

News Release

Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office

1340 Financial Way, Suite 234

Reno, Nevada 89502

Tel: 775-861-6300; Fax 775-813-4546

<http://fws.gov/nevada>



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: June 2, 2014

Contact: Dan Balduini (702) 515-5480

daniel_balduini@fws.gov

Service Announces Availability of Draft Economic Analysis on Proposals to Protect Bi-State Distinct Population Segment of Greater Sage-Grouse

Service also extends public comment period on proposed critical habitat

RENO, Nev. — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today announced the availability of the draft economic analysis (DEA) associated with 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 Service also announced a 30-day extension of the public comment period on the proposed critical habitat for the species. The Notice of Availability is scheduled for publication in the *Federal Register* on Tuesday, June 3, 2014.

The Service is required to consider the economic impact that may result from a designation of critical habitat. To assess the probable economic impacts of a designation, the agency must first evaluate specific land uses or activities and projects that may occur in the area of the critical habitat. The probable economic impact of a proposed critical habitat designation is analyzed by comparing scenarios “with critical habitat” and “without critical habitat.”

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 comment period on the proposed listing closes on June 9, 2014. However, the comment periods on the proposed critical habitat and the DEA close on July 3, 2014.

The final determination of whether or not to list the Bi-State DPS of greater sage-grouse as a threatened species will be published on or before April 28, 2015.

Scientific and economic impact information may be submitted 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 IEC 2014, 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.

The proposals 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](#).

-30-

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