

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Comment Period Extended for Bi-State Distinct Population Segment of Greater Sage-Grouse

Allows more time for public to review and comment on proposed rules

RENO, Nev. – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today announced the extension of the public comment period for 45 days on the proposal to protect the Bi-State Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of greater sage-grouse along the California-Nevada border as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The proposal includes a special rule that would provide increased flexibility for land management practices that are intended to benefit the sage-grouse. The extension will also add 45 days to the comment period on a proposal to designate approximately 1.86 million acres of critical habitat for the species.

“We are hoping to provide the public with an adequate opportunity to review and submit comments on the proposals by extending the public comment period,” said Ted Koch, State Supervisor for the Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office. “This process is important so that any final decision made by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reflects all of the best information available.”

Scientific information regarding these proposals will now be accepted until February 10, 2014, and may be submitted by one of the following methods:

(1) Electronically: Go to the Federal eRulemaking Portal:

<http://www.regulations.gov>. In the Search box, enter FWS–R8–ES–2013–0042 and FWS-R8-ES-2013-0072, which are the docket numbers for these rulemakings. Then, in the Search panel on the left side of the screen, under the Document Type heading, click on the Proposed Rules link to locate this document. You may submit a comment by clicking on “Comment Now!”

(2) By hard copy: Submit by U.S. mail or hand-delivery to: Public Comments Processing, Attn: FWS–R8–ES–2013–0042 and FWS-R8-ES-2013-0072; Division of Policy and Directives Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS 2042–PDM; Arlington, VA 22203.

A copy of the proposed rules published on October 28, 2013, and other information about the Bi-State DPS of the greater sage-grouse are available at <http://www.fws.gov/nevada> or at <http://www.regulations.gov> or by contacting the Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office at 775-861-6300.

The Endangered Species Act provides a critical safety net for America’s native fish, wildlife and plants. This

landmark conservation law has prevented the extinction of hundreds of imperiled species across the nation and promoted the recovery of many others.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit <http://www.fws.gov/cno>. Connect with our [Facebook page](#), follow our [tweets](#), watch our [YouTube Channel](#), and download photos from our [Flickr page](#).

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