

Trump plans would ease protections for sage grouse

By **NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS**
Associated Press



Tom Koerner/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S. officials plan to publish supplemental environmental impact statements for the management of greater sage grouse habitat on public lands in seven states.

THE PLANS BY THE U.S. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT EASE RULES ON MINING, DRILLING AND GRAZING ACROSS MILLIONS OF ACRES THAT THE AGENCY SAYS REFLECT THE NEEDS OF WESTERN COMMUNITIES AND SAGEBRUSH-STEPPE HABITAT.

SPOKANE, Wash. — The Trump administration announced plans Thursday that ease protections for sage grouse in the West, prompting an outcry by critics who say the move paves the way for widespread mining and drilling and ignores a federal court ruling.

U.S. officials planned to formally publish what are called supplemental environmental impact statements on Friday for the management of greater sage grouse habitat on public lands in seven states. Publication in the Federal Register is part of a process that could allow the plans to take effect shortly before President Donald Trump leaves office.

The plans by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management ease rules on mining, drilling and grazing across millions of acres that the agency says reflect the needs of Western communities and sagebrush-steppe habitat.

The plans “better align the BLM’s management of sage-grouse habitat while addressing the circumstances and needs of each individual state,” said Casey Hammond, principal deputy assistant secretary for land and minerals management.

The ground-dwelling greater sage grouse is at the center of a bitter conflict between the administration and conservationists involving how much of the West’s expansive public lands should be opened to development.

Sage grouse have been in decline for decades due to habitat loss and other factors. The animals range across about 270,000 square miles in parts of 11 Western U.S. states and two Canadian provinces. Their numbers have plummeted due to energy development, disease and other factors.

The birds are known for an elaborate mating ritual in which males fan their tails and puff out yellow air sacs in their chests as they strut around breeding grounds. They are not considered an endangered or protected species.

The six plans cover Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Nevada and northeastern California and Oregon. A previous Trump administration plan relaxing sage grouse protections was rejected by a federal judge in 2019.

In that order, U.S. District Judge B. Lynn Winmill

in Boise, Idaho, temporarily blocked the Trump administration from easing rules on mining, drilling and grazing, saying such activities left unchecked were likely to harm sage grouse.

The supplemental environmental impact statements being published Friday are intended to address issues identified in that order.

But each plan reviewed by The Associated Press appears to have nearly identical wording and does not appear to make any changes to the federal government’s sage grouse plan rejected by

Winmill.

Each state has its own director of land management signing off on the document.

“I don’t think that’s going to fly in court,” said Erik Molvar of Western Watersheds Project. “I think this is an example of the Trump administration ignoring the judicial branch and trying to bulldoze and get its way despite the judge already saying that path is illegal.”

Opponents said Thursday’s action is intended to make it harder for the incoming Biden administration to overturn the plans.

“The Biden administration would have to start all over again, develop new plans with notice and comment, and provide a clear justification as to why the plans are yet again being changed,” said Mary Greene, an attorney with the National Wildlife Federation.

In a related case, a federal judge in Montana in May dealt a blow to the administration’s efforts, saying officials failed to protect sage grouse habitat when they issued energy leases on hundreds of square miles. U.S. District Judge Brian Morris said the Interior Department did not do enough to encourage development outside of areas with greater sage grouse.

Under former President Barack Obama, the Interior Department delayed lease sales on millions of acres of public land largely because of worries that intensive development could harm sage grouse. In 2015, it adopted a set of wide-ranging plans meant to protect the best grouse habitat and keep the bird off the threatened and endangered species list.

After Trump took office in 2017, the agency modified those plans to ease restrictions on development, which meant officials no longer had to prioritize development outside grouse habitat.

Unmotivated grown children

Dear Annie: I have two grown children living at home. Both are disrespectful to me and to my husband. I feel obligated to allow them to live here since they don’t have anywhere to go, stable jobs or means of transportation. How can I get rid of them and move on with my life? — *Tired of Carrying Grown Children*

Dear Tired of Carrying: Let them stand on their own two feet. Ask your son and daughter to start paying rent or to find their own places. If you feel guilty, as though that’s too much to ask, then just imagine if you were in their shoes: Would you expect your mom and dad to pay your way well into your 20s and 30s? I think not.

They are grown adults capable of taking care of themselves. By letting them find that out, you’ll be doing them a favor in the long run.

Dear Annie: I contracted genital herpes 35 years ago when a sex partner failed to tell me he had this virus. Over time, outbreaks became shorter, less frequent and virtually painless. Based on talks with others with GH, this is typical of the virus’ progression. Most claim that the worst thing about having GH is confessing this to a prospective sex partner. I did this recently.

“Kenny” and I dated briefly 44 years ago, and then parted to lead separate lives while on active duty. He called me out of the blue last summer, and we began talking and texting every day. We believed we had a lot in common and might someday be together. He regularly expressed his affection for me and often told me how happy he was that we have reconnected, albeit from 600 miles away.

I was amazed and grateful. I really believed I’d found a man who was so happy to

have me in his life again that he’d stay with me through thick and thin. Wrong!

During a talk about our childhood viral diseases, I

made the excruciatingly difficult decision to tell him I had GH. His response was, “Oh, wow!” Then silence, followed by a change of subject. We hung up, and he has not called me or answered my calls since. I am so broken-hearted. Kenny

effectively told me that my having GH negated every single good quality that he saw in me.

So Annie, what do you say to people like me who do the right thing and to people like Kenny who are on the receiving end of this news? There are a lot of us out there who have GH. — *Rejected*

Dear Rejected: To those on the receiving end of this news, I’d say keep an open mind. HSV-2 is more common than you’d think. In the United States, more than 1 in 6 people between the ages of 14 and 49 have genital herpes, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. HSV-1 (which causes oral herpes) is even more prevalent, infecting around two-thirds of the global population, according to the World Health Organization. There are many ways to have a safe and fulfilling sex life despite a herpes diagnosis.

To those who have been rejected after sharing their status with a potential partner, I’d say chin up. Having this sexually transmitted disease is not exceptional; having the moral fortitude to disclose it is. When you meet someone who can appreciate this, you’ll know you’ve found a good one.

To find a testing center near you, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/std>, click “Prevention”; then click “Which STD Tests Should I Get?”

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QMQQMKJ: QGC IT NWG JKINW.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN YOU'RE STAUNCHLY REFUSING TO TASTE THIN, FLAT COOKIES OR CRACKERS, ARE YOU UNWAVERING?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals L

11-21 CRYPTOQUIP

LFES EMW SLV PBI SFBDIY
SFES EDJ GBOYSBHX - KEXBDI
HV K O E D J Y F V R G Z H E M W

EPVRS? OMOVABS EDZ IGVYY.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PRIESTS PRESIDING OVER SPECIAL RELIGIOUS SERVICES HELD FOR SLUGGISH MAMMALS: MEN OF THE SLOTH.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals G

107 Public Notices

NW Natural Warrenton

Bremik Construction has been contracted to work on the NW Natural Warrenton Resource Center. The project includes a 4,408 SF, single story office building, a 7,740sf vehicle storage and warehouse with drive-thru shop bays and truck washing equipment.

Estimated Construction Schedule: February 2021 - November 2021

Job Walk: 11/23/2020 at 10AM
Questions Due: 11/24/2020 at 2PM
Bids Due: 12/4/2020 at 2PM

Please email questions and bids to bids@bremik.com

204 Automobiles

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New Battery, Good Tires
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\$800-OBO
360-665-4542

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2015 Colorado Z71
4 door with extras--short bed with cover--excellent condition--68,000 miles.
\$28,900. 503-310-3854.

651 Help Wanted

The Jewell School District 8 is posting a vacancy for a 1.0 FTE PK-12 PE/Health Teacher

To apply, please visit our website at www.jewell.k12.or.us under the Employment Tab for the posting and details. Please call (503) 755-2451 x2493 or email allyceec@jewellk12.org if you have questions or would like more information.

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