

NEWSRelease

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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BLM
Prineville District Office

BLM solicits public comments for sage-grouse habitat improvement proposal

PRINEVILLE, Ore. -- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Prineville District Office is asking for public comments on a proposed project to improve sage-grouse habitat near Brothers and Hampton along the southern boundary of the BLM Prineville District. The BLM is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to identify a range of alternatives to address restoring playas (flat, un-drained desert basins that become shallow lakes at times) which are considered important habitat for sage-grouse. The EA will also complete an analysis for any grazing permit renewals in the project area.

The BLM has prioritized habitat conservation and improvement actions for the greater sage-grouse, a species the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined warranted protection under the Endangered Species Act. In particular, playas are important habitat to manage because they provide highly nutritious forbs (vegetation) during important brood-rearing times.

The BLM invites the public to share input on relevant topics related to this sage-grouse habitat management project, as well as suggest additional organizations, groups or individuals who may have an interest in the process.

If you have comments you would like the BLM to consider, send them in using any of the methods below by **April 9, 2012**.

MAIL: BLM, Sage-Grouse Playa Management EA, 3050 NE Third Street, Prineville, OR, 97754

EMAIL: BLM_OR_PR_SageGrouse_Playa_mgmt_EA@blm.gov **FAX:** (541) 416-6798

PHONE: Matt Shaffer, Project Lead (541) 416-6743

The BLM will use public comments to help develop the alternatives for the EA. When the BLM completes the EA, there will be another opportunity for public comment.

About the BLM: The BLM manages 245 million acres of public land known as the National System of Public Lands. The lands are primarily located in 12 Western states, including 75 million acres in Alaska. With a budget of about \$1 billion, the bureau also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

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