

# Northwest Colorado BLM Greater Sage-Grouse EIS

## *WHAT IS THIS PLANNING EFFORT ABOUT?*

The BLM is writing an Environmental Impact Statement to analyze incorporating new greater sage-grouse conservation measures into its Resource Management Plans for the five field offices within the Northwest Colorado District: the Colorado River Valley Field Office in Silt (which includes the Roan Plateau), the Grand Junction Field Office, the Kremmling Field Office, the Little Snake Field Office in Craig and the White River Field Office in Meeker. The Routt National Forest is also included in this planning effort.

Before writing the Environmental Impact Statement, the BLM conducted a public scoping period that ended on March 23, 2012, to hear from the public and cooperators about any concerns or issues we should consider as we complete this evaluation of greater sage-grouse conservation measures in Northwestern Colorado.

## *WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS EVALUATION?*

Greater sage-grouse is a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act. In December, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced new greater sage-grouse conservation guidance aimed at conserving the bird and its sagebrush habitat in 11 western states. This included new long-term conservation measures we are considering through this effort. An interagency National Technical Team (NTT) drafted conservation measures for the BLM's consideration during the planning process.

More than 1.8 million acres of Colorado's greater sage-grouse habitat is found on BLM lands in the Northwest District. That's almost half of the entire greater sage-grouse habitat in Colorado.

## *HOW WILL THIS AFFECT THE CURRENT PLANNING EFFORTS IN MOST OF THE NORTHWEST COLORADO FIELD OFFICES?*

All five field offices in the Northwest Colorado District are either in an on-going land-use planning effort or have recently completed one. The BLM is evaluating where the greater sage-grouse conservation measures in each field offices' plans are consistent with NTT's recommendations, and where we may need to consider Plan Amendments through this sage-grouse EIS. We expect the draft EIS to be available for public comment in spring 2013.

