle off the federal land until the BLM imposed rules to protect wetlands and habitat for wildlife such as the sage grouse, a declining grasslands bird. A settlement was filed in U.S. District Court in Portland on Thursday, March 29, 2001, whereby the BLM agreed to issue new grazing permits enacting the new rules by Sunday, April 1, 2001.