



PROJECT UPDATE I:

Gunnison Sage-Grouse Range-Wide Plan Amendment/EIS

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

SCOPING

Public Involvement

- The public scoping period began on July 18 and ended on August 22, 2014.
- Approximately 170-200 people attended public meetings held at four locations across the range of the Gunnison Sage-Grouse.
- Around 60-70 comment letters were received resulting in over 500 unique issue statements.
- A final Scoping Report will be released and posted on the project website before Thanksgiving—and the project contact list will be notified.

The purpose of the proposed RMP Amendment is to conserve the Gunnison Sage-Grouse (*Centrocercus minimus*) and the ecosystems upon which it depends on BLM-administered public lands across the range of the species.

GIS

Data & Mapping

- The Team GIS Specialist continues to consolidate information across the range of the species—combining data sets from eleven separate management units.
- Three interns have been brought on in support roles:
 - ✓ One to assist with consolidation and quality control
 - ✓ Two to digitize hard copy data from permit and lease files in individual field offices. The information obtained will be available to the field offices as well.

DRAFT RMP/EIS

While the team—in an effort to ensure quality, accuracy, and thoroughness of project components—has emphasized timeliness over strict adherence to deadlines, the project has remained fairly close to the projected schedule...

The Project Team:

- Is preparing a working draft of the **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Chapter 1, Introduction** for internal review
- Is formulating a range of alternatives for **EIS Chapter 2, Alternatives**
- Anticipates shifting their focus to analyzing alternatives for **EIS Chapter 4, Alternatives Analysis** in December

A U.S. Forest Service Enterprise Team:

- Is preparing a baseline socio-economic analysis for **EIS Chapter 3, Current Affected Environment**

COOPERATING AGENCIES

Jurisdictional Responsibility & Special Expertise

- Eighteen (18) agencies have signed on as cooperating agencies representing:
 - ✓ Eight counties in Colorado and Utah
 - ✓ Four state agencies in Colorado and Utah
 - ✓ Six federal agencies
- Conference calls have been held twice monthly since early September.
- One face-to-face meeting was held in Montrose, Colorado on October 29.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION

Cooperation between Governments

- An invitation was sent to 27 tribal governments to consult on the project.
- A project briefing was provided to the Ute Tribes at an annual Tribal Consultation Meeting.



The BLM intends to incorporate objectives, allowable uses, and management actions for conserving the Gunnison Sage-Grouse and its habitat into approved RMPs.

Project Manager:
Leigh D. Espy
lespy@blm.gov
303.239.3801

www.bit.ly/gunnison_sage-grouse

Gunnison Sage-Grouse Range-Wide Plan Amendment
BLM Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, Colorado 80215