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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF IDAHO

WESTERN WATERSHEDS PROJECT,) No. 01:18-cv-187-REB
and CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL)
DIVERSITY,) SECOND AMENDED
*	OMPLAINT**
Plaintiffs,)
V.)
)
DAVID BERNHARDT,* Secretary of)
Interior; and UNITED STATES	
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT,)
an agency of the United States,)
)
Defendants.	
* Official Defendant automatically substitu	 uted
per Fed. R. Civ. P. 25(d)	

^{**} This Second Amended Complaint uses <u>underscoring to highlight the additions made to the First Amended Complaint</u> and strikethroughs to show individual redactions from the First Amended Complaint, [while large deletions of text are noted in brackets], as illustrated here. Paragraphs have also been renumbered from the First Amended Complaint.

INTRODUCTION

- 1. Plaintiffs file this Second Amended Complaint with written consent of all parties under F.R.Civ.P. 15(a) to update and restate their claims following the Court's decision transferring venue of Plaintiffs' challenges to the Normally Pressured Lance (NPL) Project, see ECF No. 150. Through this Second Amended Complaint, Plaintiffs update their challenges to the Trump Administration's unlawful actions to lease oil and gas resources on public lands, or managed by the United States, that will adversely impact essential habitats and populations across the range of the greater sage-grouse (Centrocercus urophasianus), and violate bedrock environmental laws including the Federal Land Policy and Management Act ("FLPMA"), National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA"), and Administrative Procedure Act ("APA").
- 2. The "Final Lease Sales" challenged in this Second Amended Complaint include the Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") oil and gas lease sales conducted from 2017 through March 2019 in sage-grouse habitats that were previously identified as either "Final" or "Pending" actions in Plaintiffs' First Amended Complaint. No new lease sales have been added beyond those previously identified; and the NPL Project and other previously-identified "Pending Actions" are now removed in this Second Amended Complaint.
- 3. Through this Second Amended Complaint, Plaintiffs continue to challenge the validity of Instruction Memorandum ("IM") 2018-034 and IM 2018-026 on the same grounds identified in their prior complaints and in briefings submitted to the Court to date.
- 4. The greater sage-grouse is deeply imperiled because of the loss, fragmentation, and degradation of its native sagebrush habitats across the Interior West. Multiple peer-reviewed studies have found that infrastructure and human activity associated with oil and gas development adversely affect greater sage-grouse and their habitat through direct mortality,

habitat loss, displacement and behavioral effects, noise, spread of invasive plants, disease transmission, and other means. Defendant BLM directly manages approximately 45% of all remaining occupied greater sage-grouse habitat, as well as managing mineral leasing for substantial additional areas of occupied habitat on Forest Service and split estate (private surface and federal minerals) lands.

- 5. In 2010, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined that greater sage-grouse "warranted" listing under the Endangered Species Act ("ESA"), based on threats including impacts of oil and gas development, and lack of adequate regulatory mechanisms for oil and gas development of federal minerals and on public lands. As a result, between approximately 2011 and 2015, BLM adopted interim policies in large part barring the issuance of new oil and gas leases in what was preliminarily identified as "core" greater sage-grouse habitats.
- 6. In September 2015, BLM and U.S. Forest Service completed their National Greater Sage-grouse Planning Strategy, which amended or revised 98 BLM Resource Management Plans ("RMPs") and Forest Service land use and resource plans ("Forest Plans") (jointly, "land use plans") to designate sage-grouse habitats across the species' range, and impose new management protections intended to prevent, mitigate, or compensate for further sage-grouse population declines and habitat losses.
- 7. Although these 2015 "Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments" vary across states and planning areas in the specifics of their management of oil and gas leasing and development, they all consistently mandate that BLM "prioritize oil and gas leasing and development" outside of sage-grouse habitats, including Sagebrush Focal Areas ("SFAs"), Priority Habitat Management Areas ("PHMAs"), General Habitat Management Areas ("GHMAs"), and other identified high-value habitats.

- 8. In October 2015, the Fish and Wildlife Service determined that ESA listing is "not warranted," finding that the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments provide adequate regulatory mechanisms, and specifically citing the Plan Amendments' requirement that "priority will be given to leasing and development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, <u>outside</u> of sage-grouse habitat." 80 Fed. Reg. 59858, 59876 (Oct. 2, 2015) (emphasis added).
- 9. Beginning in early 2016, some BLM Field Offices resumed leasing, subject to the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments, of federal fluid minerals affecting sage-grouse habitats. On September 1, 2016, BLM issued guidance for "Implementation of Greater Sage-Grouse Resource Management Plan Revisions or Amendments Oil & Gas Leasing and Development Sequential Prioritization," Instruction Memorandum 2016-143.
- 10. In January 2017, the new Trump Administration began working systematically to dismantle and/or avoid protections for public lands and their resources in order to promote oil, gas, and other fossil fuel development. Originally-named Defendant Ryan Zinke, Trump's first Secretary of Interior, and Defendant David Bernhart, a former energy industry lobbyist who was Deputy Secretary of Interior and has now replaced Zinke as Secretary, have led the charge to the point that the Department of Interior recently put an oil rig on employee identification badges. See D. Grandoni & J. Eilperin, "Oil rigs and cowboys: Interior agency gives employees new cards to wear," Washington Post (3/15/18).
- 11. In an October 2017 "Final Report: Review of the Department of Interior Actions that Potentially Burden Domestic Energy," Zinke's Interior Department identified sage-grouse management plans, and the prioritization requirement in particular, as "burdens" to the Administration's announced policy of promoting domestic oil and gas extraction. More recently,

Defendant <u>Bernhardt approved revisions in March 2019 to the 2015</u> Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments in order to weaken their protections.

- 12. Defendants have issued a series of orders, reports, and directives reducing consideration of impacts to sage-grouse and opportunities for public involvement in the oil and gas leasing process. Among others, on December 27, 2017, without amending or revising its land use plans under FLPMA or NEPA, BLM issued Instruction Memorandum 2018-026, effectively repealing the prioritization requirement of the 2015 Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments.
- 13. Following these directives, BLM has offered and sold without prior review or analysis of site-specific and cumulative impacts to greater sage-grouse populations and habitat hundreds of thousands of acres of oil and gas leases within or affecting sage-grouse habitats designated in the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments, including SFAs, PHMAs, and GHMAs. These leasing actions violate the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments' provisions and requirements, including that oil and gas leasing be prioritized outside sage-grouse habitats. According to a recent report, Defendants under the Trump Administration issued over 2.3 million acres of oil and gas leases within sage-grouse habitats as of March 2019. Individually and cumulatively, these oil and gas leases threaten substantial degradation and fragmentation of key sage-grouse habitats, and harm to sage-grouse populations.

[Prior map deleted].

14. Defendants are also acting unlawfully to limit, exclude, and/or preclude environmental review and involvement by Plaintiffs and other members of the public in BLM's oil and gas leasing and development decisions. On January 31, 2018, BLM issued Instruction Memorandum 2018-034, which adopted a series of "policy" changes instructing its Field Offices to accelerate oil and gas leasing and reduce environmental review and public comment. IM

2018-034 directs BLM offices to accelerate approval of oil and gas leases at the expense of conducting full environmental analysis, and drastically limits public involvement in leasing decisions. These changes affect and injure substantial rights and interests of Plaintiffs and the public, and were adopted in violation of NEPA and without compliance with the procedures and substantive requirements of law, including the APA.

15. Plaintiffs thus seek judicial review and reversal of the <u>BLM</u> oil and gas leases identified <u>as Final Actions</u> below, as well as IMs 2018-026 and 2018-034. Plaintiffs also seek declaratory and injunctive relief ordering Defendants to adhere to NEPA and provide adequate notice and comment for future BLM oil and gas leasing and development decisions and requiring Defendants to comply with law in future administration of oil and gas resources affecting sagegrouse on the public lands.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 16. Jurisdiction is proper in this Court under 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question) because this action arises under the laws of the United States and their implementing regulations, including FLPMA, 43 U.S.C. §§ 1701 et seq.; NEPA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq.; the APA, 5 U.S.C. §§ 701 et seq.; the Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 et seq.; and the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2412 et seq.
- 17. An actual, justiciable controversy now exists between Plaintiffs and Defendants. The challenged actions are final and subject to judicial review pursuant to 5 U.S.C. §§ 702, 704, and 706. The requested relief is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201-2202 and 5 U.S.C. §§ 701-06.
- 18. Venue is proper in this Court under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e) because Plaintiff Western Watersheds Project resides in this district and Plaintiff Center for Biological Diversity has staff and members in this district; Defendant BLM has offices and staff that manage greater sage-

grouse habitats on public lands and administer federal fluid minerals in Idaho; and a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims herein occurred within this district.

19. The federal government has waived sovereign immunity under 5 U.S.C. § 701.

PARTIES

- 20. Plaintiffs in this action are as follows:
- A. WESTERN WATERSHEDS PROJECT is an Idaho non-profit corporation, which is dedicated to protecting and conserving the public lands and natural resources in Idaho and the American West. Western Watersheds Project is headquartered in Hailey, Idaho, and has additional staff and offices in Boise, as well as Wyoming, Montana, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, and Oregon. Western Watersheds Project has long-standing interests in preserving and conserving greater sage-grouse populations and habitat in Idaho and other states across the range of the greater sage-grouse. It was the plaintiff in prior BLM sage-grouse litigation, see W. Watersheds Project v. Salazar, No. 1:08-cv-516-BLW (D. Idaho), and is a co-plaintiff in W. Watersheds Project et al. v. Bernhardt et al., No. 1:16-cv-083-BLW (D. Idaho), in which Plaintiffs' First Supplemental Complaint challenges aspects of the Trump Administration's 2019 rollbacks of sage-grouse protections, as well as other sage-grouse cases before this Court.
- B. Plaintiff CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation, protection, and restoration of biodiversity, native species, and ecosystems. The Center was founded in 1989 and is based in Tucson, Arizona, with offices or staff throughout the country, including Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, California, and Colorado. It has more than 63,000 members, including many who reside in, explore, and enjoy the native species and ecosystems of the Interior Mountain West, where the greater sage-grouse is found. The Center is actively involved in species and habitat protection issues worldwide, including

throughout the western United States, and continues to actively advocate for increased protections for greater sage-grouse and other sagebrush obligates in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Wyoming, and elsewhere. The Center's officers, staff, and members regularly seek out greater sage-grouse on public lands for recreational, scientific, educational and other pursuits, and intend to continue to do so in the future. The Center has an organizational interest in Defendants' management of habitat for imperiled species; and has participated in prior sage-grouse litigation before this and other courts, including *W. Watersheds Project et al. v. Bernhardt et al.*, No. 1:16-cv-083-BLW (D. Idaho).

- 21. The decline of the greater sage-grouse in Idaho and other states across its range is of great concern to Plaintiffs and their officers, staff, members, and supporters; and the preservation and recovery of the species and its sagebrush-steppe habitat are highly important to Plaintiffs and their officers, staff, members, and supporters.
- 22. Plaintiffs' officers, staff, members, and supporters work, live, and/or recreate throughout the public lands of the sagebrush-steppe ecosystem of Idaho and other states which are occupied by greater sage-grouse; and they regularly visit and utilize the public lands in Idaho and other states to observe and study the greater sage-grouse and the sagebrush-steppe ecosystem. Plaintiffs' members, supporters and staff derive recreational, aesthetic, scientific, inspirational, educational, and other benefits from these activities and have an interest in preserving the possibility of such activities in the future. Their use and enjoyment of the sage-grouse depends on its continued existence within, and the scientifically sound management of, public lands and federal fluid mineral resources within the greater sage-grouse range.
- 23. Many of Plaintiffs' activities including research and advocacy have focused on preserving the remaining habitats of greater sage-grouse on public lands in Idaho and other states

across the sage-grouse range; and in restoring those habitats to protect and recover greater sage-grouse populations. Plaintiffs have sought to participate in the BLM's oil and gas leasing and development decisions challenged in this action, including by submitting scoping and other comments, and submitting detailed protests of the BLM's challenged decisions, but often have not been given sufficient notice or opportunity to do so. Plaintiffs have exhausted all legally required administrative remedies before bringing this action.

- 24. Defendants' violations of FLPMA, NEPA, APA, and other provisions of law in adopting the <u>Final Actions</u> (as identified below) have injured the aesthetic, commercial, conservation, scientific, recreational, educational, wildlife preservation, procedural, and other interests of Plaintiffs and their officers, staff, members, and supporters. These are actual, concrete injuries caused by Defendants' violations of law, for which judicial relief is required to remedy those harms. The relief sought herein would redress these injuries. Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law.
 - 25. Defendants in this action are as follows:
- A. <u>David Bernhardt</u> is Secretary of Interior, who replaced former Defendant,

 Secretary Ryan Zinke, and is automatically substituted under F.R.Civ. P. 25(d). Bernhardt

 previously served as Deputy Secretary of Interior, and was named as such in the original

 Complaint in this action. Bernhardt has responsibility for approving and implementing many of the unlawful policy changes and other aspects of the <u>Final Actions</u> identified below. He is sued solely in his official capacity.
- B. BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT is an agency or instrumentality of the United States, within the Department of Interior. BLM is charged with statutory duties to manage public lands under its jurisdiction under FLPMA, NEPA and other authorities, and to

manage leasing and development of federal oil and gas resources in accordance with all requirements of law. BLM is the agency responsible for issuing the oil and gas leases and other decisions challenged herein.

STATEMENT OF RELEVANT FACTS

I. THE GREATER SAGE-GROUSE.

- The plight of the greater sage-grouse is well-known to this Court from prior cases, including the 2008 BLM RMP/sage-grouse litigation referenced above, as well as ESA listing and other cases. *See, e.g., W. Watersheds Project v. Salazar*, No. 08-cv-516-BLW, 2011 WL 4526746 (D. Idaho 2011) ("*Salazar*") (holding that BLM "test case" RMPs violated NEPA and FLPMA for failing to address sage-grouse conservation needs); *W. Watersheds Project v. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Serv.*, 535 F. Supp.2d 1173 (D. Idaho 2007) (reversing 2005 "not warranted" ESA listing determination for greater sage-grouse); *W. Watersheds Project v. Jewell*, 56 F. Supp. 3d 1182 (D. Idaho 2014) (BLM violated NEPA and FLPMA in renewing grazing permits in key sage-grouse habitat in southern Idaho); *W. Watersheds Project v. Salazar*, 843 F. Supp. 2d 1105 (D. Idaho 2012) (BLM violated NEPA and FLPMA in renewing grazing permits in southern Idaho without considering cumulative impacts on sage-grouse and RMP duties to prioritize protection of sage-grouse as a sensitive species).
- 27. The greater sage-grouse is a "sagebrush obligate" species, meaning it relies on the sagebrush steppe ecosystem for all its habitat needs. The fate of the sage-grouse thus depends on ensuring that healthy and well-distributed sagebrush steppe habitat exists across its range.
- 28. Greater sage-grouse once numbered in the millions across the western U.S and Canada, but loss and fragmentation of their native sagebrush-steppe habitats have caused populations to decline precipitously over the last century. The current population of greater

sage-grouse is estimated at less than 5% of historic population levels, *i.e.*, sage-grouse populations have experienced a 95% or more decline.

- 29. Federal agencies, principally BLM and the Forest Service, manage over half the remaining sagebrush steppe. Although cooperation among federal and state agencies, private land owners, and others is important to conserve sage-grouse and sagebrush habitat, the federal government and federal lands are key to ensuring conservation of the species.
- 30. Greater sage-grouse is a landscape species that uses a variety of seasonal habitats throughout the year. Sage-grouse breeding sites (leks) and associated nesting and brood-rearing habitats, as well as winter concentration areas, are especially important to the species' life cycle. The grouse have high fidelity to leks, and most hens will nest within four miles of the lek where they mated. Sage-grouse also return to the same winter habitats year after year. Anthropogenic disturbance and disruptive activities, noise, and habitat degradation in breeding, nesting, brood-rearing, and winter habitats negatively affect sage-grouse productivity.
- 31. Energy development has well-documented adverse effects on sage grouse survival, breeding, and behavior. Roads, pipelines, wells, and other infrastructure cause direct habitat loss and fragmentation. Surface development can disrupt breeding activities and cause birds to abandon suitable habitat, resulting in population declines. Noise associated with energy development is also known to disrupt the sage-grouse life cycle. Research suggests that drilling activity can affect sage-grouse more than 12 miles away.
- 32. Multiple peer-reviewed studies have documented the adverse effects from oil and gas development on sage-grouse habitat use, breeding, and survival and recovery. As noted in one recent peer-reviewed study (Gamo & Beck 2017, pp. 189-90): "Energy development has been shown to specifically impact male sage-grouse lek attendance, lek persistence, recruitment

of yearling male and female grouse to leks, nest initiation and site selection, nest survival, chick survival, brood survival, summer survival of adult females, early brood-rearing habitat selection, adult female summer habitat selection, and adult female winter habitat selection." Another recent study (Green et al. 2017), confirms that sage-grouse lek attendance remains stable only where no oil and gas development is present within 6,400m, a level of protection far greater than that provided by the BLM's 2015 Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments.

2010 ESA Listing Decision

- 33. After this Court reversed and remanded the 2005 "not warranted" ESA listing determination, *W. Watersheds Project v. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Serv.*, 535 F. Supp.2d 1173 (D. Idaho 2007), the Fish and Wildlife Service published a new finding in March 2010 that ESA listing was "warranted," based on the best available science. But the Service determined that proceeding with a listing rule was "precluded" at that time by limited resources and higher priority species. *See* 75 Fed. Reg. 13910 (March 5, 2010) ("March 2010 Finding").
- 34. The March 2010 Finding stressed the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms to protect greater sage-grouse from the many identified threats to grouse habitats and populations particularly focusing on BLM and Forest Service land use plans, which did not include measures necessary to ensure conservation of sage-grouse. The March 2010 Finding underscored that BLM's existing regulatory mechanisms to protect sage-grouse populations and habitats from energy development (particularly oil and gas) were inadequate and not scientifically based, including BLM's use of 0.25 mile and 0.6 mile "buffers" around sage-grouse leks.

National Greater Sage-grouse Planning Strategy

- 35. Partly in response to this Court's rulings in the 2008 sage-grouse/RMP litigation, W. Watersheds Project v. Salazar, No. 08-cv-516-BLW, and citing the March 2010 Finding, BLM launched the National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy in August 2011 to review and amend BLM RMPs across the sage-grouse range. The Forest Service later joined the National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy to amend its Forest Plans across the sage-grouse range as well.
- 36. The charter for the National Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy established a National Technical Team ("NTT") to serve "as an independent, technical and science-based team to ensure the best information related to greater sage-grouse management is fully reviewed, evaluated and provided to the BLM for consideration in the land use planning process."
- 37. On December 21, 2011, BLM released the NTT's "Report on National Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Measures" ("NTT Report"), which BLM filed with this Court in the related BLM sage-grouse/RMP litigation. *See* SAGE GROUSE NATIONAL TECHNICAL TEAM, A REPORT ON NATIONAL GREATER SAGE-GROUSE CONSERVATION MEASURES 6-7 (Dec. 21, 2011), Hearing Exhibit 6, *Salazar*, No. 08-cv-516-BLW, ECF No. 167-14. Based on the evidence and testimony at the remedies hearing in that litigation, the Court found that the NTT Report "contains the best available science concerning the sage-grouse" at the time. Memorandum Decision and Order, *Salazar*, 2012 WL 5880658 at *2 (Nov. 21, 2012), ECF No. 231.
- 38. The NTT Report (p. 7) emphasized that the designation and protection of priority sage-grouse habitats is key to conserving the greater sage-grouse:

The overall objective is to protect priority sage-grouse habitats from anthropogenic disturbances that will reduce distribution or abundance of sage-grouse. Priority sage-grouse habitats are areas that have the highest conservation value to maintaining or increasing sage-grouse populations. These areas would include breeding, late brood-rearing, winter concentration areas, and where known, migration or connectivity corridors.

- 39. The NTT Report also explained that the "primary potential risks to sage-grouse from energy and mineral development" are: 1) direct disturbance, displacement, or mortality of grouse; 2) direct loss of habitat, or loss of effective habitat through fragmentation and reduced habitat patch size and quality; and 3) cumulative landscape-level impacts. *Id.* at 18.
- 40. The NTT Report extensively discussed the scientific literature on the impacts of energy development on sage-grouse, *id.* at 19-21, and concluded that:

There is strong evidence from the literature to support that *surface-disturbing energy or mineral development within priority sage-grouse habitats is not consistent with the goal to maintain or increase populations or distribution...* Breeding populations are severely reduced at well pad densities commonly permitted. Magnitude of losses varies from one field to another, but findings suggest that impacts are universally negative and typically severe.

Id. at 19 (emphasis added; citations omitted).

- 41. The NTT Report found that BLM's existing 0.25-mile "No Surface Occupancy" ("NSO") buffers around leks, and seasonal timing stipulations applying 0.6-mile buffers around leks, are inadequate to protect sage-grouse, stating that "[e]ven a 4-mile NSO [non-surface occupancy] buffer would not be large enough to offset all the impacts" of energy development. *Id.* at 21.
- 42. The NTT Report concluded that "the conservation strategy most likely to meet the objective of maintaining or increasing sage-grouse distribution and abundance is *to exclude* energy development and other large-scale disturbance from priority habitats, and where valid existing rights exist, minimize those impacts by keeping disturbances to 1 per section with direct surface disturbance impacts held to 3% of the area or less." Id. (emphasis added).
- 43. The NTT Report (pp. 22-23) provided other recommendations for conservation measures to limit adverse impacts of energy development on greater sage-grouse, including:

- "Close priority sage-grouse habitat areas to fluid mineral leasing,"
- "Do not allow new surface occupancy on federal leases within priority habitat, this includes winter concentration areas during any time of the year," and
- "Apply a seasonal restriction on exploratory drilling that prohibits surfacedisturbing activities during the nesting and early brood-rearing season in all priority sage-grouse habitats during this period."
- 44. BLM issued Instruction Memorandum ("IM") 2012-044 on December 27, 2011, which required that the NTT Report's recommendations must be considered within the National Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy.

COT Report

- 45. The Fish and Wildlife Service convened a separate "Conservation Objectives Team" ("COT") of federal and state experts, which was tasked with producing recommendations "regarding the degree to which threats need to be reduced or ameliorated to conserve the greater sage-grouse so that it would no longer be in danger of extinction or likely to become in danger of extinction in the foreseeable future," *i.e.*, would not need to be listed under the ESA.
- 46. In March 2013, the Fish and Wildlife Service released the team's findings known as the "COT Report" which was peer-reviewed and based on the best scientific and commercial data available. *See* Greater Sage-Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*)

 Conservation Objectives: Final Report (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2013).
- 47. The COT Report identified "Priority Areas for Conservation" ("PACs"), which it termed "key habitats essential for sage-grouse conservation." The PACs "were identified using the best available information" and were described as "highly important for long-term viability of the species and should be a primary focus of our collective conservation efforts."
- 48. Subsequently, in an October 27, 2014 letter to the BLM and Forest Service, titled "Greater Sage-Grouse: Additional Recommendation to Refine Land Use Allocations in Highly SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT -- 15

Important Landscapes," the Service identified a sub-category of lands within the PACs called sage-grouse "stronghold" areas – the most vital sage-grouse areas within the priority habitats designated as PACs.

2015 Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments.

- 49. On May 29, 2015, BLM and Forest Service released fourteen final Environmental Impact Statements ("EISs") and Proposed Land Use Plan Amendments for the National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy, which (along with the 2014 Lander RMP) would amend 98 BLM RMPs and Forest Plans across the sage-grouse range.
- 50. BLM and Forest Service finalized the National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning
 Strategy through issuance of four Records of Decision ("RODs") in September 2015, which
 (along with the prior Lander RMP) amended or revised each of the 98 BLM and Forest Service
 land use plans within the National Planning Strategy region. These plan amendments are called
 "Approved Resource Management Plan Amendments" ("ARMPAS") or "Approved Resource
 Management Plans" ("ARMPS") for the BLM lands, and "Land Management Plan Amendments"
 ("LMPAS") for Forest Service lands.
- 51. The four September 2015 RODs were comprised of two RODs separately issued by BLM and two other RODs by the Forest Service for the Rocky Mountain and Great Basin regions, respectively. The two BLM RODs are as follows:
- (a) BLM's "Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan

 Amendments for the Rocky Mountain Region, Including the Greater Sage-grouse Sub-Regions

 of Lewistown, North Dakota, Northwest Colorado, Wyoming, and the Approved Resource

 Management Plans for Billings, Buffalo, Cody, HiLine, Miles City, Pompeys Pillar National

Monument, South Dakota, Worland," dated September 21, 2015 ("BLM Rocky Mountain ROD"); and

- (b) BLM's "Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan

 Amendments for the Great Basin Region, Including the Greater Sage-grouse Sub-Regions of

 Idaho and Southwestern Montana, Nevada and Northeastern California, Oregon, Utah," dated

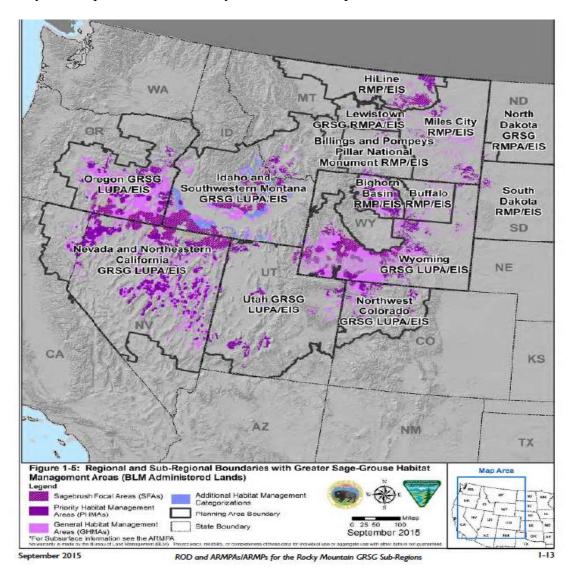
 September 21, 2015 ("BLM Great Basin ROD").
- 52. BLM asserted in these Great Basin and Rocky Mountain RODs that it relied on the "best available science" in reaching the management decisions approving the various plan amendments. *See*, *e.g.*, BLM Rocky Mountain ROD at 1-12 ("BLM used the best available science") & 1-33 (revised/amended plans "are grounded in the best available science").
- 53. The FEISs, RODs, and individual plan amendments (ARMPAs, ARMPs, and LMPAs) are collectively termed the "2015 Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments" in this Complaint.
- 54. Subsequent to the initiation of this action, Defendants under the Trump

 Administration have moved to rescind or weaken sage-grouse protections on the public lands, including by issuing new RODs in March 2019 to revise or amend the 2015 Sage-grouse Plans in seven states across the sage-grouse range (Idaho, Oregon, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, and Nevada/NE California). Plaintiffs and others are challenging those actions in the related litigation before this Court, referenced above. See First Supplemental Complaint and Motion for Preliminary Injunction, W. Watersheds Project et al. v. Bernhardt et al., No. 1:16-cv-083-BLW (D. Idaho), ECF Nos. 124 & 139.
- 55. Plaintiffs are not herein challenging any aspect of the 2015 Plans or the subsequent rollbacks addressed in that related proceeding. All oil and gas leasing decisions

challenged in this Second Amended Complaint were approved under the 2015 Plans and before the 2019 RODs were adopted, and hence the 2015 Plans govern those BLM leasing decisions.

Habitat Designations In 2015 Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments.

56. The <u>2015</u> Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments designated a variety of sage-grouse habitats across the species' range for heightened management protections in order to help conserve the species, including SFAs, PHMAs, GHMAs, and other sage-grouse habitats, as illustrated by this map from BLM's Rocky Mountain ROD, p. 1-13:



- 57. Of these, PHMAs are defined as "lands identified as having the highest value to maintaining sustainable GRSG [greater sage-grouse] populations." *See, e.g.,* Idaho & Southwestern Montana Final EIS at ES-4. The boundaries of the PHMAs "largely coincide with areas identified as Priority Areas for Conservation in the COT report," *i.e.*, the PACs. *Id.* SFAs were identified "as a subset of PHMA" derived from the sage-grouse "stronghold areas" within the PACs, as set forth in the Service's October 2014 letter referenced above. *Id.*
- 58. GHMAs were defined as "BLM-administered and National Forest System lands that require some special management to sustain GRSG populations." *Id.*

Management Direction in Sage-Grouse Habitat Areas.

- 59. The <u>2015</u> Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments applied a range of specific different management directions to these sage-grouse habitats, to provide "management direction that avoids and minimizes additional disturbance in [greater sage-grouse] habitat management areas." *See* BLM Great Basin ROD, S-1. BLM's obligations to conserve sage-grouse habitat extend to both BLM-managed surface lands, and "split estate" lands with BLM-managed mineral estate. *See, e.g.,* Idaho/Southwestern Montana ARMP at 2-27
- 60. The "management responses" adopted in the <u>2015</u> Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments were intended to address the key threats to sage-grouse habitats and populations from the COT Report. *Id.* at 1-17, Table 1-4; BLM Rocky Mountain ROD, at 1-18, Table 1-4. They included measures to limit human disturbances, including "conditions of approval" ("COAs") on existing fluid mineral leases and required lease stipulations for newly-issued fluid mineral leases; "disturbance caps" in PHMAs and other priority habitats; "lek buffers" and other "required design features" ("RDFs") when authorizing actions in sage-grouse habitats; and

requiring "mitigation to provide a net conservation gain" from third-party actions that result in sage-grouse habitat loss or degradation. *Id*.

- 61. With respect to fluid mineral energy development which includes oil and gas, as well as geothermal resources the <u>2015</u> Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments adopted a number of different measures, including requiring "no surface occupancy" ("NSO") stipulations in SFAs and PHMAs outside of Wyoming and portions of Montana (with differences among some of the plans, and allowing waiver, modification or exception in some instances). *Id*.
- 62. Although the sage-grouse priority habitat designations and management restrictions adopted under the 2015 Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments represent a significant step forward, the 2015 Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments adopt lease-specific stipulations for fluid mineral development development which are not always consistent with the best available science, including the NTT Report and COT Report. Thus, for example, the "Wyoming Nine" Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments adopted inadequate "lek buffers," allow excessive surface disturbance in sage-grouse habitats, and provide for BLM to approve modifications, waivers, and exceptions for energy developments to further degrade and fragment sage-grouse habitats, thus harming sage-grouse populations.
- 63. Plaintiffs Western Watersheds Project and Center for Biological Diversity are challenging these and other inadequacies of the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments in the related sage-grouse litigation before this Court, *W. Watersheds Project et al. v. Bernhardt et al.*, No. 1:16-cv-083-BLW (D. Idaho). By bringing this litigation to enforce, in part, the 2015 Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments that are being violated by Defendants, Plaintiffs do not waive their challenges to the inadequacies of those Plan Amendments in other respects identified in that litigation. As noted below, inadequacies of the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments in allowing oil

and gas and other energy development within sage-grouse habitats contributes to the harms posed by Defendants' actions as challenged herein.

BLM Duty To Prioritize Oil And Gas Leasing/Development Outside Of Sage-grouse Habitats.

- 64. While the <u>2015</u> Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments differed in their specific requirements for management limitations on fluid mineral energy development in priority sagegrouse habitats, all the Plan Amendments directed that BLM will: "*Prioritize the leasing and development of fluid mineral resources outside GRSG [greater sage-grouse] habitat.*" BLM Great Basin ROD, p. 1-17, Table I-4 (underscore added); BLM Rocky Mountain ROD, p. 1-19, Table 1-4 (same). These requirements are incorporated into Management Directions for the individual ARMPAs, ARMPs, and LMPAs.
- 65. Prioritizing leasing and development of oil and gas resources outside sage-grouse habitats formed part of the "Habitat Protection and Surface Disturbance Measures in PHMAs and GHMAs," which the RODs stated "will be applied in both PHMAs and GHMAs." *See* BLM Great Basin ROD, p. 1-23; BLM Rocky Mountain ROD, p. 1-25. BLM explained that this "Prioritization Objective":

is to further limit future surface disturbance and encourage new development in areas that would not conflict with GRSG [greater sage-grouse]. This objective is intended to guide development to lower conflict areas and as such protect important habitat and reduce the time and cost associated with oil and gas leasing development by avoiding sensitive areas, reducing the complexity of environmental review and analysis of potential impacts on sensitive species, and decreasing the need for compensatory mitigation.

Id. (emphasis added).

66. Moreover, BLM explained that this "Prioritization Objective" along with the other "Habitat Protection and Surface Disturbance Measures in PHMAs and GHMAs" (including lek buffers and RDFs) would result in protecting sage-grouse habitats and populations:

In summary, all forms of new development in PHMAs and GHMAs would either be closed, excluded, avoided, or developed only if the resultant effect were a net conservation gain to the GRSG [greater sage-grouse] or its habitat, ensuring that existing habitat would be protected or restored through compensatory mitigation.

BLM Great Basin ROD, p. 1-24 & BLM Rocky Mountain ROD, p. 1-26 (<u>italics</u> added).

Offices under to the Great Basin and Rocky Mountain RODs also required prioritization of oil and gas leasing and development outside of priority sage-grouse habitats as a key plan component addressing COT Report threats. *E.g.*, Idaho & SW Montana ARPMA, p. 1-10, Table 1-6. To this end, they incorporated specific language echoing the RODs' commitment to avoid oil and gas leasing in key sage-grouse habitats. *Id.* at 2-26 ("Priority will be given to leasing and development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, outside of PHMA, IHMA [Important Habitat Management Areas], and GHMA"); Nevada/Northeast California ("NV/NE CA") ARMPA 1-10 ("Prioritize the leasing and development of fluid mineral resources outside GRSG habitat"); Billings ARMP (MD FLUIDS-15) (same). Similarly, the Idaho/SW Montana Sage-Grouse Plan Amendment (p. 2-26) provided: "Priority will be given to leasing and development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, outside of PHMA, IHMA, and GHMA." Likewise, the Wyoming ARMPA provided:

Priority will be given to leasing and development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, outside of PHMAs and GHMAs. When analyzing leasing and authorizing development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, in PHMAs and GHMAs, and subject to applicable stipulations for the conservation of GRSG, priority will be given to development in non-habitat areas first and then in the least suitable habitat for GRSG.

WY ARMPA, p. 24.

68. The Final EISs for the <u>2015</u> Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments further explained that these restrictions are intended to avoid, minimize, or mitigate impacts on sage-grouse priority habitats from oil and gas development. *E.g.*, NV/NE CA Final EIS at 2-20 ("In PHMAs

and GHMAs, apply the concept of 'avoid, minimize, and compensatory mitigation' for all human disturbance not already excluded or closed, so as to avoid adverse effects on GRSG and its habitat"). Under this approach, "[t]he first priority would be to avoid new disturbance; where this is not feasible, the second priority would be to minimize and mitigate any new disturbance." *Id*. Thus, "[n]ew leases would be prioritized in non-habitat areas first and then in the least suitable habitat for GRSG." ID/SW MT Final EIS at 4-199.

69. As the 2015 Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments explained, they "prioritize[] development outside of GRSG habitat, and focus[] on a landscape-scale approach to conserving GRSG habitat....Land use allocations in the Proposed Plan would limit or eliminate new surface disturbance in PHMA, while minimizing disturbance in GHMA." *See, e.g.*, Miles City ARMP at 2-3; *see also* WY ARMPA Final EIS at 2-13 (same). The Wyoming ARMPA Final EIS further explainsed that, "when authorizing development of fluid mineral resources [in sage-grouse habitats], work with the operator to minimize impacts to Greater Sage-Grouse and their habitat, such as locating facilities in non-habitat areas first and then in the least suitable habitat." *Id.* at 2-76.

BLM Instruction Memorandum 2016-143

70. On September 1, 2016, BLM issued Instruction Memorandum 2016-143, titled "Implementation of Greater Sage-Grouse Resource Management Plan Revisions or Amendments – Oil & Gas Leasing and Development Sequential Prioritization." It "provides guidance on prioritizing implementation decision for [BLM] oil and gas leasing and development, to be consistent with" the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments under the BLM's Great Basin and Rocky Mountain RODs.

- 71. The stated goals of IM 2016-143 are "to ensure consistency across BLM offices when implementing the GRSG Plans decision aimed at avoiding or limiting new surface disturbance" in PHMAs, including SFAs, and "minimizing surface disturbance" in GHMAs; and "to provide clarity to the BLM Field Offices on how to move forward with oil and gas leasing and development activities within designated GRSG habitats."
- 72. IM 2016-143 was "intended to ensure consideration of the lands outside of GHMAs and PHMAs for leasing and development before considering lands within GHMAs and, thereafter, to ensure consideration of lands within GHMAs for leasing and development before considering any lands within PHMAs for leasing and development in an effort to focus future surface disturbance outside of the most important areas for sage-grouse conservation consistent with the conservation objectives and provisions in the GRSG plans."
- 73. IM 2016-143 identified similar sequences and factors for oil and gas development approvals in proximity to PHMAs and GHMAs, including prioritizing lands outside PHMAs/GHMAs and other factors to ensure meeting the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments' conservation goals.
- 74. IM 2016-143 further directed that BLM Authorized Officers consider whether "mitigation will be sufficient to achieve the net conservation gain mitigation standard" in the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments, including by asking owners of existing leases in SFAs, PHMAs, "or other sensitive GRSG habitats to relinquish those leases as an offset to the potential impacts to GRSG and their habitats from activities arising from implementation decision or activities."
- 75. IM 2016-143 further provided for deferring lease reinstatements or denying them, to ensure compliance with the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments. IM 2016-143 also directed that

where a lease in PHMA or GHMA has expired because no drilling has occurred, "BLM will not re-offer these parcels."

II. TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS TO OPEN SAGE-GROUSE HABITATS TO OIL AND GAS LEASING AND DEVELOPMENT

- 76. Shortly after Donald J. Trump assumed office as President of the United States, he began taking actions to promote oil and gas and other fossil fuel development within the United States, and to rescind numerous steps taken by the Obama Administration to protect public lands and the climate from fossil fuel impacts.
- 77. On March 28, 2017, President Trump issued Executive Order ("EO") 13783, titled "Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth." It directed that all executive departments and agencies "immediately review existing regulations that potentially burden the development or use of domestically produced energy resources and appropriately suspend, revise, or rescind those that unduly burden the development of domestic energy resources beyond the degree necessary to protect the public interest or otherwise comply with the law."
- 78. EO 13783 gave all federal agencies 180 days to submit a final report with "specific recommendations that, to the extent permitted by law, could alleviate or eliminate aspects of agency actions that burden domestic energy production."

Secretarial Order 3349: "American Energy Independence"

79. On March 29, 2017, in an initial response to EO 13783, then-Interior Secretary Zinke issued Secretarial Order ("SO") 3349, titled "American Energy Independence." SO 3349 directed all bureaus with the Department of Interior – including BLM – to examine specific actions impacting oil and gas development, and any other actions affecting other energy development.

- 80. SO 3349 revoked prior Secretarial Order 3330, "Improving Mitigation Policies and Practices of the Department of the Interior," adopted under the Obama Administration; and directed all Interior bureaus and offices to review all actions taken under that Order for possible reconsideration, modification, or rescission.
- 81. Minimization of oil and gas and other energy development in sage-grouse habitat was an important part of the 2015 Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments, but mitigation directions and obligations have now been effectively rescinded, without conducting plan amendments or revisions under FLPMA or any new NEPA or other evaluation.

Secretarial Order No. 3351: "Strengthening the Department of the Interior's Energy Portfolio."

- 82. On May 1, 2017, then-Secretary Zinke issued Secretarial Order 3351, titled "Strengthening the Department of the Interior's Energy Portfolio."
- 83. SO 3351 stated that the Dept. of Interior is "committed to an America-first energy strategy" that "maximizes the use of American resources." SO 3351 established a "Counselor to the Secretary for Energy Policy," responsible for "[i]dentifying regulatory burdens that unnecessarily encumber energy exploration development, production, transportation; and developing strategies to eliminate or minimize these burdens."

Secretarial Order 3353: "Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation and Cooperation with Western States"

- 84. On June 7, 2017, then-Secretary Zinke issued Secretarial Order 3353, titled "Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation and Cooperation with Western States."
- 85. SO 3353 stated that: "Sage-grouse protections can affect energy development because these activities often share the same land across the 11 western states and 67 million acres of Federal land that are affected by sage grouse habitat."

- 86. SO 3353 established a Department of Interior "Sage-Grouse Review Team" with instructions "to review the 2015 Sage-Grouse Plans and associated policies, giving appropriate weight to the value of energy and other development on public lands within BLM's overall multiple-use mission and to be consistent with the policy set forth in Secretarial Order 3349, 'American Energy Independence'."
- 87. SO 3353 directed that the Sage-Grouse Review Team be composed of representatives of BLM, Fish and Wildlife Service, and US Geological Survey ("USGS"), but did not require that they be scientists or sage-grouse experts. In fact, the members of the Review Team were closely tied to the oil and gas, coal, and other industries, without scientific background with sage-grouse conservation or public lands management.
- 88. The oil and gas industry provided substantial and direct input to the Sage-Grouse Review Team, including by offering a list of proposed "policy" changes and plan revisions, which the Sage-Grouse Review Team largely adopted and recommended, even while the conservation community was excluded from the review process.

Secretarial Order 3354: "Supporting and Improving the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program and Federal Solid Mineral Leasing Program"

- 89. On July 6, 2017, then-Secretary Zinke issued Secretarial Order 3354, titled "Supporting and Improving the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program and Federal Solid Mineral Leasing Program."
- 90. The stated purpose of SO 3354 was "to ensure that quarterly oil and gas lease sales are consistently held and to identify other ways the Department of Interior may promote the exploration and development of Federal onshore oil and gas and solid mineral resources." It directed that BLM report to the Counselor for Energy Policy within 45 days on, *inter alia*, "progress made to support and improve the quarterly lease sales" and on "a strategy to process

the large number of currently pending permitting applications, and improve the permitting process."

DOI Final Report: "Review of the Department of the Interior Actions that Potentially Burden Domestic Energy"

- 91. On October 24, 2017, the Department of Interior released its "DOI Final Report: Review of the Department of the Interior Actions that Potentially Burden Domestic Energy, Report to the Secretary of Interior" ("DOI Report").
- 92. The DOI Report noted that BLM "administers more land than any other Federal agency, consisting of more than 245 million surface acres and 700 million acres of subsurface mineral development," and stated that "BLM is revising and reforming its leasing processes . . . and delaying, revising, or rescinding burdensome regulations and policies to improve domestic energy production and support jobs."
- 93. Under the "list of specific actions BLM is undertaking to reduce burdens on the production of energy on BLM managed resources," the DOI Report included the following:
- (a) "Revise and Replace Policy, Oil and Gas: IM 2010-117, 'Oil and Gas Leasing Reform

 Land Use Process and Lease Parcel Reviews'": The DOI Report stated that BLM would

 "revise and reform" its leasing policy and "streamline the leasing process" from "beginning to
 end." It further stated that until "the policy revisions are completed, BLM is setting quarterly
 lease sale acreage targets to address the acreage currently nominated," and "identifying ways to
 augment support staff for potential sales in those offices with greatest number of parcels
 nominated."
- (b) "Revise Policy, Oil and Gas: IM 2016-143, 'Implementation of Greater Sage-grouse Resource Management Plan Revisions or Amendments Oil & Gas Leasing and Development Sequential Prioritization": The DOI Report stated that IM 2016-143 is "being reviewed for the

purpose of enhancing consistency and certainty for oil and gas development in areas of sage-grouse habitat as directed by EO13783." It stated that the IM "may have added administrative burdens since it requires additional analysis and staff time to screen parcels and weigh potential impacts to the Greater Sage-grouse before the parcels are offered for leasing. It also requires additional analysis and staff time to process drilling permit approvals near Greater Sage-grouse areas." The DOI Report said revisions would give industry "greater certainty in leasing, exploration and production activities due to availability of acreage for oil and gas development." The Report further stated that "BLM will measure success by assessing changes in industry's interest in nominating acreage for competitive sale and developing existing leases in areas affected by the Greater Sage-grouse amendments to RMPs."

- (c) "Review of General Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Policies and Plans": The DOI Report cited the 2015 Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments and implementing 2016 Instruction Memoranda, and referenced the August 2017 Review Team Report (see below), stating: "The BLM anticipates that some of the actions outlined in the Review Team's report to the Secretary could be implemented in the near future through changes in policy (through issuance of IMs, for example), technical assistance or training. Other actions may require amending the land use plans."
- (d) "Other Recommendations for Alleviating or Eliminating Action That Could Directly or Indirectly Burden Energy Exploration or Production": Here the DOI Report identified additional steps BLM is planning to take, including review of land use designations, leasing stipulations and conditions of approval, and protest regulations and policy.

August 2017 Sage-grouse Review Team Report

- 94. On August 4, 2017, the DOI Sage-Grouse Review Team issued a "Report In Response To Secretarial Order 3353" ("August 2017 SG Report") which made recommendations for numerous modifications of the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments to relax restrictions on oil, gas and other fossil fuel development in sage-grouse habitats, in response to EO 13783 and SO 3353.
- 95. The DOI Sage-Grouse Review Team was dominated by non-scientists, and the recommendations of the Review Team closely mirrored the comments submitted by oil and gas industry lobbyists seeking removal or reduction of the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments' habitat designations and management restrictions.
- 96. The August 2017 SG Report asserted that the "areas of leasing prioritization" and the "PHMA stipulation's waiver, exception, and modification language" should be "issues of focus for the BLM" moving forward. The Report identified that "[1]easing prioritization options include policy clarification while developing the approach to revise IMs for leasing prioritization either nationally or State-by-State." In addition, for SFAs, "longer term options include considering potential plan amendment(s) to modify or remove SFA fluid mineral stipulations."
- 97. The August 2017 SG Report recommended revisiting "processes for calculating the amount of surface disturbance and the density of energy and mining facilities," "mitigation and net conservation gain" requirements of the 2015 Sage-grouse Plan Amendments, BLM's Habitat Assessment Framework and other protocols for gathering and evaluating data on sage-grouse habitats. It also recommended loosening "hard triggers" under adaptive management provisions of the Plan Amendments, providing greater flexibility in "required design features" for energy development projects, and altering priority habitat designations, among other industry-sponsored recommendations.

- 98. Appendix A to the August 2017 SG Report provided a more detailed table of specific recommendations for "policy" changes and/or revisions of the 2015 Sage-grouse Plan Amendments. The very first recommendation in Appendix A was entitled "Lease prioritization instruction memorandum," and recommended: "Rescind the National IM," *i.e.*, IM 2016-143, and "clarify to staff [that] leasing is not restricted in GRSG habitat."
- 99. On August 4, 2017, the same day that the August 2017 SG Report was issued, then-secretary Zinke issued a memorandum to then-secretary Zinke issued a memorandum
- 100. Among the August 2017 SG Report's recommendations identified in Zinke's August 4, 2017 directive to Bernhardt was: "Modify or issue new policy on fluid mineral leasing and development, including the prioritization policy."

Instruction Memorandum No. 2018-026

- 101. On December 27, 2017, BLM adhered to the August 2017 SG Report recommendations and Zinke directive by issuing IM 2018-026, titled "Implementation of Greater Sage-Grouse Resource Management Plan Revisions or Amendments Oil & Gas Leasing and Development Prioritization Objective."
- 102. IM 2018-026 "replaces IM 2016-143," the prior Instruction Memorandum to guide implementing the 2015 Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments. BLM did not provide public notice, an opportunity for comment, or respond to comments prior to adopting IM 2018-026.

- 103. The stated purpose of IM 2018-026 "is to ensure consistency, certainty, and clarity when implementing an objective [in the Plan Amendments] to prioritize oil and gas leasing outside of GRSG habitat, while continuing to move forward expeditiously with oil and gas leasing and development, yet providing protections for GRSG and GRSG habitat management areas."
- 104. Under the heading "Policy/Action," IM 2018-026 provided that the "BLM's Authorized Officer, acting under the delegated authority of the Secretary of Interior, has discretion to determine which public lands will be offered at a lease sale. . . *This IM does not prohibit leasing or development in GHMA or PHMA*. . ." (underscore added).
- 105. IM 2018-026 adopted specific provisions for "Leasing: Sequential Prioritization of Oil and Gas Leasing in Proximity to PHMAs and GHMAs," which provided that BLM State Offices "will first consider leasing EOIs [Expressions of Interest] for lands outside of PHMAs and GHMAs" as the "first priority for leasing *in any given lease sale*" (emphasis added). It further provided "parcels may be leased within GRSG habitat management areas without first leasing parcels in non-habitat areas."
- 106. IM 2018-026 directed that BLM Field Offices may ignore the prioritization requirement of the 2015 Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments at both the leasing and development stages, stating: "In effect, the BLM does not need to lease and develop outside of GRSG habitat management areas before considering any leasing and development within GRSG habitat."
- 107. This approach for supposedly "prioritizing" leases outside of sage-grouse habitats on a lease sale basis eviscerates the explicit intent and language of the 2015 Sage-grouse Plan Amendments that require prioritization of oil and gas, both leasing and development, outside of

sage-grouse priority and general habitats in order to conserve remaining populations and habitats; and it does so without legally required plan amendments or NEPA compliance.

Instruction Memorandum 2018-034

- 108. On January 31, 2018, BLM issued Instruction Memorandum 2018-034, titled "Updating Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Land Use Planning and Lease Parcel Reviews." IM 2018-034 overhauled the oil and gas leasing requirements established in IM 2010-117 during the Obama Administration. Its stated purpose is to "simplify and streamline the leasing process to alleviate unnecessary impediments and burdens, to expedite the offering of lands for lease, and to ensure quarterly oil and gas lease sales are held consistently in accordance with the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. § 226), Executive Order 137873, and Secretary Order 3354."
- 109. The new IM 2018-034 eliminated language in BLM's prior IM 2010-117 that "there was no presumed preference for oil and gas" over other uses of public lands, and imposed substantive changes intended to promote oil and gas leasing and development, including:
- (a) rescinding BLM's use of Master Leasing Plans, a front-end planning strategy designed to take a landscape-level approach to reviewing proposed leasing;
- (b) removing public participation requirements during the NEPA review of parcels identified for potential leasing, by replacing language from IM 2010-117 stating that BLM offices "will" provide for public participation during the NEPA process with a provision that they "may" provide for public participation;
- (c) stating that "BLM will no longer use a rotating schedule for lease sales, as described in IM No. 2010-117," and instead directing that "the timeframe for parcel review for a specific lease sale is to be no longer than 6 months," and each State Office "will review all lands that are identified in EOIs [Expressions of Interest] that were submitted before the EOI cutoff date for a

particular quarterly lease sale and will offer all parcels determined to be eligible and available within the State Office's jurisdiction"; and

- (d) announcing that BLM would no longer "defer" lease sales when an RMP amendment or revision is pending, but instead will use the existing RMP to approve the lease sale no matter how old or outdated it might be, and discouraging further environmental review by requiring Washington office approval of any decision to defer a nominated parcel for additional analysis.
- 110. IM 2018-034 also allows BLM State Offices to shorten their review process before offering oil and gas leases in numerous ways, including by:
- (a) providing that "site visits are not required and should only be considered when deemed necessary by the authorized officer on a case-by-case basis";
- (b) encouraging BLM State or Field offices to use "existing NEPA document(s)" and a "Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)" instead of new NEPA environmental reviews, and providing that no public comment period is required where a DNA is used;
- (c) allowing BLM to provide only a 10-day public protest period from the day the sale notice is posted, rather than the 30-day public protest period that BLM previously followed; and
- (d) allowing BLM to proceed with lease sales before it even resolves protests, and giving BLM up to 60 days after receiving payment on a lease to resolve protests.
- 111. BLM did not provide public notice, an opportunity for comment, or respond to comments prior to adopting IM 2018-034.
- 112. BLM moved rapidly to implement is now implementing IM 2018-034 in its administration of federal minerals and oil and gas leasing on public lands, including in and affecting priority sage-grouse habitats. As addressed further below, see Final Cumulative and Pending Actions infra, BLM conducted oil and gas upcoming lease sales during for 2018 and

2019 allowing only a 10-day protest period, and generally limiting environmental review and public comment to a 15-day review period, and . Many new lease sales are also avoiding any lease-level NEPA analysis by resorting to use of DNAs and reliance on inadequate RMPs and/or other prior documents. These include the "Phase One" lease sales identified below, which were approved under IM 2018-034 before this Court issued its Preliminary Injunction Order in September 2018 (ECF No. 74). BLM continues to apply IM 2018-034 to additional oil and gas lease sales outside of sage-grouse habitats.

- 113. Plaintiffs and the public are substantially injured and prejudiced by BLM's "policy" changes undertaken through IM 2018-034, including by allowing BLM to avoid NEPA compliance in future oil and gas leasing, and its failure to allow adequate time or opportunity for public comment and protest of proposed oil and gas lease sales.
- 114. IM 2018-034 has substantially altered how BLM processes and approves oil and gas leases on public lands, and directly affects the rights of Plaintiffs and members of the public to have notice, opportunity to comment, and petition the agency for relief. IM 2018-034 was issued without public notice or comment, despite its substantial changes and impacts upon public involvement. As alleged below, the challenged portions of IM 2018-034 constitute a legislative rule that was adopted in violation of APA, NEPA, and FLPMA's requirements for notice, comment, and public involvement in federal lands' decision-making, and thus is unlawful and should be reversed and set aside by the Court.
- 115. BLM oil and gas leasing decisions that have been made, or hereafter are made, under IM 2018-026 and/or IM 2018-034 are unlawful and should be reversed and set aside as well, including the "Final Actions" identified in the Challenged Decisions section below.
 - III. EFFECTS OF BLM ACTIONS OPENING SAGE-GROUSE HABITATS TO OIL AND GAS LEASING AND DEVELOPMENT.

A. BLM Is Selling Once-Deferred Leases In Sage-grouse Habitats.

- 116. While the National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy was underway, BLM deferred offering approximately five million acres of industry-nominated oil and gas leases in seven western states due to sage-grouse concerns. These included 2.2 million acres in Nevada, 1.6 million acres in Wyoming, 600,000 acres in Montana, and more than 300,000 acres each in Colorado and Utah. In 2011 and 2012, BLM issued national and state guidance to its offices, generally requiring deferral of "core" sage grouse habitat, on interim leasing policies pending the National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy.
- 117. After the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments were finalized in September 2015, BLM continued to defer some industry-nominated oil and gas leases affecting sage-grouse habitats due to conflicts with sage-grouse needs, expressly based on determinations that deferral was necessary in order to comply with the conservation goals and prioritization requirements of the Great Basin and Rocky Mountain RODs.
- 118. For example, in the Wyoming May 2016 lease sale, BLM deferred all or portions of 13 proposed leases, encompassing 12,226 acres, in order to comply with the ARMPAs that "direct the BLM to prioritize oil and gas leasing and development in a manner that minimizes resource conflicts in order to protect important [sage-grouse] habitat and reduce development time and costs."
- 119. Colorado and Montana BLM declined to offer nominated leases in GHMA and PHMA through December 2016. Utah BLM largely followed suit, although it offered approximately 136 acres of GHMA in its December 2016 lease sale.
- 120. Nevada and Wyoming BLM began leasing some, but not all, industry-nominated parcels in sage-grouse habitats in 2016. Nevada BLM deferred leasing nominated lands within SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT -- 36

four miles of a lek where development could affect sage-grouse. Wyoming BLM began ramping up its offering of leases including sage-grouse habitats in 2016, while continuing to defer some nominated tracts or portions of nominated tracts over sage-grouse concerns.

- 121. As set forth in detail below, in response to the Trump Administration directives above, BLM <u>has been is now moving</u> quickly to encourage re-nomination of and to offer oil and gas leases in sage-grouse habitats, including through its series of quarterly oil and gas competitive lease offerings in Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, Utah, Colorado, North Dakota, and Nevada.
- 122. BLM's lease offerings since adoption of the 2015 Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments along with its publicly-announced future offering for 2018, through March 2019 encompass an estimated 2.39 2.36 million acres of designated sage-grouse habitats across the sage-grouse range, and affect "core" sage-grouse populations as well as smaller isolated sage-grouse populations covered by both BLM's Rocky Mountains and Great Basin RODs for the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments.
- 123. Particularly in Wyoming, which holds the most and best remaining habitat in the eastern portion of the greater sage-grouse's remaining range, BLM oil and gas leasing of core areas has increased drastically from 2017 to 2018. As recently reported: "The BLM plans to offer seven times more acres of sage grouse habitat in its first quarter lease sale in Wyoming this year than it did in its first quarter lease sale last year, according to BLM data analyzed by The Nature Conservancy and confirmed by the BLM." Elizabeth Shogren, "More prime sage grouse habitat is open for drilling," *High Country News*, Jan. 11, 2018. Between February 2017 and March 2019, BLM has issued approximately 1.08 million acres of new oil and gas leases on designated sage-grouse habitats in Wyoming.

- B. BLM Has Abandoned Sage-grouse Plan Amendment Requirements to Prioritize Leasing and Development Outside Sage-grouse Habitats.
- 124. In addition to offering a large volume of previously-deferred leases in sage-grouse habitats, BLM is also offering leases in and around sage-grouse habitats that have been nominated by the oil and gas industry violating the requirements of the Sage-grouse Plan Amendments that oil and gas leasing be prioritized outside of sage-grouse habitats.
- Zinke's Secretarial Order 3353, BLM began implementing a de facto policy of leasing effectively all nominated lands within and outside of sage-grouse habitats, in direct conflict with the Plan Amendments' prioritization requirements, as detailed further below in the "Challenged Decisions" section below. In addition, BLM is swiftly moving forward with large-scale oil and gas developments in critical sage-grouse habitats, including winter habitat, such as the Converse County and Normally Pressured Lance developments.
- 126. As a result of these Trump Administration directives and "policy" changes, BLM has now abandoned the prioritization requirement of the 2019 Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments, as not being consistent with the "national interest to promote clean and safe development of our Nation's vast energy resources, while at the same time avoiding regulatory burdens that unnecessarily encumber energy production, constrain economic growth, and prevent job creation." As stated by Wyoming BLM in its December 2017 lease sale EA: "A decision to defer parcels in PHMA and/or GHMA would not be consistent with these objectives."
- 127. Between January 2017 and March 2019 2018, BLM has offered at least more than five million acres of oil and gas leases on public lands and minerals in western states outside Alaska. In 2017, the amount of sage-grouse habitat public land offered in the lower 48 states increased by 56 percent compared to 2016, to more than 1.6 million acres. Based on BLM's

public notices of upcoming oil and gas lease auctions, it will be offering at least another 3.47 million acres in western states outside of Alaska through third quarter of 2018. In 2018, that figure exceeded 2.1 million acres. The rate of leasing in sage-grouse habitat has also increased substantially since the Trump Administration took office, with average monthly acreage of new leasing in designated sage-grouse habitat increasing 240% over the period 2015-2017. In the period February 2017 to March 2019, two-thirds of the leased acreage in western states was in designated sage-grouse habitat, and 27% in Priority Habitat Management Areas. The sharpest increase in leasing has occurred in Wyoming.

- 128. This pace of leasing will likely accelerate during the final quarter of 2018 and in 2019-2021 continue during the current Administration, absent judicial intervention. As set forth in its October 2017 "Burdens Report," BLM is instructed to "measure success" against increased industry acreage nominations, permit requests, and development within areas affected by the 2015 Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments. The only practicable way that BLM can satisfy those instructions is offer all or virtually all lease parcels nominated by the oil and gas industry, irrespective of whether they may lie in or near sage-grouse habitats.
- 129. The "Final Actions" challenged herein include oil and gas leases awarded by BLM during 2017 and through March 2019 third quarter 2018, in which over 337,606 at least 173,758 acres of SFAs and 678,758 481,383 acres of PHMAs have been leased or made available for leasing the most important sage-grouse habitats, according the 2015 Sage-grouse Plan Amendments. At least another 3,771,279 1,736,429 acres of GHMAs or other sage-grouse habitats are included in these Final Actions as well.
- 130. In addition to the Final Actions identified below, over the last two years BLM has issued other oil and gas leases in sage-grouse habitats in Colorado, Wyoming, Nevada, and

Montana. Cumulatively, BLM leases issued, sold, or made available for noncompetitive leasing from January 2017 through March 2019 include over 4.6 million 2018 include approximately 769,870 acres of SFA, PHMA, GHMA and other sage-grouse habitats.

- 131. The Cumulative and Pending Actions identified below include additional pending oil and gas lease auctions that BLM is planning during the fourth quarter of 2018, for which BLM may be offering leases within priority and general sage-grouse habitats Final Actions identified below include two oil and gas lease auctions that BLM had planned during the fourth quarter of 2018 within priority and general sage-grouse habitats, but which were deferred to February and March 2019 in response to the Preliminary Injunction Order in this case, and which were thus identified as "Pending Actions" in Plaintiffs' First Amended Complaint, ECF No. 78.
- 132. The cumulative impacts of Defendants' past, present, and future leasing actions demonstrate that BLM's oil and gas leasing and development are is not being prioritized outside of sage-grouse habitats, as required by the 2015 Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments and the best available science; nor will BLM comply with those requirements unless enjoined or directed otherwise by this Court.

C. Current Leases Threaten Sage-grouse Habitats and Populations.

133. Defendants have frequently defended their actions approving oil and gas leasing affecting sage-grouse populations and habitats by claiming that leasing decisions do not, in themselves, cause surface disturbances or other degradation threats to sage-grouse habitats and populations. This is not accurate: BLM's awarding of oil and gas leases in fact poses substantial and imminent threats to sage-grouse, and harms Plaintiffs' interests in conserving sage-grouse across the Interior West.

- 134. As BLM acknowledged through the National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy and the 2015 Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments, granting oil and gas leases is an irrevocable commitment of resources which may preclude or impair later efforts to prevent surface disturbance, noise, human presence, or other adverse impacts that harm sage-grouse populations and habitats.
- within the period of the leases, normally ten years. Awarding oil and gas leases in sage-grouse habitats poses imminent threats of surface disturbances, noise and other harmful actions from exploratory and other actions within ten years. BLM routinely and improperly avoids addressing this fact, and the likely impacts of such development on sage-grouse, by purporting to defer its analysis until a permit for application to drill has been submitted when in fact permits to drill are rarely if ever denied by BLM on sage-grouse conservation grounds thereby violating NEPA and decreasing conservation protection of sage-grouse.
- important step forward in public lands management to conserve sage-grouse, as noted above they are inconsistent in their protections of sage-grouse habitats from energy development in many ways, and allow BLM to grant modifications, waivers, or exceptions for Sage-Grouse Plan Amendment measures intended to protect sage-grouse, including NSOs and COAs in priority habitats. Although Plaintiffs are not challenging the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments in this action, these deficiencies further underscore that irreparable harms to sage-grouse populations and habitats will occur as BLM proceeds to issue more leases and approve drilling and field developments in sage-grouse habitats.

- 137. For example, many of the oil and gas leases that BLM is now approving, particularly in Wyoming, do *not* impose NSO requirements to protect priority habitats, as discussed in the Challenged Decisions below, and/or they allow future modifications, waivers or exceptions. Further, the leasing approvals generally do not contain an evaluation of whether existing or foreseeable levels of habitat disturbance are consistent with the disturbance density objectives of the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments.
- 138. Given its expressed intention to expand use of modifications, waivers, and exceptions to sage-grouse stipulations, BLM under the Trump Administration will foreseeably approve such modifications, waivers, or exceptions to allow surface disturbances in priority sage-grouse habitats as part of its expressed goal of aiding oil and gas development on public lands. The direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts posed by these leases have not been addressed by BLM in any NEPA-compliant document.
 - D. BLM's Practice of Routinely Granting and Extending Lease Suspensions Creates Long-Term Threats to Sage-Grouse It Has Not Studied.
- 139. Awarding leases in sage-grouse habitats also allows the lessees to claim the right to develop the leases not only for the ten-year lease term, but also for decades longer, by obtaining lease "suspensions" from BLM. This imposes long-term threats to sage-grouse by allowing oil and gas operators to prevent BLM from protecting sage-grouse habitats potentially for decades into the future.
- 140. The Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (as amended) imposes statutory obligations for lessees of federal minerals, which include due diligence requirements and royalty payments to facilitate energy development and provide a return to U.S. taxpayers. The Act provides for "suspension" of leases, which tolls the operating and production requirements of a lease,

including the obligations to make rental and royalty payments, and extends the primary term of the lease by the length of the suspension.

- 141. While the leases are suspended, the likelihood of future development and habitat destruction persists, which precludes or impairs other multiple uses for the benefit of the public and conservation of wildlife, including sage-grouse.
- 142. Suspended oil and gas leases occupy a significant amount of the federal mineral estate. BLM data acquired by The Wilderness Society in April 2015 show 3.25 million acres of federal leases held in suspension. This is nearly 10% of the total federal minerals currently under lease by the oil and gas industry.
- 143. Many suspended leases have been under suspension for decades. Of the 3.25 million acres of federal leases in suspension as of April 2015, according to The Wilderness Society report, 32% of all suspended leases were acquired between 1940 and 1995, 25% were acquired between 1996 and 2009, and 43% were acquired between 2010 and 2015.
- 144. Although BLM has routinely granted lease suspensions, the Mineral Leasing Act directs that BLM may "assent to" a request for a lease suspension only where suspending operations and production would be "in the interest of conservation of natural resources." BLM has failed and refused to address its duty to ensure the "conservation of natural resources" is served by lease suspensions, including sage-grouse conservation.
- 145. In approving the Final Actions below, BLM never evaluated the adverse and cumulative impacts posed by lease suspensions for oil and gas leases, including pre-2016 leases lacking protective stipulations now required under the 2015 Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments, that it is now granting or extending within sage-grouse habitats. Based on BLM's prior actions and Defendants' current policy directives it is highly likely that BLM will grant additional lease

suspensions affecting sage-grouse habitats, and undermine sage-grouse conservation into the future without adequate environmental review and in violation of law.

THE CHALLENGED DECISIONS

- 146. Defendant BLM has approved and continues to approve, without pre-leasing consideration of impacts to sage-grouse, a large and growing number of oil and gas leases and developments affecting sage-grouse habitats which threaten further loss, fragmentation, and degradation of those habitats and harms to sage-grouse across its range.
- 147. These include the "Final Lease Sales Actions" that BLM has approved since the Trump Administration took office, as identified below, as well as the "Cumulative and Pending Actions" (also identified below) which have been approved and/or are proposed by BLM and slated for approval in the near future other lease sales and oil and gas developments not challenged herein but which pose cumulative impacts to greater sage-grouse that BLM has never analyzed.
- 148. Each of the Final <u>Lease Sales Actions</u> challenged below is a final agency action subject to judicial review under the APA, 5 U.S.C. § 706, for which one or more Plaintiffs have fully exhausted all required administrative remedies and have Article III and prudential standing to challenge in this action.
- 149. For each lease sale Final Lease Sale identified below, the Ffinal Aactions by Defendants include issuance of a Record of Decision or Decision Notice ("Decisions"), Determination of NEPA Adequacy ("DNA"), and/or Finding of No Significant Impact ("FONSI"); Dismissal and/or Denial of requests for State Director Review (otherwise known as Protests); issuance of competitive oil and gas leases under 30 U.S.C. § 226; and/or the ongoing offering of oil and gas leases for noncompetitive sale under 30 U.S.C. § 226.

- The Final Lease Sales Actions are individually and cumulatively unlawful under FLPMA, NEPA, their implementing regulations, and the APA. Each threatens harm to greater sage-grouse habitats and populations, and poses adverse direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that BLM has not adequately studied under NEPA. Individually and together, the Final Lease Sales Actions also violate FLPMA's land use plan "consistency" requirement by violating terms and requirements of the 2015 Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments; and are not consistent with the best available science. Individually and together, the Final Lease Sales Actions are thus arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, and not in accordance with law under the APA. The Court may properly consider all the Final Lease Sales Actions in this litigation because of their common legal and procedural violations, adverse impacts to sage-grouse, and harms to Plaintiffs' substantial rights and interests.
- 151. Along with IM 2018-026 and IM 2018-034, the Final <u>Lease Sales Actions</u> constitute the "Challenged Decisions" at issue in this Complaint.
- as other oil and gas lease approvals and developments that were identified as "Cumulative and Pending Actions" in the First Amended Complaint. In addition, BLM has approved other leases, and is engaged in upcoming oil and gas lease approvals and developments slated to be completed within the next one to two years, including those identified below as "Cumulative and Pending Actions." These Cumulative and Pending Actions underscore cumulative adverse impacts that BLM has not studied under NEPA. Plaintiffs plan to amend this Complaint to include the Pending Actions once they become final; and reserve the right to add other similar final actions that BLM may approve while this case is pending, including additional oil and gas leases, lease suspensions, approvals of permits to drill, and/or oil and gas field development projects.

- I. FINAL <u>LEASE SALES</u> ACTIONS.
- A. February 2017 Wyoming Lease Sales (High Plains and Wind River/Bighorn Basin Districts)
- 153. In February 2017, BLM conducted a competitive oil and gas lease sale for 283 industry-nominated parcels in the BLM's High Plains and Wind River/Bighorn Basin Districts in Wyoming, parcel numbers WY-1702-001 through WY-1702-283.
- 154. The governing RMPs for the offered lease parcels are the Buffalo, Casper, and Newcastle RMPs, in the High Plains District; and the Cody, Worland and Lander RMPs for the Wind River/Bighorn Basin District. All these governing RMPs were amended by the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments approved in BLM's Rocky Mountain ROD, with the exception of the Lander RMP which was revised in 2014 and included similar sage-grouse conservation measures as those adopted in the other RMPs.
- approved based on an Environmental Assessment ("EA"), No. DOI-BLM-WY-P000-2016-0001-EA, and associated FONSI. The Wind River/Bighorn Basin portion of the February 2017 Wyoming lease sales were approved based on a separate Environmental Assessment, No. DOI-BLM-WY-R000-2016-0002-EA and associated FONSI.
- 156. On August 24, 2016, Plaintiff Center for Biological Diversity and other groups submitted comments on these EAs and the proposed February 2017 Wyoming lease sales to the BLM's High Plains and Wind River/Bighorn Basin district offices. The comments expressly advised BLM that the proposed lease sale would include sage-grouse habitats and violate the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments' requirement that oil and gas leasing be prioritized outside of sage-grouse habitats; and identified numerous impacts and threats to sage-grouse that BLM did not adequately evaluate under NEPA, and other legal violations posed by the lease sales.

- 157. At the February 2017 Wyoming lease sale, BLM offered a total of 184,981.59 acres, of which 183,353.36 acres sold. These included 2,848.97 acres in PHMA, and 34,254.50 acres in GHMA. Thus, 37,243.86 acres sold in the June 2017 Wyoming sale were within designated sage-grouse habitats under the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments.
- 158. The February 2017 Wyoming leases sold by BLM affect particularly important sage-grouse populations. The High Plains District portion of the lease sale included 68 parcels within BLM-designated sage-grouse management areas, 16 within PHMA.
- adverse impacts to sage-grouse or justify its decision to offer leases in high-value sage-grouse habitats. This is especially concerning because Wyoming BLM's ARMPAs do not require the same No Surface Occupancy (NSO) stipulation in SFAs or PHMAs that other Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments do, and developing the leases will degrade these important sagebrush habitats and harm the grouse populations that use them. BLM's prioritization analysis also did not factor in the Wyoming BLM's established pattern of leasing large swaths of sage-grouse habitat and how the proposed leasing might combine with other past and foreseeable future leasing in the area to harm sage-grouse.
- 160. The EAs supporting the sales failed to provide any site-specific information about the sales and affected sage-grouse habitats and populations, including quantifying the affected acreage, mapping the affected populations, or assessing existing levels of disturbance within those populations.
 - B. June 2017 Montana Lease Sale (Miles City District)

- 161. In June 2017, BLM BLM conducted a competitive oil and gas lease sale for 156 industry-nominated parcels in the BLM's Miles City District, for the parcel numbers identified in Appendix A hereto.
- 162. The governing RMP for the offered lease parcels is the Miles City RMP, which was amended by the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments approved in BLM's Rocky Mountain ROD.
- 163. On December 7, 2016, BLM issued an Environmental Assessment for the lease sale, No. DOI-BLM-MT-C020-0134-EA, and allowed 30 days for public comment.
- 164. Plaintiffs Western Watersheds Project and Center for Biological Diversity each submitted comments on January 6, 2017. The comments advised BLM that the proposed lease sale would include sage-grouse habitats and violate the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments' requirement that oil and gas leasing be prioritized outside of sage-grouse habitats; and fall short of what the best available science calls for to protect the birds. They also called for a more robust analysis of threats to sage-grouse associated with oil and gas leasing, like roads, noise, and degradation of wintering habitats; and identified numerous impacts and threats to sage-grouse that BLM did not adequate evaluate under NEPA, and other legal violations.
- 165. On March 14, 2017, BLM issued an updated EA for the lease sale. The EA's discussion of impacts to greater sage-grouse was limited to the following statements:

The Greater Sage-grouse occurs across 11 Western states, including portions of the analysis area. The analysis area includes the following delineated Greater sage-grouse habitat management areas: Priority Habitat Management Areas (PHMA) with one lease parcel, Restoration Habitat Management Areas (RHMA) with two lease parcels, and General Habitat Management Areas (GHMA) with 66 lease parcels. All of the parcels are greater than 3.1 miles from a Greater Sage-grouse lek. The remaining 87 lease parcels are not within Greater sage-grouse habitat management areas. Further discussion on Greater sage-grouse habitat delineations are discussed further in the MCFO ARMP Chapter 2 pgs 2-1 through 2-16 (BLM, 2015a).

- 166. On April 13, 2017, Plaintiff Center for Biological Diversity submitted a protest to BLM on the proposed lease sale under 43 C.F.R. § 3120.1-3. The protest again established that the proposed lease sale would include sage-grouse habitats and violate the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments' requirement that oil and gas leasing be prioritized outside of sage-grouse habitats, and that the EA did not provide sufficient site-specific information and analysis to adequately evaluate impacts on sage-grouse and their habitats, on specific parcels identified in Appendix A. It informed BLM that the EA's analysis of impacts to winter concentration areas was inadequate and that measures, like noise limits, imposed to protect sage-grouse were inadequate. It identified numerous impacts and threats to sage-grouse that BLM did not adequate evaluate under NEPA and other legal violations.
- 167. BLM denied the protest and approved the June 2017 Montana lease sale June 12, 2017. Decision Record, No. DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2016-000134-EA.
- 168. BLM offered 69,265.06 acres in the June 2017 Montana lease sale, of which 15,611.47 acres were sold at competitive auction. The unsold parcels remain open for noncompetitive sale to any eligible bidder through June 2019. Of the parcels sold, 15,499.08 acres were offered in GHMA, of which 4,086.87 acres sold. Another 39.19 acres were offered and sold in "other" sage-grouse habitats. Thus, 4,126.06 acres sold in the June 2017 Montana sale were within designated sage-grouse habitats under the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments.
- 169. While the Environmental Assessment supporting the sale recited the language of IM 2016-143, it contained no evidence of if or how that guidance was applied at the site-specific level. In fact, all of the parcels in sage-grouse habitat fall within four miles of a lek—a distance in which important life-history habitat features for sage-grouse exist.

C. June 2017 Wyoming Lease Sale (High Desert District)

- 170. In June 2017, BLM conducted a competitive oil and gas lease sale for 28 industry-nominated parcels in BLM's High Desert District, lease numbers WY-1705-001 through WY-1705-026.
- 171. The governing RMPs for the offered lease parcels are the Kemmerer, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs RMPs. All these governing RMPs were amended by the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments approved in BLM's Rocky Mountain ROD and the BLM's May 2015 Final EIS for the Wyoming Greater Sage-Grouse Proposed Land Use Plan Amendments.
- 172. In May 2016, BLM issued Environmental Assessment No. DOI-BLM-WY-D040-2016-0188-EA and allowed 30 days for public comment on the proposed sale. Plaintiff Center for Biological Diversity submitted timely comments.
- 173. On February 28, 2017, Plaintiff Center for Biological Diversity submitted joint comments with another conservation group to BLM on the EA and proposed lease sale. The comments advised BLM that the proposed lease sale would include sage-grouse habitats and violate the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments' requirement that oil and gas leasing be prioritized outside of sage-grouse habitats; and identified numerous impacts and threats to sage-grouse that BLM did not adequate evaluate under NEPA.
- 174. On March 3, 2017, Plaintiff Center for Biological Diversity, jointly with another conservation group, submitted a protest of the proposed June 2017 Wyoming lease sale to BLM under 43 C.F.R. § 3120.1-3. BLM denied the protest on June 19, 2017. The protest again established that the proposed lease sale would include sage-grouse habitats and violate the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments' requirement that oil and gas leasing be prioritized outside of sage-grouse habitats; and identified numerous impacts and threats to sage-grouse that BLM did not adequate evaluate under NEPA.

- 175. BLM approved the June 2017 Wyoming lease sale through a final EA, No. DOI-BLM-WY-D040-2016-0188-EA, issued in May 2017, and associated FONSI, and Decision Record on June 21, 2017.
- 176. BLM offered 32,026.71 acres at the June 2017 Wyoming lease sale, all which sold. These included 6,546.79 acres in SFAs, 1,702.28 acres in PHMA, and 18,933.55 acres in GHMA. Thus, 27,182.62 acres sold in the June 2017 Wyoming sale were within designated sage-grouse habitats under the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments.
- 177. The six parcels located in PHMA all were located in the Greater South Pass PHMA. In 2017, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service described the Greater South Pass population as "Wyoming's Greater South Pass sage-grouse core area—the greatest concentration of sage-grouse breeding habitat in the world." Newer research (Edmunds et al. 2017) has identified the Greater South Pass population as not only the largest in the state, but one of the most severely declining Core Areas.
- 178. Each of the six parcels was within 2 miles of leases currently held for production, and has moderate to high oil and gas potential. One of the parcels had an active lek within its boundaries. BLM disclosed that the parcels "may provide nesting, wintering, and/or breeding habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse." EA 48. But BLM did not fully evaluate impacts of the leases upon sage-grouse habitats and populations.
- 179. This is especially concerning because Wyoming BLM's ARMPAs do not require the same no surface occupancy (NSO) stipulation in SFAs that the other plans do, and developing the leases will degrade these important sagebrush habitats and harm the grouse populations that use them. BLM's prioritization analysis also did not factor in the Wyoming BLM's established pattern of leasing large swaths of sage-grouse habitat and how the proposed

leasing might combine with other past and foreseeable future leasing in the area to affect sagegrouse.

- D. September 2017 Wyoming Lease Sale (High Plains and Wind River/Bighorn Basin Districts)
- 180. In September 2017, BLM conducted a competitive oil and gas lease sale for 11 industry-nominated parcels in BLM's High Plains and Wind River/Bighorn Basin Districts, lease numbers WY-1708-155 through WY-1708-174.
- 181. The governing RMPs for the offered lease parcels are the Buffalo, Casper and Newcastle RMPs, in the High Plains District; and the Cody, Worland and Lander RMPs for the Wind River/Bighorn Basin District. All these governing RMPs were amended by the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments approved in BLM's Rocky Mountain ROD, with the exception of the Lander RMP which was revised in 2014 and included similar sage-grouse conservation measures as those adopted in the other RMPs.
- 182. On January 17, 2017, BLM issued an Environmental Assessment for the lease sale, No. DOI-BLM-WY-R000-2017-0001-EA, and allowed 30 days for public comment.
- 183. The High Plains District portion of the September 2017 lease sale, in particular, marked a large increase in new leasing of greater sage-grouse habitat in the Powder River Basin. Although BLM stated that it elected to defer 17 parcels "consistent with the BLM's sage-grouse conservation plans and strategy, which direct the BLM to prioritize oil and gas leasing and development in a manner that minimizes resource conflicts in order to protect important habitat and reduce development time and costs," it nevertheless offered for lease 75 parcels within PHMA_and 61 parcels within sage-grouse habitat outside of designated priority habitat management areas.

- 184. The September 2017 High Plains leasing EA's analysis of effects on sage-grouse were limited to stating only that "Several parcels located within designated PHMAs have NSO, CSU, and/or TLS stipulations applied to protect sage-grouse and their seasonal habitats." The EA lacks any quantification of the acreage affected, visual depiction of the extent or siting of affected parcels, analysis of the particular breeding populations that will be affected, or their viability and population trend. Without this information, it is impossible for either BLM or the public to understand whether new leasing—in light of land ownership and use, existing leases, and existing development— can meet the disturbance and density objectives of the Buffalo, Casper and Newcastle RMPs' sage-grouse amendments.
- 185. Plaintiffs Western Watersheds Project and Center for Biological Diversity each submitted comments on January 6, 2017. The comments advised BLM that the proposed lease sale would include sage-grouse habitats and violate the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments' requirement that oil and gas leasing be prioritized outside of sage-grouse habitats; and identified numerous impacts and threats to sage-grouse that BLM did not adequate evaluate under NEPA and other violations of law.
- 186. On February 16, 2017, Plaintiff Center for Biological Diversity submitted protests to BLM's High Plains and Wind River/Bighorn Basin Districts on the proposed lease sale under 43 C.F.R. § 3120.1-3. The protests again established that the proposed lease sale would include sage-grouse habitats and violate the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments' requirement that oil and gas leasing be prioritized outside of sage-grouse habitats; and identified numerous impacts and threats to sage-grouse that BLM did not adequate evaluate under NEPA and other violations of law.

- 187. BLM denied the protests and approved the September 2017 Wyoming lease sale through a FONSI and Decision Record issued on September 20, 2017.
- 188. BLM offered a total of 111,467 acres at sale on September 21, 2017 of which at least 107,009 acres sold.

E. September 2017 Utah Lease Sale (Sheeprocks)

- 189. In September 2017, BLM conducted a competitive oil and gas lease sale for 9 industry-nominated parcels affecting the Sheeprocks sage-grouse population, located in BLM's West Desert District, Fillmore Field Office, Utah State Office.
- 190. The governing RMP for the offered lease parcels is the 1987 House Range Resource Area Resource Management Plan, which was amended by the Utah Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments approved in BLM's Great Basin ROD.
- 191. Of the nine Sheeprocks lease sale parcels, Parcels 001, 002, 003, and 007 contain PHMA while Parcel 008 is directly adjacent to PHMA.
- 192. On May 1, 2017, Plaintiffs Western Watersheds Project, Center for Biological Diversity, and another group provided comments to the BLM's Fillmore Field Office on the proposed Sheeprocks lease sale. The comments advised BLM that the proposed lease sale would include sage-grouse habitats and violate the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments' requirement that oil and gas leasing be prioritized outside of sage-grouse habitats; and identified numerous impacts and threats to sage-grouse that BLM did not adequately evaluate under NEPA, along with other violations of law.
- 193. BLM posted public notice of the proposed Sheeprocks lease sale on June 1, 2017, and allowed a 30-day public protest period. On June 2, 2017, BLM also released an Environmental Assessment ("Sheeprocks EA"), #DOI-BLM-UT-W020-2017-0001-EA.

- 194. On June 30, 2017, Plaintiffs Western Watersheds Project, Center for Biological Diversity, and another group submitted a protest to BLM's Utah State Office on the proposed Sheeprocks lease sale under 43 C.F.R. § 3120.1-3. The protest again established that the proposed lease sale would include sage-grouse habitats and violate the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments' requirement that oil and gas leasing be prioritized outside of sage-grouse habitats; and identified numerous impacts and threats to sage-grouse that BLM did not adequate evaluate under NEPA and other violations of law.
- 195. On September 12, 2017, while Plaintiffs' protest was still pending, BLM conducted an auction of the Sheeprocks lease parcels. Three parcels totaling 4,101.71 acres, including one parcel encompassing PHMA, were sold. The six leases offered for sale by BLM that did not receive bids remain available for noncompetitive sale.
- 196. On September 22, 2017, BLM denied Plaintiffs' protest and approved the Sheeprocks lease sale through a Decision Record, FONSI, and final Environmental Assessment, #DOI-BLM-UT-W020-2017-0001-EA.
- 197. The Sheeprocks population of greater sage-grouse is located in central Utah, within an area designated as the Sheeprocks Sage-Grouse Management Area. The Sheeprocks sage-grouse population experienced a nearly 40 percent decrease over four years, and saw its male numbers drop from 190 in 2006 to just 23 in 2015.
- 198. The Sheeprocks sage-grouse population was identified by the COT Report (pp. 71-2) as "a relatively isolated population center" that "is considered high risk." The COT Report underscored that preserving peripheral populations like Sheeprocks is essential to arresting the decline of sage-grouse toward extinction and Endangered Species Act listing. *Id.*, pp. 12-13.

- associated FONSI, even though the EA admitted that oil and gas activities on the lease sale parcels "will contribute to reduced habitat quantity/quality, habitat fragmentation, and reduced connectivity as well as may alter seasonal movements and habitat use. Because [the Sheeprocks] population of sage-grouse is small and in a critical population decline, the resistance and resiliency of this population to recovery . . . could be further imperiled."
- 200. On October 31, 2017, Plaintiffs filed a Notice of Appeal, Statement of Reasons, and Petition for Stay of the Sheeprock leases with the Interior Board of Land Appeals ("IBLA").
- 201. The IBLA denied Plaintiffs' petition for stay, and the Notice of Appeal has now been dismissed.

F. December 2017 Montana Lease Sale (Miles City District)

- 202. In December 2017, BLM conducted a competitive lease sale for 204 parcels encompassing 99,265.87 acres, located in BLM's Miles City Field Office, for the parcel numbers identified in Appendix A hereto. The governing RMP for the lease sales is the Miles City RMP, which was amended by the Rocky Mountain ROD.
- 203. On September 14,2017, BLM issued an EA, No. DOI-BLM-MT-C020-2017-0051-EA, for the December 2017 Montana lease sale, and allowed a 30-day public comment period.
- 204. Plaintiff the Center for Biological Diversity submitted comments on the lease sale on August 10, 2017, raising numerous issues, including that the EA failed to analyze site-specific impacts associated with the non-NSO leases. Another environmental group commented that BLM had failed to comply with its obligation to prioritize leasing outside of greater sage-grouse habitat or consider a reasonable range of alternatives.

- 205. On October 13, 2017, Plaintiff the Center for Biological Diversity and others filed a timely protest of the lease sale under 43 C.F.R. § 3120.1-3. The protest showed that BLM's EA and proposed FONSI violated NEPA and FLPMA by failing to disclose or evaluate site-specific indirect and cumulative impacts to greater sage-grouse populations and habitat from oil and gas development, and by failing to prioritize leasing outside of greater sage-grouse habitat. In particular, the protest noted that the proposed lease sale included 180 parcels of GHMA, 45 of which were within 2 miles of a lek.
- 206. BLM dismissed the protest on December 8, 2017. Also on December 8, 2017, BLM signed a Decision Record, finalizing the decision to offer all 204 nominated lease parcels for sale on December 11-12, 2017.
- 207. According to BLM data, the lease sale included approximately 54,132 acres of GHMA and approximately 840 acres of Restoration Habitat Management Areas. None of the acres were removed as a result of the protest.
- 208. At the lease sale, 25,168.76 acres, comprising 55 parcels, received bids. In addition, 66,699.68 acres, comprising 132 parcels, received noncompetitive offers in the lease sale. While the EA cited IM 2016-143 in an appendix, BLM failed to comply with the prioritization direction and offered all parcels containing sage-grouse habitat for sale.
- 209. BLM responded to comments complaining about its failure to prioritize leasing outside of sage-grouse habitats, in part by explaining that some of the now-offered leases had previously been deferred for almost two years.
- 210. The Montana December 2017 lease sale further contained a large concentration 132 parcels of lands within sage-grouse habitat in southeastern Montana isolated from and undisturbed by existing oil and gas development.

- G. March 2018 Montana Lease Sale (Billings, Butte, and North Central Montana Districts and North Dakota)
- 211. In March 2018, BLM conducted a competitive lease sale for 109 parcels located in BLM's Billings Field Office, Butte Field Office, and North Central Montana District Office, for the lease parcels identified in Appendix A hereto.
- 212. The governing RMPs for the lease parcels are the HiLine, Butte, and Billings RMPs (the North Dakota parcel was withdrawn). The HiLine and Billings RMPs were amended by the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments approved in BLM's Rocky Mountain ROD. The Butte RMP was not amended by the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments, but does incorporate sage-grouse management objectives.
- 213. BLM issued four EAs for the March 2018 Montana lease sale, Nos. DOI-BLM-MT-L002-2017-0004-EA (HiLine), DOI-BLM-MT-L002-2017-0003-EA (Butte), DOI-BLM-MT-L002-2017-0002-EA (Billings), and DOI-BLM-MT-C030-2017-0133-EA (North Dakota).
- 214. On September 20, 2017, Plaintiff Center for Biological Diversity submitted comments on the sale, alerting BLM to its obligations to analyze impacts on sage-grouse and to prioritize oil and gas leasing outside of sage-grouse habitat.
- 215. On October 30, 2017, Plaintiff Center for Biological Diversity submitted comments on the draft EAs, again reminding BLM of its obligations to analyze impacts on sagegrouse and to prioritize oil and gas leasing outside of sage-grouse habitat.
- 216. On January 12, 2017, Plaintiffs Center for Biological Diversity and Western Watersheds Project filed a timely protest of the sale under 43 C.F.R. § 3120.1-3.
- 217. The protest again challenged BLM's decision to lease nearly 24,000 acres of sage-grouse habitats in the sale, without prioritizing oil and gas leasing outside of sage-grouse habitats. It also stated that a more detailed analysis of sage-grouse impacts was required,

including the sage-grouse populations and seasonal habitats that may be affected by the proposed leases, and the implications of development for local and regional grouse survival and recovery. It notified BLM of the requirement that it consider the cumulative, range-wide impacts of all of its leasing in sage-grouse habitat.

- 218. Plaintiffs presented substantial scientific analysis and studies to support their protest, including a study demonstrating how habitat fragmentation from oil and gas development threatens sage-grouse populations. Plaintiffs also noted that the EAs failed to consider a reasonable range of alternatives, including not leasing sage-grouse habitats.
 - 219. On March 6, 2018, BLM denied Plaintiffs' protest.
- 220. On March 9, 2018, BLM issued its decision to offer 76 lease parcels encompassing 52,297 federal mineral acres. The surface acres affected included 9,788 acres of GHMA, 13,649 acres of PHMA, and 519 acres of other sage-grouse habitat.

H. March 2018 Wyoming Lease Sale (High Plains and Wind River/Bighorn Basin Districts)

- 221. In March 2018, BLM conducted a competitive oil and gas lease sale for 89 nominated parcels in the Wind River/Bighorn Basin Districts and 81 parcels in the High Plains District, for the lease parcel numbers identified in Appendix A hereto.
- 222. The governing RMPs for the offered lease parcels on the Wind River/Bighorn Basin Districts are the Lander, Cody, Worland, and Rawlins RMPs. The governing RMPs for the offered lease parcels on the High Plains District are the Buffalo, Casper, and Newcastle RMPs. All these governing RMPs were amended by the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments approved in BLM's Rocky Mountain ROD, with the exception of the Lander RMP which was revised in 2014 and included similar sage-grouse conservation measures to those adopted in the other RMPs.

- 223. The Wind River/Bighorn Basin District portion of the March 2018 Wyoming lease sales were approved based on an Environmental Assessment, No. DOI-BLM-WY-R000-2017-0002-EA, and associated FONSI. The High Plains portion of the March 2018 Wyoming lease sales were approved based on a separate Environmental Assessment, No. DOI-BLM-WY-P000-2017-0002-EA and associated FONSI.
- 224. On December 29, 2017, Plaintiffs Center for Biological Diversity, Western Watersheds Project, and others submitted a timely protest of the proposed March 2018 Wyoming lease sales to the BLM's High Plains and Wind River/Bighorn Basin district offices, under 43 C.F.R. § 3120.1-3.
- 225. Plaintiffs' protest explained that the decision to offer the nominated parcels for leasing violated the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments' direction to prioritize leasing outside of sage-grouse habitats. It also showed that the EAs failed to include adequate site-specific information to take the required "hard look" at whether oil and gas development was possible consistent with the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments' lek buffer requirements, and whether development could affect the species. The protest further challenged the EAs' failure to consider the impacts of the proposed leasing on sage-grouse with reference to the current state of sage-grouse populations in the affect portion of their range. It notified BLM that the EAs' failure to acknowledge BLM's widespread and ongoing pattern of leasing sage-grouse habitat contrary to the Sage-Grouse Plan amendments was unlawful.
- 226. The final leases offered for sale included 16,478 acres of GHMA, 102,030 acres of PHMA, and 6,764 acres of SFA. BLM's own Field Biologist recommended deferring WY-181Q-054 on the High Plains District, because it falls within a sage-grouse "core area," but BLM

elected to offer the parcel anyway. All of the acres sold. There is no evidence that BLM attempted to prioritize leasing outside of sage-grouse habitats for this sale.

227. On or about March 20, 2018, BLM dismissed and/or denied protests filed by Plaintiffs Center for Biological Diversity and Western Watersheds Project, as well as other protesting organizations.

I. June 2018 Nevada Lease Sale (Battle Mountain District)

- 228. In June 2018, BLM conducted a competitive lease sale for 166 parcels located in BLM's Battle Mountain District, which consists of the Tonopah and Mt. Lewis Field Offices.

 These parcel numbers are specifically identified in Appendix A hereto.
- 229. The governing RMPs for the offered lease parcels are the Tonopah and Shoshone Eureka RMPs, which were amended by the Nevada and Northeastern California Sage-Grouse Land Use Plan Amendments adopted through BLM's Great Basin ROD.
- 230. On January 16, 2018, Nevada BLM released an EA for the lease sale, No. DOI-BLM-NV-B020-2018-0017-EA, and allowed 30 days for public comment.
- 231. The parcels comprise 313,715 acres, including 21,710 acres of GHMA, 64,908 acres of PHMA, and 24,015 acres of other sage-grouse habitats. Approximately 70% of the proposed leases are within occupied greater sage-grouse range. The lease sale would impact nesting, brooding, summer and winter habitats—and in particular, habitats of value in the Little Fish Lake Valley and Monitor Valley, where thriving sage-grouse populations exist. One parcel occurs in close proximity to a well-attended lek. The EA does not mention the obligation to prioritize leasing outside of sage-grouse habitat.
- 232. Sage-grouse in Nevada have lost substantial habitat to factors including wildfire and cheatgrass. Because of relatively limited oil and gas production and development in the state,

habitat loss to oil and gas has thus far been limited. The June 2018 lease sale, however, would convey rights to potentially vast development in what the Nevada Department of Wildlife deems the most productive grouse habitat in southern Nevada.

- 233. Both Monitor and Fish Lake Valleys are within the Monitor Population Management Unit (PMU). According to the Nevada state Sage Grouse Conservation Plan for South Center Nevada, "the Monitor PMU has a large population, extensive acreage of existing habitat, and over 70 known leks." These 73 leks are the largest number of any PMU in the South Central planning unit of Nevada, and are of critical importance of maintaining sage-grouse populations and habitat within the PMU.
- 234. On February 14, 2018, during the 30-day comment period, Plaintiffs Center for Biological Diversity and Western Watersheds Project submitted timely public comments. Plaintiffs' comments informed the agency that the EA failed to adequately analyze the leasing decision's harm to sage-grouse because it did not provide any information about existing conditions or anticipated impacts affecting the species, and that the proposed leasing violates the land use plan's requirement to prioritize leasing outside of sage-grouse habitat. They also established that the EA failed to consider an adequate range of alternatives because it only considered a no leasing alternative and an alternative to lease all sage-grouse habitat, and that it failed to analyze the cumulative impacts of the leasing along with other proposed leasing in sage-grouse range on the sage-grouse.
- 235. Plaintiffs the Center, Western Watersheds Project, and other environmental organizations timely protested on May 7, 2018.
- 236. On or around June 12, 2018, BLM completed the lease sale auction for these parcels, of which 22 parcels encompassing 38,579.34 acres received bids. The parcels sold

included the Monitor Valley parcel. The unsold parcels remain open for noncompetitive sale pursuant to 43 C.F.R. § 3110.1(b) to any eligible bidder through June 2019.

237. On or about July 31, 2018, BLM dismissed and/or denied protests filed by Plaintiffs Center for Biological Diversity and Western Watersheds Project, as well as other protesting organizations.

J. June 2018 Wyoming Lease Sale (High Desert District)

- 238. In June 2018, BLM conducted a competitive lease sale for 159 parcels comprising 198,588 acres in BLM's High Desert District, which encompasses the Kemmerer, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices. These parcel numbers are specifically identified in Appendix A hereto.
- 239. The governing RMPs for the offered lease parcels are the Kemmerer, Pinedale, Rawlins, Green River (i.e. Rock Springs Field Office), and Lander RMPs. Each governing RMP was amended by the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments approved in BLM's Rocky Mountain ROD, with the exception of the Lander RMP which was revised in 2014 and included similar sage-grouse conservation measures as those adopted in the other RMPs.
- 240. On October 24, 2017, BLM released a draft EA for the lease sale (No. DOI-BLM-WY-D000-2018-0001), and allowed 30 days for public comment on a proposal to offer 163 lease parcels in the Kemmerer, Pinedale, Rawlins, and Rock Springs Field Offices.
- 241. Nearly all of the offered parcels are located within habitat of the greater sage-grouse, including forty-four parcels located in sage-grouse PHMA; 89 parcels located in GHMA; and 30 parcels with portions in both PHMA and GHMA.
- 242. On November 20, 2017, Plaintiffs the Center and Western Watersheds Project submitted timely public comments on the sale. The comments notified BLM that the proposed

leasing failed to comply with the Sage-Grouse Plans' direction to prioritize oil and gas leasing and development outside of sage-grouse habitats, and failed to provide useful information concerning the status of populations in PHMAs that could be impacted—the Uinta, Greater South Pass, Fontanelle, and Seedskadee PHMAs. They notified BLM that it had erred by rejecting an alternative that would defer leasing all nominated parcels in sage-grouse habitat.

- 243. Citing the Presidential Executive Order of March 28, 2017, BLM rejected a proposed alternative that would defer leasing all sage-grouse habitat. The EA cited IM 2018-026 and provided no evidence that BLM prioritized leasing outside of sage-grouse habitat, although it discussed several actions BLM may take to encourage developers to voluntarily prioritize leasing outside of sage-grouse habitat.
- 244. On May 16, 2018, Plaintiffs Center for Biological Diversity and Western Watersheds Project filed timely protests of the sale, raising BLM's failure to respond to the issues raised in comments. Plaintiffs' protests provided additional information about the impacts of leasing some of these parcels, which occur in the Red Desert, on mule deer, pronghorn, and other big game migration corridors and populations.
- 245. On or about June 22, 2018, BLM dismissed and/or denied protests filed by Plaintiffs Center for Biological Diversity and Western Watersheds Project, as well as other protesting organizations. On or around June 26-27, 2018, BLM completed the lease sale auction for these parcels, of which 158 parcels received competitive bids. The unsold parcels remain open for noncompetitive sale pursuant to 43 C.F.R. § 3110.1(b) to any eligible bidder through June 2020 2019.
 - K. September 2018 Utah Lease Sale (West Desert District, Green River District, and Color Country District)

- 246. On or about March 30, 2018, BLM announced 15-day comment and scoping periods for multiple EAs for its proposed September 11, 2018, Utah oil and gas lease sale, parcels including those identified in Appendix A hereto. These include separate EAs for BLM Utah's Fillmore and Salt Lake Field Offices, Nos. DOI-BLM-UT-W020-2018-0009-EA and DOI-BLM-UT-W010-2018-0018-EA. Sometime in July, BLM completed a third EA, No. DOI-BLM-UT-0000-2018-0001-EA, for additional lease parcels on the Green River, Color Country, Price, and Richfield Field Offices, but this EA was never issued for public comment. Instead, BLM simply posted a proposed parcel list and maps for a 15-day comment period from March 30 to April 16, 2018. The proposed Utah lease sale followed the directives of IM 2018-034 in shortening public review and protest periods, and eliminating the opportunity for public comment on the third draft EA.
- 247. BLM acknowledged that most of the proposed Salt Lake FO lease sale falls within designated Priority Habitat Management Areas for greater sage-grouse, stating: "Most of the parcels (25,752 acres) are within PHMA, including all of the parcels in Rich and Summit Counties (Rich Population Area) and about half of the Utah County parcels (Carbon Population Area) (Figures 8 and 13, respectively). Seasonal habitats within the lease parcel area include breeding and nesting, brood-rearing/summer, and winter habitats." Salt Lake Field Office September 2018 Lease Sale EA 27.
- 248. The Rich population area is one of the largest in Utah, and important for connectivity to grouse populations in Idaho and Wyoming. BLM did not analyze whether these parcels are appropriate to prioritize for leasing, or whether its management objectives could be better met by prioritizing the leasing of other lands and minerals outside of PHMA.

- 249. The governing RMPs, as amended by the 2015 Sage-Grouse Plans and BLM's Great Basin ROD, require that "[p]riority will be given to leasing and development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, outside of PHMA and GHMA. When analyzing leasing and authorizing development of fluid mineral resources, including geothermal, in PHMA and GHMA, and subject to applicable stipulations for the conservation of GRSG, priority will be given to development in non-habitat areas first and then in the least suitable habitat for GRSG."
- 250. The Salt Lake September 2018 lease sale EA proposed leasing areas within one of the most important sage-grouse population areas in the state, as well as a second area (the Emma Park population) that is already at risk due to anthropogenic disturbance. The EAs provided no evidence that BLM considered, let alone prioritized, whether other lands outside of sage-grouse habitat might be more suitable for new leasing than extensive areas of PHMA within the Rich and Emma Park population areas.
- 251. The Salt Lake September 2018 lease sale EAs failed entirely to assess the foreseeable impacts on specific grouse habitats from development outside the No Surface Occupancy Area of the leasehold itself including access from private surface, or, for proposed parcels on the Wyoming/Utah border from Wyoming lands where not all PHMA is subject to the No Surface Occupancy Stipulation. Without the analysis of factors including importance of the lands in question for habitat function, it is impossible for BLM understand how offering leases within sage-grouse habitat is consistent with ARMPA requirement to prioritize leasing outside such habitat.
- 252. Plaintiffs Western Watersheds Project and the Center submitted timely comments on the proposed lease sale. The comments alerted BLM that it had violated the ARMPA by failing to prioritize oil and gas leasing and development outside of sage-grouse habitat.

- 253. On July 26, 2018, UT BLM issued three final EAs for the September 2018 oil and gas lease sale. Issuance of the Final EAs and Decision(s) initiated a 10-day protest period, pursuant to IM 2018-034. On August 6, 2018, WWP, the Center, and other environmental groups submitted a timely protest of BLM's decision to lease the UT September 2018 parcels, despite the abbreviated and unlawful protest period allowed by BLM under IM 2018-034.
- 254. BLM conducted the lease sale on September 11, 2018. 69 of the 109 parcels offered sold. 35-40 people protested outside of the BLM State office. No lands were deferred from leasing in order to prioritize leasing outside sage- grouse habitat. The unsold parcels remain open for noncompetitive sale pursuant to 43 C.F.R. § 3110.1(b) to any eligible bidder through September 2020 2019.
 - L. September 2018 Wyoming Lease Sale (Wind River/ Bighorn Basin District, High Plains District)
- 255. Between January and May 2018, Wyoming BLM issued three Environmental Assessments (Nos. DOI-BLM-WY-P000-2018-0001-EA, DOI-BLM-WY-R000-2018-0001-EA, and DOI-BLM-WY-0000-2018-0003-EA), considering whether to offer 350 lease parcels totaling approximately 355,819 acres, as specifically identified in Appendix A below. The three sets of parcels included both parcels that had been proposed for leasing under the rotational quarterly lease sale process in effect when IM 2018-034 was adopted by BLM in January 2018 and numerous additional parcels subsequently added in order to comply with the nomination processing deadlines in IM 2018-034.
- 256. The first two sets of parcels included 22 parcels on the Lander and Worland Field Offices and 102 parcels in BLM's "High Plains District," including the Buffalo, Casper, and Newcastle field office areas. The EAs supporting the first two sets of lease parcels were made available on January 23, 2018 for 30-day public comment periods ending February 21, 2018.

The third set of parcels included 256 parcels scattered throughout the entire state of Wyoming, in BLM's Worland, Buffalo, Newcastle, Lander, Casper, Rawlins, Rock Springs, and Pinedale Field Offices. In its EA for the third set of parcels, BLM stated: "We are analyzing the parcels for this sale in two sets because new policy regarding lease sales was issued after we had originally begun the review process for this sale, and to comply with the policy's requirement to offer lands statewide at the quarterly sales and to meet the policy's review timeframes." BLM Wyoming, Environmental Assessment Third Quarter 2018 (Part 2) Competitive Oil and Gas Lease Sale 1-1 to 1-2. Implementing IM 2018-034, that third ("Part 2") EA was subject to only a 14-day comment period starting on May 24, 2018, which was initiated by a news release issued that day.

- 257. Eighty percent of the first set of Lander/Worland Field Office parcels are within sage-grouse habitats. All of the second set of Buffalo, Casper, and Newcastle Field parcels fall within sage-grouse habitats, with over half in PHMA. Almost all of the third set of parcels are within sage-grouse habitat; only two are not. Approximately 63% of the third set of parcels are located in PHMA, and the remaining 37% are mostly located within GHMA.
- 258. Although each of the governing RMPs incorporated the requirement to prioritize oil and gas leasing and development outside of core sage-grouse habitats, the EAs provide no evidence that BLM prioritized oil and gas leasing outside of these important sage-grouse habitats. In fact, the EAs for the second and third sets of parcels cite IM 2018-026 to state that BLM need not lease and develop outside of sage-grouse habitat before considering leasing and development within sage-grouse habitat.
- 259. BLM's multiple lease parcel announcements across large areas of Wyoming caused confusion and hardship to the public. Due to confusion about the number of EAs issued,

Western Watersheds Project believed initially only two sets of parcels had been offered instead of three. On February 21, 2018, the Center, Western Watersheds Project, and another group submitted comments on the second (High Plains District) set of 102 parcels. On June 6, 2018, Plaintiffs the Center and Western Watersheds Project, along with other environmental groups, submitted timely comments on the proposal to offer the third set of parcels for lease. Plaintiffs' comments notified BLM that it should have prepared an EIS, its EAs failed to adequately consider site-specific information about environmental impacts, and the proposed leasing and consequent development risked serious, unexamined impacts to wildlife, including sage-grouse, pronghorn, and mule deer. In particular, Plaintiffs' comments notified BLM that it had violated the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments by failing to prioritize oil and gas leasing and development outside of sage-grouse habitat.

260. On August 13, 2018, Plaintiffs submitted a timely protest of all third-quarter Wyoming proposed lease parcels. BLM denied Plaintiffs' protest on September 17, 2018, and conducted the sales on September 18-20, 2018. A total of 301,605.31 acres sold at the competitive auction. The unsold parcels remain open for noncompetitive sale pursuant to 43 C.F.R. § 3110.1(b) to any eligible bidder through September 2020 2019.

M. September 2018 Nevada Lease Sale (Elko District, Ely District)

261. On June 22, 2018, Nevada BLM followed IM 2018-034 and issued

Determinations of NEPA Adequacy (DNAs) for a total of 144 lease parcels located on the Elko
and Ely Districts (Nos. DOI-BLM-NV-E000-2018-0007-DNA and DOI-BLM-NV-L000-20180001-DNA) followed by a Finding of No Significant Impact, for the parcels specifically

identified in Appendix A hereto. On July 27, 2018, Nevada BLM issued a lease sale notice for 295,174.30 acres, slated for September 11, 2018.

- 262. On August 6, 2018, Plaintiffs the Center and Western Watersheds Project, and one other environmental group filed a timely protest of the proposed sale. Because the DNAs provided barely any information about the locations of the parcels or resources that might be affected, Plaintiffs' ability to participate was sharply curtailed. However, Plaintiffs' protest complained that the sales should not have been conducted under DNAs, that BLM did not prioritize leasing outside of sage-grouse habitat as required by the Nevada/Northeastern California ARMPAs and Great Basin Record of Decision, that BLM had improperly restricted public involvement, and raised other issues as well.
- 263. BLM issued a Record of Decision to conduct the sales as proposed on September 10, 2018. BLM did not explain how, or whether, it had prioritized such leasing outside of sagegrouse habitat. The sale was conducted on September 11, 2018. None of the acres sold at competitive auction, but approximately 27,093.38 acres received noncompetitive bids. The unsold parcels remain open for noncompetitive sale pursuant to 43 C.F.R. § 3110.1(b) to any eligible bidder through September 2020 2019.

[NOTE: Paragraphs 225mm through 225mmm in the First Amended Complaint regarding the Normally Pressured Lance Project have been deleted here.]

[NOTE: Paragraphs 226 through 275 in the First Amended Complaint entitled "CUMULATIVE AND PENDING ACTIONS" have been deleted here, except allegations about then-Pending Sales later conducted in March 2019 for Montana and February 2019 for Wyoming are repeated and updated as "Final Lease Sales" below.]

N. March 2019 September 2018 Montana Lease Sale (Pending Action)

- 264. On July 5, 2018, Montana BLM followed IM 2018-034 in issuing a public scoping notice allowing only 15-day comment period for parcels nominated for leasing on the Glasgow, Havre, Lewistown, Butte, Dillon, Miles City, Billings, and North Dakota Field Offices. Further implementing IM 2018-034, BLM published an EA and unsigned FONSI for a 15-day public comment period running from August 10, 2018 to August 24, 2018. The sale is slated to be held on December 11, 2018.
- 265. The proposed sale includes<u>d</u> 101 lease parcels encompassing approximately 69,270 Federal mineral acres across Montana and the Dakotas. Of these, 25 parcels on the Dillon and Glasgow Field Offices had previously been deferred to provide sage-grouse habitat but BLM determined to offer them in light of the Sage-Grouse ARMPAs. 94 nominated parcels occur in designated sage-grouse habitat, but BLM is electing to defer 16 parcels containing sage-grouse habitat as part of the proposed action. 78 full parcels and one partial parcel to be offered in the sale thus contain sage-grouse habitat. In total, Plaintiffs calculated that the lease parcels contain 7,772 acres of PHMAs, 27,484 acres of GHMAs, and 329 acres of other sage-grouse habitat, but that is inconsistent with the 78 parcel number discussed in the EA.
- 266. BLM did not demonstrate how it prioritized leasing and development outside of sage-grouse habitat, but cited language from IM 2018-026, which states: "where the BLM has a backlog of Expressions of Interest for leasing, the BLM will prioritize its work first in non-habitat management areas, followed by lower priority habitat management areas (e.g., GHMA) and then higher priority habitat management areas (i.e., PHMA, then SFA)."
- 267. Plaintiff the Center submitted timely scoping comments on July 20, 2018. Plaintiffs submitted timely comments on the EA on August 24, 2018. Among other things,

Plaintiffs commented that the leasing decision fails to prioritize oil and gas leasing and development outside of sage-grouse habitat.

- 268. To comply with the Preliminary Injunction entered on September 21, 2018 by this Court, BLM moved 76 parcels in designated sage-grouse habitat from the December 2018 sale to the March 2019 sale.
- 269. BLM issued a draft EA for the March 2019 sale (DOI-BLM-MT-0000-2018-0007-EA) on November 20, 2018, which incorporated by reference the analysis contained in the EA for the December 11, 2018 Oil and Gas Lease Parcel Sale (DOI-BLM-MT-0000-2018-002-EA). In total, the EA analyzed a proposed sale of 322 nominated parcels encompassing approximately 180,366 federal mineral acres.
- 270. Of the 322 proposed parcels, 312 are located in greater sage-grouse habitat and 274 (85%) are located within 3.1 miles of a lek. BLM classified over half of the parcels as Category 7 or Category 8 (within 3.1 miles of a lek and no existing disturbance) indicating that they contain the best sage-grouse habitat available.
- 271. Plaintiffs the Center and Western Watersheds Project, and other environmental groups filed timely comments of the proposed sale on December 20, 2019.
- Notice of Competitive Lease Sale for its March 2019 Montana Lease Sale. BLM elected to defer only one of the proposed parcels to protect active sage-grouse leks, and deferred an additional 16 parcels for other reasons, ultimately offering 305 parcels. BLM allowed a 30-day protest period on the lease sale pursuant to this Court's Preliminary Injunction Order. Plaintiffs the Center and Western Watersheds Project, and other environmental groups, timely protested the proposed sale on February 28, 2019.

273. The sale was conducted on March 25 to 27, 2019, and 99 of the parcels received competitive bids. The unsold parcels remain open for noncompetitive sale pursuant to 43 C.F.R. § 3110.1(b) to any eligible bidder through March 2021.

O. <u>February 2019</u> December 2018 Wyoming Lease Sale

- 274. On March 23, 2018, Wyoming BLM announced its December 2018 proposed lease sale, comprising 367 parcels on the Rawlins, Rock Springs, Pinedale and Kemmerer Field Offices. A second set of <u>nominated</u> parcels was <u>later added</u> also <u>nominated</u> and moved forward as part of the same sale. <u>Implementing IM 2018-034</u>, a list of parcels, EA, and <u>unsigned FONSI were released on August 29, 2018 for a 14-day public comment period that concluded on September 12, 2018.</u>
- 275. Of the 674 parcels <u>analyzed</u>, only three <u>did</u> do not fall within sage-grouse habitat. 302 parcels are wholly or partially located in PHMA; two parcels are located in Connectivity habitat; and the remainder are located in GHMA. Nine of the parcels located within GHMA are located within designated sage-grouse winter concentration areas. BLM cited IM 2018-026 as evidence that it does not have to prioritize oil and gas leasing and development outside of sage-grouse habitats.
- 248. It is unclear how BLM will choose to proceed with this sale in light of the Court's September 2018 Preliminary Injunction order enjoining implementation of IM 2018-034 within sage-grouse habitat. However, based on current information available to them, Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and allege thereon, that BLM will conduct the sale without complying with the requirement to prioritize oil and gas leasing and development outside of sage-grouse habitats.

- 276. In addition to sage-grouse concerns, hundreds of parcels are located within the Hoback to Red Desert Mule Deer Migration Corridor or big game crucial winter range habitat and will cause significant unexamined effects to big game populations.
- 277. Prior to the Court's Preliminary Injunction Order, BLM posted an EA and unsigned FONSI analyzing this proposed sale for a 14-day public comment period that concluded on September 12, 2018. This initial unsigned FONSI would have offered 581 of the nominated parcels for lease sale.
- 278. Plaintiffs submitted timely comments on this EA. Among other things, Plaintiffs commented that the leasing decision fails to prioritize oil and gas leasing and development outside of sage-grouse habitat.
- 279 To comply with the Court's September 21, 2018 Preliminary Injunction Order,
 BLM offered only 3 parcels located in non-sage grouse habitat at the Wyoming December 2018
 sale and delayed the offering of the remaining 578 parcels located in greater sage-grouse habitats
 to conduct an additional public comment period. BLM later clarified that the sage-grouse parcel
 count was only 577.
- 280. On or around December 21, 2018, BLM issued a revised EA, unsigned FONSI, an Notice of Competitive Lease Sale for a proposed "Supplemental" February 2019 Wyoming lease sale that would offer the 577 sage-grouse parcels deferred as a result of the Court's Preliminary Injunction. As a result of additional proposed deferrals, BLM proposed to offer only 568 of these parcels containing 768,942 acres
- 281. On January 22, 2019, Plaintiffs the Center and Western Watersheds Project, and one other environmental group filed a timely protest of the proposed sale. Plaintiffs' protest complained, among other issues, that BLM did not prioritize leasing outside of sage-grouse

habitat, failed to engage in any meaningful impact of the effects to sage-grouse populations.

BLM dismissed or denied all protests on February 22, 2019.

- 282. On February 12, 2019, the BLM WY issued an Information Notice notifying the public that the BLM was deferring an additional two parcels, and portions of 10 other parcels, under State Director discretion in response to an additional comment letter received from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department on December 20, 2018. BLM also notified the public that final parcel 533 had been determined to not be available for lease and was deleted from the sale.
- 283. BLM conducted the Supplemental February 2019 Wyoming lease sale in a fiveday sale from February 25 to March 2, 2019. The BLM received bids on 437 of these parcels, totaling 527,000 acres.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF: FINAL LEASE SALES ACTIONS VIOLATE FLPMA AND APA (FLPMA Consistency Requirement)

- 284. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference all preceding paragraphs.
- 285. This First Claim for Relief challenges Defendants' violations of FLPMA, 43 U.S.C. §§ 1701 *et seq.*, in approving the Final Lease Sales Actions identified above, both collectively and individually. This claim is brought under the judicial review provisions of the APA, 5 U.S.C. § 706.
- 286. Enacted in 1976, FLPMA governs BLM's management of the public lands. *See* 43 U.S.C. §§ 1701 *et seq.* In FLPMA, Congress directed that public lands:

be managed in a manner that will protect the quality of the scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, water resource and archeological values; that, where appropriate, will preserve and protect certain public lands in their natural condition; that will provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife and domestic animals; and that will provide for outdoor recreation and human occupancy and use.

43 U.S.C. § 1701(a)(8).

- 287. In enacting FLPMA, Congress found that "the national interest will be best realized if the public lands and their resources . . . and their present and future use is projected through a land use planning process," and it adopted FLPMA in part to establish "goals and objectives . . . as guidelines for public land use planning" 43 U.S.C. § 1701(a)(2), (7).
- 288. FLMPA directs that the Secretary of Interior (and hence BLM, which has been delegated the Secretary's authority in management of the public lands) develop and periodically revise lands use plans, and adhere to those plans in management decision-making. *See* 43 U.S.C. § 1712(a) (Secretary "shall, with public involvement and consistent with the terms and conditions of this Act, develop, maintain, and, when appropriate, revise land use plans which provide by tracts or areas for the use of the public lands"); *id.* § 1732(a) (Secretary "shall manage the public lands under principles of multiple use and sustained yield, in accordance with the land use plans"). When a land use plan is revised, existing resource plans and permits, contracts and other instruments are to be revised within a "reasonable period of time." 43 C.F.R. § 1610.5-3.
- 289. The Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments approved by BLM through the September 2015 Great Basin and Rocky Mountain RODs amended or revised the applicable land use plans governing BLM's administration of the public lands and federal fluid mineral resources where it is now approving extensive oil and gas leasing and development affecting sage-grouse habitats and populations under the Challenged Decisions, including the Final Actions identified above.
- 290. The Final Lease Sales Actions, individually and collectively, disregard and violate the directions of the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments, including that oil and gas leasing and development shall be prioritized away from SFAs, PHMAs and GHMAs in order to protect and conserve sage-grouse habitats and populations, and requirements to protect sage-grouse habitats (including SFAs, PHMAs, and "core" areas) from harmful impacts of oil and gas development,

including through NSOs, lek buffers, surface disturbance density caps, and others. Accordingly, the Final Actions, individually and collectively, are not "in accordance with the land use plans" in violation of FLPMA, 43 U.S.C. § 1732(a).

- 291. The Final <u>Lease Sales</u> Actions, individually and collectively, also violate and disregard other direction of the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments, including commitments to conduct baseline data necessary to understand impacts of proposed actions, ensure effective conservation of seasonal habitats, follow the best available science in plan implementing actions, and site projects in the least sensitive sage-grouse habitats.
- 292. Defendants' approval of the Final <u>Lease Sales Actions</u>, individually and collectively, is thus arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, and not in accordance with law under FLPMA and the APA, and will allow serious ecological degradation as well as harm to the public and Plaintiff's interests, unless reversed by this Court.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for relief as set forth below.

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF: FINAL LEASE SALES ACTIONS VIOLATE FLPMA AND APA (Failure to Follow Best Available Science)

- 293. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference the preceding paragraphs.
- 294. This Second Claim for Relief challenges Defendants' approval of the Final Lease Sales Actions, individually and collectively, which are contrary to the best available science and do not comport with the standards and procedures adopted by BLM in the Great Basin and Rocky Mountain RODs and the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments. This claim is brought under the judicial review provisions of the APA, 5 U.S.C. § 706.
- In addition, or in the alternative, Plaintiffs seek declaratory relief with respect to Defendants' violations as alleged herein under 28 U.S.C. § 2201-02.

- 296. FLPMA imposes procedural and substantive statutory requirements upon Defendants' management of the public lands and federal fluid mineral resources in question here, including mandates relating to land use planning, multiple use/sustained yield, preventing unnecessary or undue degradation of the public lands and resources, and/or prohibiting actions that will permanently impair the quality of the environment. 43 U.S.C. §§ 1701(c), 1702(b), 1712 & 1732(a)-(b).
- 297. To fulfill its statutory mandates under FLPMA and other requirements of law,
 Defendant BLM committed to using the best available science to adopt conservation measures
 sufficient to maintain and enhance populations and distribution of greater sage-grouse by
 protecting and improving sagebrush habitats and ecosystems to sustain those populations. In the
 National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy EISs and RODs, BLM specifically and
 repeatedly asserted that it employed and utilized the best available science in approving the
 Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments.
- 298. The Final <u>Lease Sales Actions</u>, individually and collectively, do *not* follow the best available science in numerous respects, as alleged in detail above and in Plaintiffs' comments, protests, appeals and other submissions to BLM.
- 299. Accordingly, the Final <u>Lease Sales</u> Actions are arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, not in accordance with law under FLPMA and the APA, and have caused or threaten serious prejudice and injury to the rights and interests of Plaintiffs and their members and staff.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for relief as set forth below.

THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF: FINAL LEASE SALES ACTIONS VIOLATE NEPA AND APA

300. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference the preceding paragraphs.

- 301. This Third Claim for Relief challenges Defendants' approval of the Final Lease Sales Actions, individually and collectively, as violating the requirements of NEPA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 *et seq.*, and NEPA's implementing regulations, 40 C.F.R. §§ 1500 *et seq.* This claim is brought under the judicial review provisions of the APA, 5 U.S.C. § 706.
- 302. NEPA is America's basic "charter for protection of the environment." 40 C.F.R. § 1500.1(a). The Council on Environmental Quality ("CEQ") promulgated regulations implementing NEPA, which are binding on all federal agencies. *Id.* §§ 1500-1518.4.
- 303. NEPA requires federal agencies to ensure fully informed decision-making and provide for public participation in environmental analysis and decision-making. *Id.* § 1500.1(b)-(c).
- 304. NEPA requires federal agencies to prepare an EIS for all "major federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment." 42 U.S.C. § 4332(2)(C). "Environmental information [must be made] available to public officials and citizens before decisions are made and before actions are taken." 40 C.F.R. § 1500.1(b).
- 305. One of NEPA's fundamental goals is to "promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man." 42 U.S.C. § 4321. The scope of NEPA review is quite broad, including disclosure and consideration of all reasonable alternatives, 40 C.F.R. § 1502.14(a), and direct, indirect, and cumulative effects, *id.* § 1508(b).
- 306. Direct effects are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place as the proposed project. *Id.* § 1508.8(a). Indirect effects are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distances, but are still reasonably foreseeable. *Id.* § 1508.8(b). Both types

of impacts include "effects on natural resources and on the components, structures, and functioning of affected ecosystems." *Id.* § 1508.8.

307. A cumulative impact is defined as:

[T]he impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

Id. § 1508.7.

- 308. The alternatives analysis must "rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives," and include "appropriate mitigation measures not already included in the proposed action or alternatives." 40 C.F.R. § 1502.14(a), (f); see also 40 C.F.R. § 1502.16 (environmental consequences discussion must inform alternatives analysis and include means to mitigate adverse environmental impacts).
- 309. NEPA obligates the agency to make available to the public high-quality information, including accurate scientific analyses, expert agency comments, and public comments before decisions are made and actions are taken. The CEQ's NEPA regulations require that information used to inform NEPA analysis "must be of a high quality," and that "[a]ccurate scientific analysis . . . [is] essential to implementing NEPA." *Id.* § 1500.1(b). The agency's analysis must be based on professional and scientific integrity. *Id.* § 1502.24.
- 310. NEPA and the implementing CEQ regulations also require a federal agency to prepare a supplemental NEPA analysis whenever significant changes in circumstances or information, or the nature of a proposed action occur. 40 C.F.R. § 1502.9(c).
- 311. In approving the Final <u>Lease Sales</u> Actions, BLM violated NEPA by failing to prepare any up-to-date and comprehensive EIS, supplemental EIS, or other lawful NEPA

analysis addressing the "policy" changes and lease commitments it has made since adopting the 2015 Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments in favor of efforts to "reduce burdens" on the oil and gas industry and promote more extensive oil and gas development on public lands, including in or affecting key sage-grouse populations and habitats.

- 312. In addition, BLM violated NEPA in approving the Final <u>Lease Sales Actions</u> by utilizing inadequate analyses and failing to address key impacts or threats to sage-grouse populations and habitats, including direct, indirect and cumulative impacts. These NEPA inadequacies and violations for each of the Final <u>Lease Sales Actions</u> include, but are not limited to:
 - A. Failure to address impacts to "core" and isolated sage-grouse populations;
- B. Failure to address connectivity between key sage-grouse populations and habitats, including consideration of how local and regional populations are inter-connected and threatened;
- C. Failure to address the direct, indirect and cumulative adverse impacts of the oil and gas leasing and development being authorized by BLM across the sage-grouse range, along with cumulative and synergistic impacts of multiple threats at the regional and range-wide scales, and the cumulative impacts of other anthropogenic activities authorized in sage-grouse habitats;
- D. Failure to address the likely impacts of climate change to sage-grouse populations and habitats;
- E. Failure to address how the revocation of the Interior Department's mitigation policy and abandonment of mitigation requirements for sage-grouse protection may further contribute to loss and degradation of sage-grouse habitats and decline of sage-grouse populations;

- F. Failure to analyze or consider site-specific information concerning specific sagegrouse seasonal habitats and populations to be impacted by proposed oil and gas leasing and development;
- G. Failure to consider a range of reasonable alternatives, including alternatives considering no or limited leasing of sage-grouse habitat for each leasing action;
- H. Failure to analyze, consider, and disclose the cumulative impacts of the Final Actions together with <u>other related actions</u> the Cumulative and Pending Actions on the environment, including the range-wide viability of the greater sage-grouse.
- 313. Because of the foregoing violations, Defendants' approval of the Final <u>Lease</u>

 <u>Sales Actions</u> was arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, not in accordance with law under NEPA and the APA, and have caused or threaten serious prejudice and injury to the rights and interests of Plaintiffs and their members and staff.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for relief as set forth below.

FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF: IM 2018-034 AND IMPLEMENTING "PHASE ONE" FINAL LEASE SALES ACTIONS VIOLATE FLPMA, NEPA, AND THE APA (Public Participation Requirements)

- 314. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference the preceding paragraphs.
- 315. This Fourth Claim for Relief challenges BLM's adoption of IM 2018-034 and the "Phase One" Final Lease Sales Actions which implemented IM 2018-034 (i.e., June and September 2018 Final Lease Sales for Nevada, Utah and Wyoming) as arbitrary, capricious, and violating the public participation requirements of FLPMA, 43 U.S.C. § 1739(e), NEPA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq., and NEPA's implementing regulations, 40 C.F.R. §§ 1500 et seq. This claim is brought under the judicial review provisions of the APA, 5 U.S.C. § 706.

- 316. FLPMA Section 309(e) provides that the public must be allowed meaningful participation in public lands management decisions. 43 U.S.C. § 1739(e). It requires that: "In exercising his authorities under this Act, the Secretary [of Interior] *shall* establish procedures, including public hearings where appropriate, to give the Federal, State, and local governments *and the public* adequate notice and an opportunity to comment upon the formulation of standards and criteria for, and *to participate in*, the preparation and execution of plans and programs for, *and the management of, the public lands.*" *Id.* (emphasis added).
- 317. FLPMA Section 103(d) defines "public involvement" as "the opportunity for participation by affected citizens in rule making, decision making, and planning with respect to the public lands, including public meetings or hearings held at locations near the affected lands, or advisory mechanisms, or such other procedures as may be necessary to provide public comment in a particular instance."
- 318. The FLPMA mandate to involve the public in all public lands management decisions applies not just to the development of plans and programs, but also to the "actual management of public lands." *Donald K. Majors*, 123 IBLA 142, 147 (1992). "There are strong indications that Congress intended some form of public input for all decisions that may have significant impact on federal lands." *Nat'l Wildlife Fed'n v. Burford*, 835 F.2d 305, 322 (1987) (citing H.R. Rep. No. 1163, 94th Cong., 2d Sess. 7 (1976), U.S. Code Cong. & Ad. News 1976, p. 6181), *rev'd on other grounds*, 497 U.S. 871 (1990).
- 319. NEPA and implementing CEQ regulations further require federal agencies to involve the public in preparing and considering environmental documents that implement the Act. 40 C.F.R. § 1506.6; *id.* § 1506.6(b)(1) (requiring federal agencies to "[p]rovide public notice of NEPA-related hearings, public meetings, and the availability of environmental

documents so as to inform those persons and agencies who may be interested or affected"); *id.* 1506.6(a) (requiring agencies to "make diligent efforts to involve the public in preparing and implementing their NEPA procedures"); *id.* § 1501.4(b) (requiring agencies to "involve . . . the public, to the extent practicable, in preparing [EAs]"); *id.* § 1502.19(a) (requiring public circulation of draft and final EISs); *see also id.* § 1500.1(b) (providing that "public scrutiny [is] essential to implementing NEPA" and direct federal agencies to "insure that environmental information is available to public officials and citizens before decisions are made.").

- 320. As discussed above, IM 2018-034 makes public participation in the NEPA process for oil and gas lease sale review merely discretionary. IM 2018-034 replaced language from IM 2010-117 stating that BLM offices "will" provide for public participation with a provision that they "may" do so, thus violating the public participation requirement under FLPMA, NEPA, and CEQ regulations.
- 321. Moreover, IM 2018-034 purports to allow BLM to limit or exclude public involvement in oil and gas leasing decisions in other ways, including by avoiding new NEPA analysis, expressly disclaiming any duty to allow public comment on lease sales supported by a DNA, and providing that public protests of a lease sale must be submitted within only 10 days, in contrast to the prior 30-day time period.
- 322. In light of the unreasonable constraints on public participation created by multiple provisions of IM 2018-034, including requiring Plaintiffs and other members of the public to formulate and submit protests on oil and gas lease sales within only 10 days, IM 2018-034 deprives Plaintiffs and the public of the meaningful opportunity to participate in leasing decisions, including the "Phase One" Final Lease Sales Actions identified above, in violation of FLPMA and NEPA, and CEQ regulations.

- 323. Defendants' adoption of IM 2018-034 was also arbitrary and capricious, as Defendants entirely failed to consider the benefits of public participation; departed without from past lease review policies without explanation; and offered an explanation for its decision that runs counter to the evidence before the agency about the inadequacy of its prior lease review practices, to which BLM reverted under IM 2018-034.
- 324. Accordingly, Defendants' adoption of IM 2018-034 is arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, and not in accordance with law under FLPMA, NEPA and the APA, which has caused or threatens serious prejudice and injury to the rights and interests of Plaintiffs and their officers, members and staff.
- 325. BLM has also applied IM 2018-034 in numerous leasing decisions, including the "Phase One" Final Lease Sales Actions identified above, to constrain public participation opportunities in violation of FLPMA and NEPA, and CEQ regulations.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for relief as set forth below.

FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF: IM 2018-034 VIOLATES THE APA (Failure to undertake notice-and-comment rulemaking)

- 326. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference the preceding paragraphs.
- 327. This Fifth Claim for Relief challenges BLM's adoption of IM 2018-034 as violating requirements for public notice and comment in agency rulemaking under FLPMA, 43 U.S.C. §§ 1739(e) & 1749, the APA, 5 U.S.C. § 553, and CEQ regulations, 40 C.F.R. §§ 1507.3(a) & 1506.6. This claim is brought under the judicial review provisions of the APA, 5 U.S.C. § 706.
- 328. FLMPA provides that the Secretary of Interior, "by regulation, shall establish procedures . . . to give the Federal, State, and local governments and the public" opportunities for

public participation. 43 U.S.C. § 1739(e). FLPMA further requires agencies to follow APA notice and comment procedures when promulgating rules or regulations under its terms. 43 U.S.C. § 1740.

- 329. The APA requires federal agencies to provide for public notice and comment on a proposed rulemaking prior to the agency decision on the proposed rulemaking. 5 U.S.C. § 553(c). These requirements may only be waived "when the agency for good cause finds . . . that notice and public procedure thereon are impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest." 5 U.S.C. § 553(b)(B).
- 330. The CEQ regulations implementing NEPA also require federal agencies to adopt or revise agency-specific procedures on NEPA through notice-and-comment rulemaking and in consultation with CEQ. 40 C.F.R. § 1507.3; see also 40 C.F.R. § 1506.6 ("Agencies shall: . . . (a) Make diligent efforts to involve the public in preparing . . . their NEPA procedures.").
- 331. IM 2018-034 establishes NEPA procedures and public participation procedures for BLM oil and gas leasing decisions.
- 332. BLM did not provide public notice or an opportunity to comment on IM 2018-034 before promulgating it, in violation of FLPMA and CEQ regulations. BLM also did not assert that notice and comment procedures were unnecessary under the "good cause" exception of 5 U.S.C. § 553(b)(B).
- 333. These violations have caused or threaten serious prejudice and irreparable injury to the rights and interests of Plaintiffs and their members and staff.
- 334. Accordingly, IM 2018-034 must be held unlawful and set aside under the APA as without observance of procedure required by FLPMA and CEQ regulations. 5 U.S.C. § 706(2)(D).

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for relief as set forth below.

SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF: IM 2018-026 VIOLATES FLPMA AND THE APA

(Failure to Provide Notice and Comment on Resource Management Plan Amendments)

- 335. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference the preceding paragraphs.
- 336. This Sixth Claim for Relief challenges BLM's adoption of IM 2018-026 as effectively amending the Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments without conforming to the requirements of FLPMA, NEPA, and the APA. This claim is brought under the judicial review provisions of the APA, 5 U.S.C. § 706.
- 337. As noted above, FLPMA requires that the Secretary of Interior develop land use plans and manage the public lands in accordance with those plans. 43 U.S.C. §§ 1712(a) & 1732(a). The land use plans are to be developed and revised "with public involvement and consistent with the terms and conditions of this Act." *Id.*, § 1712(a).
- 338. FLPMA also provides that "[t]he Secretary . . . by regulation shall establish procedures, including public hearings where appropriate, to give Federal, State, and local governments and the public, adequate notice and opportunity to comment upon and participate in the formulation of plans and programs relating to the management of the public lands." 43 U.S.C. § 1712(f); see also 43 U.S.C. § 1739(e). The regulations promulgated under this authority specifically require public participation in land use plan preparation, 43 C.F.R. § 1610.2, amendment, 43 C.F.R..5-5, and revision, 43 C.F.R. 1610.5-6. BLM must conduct appropriate NEPA analysis for land use plan adoption, amendment, and revision as well. 43 C.F.R. §§ 1610.5-1(b), 1610.5-5, 1610.5-6.
- 339. Under the APA, an agency must generally publish public notice of proposed rulemakings, including BLM land use plan amendments and revisions. 5 U.S.C. § 553. The

APA carves out a "narrow" exception to this requirement for interpretative rules, general statements of policy, or rules of agency organization, procedure, or practice. 5 U.S.C. § 553(b)(A). This exception does not apply when, as here, notice or hearing is required by statute. 5 U.S.C. § 553.

- 340. IM 2018-026 violates FLPMA, NEPA, and the APA because it effectively amends BLM's Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments' requirement to prioritize oil and gas leasing outside of sage-grouse habitats, without public notice, comment, or hearing, and without NEPA-compliant analysis.
- 341. Accordingly, Defendants' adoption of IM 2018-026 is arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, and not in accordance with law under FLPMA, NEPA, and the APA, which has caused or threatens serious prejudice and injury to the rights and interests of Plaintiffs and their members and staff.

[NOTE: The prior Seventh Claim for Relief in the First Amended Complaint challenging the Normally Pressured Lance Project has been deleted.]

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court grant the following relief:

- A. Order, adjudge, and declare Defendants violated NEPA, FLPMA, their implementing regulations and policies, and/or the APA in approving each and all of the Final Actions identified above;
- B. Reverse, set aside, hold unlawful, and/or vacate each and all of the Final Actions, and remand them to Defendants;

C. Issue declaratory and/or injunctive relief requiring Defendants to adhere to the

requirements of NEPA, FLPMA, and the APA in their ongoing and future oil and gas lease sales

and development approvals;

D. Declare and adjudge that IM 2018-026 and/or IM 2018-034 are unlawful under

FLPMA, NEPA, and/or the APA, and reverse, set aside and enjoin Defendants from continuing

to implement either or both of them;

E. Declare and adjudge that the Lance project FEIS and Decision are unlawful under

FLPMA, NEPA, and/or the APA, and reverse and set them aside, and enjoin Defendants from

implementing the Lance Project until they have fully complied with law;

<u>E.</u> Enter such other declaratory and/or injunctive relief as Plaintiffs may specifically

request hereafter;

F. Award Plaintiffs their reasonable costs, litigation expenses, and attorney's fees

associated with this litigation under the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2412 et seq.,

and/or all other applicable authorities; and/or

<u>G.</u> Grant such further relief as the Court deems necessary or appropriate in order to

remedy Defendants' violations of law, vindicate the interests of Plaintiffs and the public, and

preserve and protect the public lands and resources at issue.

Dated this 30th day of August, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sarah Stellberg

Laurence ("Laird") J. Lucas (ISB # 4733)

Todd C. Tucci (ISB # 6526)

Sarah Stellberg (ISB #10538)

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 30th day of August, 2019, I electronically filed the foregoing SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system, which sent a Notice of Electronic Filing (NEF) to the following persons who are counsel for opposing parties in this matter:

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APPENDIX A

February 2017 Wyoming Lease Sale

WY-1702-001	WY-1702-043	WY-1702-085	WY-1702-127	WY-1702-169
WY-1702-002	WY-1702-044	WY-1702-086	WY-1702-128	WY-1702-170
WY-1702-003	WY-1702-045	WY-1702-087	WY-1702-129	WY-1702-170 WY-1702-171
WY-1702-003 WY-1702-004	WY-1702-046	WY-1702-087 WY-1702-088	WY-1702-130	WY-1702-171 WY-1702-172
WY-1702-005	WY-1702-047	WY-1702-089	WY-1702-131	WY-1702-173
WY-1702-005 WY-1702-006	WY-1702-047 WY-1702-048	WY-1702-090	WY-1702-131 WY-1702-132	WY-1702-174
WY-1702-007	WY-1702-049	WY-1702-090 WY-1702-091	WY-1702-133 WY-1702-133	WY-1702-174 WY-1702-175
WY-1702-007 WY-1702-008	WY-1702-050	WY-1702-091 WY-1702-092	WY-1702-134	WY-1702-176
WY-1702-009	WY-1702-050 WY-1702-051	WY-1702-093	WY-1702-135	WY-1702-170 WY-1702-177
WY-1702-010	WY-1702-051 WY-1702-052	WY-1702-094	WY-1702-136	WY-1702-177 WY-1702-178
WY-1702-011	WY-1702-053 WY-1702-053	WY-1702-095	WY-1702-137	WY-1702-178 WY-1702-179
WY-1702-011 WY-1702-012	WY-1702-054	WY-1702-096	WY-1702-138	WY-1702-179 WY-1702-180
WY-1702-013	WY-1702-055	WY-1702-097	WY-1702-139	WY-1702-181
WY-1702-014	WY-1702-056	WY-1702-098	WY-1702-140	WY-1702-181 WY-1702-182
WY-1702-015	WY-1702-057	WY-1702-099	WY-1702-141	WY-1702-183
WY-1702-016	WY-1702-057 WY-1702-058	WY-1702-100	WY-1702-141 WY-1702-142	WY-1702-184
WY-1702-017	WY-1702-059	WY-1702-101	WY-1702-143	WY-1702-185
WY-1702-018	WY-1702-060	WY-1702-101 WY-1702-102	WY-1702-144	WY-1702-186
WY-1702-019	WY-1702-061	WY-1702-103	WY-1702-145	WY-1702-187
WY-1702-020	WY-1702-062	WY-1702-104	WY-1702-146	WY-1702-188
WY-1702-021	WY-1702-063	WY-1702-105	WY-1702-147	WY-1702-189
WY-1702-022	WY-1702-064	WY-1702-106	WY-1702-148	WY-1702-190
WY-1702-023	WY-1702-065	WY-1702-107	WY-1702-149	WY-1702-191
WY-1702-024	WY-1702-066	WY-1702-108	WY-1702-150	WY-1702-192
WY-1702-025	WY-1702-067	WY-1702-109	WY-1702-151	WY-1702-193
WY-1702-026	WY-1702-068	WY-1702-110	WY-1702-152	WY-1702-194
WY-1702-027	WY-1702-069	WY-1702-111	WY-1702-153	WY-1702-195
WY-1702-028	WY-1702-070	WY-1702-112	WY-1702-154	WY-1702-196
WY-1702-029	WY-1702-071	WY-1702-113	WY-1702-155	WY-1702-197
WY-1702-030	WY-1702-072	WY-1702-114	WY-1702-156	WY-1702-198
WY-1702-031	WY-1702-073	WY-1702-115	WY-1702-157	WY-1702-199
WY-1702-032	WY-1702-074	WY-1702-116	WY-1702-158	WY-1702-200
WY-1702-033	WY-1702-075	WY-1702-117	WY-1702-159	WY-1702-201
WY-1702-034	WY-1702-076	WY-1702-118	WY-1702-160	WY-1702-202
WY-1702-035	WY-1702-077	WY-1702-119	WY-1702-161	WY-1702-203
WY-1702-036	WY-1702-078	WY-1702-120	WY-1702-162	WY-1702-204
WY-1702-037	WY-1702-079	WY-1702-121	WY-1702-163	WY-1702-205
WY-1702-038	WY-1702-080	WY-1702-122	WY-1702-164	WY-1702-206
WY-1702-039	WY-1702-081	WY-1702-123	WY-1702-165	WY-1702-207
WY-1702-040	WY-1702-082	WY-1702-124	WY-1702-166	<u>WY-1702-208</u>
WY-1702-041	WY-1702-083	WY-1702-125	WY-1702-167	WY-1702-209
WY-1702-042	WY-1702-084	WY-1702-126	WY-1702-168	<u>WY-1702-210</u>

WY-1702-211	WY-1702-226	WY-1702-241	WY-1702-256	WY-1702-271
WY-1702-212	WY-1702-227	WY-1702-242	WY-1702-257	WY-1702-272
WY-1702-213	WY-1702-228	WY-1702-243	WY-1702-258	WY-1702-273
WY-1702-214	WY-1702-229	WY-1702-244	WY-1702-259	WY-1702-274
WY-1702-215	WY-1702-230	WY-1702-245	WY-1702-260	WY-1702-275
WY-1702-216	WY-1702-231	WY-1702-246	WY-1702-261	WY-1702-276
WY-1702-217	WY-1702-232	WY-1702-247	WY-1702-262	WY-1702-277
WY-1702-218	WY-1702-233	WY-1702-248	WY-1702-263	WY-1702-278
WY-1702-219	WY-1702-234	WY-1702-249	WY-1702-264	WY-1702-279
WY-1702-220	WY-1702-235	WY-1702-250	WY-1702-265	WY-1702-280
WY-1702-221	WY-1702-236	WY-1702-251	WY-1702-266	WY-1702-281
WY-1702-222	WY-1702-237	WY-1702-252	WY-1702-267	WY-1702-282
WY-1702-223	WY-1702-238	WY-1702-253	WY-1702-268	WY-1702-283
WY-1702-224	WY-1702-239	WY-1702-254	WY-1702-269	
WY-1702-225	WY-1702-240	WY-1702-255	WY-1702-270	

June 2017 Montana Lease Sale Parcels:

MTM 105431-4H	MTM 105431-L4	MTM 105431-QT	MTM 108952-AW
MTM 105431-66	MTM 105431-L8	MTM 105431-RR	MTM 108952-B4
MTM 105431-67	MTM 105431-MK	MTM 105431-VR	MTM 108952-B6
MTM 105431-74	MTM 105431-ML	MTM 105431-VY	MTM 108952-BT
MTM 105431-77	MTM 105431-PB	MTM 105431-WF	MTM 108952-CA
MTM 105431-84	MTM 105431-PG	MTM 105431-XG	MTM 108952-CE
MTM 105431-8X	MTM 105431-PH	MTM 108952-AA	MTM 108952-CL
MTM 105431-KJ	MTM 105431-QE	MTM 108952-AB	MTM 108952-CN
MTM 105431-KL	MTM 105431-QF	MTM 108952-AG	MTM 108952-CP
MTM 105431-KP	MTM 105431-QH	MTM 108952-AP	MTM 108952-CQ
MTM 105431-KV	MTM 105431-QN	MTM 108952-AQ	MTM 97300-FF
MTM 105431-KW	MTM 105431-QR	MTM 108952-AV	MTM 97300-JY

June 2017 Wyoming Lease Sale Parcels:

WY-1705-001	WY-1705-007	WY-1705-013	WY-1705-019	WY-1705-025
WY-1705-002	WY-1705-008	WY-1705-014	WY-1705-020	WY-1705-026
WY-1705-003	WY-1705-009	WY-1705-015	WY-1705-021	
WY-1705-004	WY-1705-010	WY-1705-016	WY-1705-022	
WY-1705-005	WY-1705-011	WY-1705-017	WY-1705-023	
WY-1705-006	WY-1705-012	<u>WY-1705-018</u>	WY-1705-024	

September 2017 Wyoming Lease Sale Parcels:

WY-1708-001	WY-1708-003	WY-1708-005	WY-1708-007	WY-1708-009
WY-1708-002	WY-1708-004	WY-1708-006	WY-1708-008	WY-1708-010

***** 4 = 00 044	***** 4 = 00 00 =	***** 4 = 0 0 0 6 0	***** 4 = 00 000	***** 4 = 0 0 4 4 =
<u>WY-1708-011</u>	<u>WY-1708-037</u>	<u>WY-1708-063</u>	<u>WY-1708-089</u>	<u>WY-1708-115</u>
WY-1708-012	<u>WY-1708-038</u>	WY-1708-064	WY-1708-090	WY-1708-116
WY-1708-013	WY-1708-039	WY-1708-065	WY-1708-091	WY-1708-117
WY-1708-014	WY-1708-040	WY-1708-066	WY-1708-092	WY-1708-118
WY-1708-015	WY-1708-041	WY-1708-067	WY-1708-093	WY-1708-119
WY-1708-016	WY-1708-042	WY-1708-068	WY-1708-094	WY-1708-120
WY-1708-017	WY-1708-043	WY-1708-069	WY-1708-095	WY-1708-121
WY-1708-018	WY-1708-044	WY-1708-070	WY-1708-096	WY-1708-122
WY-1708-019	WY-1708-045	WY-1708-071	WY-1708-097	WY-1708-123
WY-1708-020	WY-1708-046	WY-1708-072	WY-1708-098	WY-1708-124
WY-1708-021	WY-1708-047	WY-1708-073	WY-1708-099	WY-1708-125
WY-1708-022	WY-1708-048	WY-1708-074	WY-1708-100	WY-1708-126
WY-1708-023	WY-1708-049	WY-1708-075	WY-1708-101	WY-1708-127
WY-1708-024	WY-1708-050	WY-1708-076	WY-1708-102	WY-1708-128
WY-1708-025	WY-1708-051	WY-1708-077	WY-1708-103	WY-1708-129
WY-1708-026	WY-1708-052	WY-1708-078	WY-1708-104	WY-1708-130
WY-1708-027	WY-1708-053	WY-1708-079	WY-1708-105	WY-1708-131
WY-1708-028	WY-1708-054	WY-1708-080	WY-1708-106	WY-1708-132
WY-1708-029	WY-1708-055	WY-1708-081	WY-1708-107	WY-1708-133
WY-1708-030	WY-1708-056	WY-1708-082	WY-1708-108	WY-1708-134
WY-1708-031	WY-1708-057	WY-1708-083	WY-1708-109	WY-1708-135
WY-1708-032	WY-1708-058	WY-1708-084	WY-1708-110	WY-1708-136
WY-1708-033	WY-1708-059	WY-1708-085	WY-1708-111	WY-1708-137
WY-1708-034	WY-1708-060	WY-1708-086	WY-1708-112	WY-1708-138
WY-1708-035	WY-1708-061	WY-1708-087	WY-1708-113	WY-1708-139
WY-1708-036	WY-1708-062	WY-1708-088	WY-1708-114	WY-1708-140

September 2017 Utah Lease Sale Parcels:

<u>UT0817–001</u>

UT0817-002

UT0817-003

UT0817-004

UT0817-005

UT0817-006

UT0817-007

UT0817-008

UT0817-009

December 2017 Montana Lease Sale Parcels:

MTM 108952-C4	MTM 105431-M3	MTM 105431-MP	MTM 105431-NL
MTM 108952-C6	MTM 105431-M9	MTM 105431-MV	MTM 105431-NM
MTM 108952-DB	MTM 105431-NC	MTM 105431-M6	MTM 105431-NF
MTM 108952-C7	MTM 105431-M4	MTM 105431-ND	MTM 105431-NA
MTM 108952-DC	MTM 105431-MU	MTM 105431-NE	MTM 105431-MW

MTM 105431-MR	MTM 105431-T7	MTM 105431-69	MTM 105431-QU
MTM 105431-MQ	MTM 105431-UA	MTM 105431-YE	MTM 105431-QV
MTM 105431-NB	MTM 105431-UQ	MTM 105431-YF	MTM 105431-QW
MTM 105431-NG	MTM 105431-LM	MTM 105431-YH	MTM 105431-7K
MTM 105431-NP	MTM 105431-LN	MTM 105431-YM	MTM 105431-7N
MTM 105431-NH	MTM 105431-U7	MTM 105431-YL	MTM 105431-7R
MTM 105431-N7	MTM 105431-VA	MTM 105431-YQ	MTM 105431-76
MTM 105431-N8	MTM 105431-VC	MTM 105431-YT	MTM 105431-8B
MTM 105431-N9	MTM 105431-VD	MTM 105431-YU	MTM 105431-8C
MTM 105431-PC	MTM 105431-VL	MTM 105431-YV	MTM 105431-8T
MTM 105431-PD	MTM 105431-W6	MTM 105431-YX	MTM 105431-8Y
MTM 105431-PE	MTM 105431-VT	MTM 105431-YY	MTM 105431-83
MTM 105431-PF	MTM 105431-VU	MTM 105431-Y3	MTM 105431-9A
MTM 105431-PJ	MTM 105431-VV	MTM 105431-Y4	MTM 105431-9E
MTM 105431-MM	MTM 105431-VW	MTM 105431-Y6	MTM 105431-9J
MTM 105431-LV	MTM 105431-VX	MTM 105431-Y9	MTM 105431-99
MTM 105431-LW	MTM 105431-V3	MTM 105431-QK	MTM 105431-9V
MTM 105431-MD	MTM 105431-V7	MTM 105431-QL	MTM 105431-9X
MTM 105431-LQ	MTM 105431-V9	MTM 105431-QM	MTM 108952-AC
MTM 105431-LR	MTM 105431-WA	MTM 105431-HK	MTM 108952-AD
MTM 105431-LT	MTM 105431-WB	MTM 105431-HL	MTM 108952-AE
MTM 105431-MF	MTM 105431-WC	MTM 105431-HM	MTM 108952-AM
MTM 105431-QG	MTM 105431-WD	MTM 105431-3A	MTM 108952-AN
MTM 105431-NV	MTM 105431-WE	MTM 105431-3B	MTM 108952-AR
MTM 105431-NW	MTM 105431-WG	MTM 105431-3C	MTM 108952-AT
MTM 105431-N3	MTM 105431-WH	MTM 105431-3J	MTM 108952-AU
MTM 105431-RA	MTM 105431-WJ	MTM 105431-3Q	MTM 108952-A9
MTM 105431-RC	MTM 105431-WP	MTM 105431-3R	MTM 108952-BE
MTM 105431-RF	MTM 105431-WQ	MTM 105431-3T	MTM 108952-BV
MTM 105431-RJ	MTM 105431-X3	MTM 105431-3U	MTM 108952-A3
MTM 105431-RK	MTM 105431-WY	MTM 105431-3V	MTM 108952-BJ
MTM 105431-RL	MTM 105431-W7	MTM 105431-3W	MTM 108952-BL
MTM 105431-RN	MTM 105431-XA	MTM 105431-3X	MTM 108952-B3
MTM 105431-RP	MTM 105431-XB	MTM 105431-3Y	MTM 108952-B7
MTM 105431-R4	MTM 105431-XL	MTM 105431-34	MTM 108952-B8
MTM 105431-TD	MTM 105431-HC	MTM 105431-4G	MTM 108952-CC
MTM 105431-TH	MTM 105431-HD	MTM 105431-4J	MTM 108952-CD
MTM 105431-TJ	MTM 105431-HE	MTM 105431-4M	MTM 108952-CF
MTM 105431-TP	MTM 105431-J3	MTM 105431-4N	MTM 108952-CK
MTM 105431-TW	MTM 108952-CW	MTM 105431-4P	MTM 105431-KR
MTM 105431-T4	MTM 105431-X4	MTM 105431-4Q	MTM 105431-KT
MTM 105431-RB	MTM 105431-X8	MTM 105431-4R	MTM 105431-KU
MTM 105431-RQ	MTM 105431-YD	MTM 105431-6G	MTM 97300-EP
MTM 105431-RT	MTM 105431-6X	MTM 97300-J2	MTM 97300-FE
MTM 105431-RU	MTM 105431-6Y	MTM 105431-QP	MTM 108952-CV
MTM 105431-T6	MTM 105431-68	MTM 105431-QQ	MTM 97300-GG

March 2018 Montana Lease Sale Parcels:

MTM 108952-GT	MTM 108952-DX	MTM 79010-8R	MTM 108952-FR
MTM 108952-GR	MTM 108952 DF	MTM 108952-EG	MTM 93069
MTM 108952-GQ	MTM 108952-DG	MTM 108952-EP	MTM 108952-CR
MTM 105431-JM	MTM 108952-DD	MTM 108952-EQ	MTM 108952-CT
MTM 108952-GP	MTM 108952-DE	MTM 108952-ER	MTM 108952-FC
MTM108952-GN	MTM 108952-DY	MTM 79010-JJ	MTM 108952-CU
MTM 108952-EP	MTM 108952-DK	MTM 108952-DU	MTM 108952-BQ
MTM 108952-GM	MTM 108952-DL	MTM 108952-FV	MTM 108952-E6
MTM 108952-GL	MTM 105431-WK	MTM 108952-FM	MTM 108952-FB
MTM 108952-GJ	MTM 108952-DM	MTM 108952-FN	MTM 108952-E7
MTM 108952-GK	MTM 108952-DN	MTM 108952-FD	MTM 108952-E8
MTM 108952-GH	MTM 108952-DP	MTM 108952-FE	MTM 108952-E9
MTM 108952-GG	MTM 108952-DQ	MTM 105431-KQ	MTM 108952-FA
MTM 108952-EN	MTM 108952-DR	MTM 105431-KG	MTM 108952-PX
MTM 108952-GF	MTM 108952-F3	MTM 108952-FF	MTM 79010-A8
MTM 108952-GE	MTM 108952-FQ	MTM 108952-FG	MTM 79010-B4
MTM 108952-GD	MTM 108952-FX	MTM 108952-FH	MTM 79010-A4
MTM 108952-GB	MTM 108952-FW	MTM 108952-FJ	MTM 79010-B3
MTM 108952-GC	MTM 108952-EE	MTM 108952-FK	MTM 79010-B9
MTM 108952-GA	MTM 108952-EF	MTM 108952-FL	MTM 79010-C1
MTM 108952-F8	MTM 108952-EC	MTM 108952-G6	MTM 79010-HS
MTM 108952-F9	MTM 108952-D7	MTM 108952-EL	MTM 79010-HQ
MTM 108952-F7	MTM 108952-EA	MTM 108952-G4	MTM 105431-HR
MTM 108952-DH	MTM 108952-D8	MTM 108952-EM	MTM 105431-HT
MTM 108952-DJ	MTM 108952-D9	MTM 108952-EJ	MTM 79010-CI
MTM 108952-DV	MTM 108952-ED	MTM 108952-FU	
MTM 108952-DW	MTM 108952-EB	MTM 108952-FT	
MTM 108952-D6	MTM 105431-HW	MTM 108952-F4	

March 2018 Wyoming Lease Sale Parcels:

WY-181Q-032	WY-181Q-076	WY-181Q-089	WY-181Q-099	WY-181Q-109
WY-181Q-033	WY-181Q-077	WY-181Q-090	WY-181Q-100	WY-181Q-110
WY-181Q-034	WY-181Q-078	WY-181Q-091	WY-181Q-101	WY-181Q-111
WY-181Q-037	WY-181Q-079	WY-181Q-092	WY-181Q-102	WY-181Q-112
WY-181Q-042	WY-181Q-080	WY-181Q-093	WY-181Q-103	WY-181Q-113
WY-181Q-043	WY-181Q-081	WY-181Q-094	WY-181Q-104	WY-181Q-114
WY-181Q-044	WY-181Q-085	WY-181Q-095	WY-181Q-105	WY-181Q-115
WY-181Q-073	WY-181Q-086	WY-181Q-096	WY-181Q-106	WY-181Q-116
WY-181Q-074	WY-181Q-087	WY-181Q-097	WY-181Q-107	WY-181Q-117
WY-181Q-075	WY-181Q-088	WY-181Q-098	WY-181Q-108	WY-181Q-118

WY-181Q-119	WY-181Q-127	WY-181Q-133	WY-181Q-139	WY-181Q-145
WY-181Q-120	WY-181Q-128	WY-181Q-134	WY-181Q-140	WY-181Q-146
WY-181Q-121	WY-181Q-129	WY-181Q-135	WY-181Q-141	WY-181Q-147
WY-181Q-124	WY-181Q-130	WY-181Q-136	WY-181Q-142	WY-181Q-150
WY-181Q-125	WY-181Q-131	WY-181Q-137	WY-181Q-143	WY-181Q-153
WY-181Q-126	WY-181Q-132	WY-181Q-138	WY-181Q-144	

June 2018 Nevada Lease Sale <u>Parcels</u> (Battle Mountain District):

NV-18-06-001	NV-18-06-034	NV-18-06-068	NV-18-06-102	NV-18-06-136
NV-18-06-002	NV-18-06-035	NV-18-06-069	NV-18-06-103	NV-18-06-137
NV-18-06-003	NV-18-06-036	NV-18-06-070	NV-18-06-104	NV-18-06-138
NV-18-06-004	NV-18-06-037	NV-18-06-071	NV-18-06-105	NV-18-06-139
NV-18-06-005	NV-18-06-038	NV-18-06-072	NV-18-06-106	NV-18-06-140
NV-18-06-006	NV-18-06-039	NV-18-06-073	NV-18-06-107	NV-18-06-141
NV-18-06-007	NV-18-06-040	NV-18-06-074	NV-18-06-108	NV-18-06-142
NV-18-06-008	NV-18-06-041	NV-18-06-075	NV-18-06-109	NV-18-06-143
NV-18-06-008	NV-18-06-042	NV-18-06-076	NV-18-06-110	NV-18-06-144
NV-18-06-009	NV-18-06-043	NV-18-06-077	NV-18-06-111	NV-18-06-145
NV-18-06-010	NV-18-06-044	NV-18-06-078	NV-18-06-112	NV-18-06-146
NV-18-06-011	NV-18-06-045	NV-18-06-079	NV-18-06-113	NV-18-06-147
NV-18-06-012	NV-18-06-046	NV-18-06-080	NV-18-06-114	NV-18-06-148
NV-18-06-013	NV-18-06-047	NV-18-06-081	NV-18-06-115	NV-18-06-149
NV-18-06-014	NV-18-06-048	NV-18-06-082	NV-18-06-116	NV-18-06-150
NV-18-06-015	NV-18-06-049	NV-18-06-083	NV-18-06-117	NV-18-06-151
NV-18-06-016	NV-18-06-050	NV-18-06-084	NV-18-06-118	NV-18-06-152
NV-18-06-017	NV-18-06-051	NV-18-06-085	NV-18-06-119	NV-18-06-153
NV-18-06-018	NV-18-06-052	NV-18-06-086	NV-18-06-120	NV-18-06-154
NV-18-06-019	NV-18-06-053	NV-18-06-087	NV-18-06-121	NV-18-06-155
NV-18-06-020	NV-18-06-054	NV-18-06-088	NV-18-06-122	NV-18-06-156
NV-18-06-021	NV-18-06-055	NV-18-06-089	NV-18-06-123	NV-18-06-157
NV-18-06-022	NV-18-06-056	NV-18-06-090	NV-18-06-124	NV-18-06-158
NV-18-06-023	NV-18-06-057	NV-18-06-091	NV-18-06-125	NV-18-06-159
NV-18-06-024	NV-18-06-058	NV-18-06-092	NV-18-06-126	NV-18-06-160
NV-18-06-025	NV-18-06-059	NV-18-06-093	NV-18-06-127	NV-18-06-161
NV-18-06-026	NV-18-06-060	NV-18-06-094	NV-18-06-128	NV-18-06-162
NV-18-06-027	NV-18-06-061	NV-18-06-095	NV-18-06-129	NV-18-06-163
NV-18-06-028	NV-18-06-062	NV-18-06-096	NV-18-06-130	NV-18-06-164
NV-18-06-029	NV-18-06-063	NV-18-06-097	NV-18-06-131	NV-18-06-165
NV-18-06-030	NV-18-06-064	NV-18-06-098	NV-18-06-132	NV-18-06-166
NV-18-06-031	NV-18-06-065	NV-18-06-099	NV-18-06-133	
NV-18-06-032	NV-18-06-066	NV-18-06-100	NV-18-06-134	
NV-18-06-033	NV-18-06-067	NV-18-06-101	NV-18-06-135	

June 2018 Wyoming Lease Sale <u>Parcels</u> (Wind River/ Bighorn Basin District, High Desert District):

WY-182Q-001	WY-182Q-034	WY-182Q-067	WY-182Q-100	WY-182Q-133
WY-182Q-002	WY-182Q-035	WY-182Q-068	WY-182Q-101	WY-182Q-134
WY-182Q-003	WY-182Q-036	WY-182Q-069	WY-182Q-102	WY-182Q-135
WY-182Q-004	WY-182Q-037	WY-182Q-070	WY-182Q-103	WY-182Q-136
WY-182Q-005	WY-182Q-038	WY-182Q-071	WY-182Q-104	WY-182Q-137
WY-182Q-006	WY-182Q-039	WY-182Q-072	WY-182Q-105	WY-182Q-138
WY-182Q-007	WY-182Q-040	WY-182Q-073	WY-182Q-106	WY-182Q-139
WY-182Q-008	WY-182Q-041	WY-182Q-074	WY-182Q-107	WY-182Q-140
WY-182Q-009	WY-182Q-042	WY-182Q-075	WY-182Q-108	WY-182Q-141
WY-182Q-010	WY-182Q-043	WY-182Q-076	WY-182Q-109	WY-182Q-142
WY-182Q-011	WY-182Q-044	WY-182Q-077	WY-182Q-110	WY-182Q-143
WY-182Q-012	WY-182Q-045	WY-182Q-078	WY-182Q-111	WY-182Q-144
WY-182Q-013	WY-182Q-046	WY-182Q-079	WY-182Q-112	WY-182Q-145
WY-182Q-014	WY-182Q-047	WY-182Q-080	WY-182Q-113	WY-182Q-146
WY-182Q-015	WY-182Q-048	WY-182Q-081	WY-182Q-114	WY-182Q-147
WY-182Q-016	WY-182Q-049	WY-182Q-082	WY-182Q-115	WY-182Q-148
WY-182Q-017	WY-182Q-050	WY-182Q-083	WY-182Q-116	WY-182Q-149
WY-182Q-018	WY-182Q-051	WY-182Q-084	WY-182Q-117	WY-182Q-150
WY-182Q-019	WY-182Q-052	WY-182Q-085	WY-182Q-118	WY-182Q-151
WY-182Q-020	WY-182Q-053	WY-182Q-086	WY-182Q-119	WY-182Q-152
WY-182Q-021	WY-182Q-054	WY-182Q-087	WY-182Q-120	WY-182Q-153
WY-182Q-022	WY-182Q-055	WY-182Q-088	WY-182Q-121	WY-182Q-154
WY-182Q-023	WY-182Q-056	WY-182Q-089	WY-182Q-122	WY-182Q-155
WY-182Q-024	WY-182Q-057	WY-182Q-090	WY-182Q-123	WY-182Q-156
WY-182Q-025	WY-182Q-058	WY-182Q-091	WY-182Q-124	WY-182Q-157
WY-182Q-026	WY-182Q-059	WY-182Q-092	WY-182Q-125	WY-182Q-158
WY-182Q-027	WY-182Q-060	WY-182Q-093	WY-182Q-126	WY-182Q-159
WY-182Q-028	WY-182Q-061	WY-182Q-094	WY-182Q-127	WY-182Q-160
WY-182Q-029	WY-182Q-062	WY-182Q-095	WY-182Q-128	WY-182Q-161
WY-182Q-030	WY-182Q-063	WY-182Q-096	WY-182Q-129	WY-182Q-162
WY-182Q-031	WY-182Q-064	WY-182Q-097	WY-182Q-130	
WY-182Q-032	WY-182Q-065	WY-182Q-098	WY-182Q-131	
WY-182Q-033	WY-182Q-066	WY-182Q-099	WY-182Q-132	

September 2018 Utah Lease Sale Parcels (West Desert District):

UT0918-001	UT0918-006	UT0918-011	UT0918-016	UT0918-021
UT0918-002	UT0918-007	UT0918-012	UT0918-017	UT0918-022
UT0918-003	UT0918-008	UT0918-013	UT0918-018	UT0918-023
UT0918-004	UT0918-009	UT0918-014	UT0918-019	UT0918-024
UT0918-005	UT0918-010	UT0918-015	UT0918-020	UT0918-025

UT0918-026	UT0918-029	UT0918-032	UT0918-035
UT0918-027	UT0918-030	UT0918-033	UT0918-036
UT0918-028	UT0918-031	UT0918-034	UT0918-037

September 2018 Wyoming Lease Sale <u>Parcels</u> (Wind River/ Bighorn Basin & High Plains Districts):

WW 1020 001	WW 1920 029	WW 1920 075	WW 1920 112	WW 1920 140
WY-183Q-001	WY-183Q-038	WY-183Q-075	WY-183Q-112	WY-183Q-149
WY-183Q-002	WY-183Q-039	WY-183Q-076	WY-183Q-113	WY-183Q-150
WY-183Q-003	WY-183Q-040	WY-183Q-077	WY-183Q-114	WY-183Q-151
WY-183Q-004	WY-183Q-041	WY-183Q-078	WY-183Q-115	WY-183Q-152
WY-183Q-005	WY-183Q-042	WY-183Q-079	WY-183Q-116	WY-183Q-153
WY-183Q-006	WY-183Q-043	WY-183Q-080	WY-183Q-117	WY-183Q-154
WY-183Q-007	WY-183Q-044	WY-183Q-081	WY-183Q-118	WY-183Q-155
WY-183Q-008	WY-183Q-045	WY-183Q-082	WY-183Q-119	WY-183Q-156
WY-183Q-009	WY-183Q-046	WY-183Q-083	WY-183Q-120	WY-183Q-157
WY-183Q-010	WY-183Q-047	WY-183Q-084	WY-183Q-121	WY-183Q-158
WY-183Q-011	WY-183Q-048	WY-183Q-085	WY-183Q-122	WY-183Q-159
WY-183Q-012	WY-183Q-049	WY-183Q-086	WY-183Q-123	WY-183Q-160
WY-183Q-013	WY-183Q-050	WY-183Q-087	WY-183Q-124	WY-183Q-161
WY-183Q-014	WY-183Q-051	WY-183Q-088	WY-183Q-125	WY-183Q-162
WY-183Q-015	WY-183Q-052	WY-183Q-089	WY-183Q-126	WY-183Q-163
WY-183Q-016	WY-183Q-053	WY-183Q-090	WY-183Q-127	WY-183Q-164
WY-183Q-017	WY-183Q-054	WY-183Q-091	WY-183Q-128	WY-183Q-165
WY-183Q-018	WY-183Q-055	WY-183Q-092	WY-183Q-129	WY-183Q-166
WY-183Q-019	WY-183Q-056	WY-183Q-093	WY-183Q-130	WY-183Q-167
WY-183Q-020	WY-183Q-057	WY-183Q-094	WY-183Q-131	WY-183Q-168
WY-183Q-021	WY-183Q-058	WY-183Q-095	WY-183Q-132	WY-183Q-169
WY-183Q-022	WY-183Q-059	WY-183Q-096	WY-183Q-133	WY-183Q-170
WY-183Q-023	WY-183Q-060	WY-183Q-097	WY-183Q-134	WY-183Q-171
WY-183Q-024	WY-183Q-061	WY-183Q-098	WY-183Q-135	WY-183Q-172
WY-183Q-025	WY-183Q-062	WY-183Q-099	WY-183Q-136	WY-183Q-173
WY-183Q-026	WY-183Q-063	WY-183Q-100	WY-183Q-137	WY-183Q-174
WY-183Q-027	WY-183Q-064	WY-183Q-101	WY-183Q-138	WY-183Q-175
WY-183Q-028	WY-183Q-065	WY-183Q-102	WY-183Q-139	WY-183Q-176
WY-183Q-029	WY-183Q-066	WY-183Q-103	WY-183Q-140	WY-183Q-177
WY-183Q-030	WY-183Q-067	WY-183Q-104	WY-183Q-141	WY-183Q-178
WY-183Q-031	WY-183Q-068	WY-183Q-105	WY-183Q-142	WY-183Q-179
WY-183Q-032	WY-183Q-069	WY-183Q-106	WY-183Q-143	WY-183Q-180
WY-183Q-033	WY-183Q-070	WY-183Q-107	WY-183Q-144	WY-183Q-181
WY-183Q-034	WY-183Q-071	WY-183Q-108	WY-183Q-145	WY-183Q-182
WY-183Q-035	WY-183Q-072	WY-183Q-109	WY-183Q-146	WY-183Q-183
WY-183Q-036	WY-183Q-073	WY-183Q-110	WY-183Q-147	WY-183Q-184
WY-183Q-037	WY-183Q-074	WY-183Q-111	WY-183Q-148	WY-183Q-185
	•	•	•	

WY-183Q-186	WY-183Q-219	WY-183Q-252	WY-183Q-285	WY-183Q-318
WY-183Q-187	WY-183Q-220	WY-183Q-253	WY-183Q-286	WY-183Q-319
WY-183Q-188	WY-183Q-221	WY-183Q-254	WY-183Q-287	WY-183Q-320
WY-183Q-189	WY-183Q-222	WY-183Q-255	WY-183Q-288	WY-183Q-321
WY-183Q-190	WY-183Q-223	WY-183Q-256	WY-183Q-289	WY-183Q-322
WY-183Q-191	WY-183Q-224	WY-183Q-257	WY-183Q-290	WY-183Q-323
WY-183Q-192	WY-183Q-225	WY-183Q-258	WY-183Q-291	WY-183Q-324
WY-183Q-193	WY-183Q-226	WY-183Q-259	WY-183Q-292	WY-183Q-325
WY-183Q-194	WY-183Q-227	WY-183Q-260	WY-183Q-293	WY-183Q-326
WY-183Q-195	WY-183Q-228	WY-183Q-261	WY-183Q-294	WY-183Q-327
WY-183Q-196	WY-183Q-229	WY-183Q-262	WY-183Q-295	WY-183Q-328
WY-183Q-197	WY-183Q-230	WY-183Q-263	WY-183Q-296	WY-183Q-329
WY-183Q-198	WY-183Q-231	WY-183Q-264	WY-183Q-297	WY-183Q-330
WY-183Q-199	WY-183Q-232	WY-183Q-265	WY-183Q-298	WY-183Q-331
WY-183Q-200	WY-183Q-233	WY-183Q-266	WY-183Q-299	WY-183Q-332
WY-183Q-201	WY-183Q-234	WY-183Q-267	WY-183Q-300	WY-183Q-333
WY-183Q-202	WY-183Q-235	WY-183Q-268	WY-183Q-301	WY-183Q-334
WY-183Q-203	WY-183Q-236	WY-183Q-269	WY-183Q-302	WY-183Q-335
WY-183Q-204	WY-183Q-237	WY-183Q-270	WY-183Q-303	WY-183Q-336
WY-183Q-205	WY-183Q-238	WY-183Q-271	WY-183Q-304	WY-183Q-337
WY-183Q-206	WY-183Q-239	WY-183Q-272	WY-183Q-305	WY-183Q-338
WY-183Q-207	WY-183Q-240	WY-183Q-273	WY-183Q-306	WY-183Q-339
WY-183Q-208	WY-183Q-241	WY-183Q-274	WY-183Q-307	WY-183Q-340
WY-183Q-209	WY-183Q-242	WY-183Q-275	WY-183Q-308	WY-183Q-341
WY-183Q-210	WY-183Q-243	WY-183Q-276	WY-183Q-309	WY-183Q-342
WY-183Q-211	WY-183Q-244	WY-183Q-277	WY-183Q-310	WY-183Q-343
WY-183Q-212	WY-183Q-245	WY-183Q-278	WY-183Q-311	WY-183Q-344
WY-183Q-213	WY-183Q-246	WY-183Q-279	WY-183Q-312	WY-183Q-345
WY-183Q-214	WY-183Q-247	WY-183Q-280	WY-183Q-313	WY-183Q-346
WY-183Q-215	WY-183Q-248	WY-183Q-281	WY-183Q-314	WY-183Q-347
WY-183Q-216	WY-183Q-249	WY-183Q-282	WY-183Q-315	WY-183Q-348
WY-183Q-217	WY-183Q-250	WY-183Q-283	WY-183Q-316	WY-183Q-349
WY-183Q-218	WY-183Q-251	WY-183Q-284	WY-183Q-317	WY-183Q-350
September 2018	Nevada Lease Sale	<u>Parcels</u> (Elko Distr	rict, Ely District):	
NV-18-09-001	NV-18-09-011	NV-18-09-021	NV-18-09-031	NV-18-09-041
NV-18-09-001 NV-18-09-002	NV-18-09-011 NV-18-09-012	NV-18-09-021 NV-18-09-022	NV-18-09-031 NV-18-09-032	NV-18-09-041 NV-18-09-042
11 V - 10 - 07 - 002	14 4 - 10 - 07 - 012	11 V -10-07-022	11 V -10-07-032	11 V = 10 - 0 / - 0 + 2

NV-18-09-001	NV-18-09-011	NV-18-09-021	NV-18-09-031	NV-18-09-041
NV-18-09-002	NV-18-09-012	NV-18-09-022	NV-18-09-032	NV-18-09-042
NV-18-09-003	NV-18-09-013	NV-18-09-023	NV-18-09-033	NV-18-09-043
NV-18-09-004	NV-18-09-014	NV-18-09-024	NV-18-09-034	NV-18-09-044
NV-18-09-005	NV-18-09-015	NV-18-09-025	NV-18-09-035	NV-18-09-045
NV-18-09-006	NV-18-09-016	NV-18-09-026	NV-18-09-036	NV-18-09-046
NV-18-09-007	NV-18-09-017	NV-18-09-027	NV-18-09-037	NV-18-09-047
NV-18-09-008	NV-18-09-018	NV-18-09-028	NV-18-09-038	NV-18-09-048
NV-18-09-009	NV-18-09-019	NV-18-09-029	NV-18-09-039	NV-18-09-049
NV-18-09-010	NV-18-09-020	NV-18-09-030	NV-18-09-040	NV-18-09-050

NV-18-09-051	NV-18-09-067	NV-18-09-083	NV-18-09-099	NV-18-09-115
NV-18-09-052	NV-18-09-068	NV-18-09-084	NV-18-09-100	NV-18-09-116
NV-18-09-053	NV-18-09-069	NV-18-09-085	NV-18-09-101	NV-18-09-117
NV-18-09-054	NV-18-09-070	NV-18-09-086	NV-18-09-102	NV-18-09-118
NV-18-09-055	NV-18-09-071	NV-18-09-087	NV-18-09-103	NV-18-09-119
NV-18-09-056	NV-18-09-072	NV-18-09-088	NV-18-09-104	NV-18-09-120
NV-18-09-057	NV-18-09-073	NV-18-09-089	NV-18-09-105	NV-18-09-121
NV-18-09-058	NV-18-09-074	NV-18-09-090	NV-18-09-106	NV-18-09-122
NV-18-09-059	NV-18-09-075	NV-18-09-091	NV-18-09-107	NV-18-09-123
NV-18-09-060	NV-18-09-076	NV-18-09-092	NV-18-09-108	NV-18-09-124
NV-18-09-061	NV-18-09-077	NV-18-09-093	NV-18-09-109	NV-18-09-125
NV-18-09-062	NV-18-09-078	NV-18-09-094	NV-18-09-110	NV-18-09-126
NV-18-09-063	NV-18-09-079	NV-18-09-095	NV-18-09-111	NV-18-09-127
NV-18-09-064	NV-18-09-080	NV-18-09-096	NV-18-09-112	NV-18-09-128
NV-18-09-065	NV-18-09-081	NV-18-09-097	NV-18-09-113	NV-18-09-129
NV-18-09-066	NV-18-09-082	NV-18-09-098	NV-18-09-114	

March 2019 Montana Lease Sale Parcels:

MTM 108952-HV	MTM 108952-LN	MTM 105431-RH	MTM 105431-T9
MTM 108952-KJ	MTM 108952-K7	MTM 105431-RM	MTM 105431-UN
MTM 108952-KK	MTM 108952-LC	MTM 105431-RV	MTM 105431-UP
MTM 108952-KH	MTM 108952-LD	MTM 105431-RW	MTM 105431-UU
MTM 108952-KL	MTM 108952-JH	MTM 105431-RX	MTM 105431-U3
MTM 108952-KM	MTM 108952-JM	MTM 105431-RY	MTM 105431-U4
MTM 108952-DT	MTM 108952-KQ	MTM 105431-R3	MTM 105431-U6
MTM 108952-H8	MTM 108952-JN	MTM 105431-R6	MTM 105431-U8
MTM 108952-KG	MTM 108952-JB	MTM 105431-R7	MTM 105431-U9
MTM 108952-HC	MTM 108952-JE	MTM 105431-R8	MTM 105431-VB
MTM 108952-HW	MTM 108952-JJ	MTM 105431-R9	MTM 105431-VE
MTM 108952-KB	MTM 108952-JP	MTM 105431-TA	MTM 105431-VF
MTM 102757-GC	MTM 108952-JC	MTM 105431-TB	MTM 105431-VG
MTM 102757-GD	MTM 108952-JF	MTM 105431-TC	MTM 105431-VH
MTM 102757-GE	MTM 108952-JK	MTM 105431-TE	MTM 105431-VJ
MTM 102757-GF	MTM 108952-JO	MTM 105431-TF	MTM 105431-VK
MTM 102757-GH	MTM 108952-JD	MTM 105431-TG	MTM 105431-VM
MTM 102757-GJ	MTM 108952-JG	MTM 105431-TK	MTM 105431-VN
MTM 102757-GK	MTM 108952-JU	MTM 105431-TL	MTM 105431-VP
MTM 102757-GL	MTM 108952-JV	MTM 105431-TM	MTM 105431-VQ
MTM 105431-HQ	MTM 108952-JT	MTM 105431-TN	MTM 105431-W3
MTM 108952-KV	MTM 108952-JR	MTM 105431-TQ	MTM 105431-W4
MTM 108952-KD	MTM 108952-KN	MTM 105431-TR	MTM 105431-V4
MTM 108952-HE	MTM 105431-Q9	MTM 105431-TT	MTM 105431-V6
MTM 108952-H4	MTM 105431-RE	MTM 105431-TU	MTM 105431-V8
MTM 108952-LE	MTM 105431-RD	MTM 105431-TV	MTM 105431-WR
MTM 108952-LF	MTM 105431-RG	MTM 105431-T8	MTM 105431-WU

MTM 105431-WV	MTM 105431-YK	MTM 105431-9L	MTM 108952-EY
MTM 105431-XM	MTM 105431-YN	MTM 105431-9M	MTM 105431-KM
MTM 105431-XN	MTM 105431-YP	MTM 105431-9N	MTM 105431-KN
MTM 105431-XP	MTM 105431-YR	MTM 105431-9P	MTM 97300-FH
MTM 105431-XQ	MTM 105431-3D	MTM 105431-9Q	MTM 108952-HR
MTM 105431-XR	MTM 105431-3E	MTM 105431-9R	MTM 105431-NJ
MTM 105431-XT	MTM 105431-3F	MTM 105431-9T	MTM 105431-NK
MTM 105431-XU	MTM 105431-3G	MTM 105431-9U	MTM 105431-MX
MTM 105431-X6	MTM 105431-3H	MTM 105431-9W	MTM 105431-M7
MTM 105431-X7	MTM 105431-3K	MTM 105431-9Y	MTM 105431-M8
MTM 105431-X9	MTM 105431-3L	MTM 105431-93	MTM 105431-NN
MTM 105431-YA	MTM 105431-3M	MTM 105431-94	MTM 108952-HJ
MTM 105431-YB	MTM 105431-3N	MTM 108952-AF	MTM 105431-MY
MTM 105431-YC	MTM 105431-3P	MTM 108952-KW	MTM 105431-PA
MTM 105431-36	MTM 105431-33	MTM 108952-KX	MTM 105431-PK
MTM 105431-37	MTM 105431-7G	MTM 108952-KY	MTM 108952-HT
MTM 105431-37 MTM 105431-38	MTM 105431-7H	MTM 108952-K6	MTM 108952-HU
MTM 105431-38 MTM 105431-39	MTM 105431-711 MTM 105431-7J	MTM 108952-K6 MTM 108952-JL	MTM 108952-HK
MTM 105431-4A	MTM 105431-75 MTM 105431-7L	MTM 108952-JL MTM 108952- LK	MTM 105431-ME
MTM 105431-4A MTM 105431-4B	MTM 105431-7L MTM 105431-7M	MTM 108952-EK MTM 108952-BA	MTM 105431-ME MTM 105431-MG
MTM 105431-4B MTM 105431-4C	MTM 105431-7NI MTM 105431-7P	MTM 108952-BR	MTM 105431-MG MTM 105431-MH
MTM 105431-4D	MTM 105431-7Q	MTM 108952-BU	MTM 108952-HF
MTM 105431-4E	MTM 105431-7T	MTM 108952-BW	MTM 108952-HL
MTM 105431-4T	MTM 105431-7U	MTM 108952-BX	MTM 108952-HM
MTM 105431-4U	MTM 105431-7V	MTM 108952-BY	MTM 108952-HN
MTM 105431-4V	MTM 105431-7W	MTM 108952-AX	MTM 108952-JA
MTM 105431-4W	MTM 105431-7X	MTM 108952-AY	MTM 105431-N4
MTM 105431-4X	MTM 105431-78	MTM 108952-A4	MTM 105431-N6
MTM 105431-4Y	MTM 105431-79	MTM 108952-A6	MTM 105431-PL
MTM 105431-43	MTM 105431-8A	MTM 108952-A7	MTM 105431-PM
MTM 105431-44	MTM 105431-8D	MTM 108952-BK	MTM 105431-PQ
MTM 105431-46	MTM 108952-JW	MTM 108952-BM	MTM 105431-PU
MTM 105431-47	MTM 105431-9B	MTM 108952-BN	MTM 105431-PV
MTM 105431-48	MTM 105431-9C	MTM 108952-BP	MTM 105431-PW
MTM 105431-49	MTM 105431-9D	MTM 108952-B9	MTM 105431-PR
MTM 105431-6V	MTM 105431-9F	MTM 108952-CB	MTM 105431-PN
MTM 105431-63	MTM 105431-9G	MTM 108952-CG	MTM 105431-PP
MTM 105431-64	MTM 105431-9H	MTM 108952-CH	MTM 105431-PT
MTM 105431-7A	MTM 105431-96	MTM 108952-CJ	MTM 105431-PX
MTM 105431-7B	MTM 105431-97	MTM 108952-CM	MTM 105431-PY
MTM 105431-7C	MTM 105431-98	MTM 108952-K8	MTM 105431-P3
MTM 105431-7D	MTM 108952-AH	MTM 108952-K9	MTM 105431-P4
MTM 105431-7E	MTM 108952-AJ	MTM 108952-LA	MTM 105431-P6
MTM 105431-7F	MTM 108952-AK	MTM 108952-LB	MTM 105431-P7
MTM 105431-YG	MTM 108952-AL	MTM 108952-EW	MTM 105431-P8
MTM 105431-YJ	MTM 105431-9K	MTM 108952-EX	MTM 105431-P9

MTM 105431-QA	MTM 108952-D4	MTM 97300-D2	MTM 97300-TP
MTM 108952-HP	MTM 105431-JK	MTM 108952-E3	MTM 97300-TT
MTM 108952-D3	MTM 105431-JL	MTM 108952-E4	MTM 97300-TN

February 2019 Wyoming Lease Sale Parcels:

WY-184Q-FEB 19-001	WY-184Q-FEB 19-043	WY-184Q-FEB 19-083
WY-184Q-FEB 19-002	WY-184Q-FEB 19-044	WY-184Q-FEB 19-084
WY-184Q-FEB 19-003	WY-184Q-FEB 19-045	WY-184Q-FEB 19-085
WY-184Q-FEB 19-004	WY-184Q-FEB 19-046	WY-184Q-FEB 19-086
WY-184Q-FEB 19-005	WY-184Q-FEB 19-047	WY-184Q-FEB 19-087
WY-184Q-FEB 19-006	WY-184Q-FEB 19-048	WY-184Q-FEB 19-088
WY-184Q-FEB 19-007	WY-184Q-FEB 19-049	WY-184Q-FEB 19-089
WY-184Q-FEB 19-008	WY-184Q-FEB 19-050	WY-184Q-FEB 19-090
WY-184Q-FEB 19-009	WY-184Q-FEB 19-051	WY-184Q-FEB 19-091
WY-184Q-FEB 19-010	WY-184Q-FEB 19-052	WY-184Q-FEB 19-092
WY-184Q-FEB 19-011	WY-184Q-FEB 19-053	WY-184Q-FEB 19-093
WY-184Q-FEB 19-012	WY-184Q-FEB 19-054	WY-184Q-FEB 19-094
WY-184Q-FEB 19-013	WY-184Q-FEB 19-055	WY-184Q-FEB 19-095
WY-184Q-FEB 19-014	WY-184Q-FEB 19-056	WY-184Q-FEB 19-096
WY-184Q-FEB 19-015	WY-184Q-FEB 19-057	WY-184Q-FEB 19-097
WY-184Q-FEB 19-016	WY-184Q-FEB 19-058	WY-184Q-FEB 19-098
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