

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Service postpones public hearings on proposals to protect the Bi-State Distinct Population Segment of greater sage-grouse

Hearings in California and Nevada will be rescheduled

RENO, Nev. — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today announced it is postponing public hearings on proposals to protect the Bi-State Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of greater sage-grouse along the California-Nevada border under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The hearings that were scheduled for April 29, 2014, in Minden, Nev., and April 30, 2014, in Bishop, Calif., will be rescheduled for those same locations.

On April 8, 2014, the Service announced a 60-day extension of the comment period on the proposals, which include listing the bird as a threatened species, designating approximately 1.86 million acres of critical habitat for the species, and a special rule that would provide increased flexibility for land management practices that are intended to benefit the sage-grouse. The extended comment period closes on June 9, 2014.

“Given the high level of interest in this matter, and our recent decision to extend the comment periods associated with these actions, we believe that moving the hearings to later dates will provide the public a more reasonable amount of time to review, prepare and submit comments on the proposals,” said Ted Koch, State Supervisor for the Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office.

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.

The locations, dates and times for the public hearings will be announced as soon as they are rescheduled.

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Scientific information regarding these proposals will be accepted until at 11:59 p.m., on 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 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 greater sage-grouse are available on the Internet at www.fws.gov/nevada/, www.regulations.gov, or through the Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office at 775-861-6300.

The ESA 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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NOTE: Photos to support this story are available on our [Flickr page](#).