



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Nevada State Office
1340 Financial Boulevard
Reno, Nevada 89502-7147
<https://www.blm.gov/nevada>

In Reply Refer To:
1610(NV930)

Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Program
201 S. Roop St, Ste 101
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources:

In compliance with an Order from the United States District Court for the District of Idaho (the Court), the Secretary of the Interior is re-initiating the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for a proposal to withdraw the sagebrush focal areas (SFAs) from location and entry under the Mining Law of 1872 to protect Greater sage-grouse and its habitat (86 Federal Register 44742).

Consideration of the proposed withdrawal was initiated in September 2015 (80 Federal Register 57635, as corrected in 80 Federal Register 63583). In December 2016, the withdrawal proposal was amended and a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was released for public comment (81 FR 96478). In October 2017, the BLM cancelled the withdrawal application and proposal, and terminated the preparation of the EIS (82 Federal Register 47248). The cancellation was then vacated by the Court on February 11, 2021 (Western Watersheds Project v. Bernhardt, Case No. 1:16-cv-00083-BLW, EFC 264). The Court ordered the BLM to consider "...whether the withdrawal is needed for sage grouse conservation. Such proceedings shall include re-initiation of the NEPA process."

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is now re-initiating the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), to inform the Secretary's consideration of whether to withdraw any of the lands proposed for withdrawal.

If you are interested in participating in the development of this EIS, please respond to this letter with your interest in working together. No response to this letter will be interpreted as your desire to not participate as a cooperating agency. Please send your response with 15 days to Alan Shepherd, Deputy State Director, Nevada BLM at the .

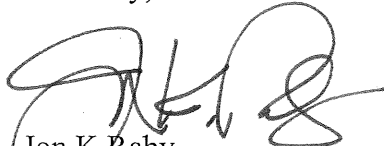
Additional project information can be found on BLM's website at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/70697/510> (DOI-BLM-WO-WO3500-2016-0002-EIS), including applicable maps.

Further, we would like you to be aware that, separate from the subject of this letter, the BLM is

initiating a process to reconsider the BLM's land use plans that address Greater sage-grouse habitat management. Additional information on that land use planning effort will be forthcoming.

We thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Jon K. Raby
State Director