



ROUTT COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA COMMUNICATION FORM

ITEM DATE: 8/9/2022	ITEM TIME: 10:55am
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FROM:	Jay Harrington
TODAY'S DATE:	8/3/2022
AGENDA TITLE:	MOU for the development of the Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement
CHECK ONE THAT APPLIES TO YOUR ITEM:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X ACTION ITEM	
<input type="checkbox"/> DIRECTION	
<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION	
I. DESCRIBE THE REQUEST OR ISSUE:	
Consideration for the approval of and the authorization for the chair to sign an MOU among the US Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State Office, and Routt County for the development of the Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement.	
II. RECOMMENDED ACTION (<i>motion</i>):	
A motion to approve and authorize the Chair to sign an MOU among the US Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Colorado State Office, and Routt County for the development of the Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-Grouse Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Impact Statement.	
III. DESCRIBE FISCAL IMPACTS (VARIATION TO BUDGET):	
PROPOSED REVENUE (<i>if applicable</i>):	
CURRENT BUDGETED AMOUNT:	
PROPOSED EXPENDITURE:	
FUNDING SOURCE:	
SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET NEEDED:	
IV. IMPACTS OF A REGIONAL NATURE OR ON OTHER JURISDICTIONS (IDENTIFY ANY COMMUNICATIONS ON THIS ITEM):	



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V. BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The BLM amended or revised land use plans in 2014 and 2015 in the States of California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming (2015 Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments) to provide for greater sage-grouse (GRSG) conservation on public lands. Subsequently, the BLM amended several of those plans in 2019 in the States of California, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming (2019 Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments). On October 16, 2019, the United States District Court for the District of Idaho preliminarily enjoined the BLM from implementing the 2019 SageGrouse Plan Amendments (Case No. 1:16-CV-83-BLW).

This current planning process will build off the existing 2015 and 2019 amendments by incorporating new science, climate change considerations, and address continued GRSG and sagebrush habitat loss and GRSG population declines. Where existing planning decisions are still valid, those decisions may remain unchanged. Throughout the prior planning efforts, GRSG planning and management has consistently been a collaboration with cooperating agencies, based on science, and it will continue to be.

To take full advantage of the prior GRSG planning efforts, the BLM is preparing individual state EISs for this planning effort. The RMPA/EIS prepared under the terms of this MOU is part of that larger BLM GRSG planning effort that is considering amendments to BLM land use plans in multiple states within the range of GRSG.

Within Northwest Colorado, the BLM manages approximately 1.8 million acres of GRSG habitat within the Colorado River Valley Field Office, the Grand Junction Field Office, the Kremmling Field Office, the Little Snake Field Office, and the White River Field Office.

VI. LEGAL ISSUES:

VII. CONFLICTS OR ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:

VIII. SUMMARY AND OTHER OPTIONS:

IX. LIST OF ATTACHMENTS:

MOU attached