



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Oregon State Office
P.O. Box 2965, Portland, Oregon 97208
<http://www.blm.gov/or>



June 2015

Dear Reader:

Enclosed is the Oregon Sub-regional Greater Sage-Grouse (GRSG) Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment (Proposed RMPA) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), one of fifteen sub-regional efforts being conducted as part of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) National Greater-Sage Grouse Planning Strategy. The BLM prepared the Proposed RMPA and FEIS in consultation with cooperating agencies, taking into account public comments received during this planning effort. The purpose of the Proposed RMPA is to amend eight eastern Oregon Resource Management Plans (Andrews, Baker, Brothers LaPine, Lakeview, Southeastern Oregon, Steens, Three Rivers, and Upper Deschutes) to identify and incorporate appropriate conservation measures to conserve, enhance, and/or restore GRSG habitat by reducing, eliminating, or minimizing threats to that habitat. The need for action is in response to the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) March 2010 "warranted, but precluded" Endangered Species Act listing petition. The USFWS found that the inadequacy of regulatory mechanisms was identified as a significant threat to GRSG in its finding on the petition to list the GRSG. Conservation measures in RMPs were identified as the BLM's principal regulatory mechanism.

This Proposed RMPA and FEIS have been developed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended. The Proposed RMPA is largely based on Alternative D, the preferred alternative in the Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment/Environmental Impact Statement (DRMPA/DEIS), which was released on November 26, 2013. The Proposed RMPA and FEIS contain the Proposed Plan, a summary of changes made between the DRMPA/DEIS and Proposed RMPA and FEIS, impacts of the Proposed Plan, a summary of the written and verbal comments received during the public review period for the DRMPA/DEIS, and responses to the comments.

Pursuant to the BLM's planning regulations at 43 CFR 1610.5-2, any person who participated in the planning process for this Proposed RMPA and has an interest which is, or may be, adversely affected by the planning decisions may protest approval of the planning decisions within 30 days from the date the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes the Notice of Availability of the FEIS in the *Federal Register*. For further information on filing a protest, please see the accompanying protest regulations in the page that follows (labeled as Enclosure 1). The regulations specify the required elements of your protest. Take care to document all relevant facts. As much as possible, reference or cite the planning documents or available planning records (e.g., meeting minutes or summaries, correspondence, etc.).

Emailed protests will not be accepted as valid protests unless the protesting party also provides the original letter by either regular mail or overnight delivery postmarked by the close of the protest period. Under these conditions, the BLM will consider the emailed protest as an advance copy and will afford it full consideration. If you wish to provide the BLM with such advance notification, please direct emailed protests to: protest@blm.gov.

All protests must be in writing and mailed to one of the following addresses:

Regular Mail:

Director (210)
Attn: Protest Coordinator
P.O. Box 71383
Washington, D.C. 20024-1383

Overnight Delivery:

Director (210)
Attn: Protest Coordinator
20 M Street SE, Room 2134LM
Washington, D.C. 20003

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your protest, be advised that your entire protest – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your protest to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

The BLM Director will make every attempt to promptly render a decision on each protest. The decision will be in writing and will be sent to the protesting party by certified mail, return receipt requested. The decision of the BLM Director shall be the final decision of the Department of the Interior on each protest. Responses to protest issues will be compiled and formalized in a Director's Protest Resolution Report made available following issuance of the decisions.

Upon resolution of all land use plan protests, the BLM will issue an Approved Resource Management Plan Amendment (Approved RMPA) and Record of Decision (ROD). The Approved RMPA and ROD will be mailed or made available electronically to all who participated in the planning process and will be available on the BLM website at <http://on.doi.gov/J6h42H>.

Sincerely,



Jerome E. Perez
State Director
Oregon/Washington

Enclosures

PROTEST REGULATIONS

[CITE: 43CFR1610.5-2]

TITLE 43--PUBLIC LANDS: INTERIOR
CHAPTER II--BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PART 1600--PLANNING, PROGRAMMING, BUDGETING--Table of Contents
Subpart 1610--Resource Management Planning
Sec. 1610.5-2 Protest procedures.

- (a) Any person who participated in the planning process and has an interest which is or may be adversely affected by the approval or amendment of a resource management plan may protest such approval or amendment. A protest may raise only those issues which were submitted for the record during the planning process.
- (1) The protest shall be in writing and shall be filed with the Director. The protest shall be filed within 30 days of the date the Environmental Protection Agency published the notice of receipt of the final environmental impact statement containing the plan or amendment in the Federal Register. For an amendment not requiring the preparation of an environmental impact statement, the protest shall be filed within 30 days of the publication of the notice of its effective date.
- (2) The protest shall contain:
- (i) The name, mailing address, telephone number and interest of the person filing the protest;
 - (ii) A statement of the issue or issues being protested;
 - (iii) A statement of the part or parts of the plan or amendment being protested;
 - (iv) A copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues that were submitted during the planning process by the protesting party or an indication of the date the issue or issues were discussed for the record; and
 - (v) A concise statement explaining why the State Director's decision is believed to be wrong.
- (3) The Director shall promptly render a decision on the protest.
- (b) The decision shall be in writing and shall set forth the reasons for the decision. The decision shall be sent to the protesting party by certified mail, return receipt requested. The decision of the Director shall be the final decision of the Department of the Interior.