

News Release

Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office

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

Public hearings scheduled in California and Nevada

RENO, Nev. — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today announced the extension of the public comment period for 60 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 also adds 60 days to the comment period on a proposal to designate approximately 1.86 million acres of critical habitat for the species. Additionally, the Service is extending, by six months, the final determination of whether or not to list the Bi-State DPS as a threatened species. The final listing determination will be published on or before April 28, 2015.

Notice of the extensions will be published April 8, 2014, in the *Federal Register* and can be viewed [here](#).

“Extending the comment period provides additional time for the public and other stakeholders to review the proposals and provide comments and information that will help inform our decisions about protections that may be needed to conserve this distinct population of greater sage grouse, said Ted Koch, State Supervisor for the Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office. “This process helps ensure that any decisions made by the Service are grounded in the best available science.”

The Service is conducting two public hearings on the proposals:

Tuesday, April 29, 2014 6 to 9 p.m.

Carson Valley Inn
Valley Ballroom
1627 U.S. Highway 395 North
Minden, NV 89423

Wednesday, April 30, 2014 6 to 9 p.m.

Tri-County Fairgrounds
Home Economics Building
Sierra Street & Fair Drive
Bishop, CA 93514

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Scientific information regarding these proposals will be accepted until June 9, 2014, and may be submitted at the public hearings and by one of the following methods:

- Electronically, via the Federal eRulemaking Portal, at <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!”
- Hard copy, via 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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