



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

# Gunnison Sage-Grouse

BLM Colorado State Office  
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## Current Status

The BLM released the Gunnison Sage-Grouse Rangewide Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA) and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for a 90-day public comment period on August 12, 2016. The BLM plans to extend the comment period by an additional 60 days. BLM Colorado is hosting three public meetings in October to provide an overview of the plan and opportunities for public input.

The BLM is examining the adequacy of current conservation measures for Gunnison Sage-Grouse and considering additional measures on a landscape scale through the Draft RMPA. The plan could amend up to 11 RMPs in Colorado and Utah to create a single, consistent strategy for managing public lands across the range of the species. This strategy will build upon and solidify actions the BLM has already outlined through national and local agreements, policies and planning efforts.

The Draft RMPA considers four potential management alternatives that range from leaving management of Gunnison Sage-Grouse habitat as it is currently under the applicable RMPs to creating a standardized, rangewide management approach that focuses primarily on conservation of Gunnison Sage-Grouse habitat and recovery of the species. The Preferred Alternative reflects a combination of strategies to balance Gunnison Sage-Grouse protection, resource uses and mitigation. It is broken down into sub-alternatives with management objectives tailored to individual sage-grouse populations.

The BLM coordinated closely with the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and Colorado Parks and Wildlife, as well as local governments, to develop these alternatives and continues discussions on key issues central to development of the Final RMPA.

## Background

The BLM manages about 623,000 acres, or 37 percent, of Gunnison Sage-Grouse habitat across the range of the species.

In January 2013, the FWS proposed to list the Gunnison Sage-Grouse as endangered under the the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The BLM provided comments on the proposed rule and proposed critical habitat during the public comment period.

In summer 2013, BLM Colorado signed a Candidate Conservation Agreement (CCA) for Gunnison Sage-Grouse on federally managed lands in the Gunnison Basin. Other signatories to the CCA include the FWS, National Park Service, United States Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and Saguache and Gunnison counties. The CCA is designed to complement the statewide

Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances developed by Colorado Parks and Wildlife and the FWS for use on private or state lands.

On Nov. 20, 2014, the FWS announced their final determination that the Gunnison Sage-Grouse requires protection as a threatened species under ESA. The BLM is required to consult with the FWS to determine mitigation measures necessary to avoid or minimize impacts to the species. The BLM is working with the FWS to prioritize consultation where necessary.