

The Mono County Board of Supervisors will host a workshop with the US Fish & Wildlife Service (Service) on the proposed listing and critical habitat designation for the Bi-State Distinct Population Segment of Greater Sage Grouse on

**Tuesday, December 3, 2013**  
**2 to 4 pm**  
**Memorial Hall, Bridgeport**

The workshop will include a presentation by the Service, followed by a question-and-answer session by the Board and public. Unless an extension is granted, the public comment period closes **Dec. 27, 2013**.

### **CITIZEN CALL TO ACTION**

**We are urging local residents to send requests to extend the comment period** by 90 days to the US Fish & Wildlife Service and Congressman Paul Cook.

Mono County has sent an official comment extension request to ensure sufficient public outreach and understanding of this significant proposed federal action that could designate critical habitat on over 82% of the private land base in unincorporated Mono County (see attached map). The current 60-day comment period provides a very limited amount of time compressed over the hectic holiday season (Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas) to respond on an extremely significant and potentially far-reaching federal action impacting Mono County and its citizens. It appears inappropriate to expect Mono County and its citizens to set aside holiday activities to prepare comments over Christmas. The timing seems to suppress comment.

Other reasons for extending the comment period include the need for time to:

- Understand the scientific basis for the listing action;
- Research the consequences of the action on local government and the private property rights of landowners;
- Gain clarity on proposed agricultural and Bi-State Plan exemptions and how they will affect land use and permit processes;
- Understand exemption proposals and options, such as the one proposed for City of Los Angeles properties, and examine potential exemptions for other lands in Mono County; and
- Review the proposed critical habitat maps, which currently include a number of Mono County communities.

The Service granted a 90-day extension for the recent proposed listing of the Yosemite toad and yellow-legged frog, which was appreciated and needed to adequately respond. An extension of at least the same amount of time should be granted to respond on this critical potential federal action affecting the majority of privately owned lands in Mono County. We urge you to inspect the attached map and pass this notice along to any neighbors or other citizens who would be affected by critical habitat designation.

Send your extension request to:

#### **US Fish and Wildlife Service**

Electronically: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and enter "FWS-R8-ES-2013-0072" in the search box. Click on "Comment Now!"

By mail: Public Comments Processing  
Attn: FWS-R8-ES-2013-0072  
Division of Policy & Directives Management  
US Fish & Wildlife Service  
4401 N. Fairfax Dr., MS 2042 – PDM  
Arlington, VA 22203

#### **Congressman Cook**

Electronically: Go to <https://cook.house.gov/contact/email-me>, enter your zip code, and write your message.

By mail: The Honorable Congressman Cook  
Apple Valley District Office  
14955 Dale Evans Parkway  
Apple Valley, CA 92307

Please forward this email to any interested parties. For more information, contact Courtney Weiche, associate planner, at 760.924.1803 or [cweiche@mono.ca.gov](mailto:cweiche@mono.ca.gov)