

State Representative  
Cliff Bentz  
House District 60

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## Important BLM Hearings Scheduled on Sage Grouse

ONTARIO—The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is holding a series of hearings regarding the BLM's response to the possible listing, under the Endangered Species Act, of the sage grouse. Rep. Cliff Bentz (R-Ontario) strongly encourages those concerned about the future of Eastern Oregon to attend and participate in these hearings. The hearings will be held in the following locations and at the following times:

### **Prineville**

January 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30-7:30pm (PST)  
At the Crook County Library

### **Burns**

January 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30-7:30pm (PST)  
At the Harney County Senior Center

### **Ontario**

January 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30-7:30pm (MST)  
At the Four Rivers Cultural Center

### **Baker City**

January 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30-7:30pm (PST)  
At the Baker County Events Center

### **Lakeview**

January 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:30-7:30pm (PST)  
At the Lakeview District Office

### **Jordan Valley**

January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30-7:30pm (MST)  
At the Lion's Hall

### **Durkee**

January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30-7:30pm (PST)  
Location TBA

“It is extremely important for Eastern Oregonians to tell the BLM how it’s proposed plan will impact local communities, businesses, schools, and rural populations across Eastern Oregon,” said Rep. Bentz

Among other serious impacts, the proposed Resource Plan Amendment will remove approximately 117,000 acres of land from important economic use, reserving those areas primarily for sage grouse habitat.

“This is the first significant step in what could be a sequence of devastating changes to the use of land across much of Eastern Oregon. Although the proposed listing of the sage grouse requires an appropriate response, long-term and cumulative impacts to local economies and the social aspects of those communities must also be taken into account. Because Eastern Oregon communities are dependent upon the land that surrounds them, these restrictions, with more likely to follow, could result in the further emptying-out of Eastern Oregon,” Rep. Bentz noted.

Rep. Bentz strongly suggests that those who own businesses, homes, or investments in Eastern Oregon appear at these hearings and state their concerns about the BLM’s proposed plan’s impact on communities and the environment.

If you cannot attend the meetings, the draft Environmental Impact Statement is open for public comment through February 20, 2014. Comments can be sent via email at: [blm\\_or\\_gsg\\_planning\\_comments@blm.gov](mailto:blm_or_gsg_planning_comments@blm.gov), or mailed to:

BLM—Greater Sage-Grouse EIS  
1220 SW 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.  
Portland, OR 97204

The full Oregon Sub-Regional Greater Sage-Grouse Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendment/EIS can be found at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/energy/opportunity/sagebrush.php>.

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