On January 11, 2013, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) issued proposed rules to:

- List the Gunnison Sage-Grouse as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act
- Designate 1.7 million acres of critical habitat for the species.

The FWS is expected to issue a final listing determination in November 2014.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical Characteristics</th>
<th>Behavioral Characteristics</th>
<th>Genetic Characteristics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Larger than Gunnison Sage-grouse</td>
<td>2/3 the size of Greater Sage-grouse</td>
<td>More gene flow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longer tarsus, culmen and carpal</td>
<td>Shorter tarsus, culmen and carpal</td>
<td>Higher diversity in nuclear and mitochondrial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less prominent (short and thin) filoplumes</td>
<td>More prominent (long and thick) filoplumes</td>
<td>genomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less prominent banding on tail feathers</td>
<td>More prominent banding on tail feathers</td>
<td>Relatively high genetic diversity throughout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(more dull and cryptic, less taper)</td>
<td>(more white, more strongly tapered)</td>
<td>range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Less gene flow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lower diversity in nuclear and mitochondrial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>genomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Relatively low genetic diversity within and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>among populations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table borrowed from Western State Colorado University
http://www.western.edu/academics/undergraduate-programs/biology/gunnison-sage-grouse
Factors Affecting Survival of the Species

- Present or threatened habitat loss and fragmentation
- Overuse for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes
- Disease or predation
- Inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms
- Other natural or human-related factors

Major Threats to the Population

- Ongoing and future habitat loss and fragmentation due to residential development, roads, power lines
- Existing regulations that don’t prevent habitat fragmentation
- Small population size
On July 18, 2014, the BLM issued a Notice of Intent to identify and adopt clear and consistent objectives and conservation measures in order to protect Gunnison Sage-Grouse habitat across the species' range:

- Sufficient to support the long-term survival of the species.
- Compatible with objectives and conservation measures on adjacent lands not managed by the BLM.
- That are realistic and possible.
Preliminary issues identified by the BLM and FWS include:

- Sagebrush habitat management practices
- Science directly applicable to protection of the Gunnison Sage-Grouse
- Effects of sagebrush habitat management on other public land resources
The Gunnison Sage-Grouse Plan Amendment will conform to standard BLM land use planning processes.
Issues identified by the public for addressing in the plan amendments will be evaluated by the BLM and placed into one of three categories:

1. Issues to be resolved in the plan
2. Issues to be resolved through policy or administrative action
3. Issues beyond the scope of this plan.
COUNTIES IN PLANNING AREA

Colorado:
- Chaffee
- Delta
- Dolores
- Gunnison
- Hinsdale
- Mesa
- Montrose
- Ouray
- Saguache
- San Miguel

Utah:
- Grand
- San Juan
Monticello-Dove Creek extends into southeast Utah

Piñon Mesa

San Miguel Basin

Cerro Summit-Cimarron-Sims Mesa

Crawford

Gunnison Basin

largest population (with approximately 4,000 birds)

Poncha Pass
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MINERALS</th>
<th>HABITAT STATUS</th>
<th>ACRES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Habitat on BLM Surface</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupied</td>
<td></td>
<td>399,344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unoccupied</td>
<td></td>
<td>226,636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>625,981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat overlying Federal Sub-Surface Minerals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Minerals</td>
<td>Occupied</td>
<td>602,257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Minerals</td>
<td>Unoccupied</td>
<td>377,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil and Gas</td>
<td>Occupied</td>
<td>8,212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil and Gas</td>
<td>Unoccupied</td>
<td>17,727</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coal</td>
<td>Occupied</td>
<td>3,706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil, Gas, and Coal</td>
<td>Occupied</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Occupied</td>
<td>5,546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Unoccupied</td>
<td>9,494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,024,461</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The plan amendment will be formulated in close coordination with BLM policies and partnership agreements, including:

- **BLM Policies**
  - WO-IM-2014-100 (2014)

- **Partnership Agreements**
BLM resource management plans (RMPs) potentially affected:

COLORADO PLANS

- San Luis RMP (1991)
- Gunnison RMP (1993)
- San Juan/San Miguel RMP (1985)
  Currently under revision in Tres Rios and Uncompahgre RMPs
- Uncompahgre Basin RMP (1989)
  Currently under revision in Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area (NCA) and Uncompahgre RMPs
COLORADO PLANS (continued)

- Grand Junction RMP (1987)
  Currently under revision in Grand Junction and Dominguez- Escalante NCA RMPs
- Canyons of the Ancients National Monument RMP (2010)

UTAH PLANS

- Moab RMP (2008)
- Monticello RMP (2008)
RESOURCES & PROGRAM AREAS

The BLM will use an interdisciplinary approach to develop the plan amendments in order to consider the full range of resource issues and concerns identified. Specialists with expertise in the following disciplines will be involved in the process:

- Grazing
- Invasive Species
- Land Tenure
- Recreation
- Rights-of-Way
- Minerals Development
  - Oil and Gas
  - Coal
  - Other
- Fire Prevention and Suppression
- Travel Management
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ACTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 18, 2014</td>
<td>Notice of Intent published in the Federal Register</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 18 - August 22, 2014</td>
<td>Conduct Public Scoping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall &amp; Winter 2014-2015</td>
<td>Develop and Analyze Alternatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2015</td>
<td>Release Draft Amendment and Draft EIS for 90-day Public Comment Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2016</td>
<td>Release Proposed Amendment and Final EIS for 30-day Protest Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer 2016</td>
<td>Release Record of Decision</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WHERE?

• Online: www.bit.ly/gusg_comments
• Email: GUSG_AMEND@BLM.GOV
• U.S. Mail: GUSG Amendment
  BLM Colorado State Office
  2850 Youngfield St
  Lakewood, CO 80215
• FAX: (303) 239-3699
GUNNISON SAGE-GROUSE CONSERVATION MEASURES

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the BLM is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and associated amendment to adopt consistent objectives and conservation measures in order to protect Gunnison Sage-Grouse habitat across the species' range. The EIS is slated for completion by July 2016.

The range-wide planning area will consist of more than 625,000 acres of BLM surface estate in Chaffee, Delta, Dolores, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Mesa, Montrose, Ouray, Saguache, and San Miguel counties in Colorado and Grand and San Juan counties in Utah. BLM Colorado will lead the effort to evaluate existing and potential measures for protecting occupied and potential Gunnison Sage-Grouse critical habitat on behalf of BLM Colorado and BLM Utah. These conservation measures will be incorporated into applicable BLM land use plans.

BACKGROUND
The Gunnison Sage-Grouse (Centrocercus minimus) is a ground-dwelling bird requiring large expanses of sagebrush, along with a diversity of grasses and forbs. Gunnison Sage-Grouse populations are found only in the Gunnison Basin in Colorado and the San Juan Mountains in Utah.
For current information on efforts to conserve the Gunnison Sage-Grouse and its critical habitat, visit:

- BLM GUSG Plan Amendment

- FWS GUSG Information and Process