

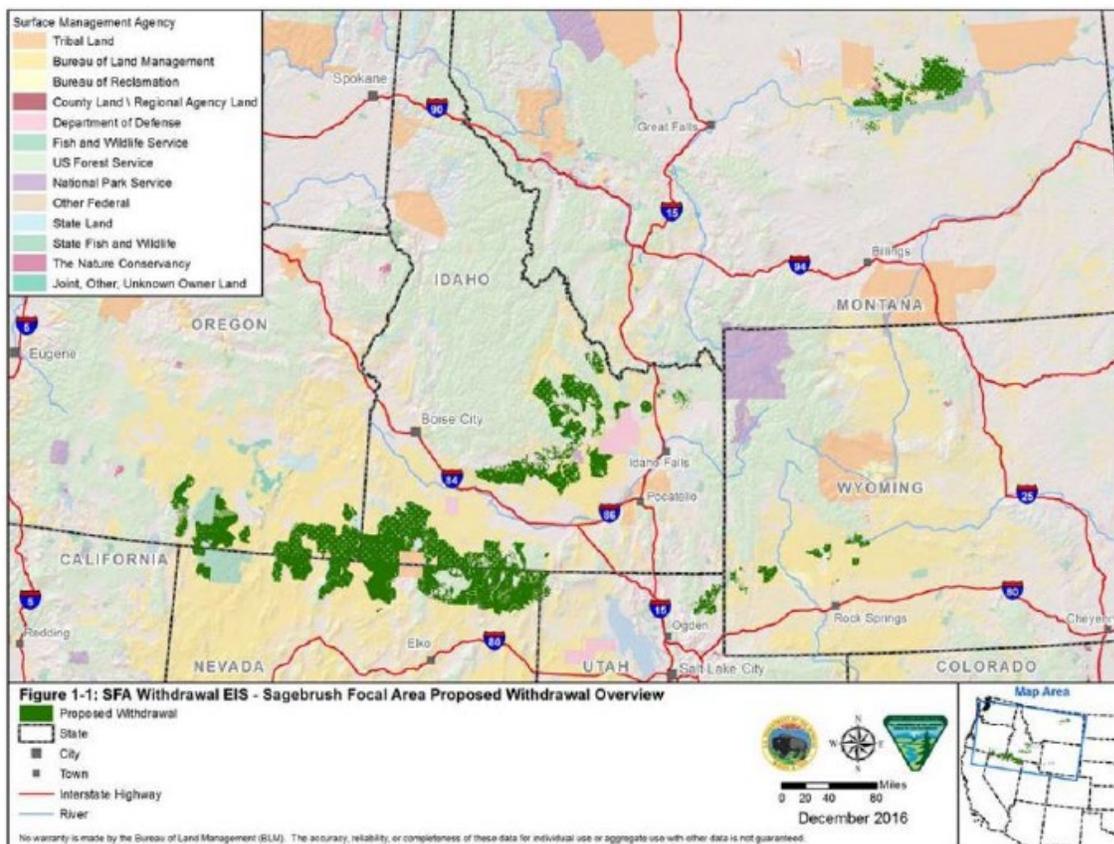


BLM Resurrects Proposed Withdrawal of 10 Million Acres of Federal Land

By: [Nicole Blevins](#)

On Friday, the Department of the Interior (DOI) [announced](#) its re-initiation of consideration of a 2015 proposal to withdraw 10 million acres of public land from the National Forest System from location and entry under the U.S. mining laws to protect the Greater Sage-Grouse habitat (Proposal). While this announcement primarily affects the mining industry, it signals the Biden Administration’s likely reversion to the Obama Administration’s Greater Sage-Grouse policies, which may include more stringent avoidance and mitigation requirements for oil and gas development in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat and less coordination with state wildlife agencies.

The land proposed for withdrawal is shown below in green:



The announcement follows the U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho's order vacating the Trump Administration's withdrawal of the Proposal and remanding the matter to the DOI for further consideration, issued earlier this year.

Environmental groups' challenges to the underlying Obama-Era 2015 plans are currently on hold pending the Biden Administration's review of BLM's compensatory mitigation policy and the 2019 Greater Sage-Grouse Resource Plan Amendments. In a recent litigation status report, DOI stated that it anticipates that the current compensatory mitigation policy will be revised or rescinded. In addition, DOI plans to soon initiate a new planning process to include any new information and revisit deficiencies previously identified by the Court.

For additional information on the Proposal or questions regarding development in Greater Sage-Grouse habitat, please contact [Nicole Blevins](#), [Theresa Sauer](#), or [Bret Sumner](#).

For additional information regarding litigation involving the Greater Sage-Grouse, please contact [Malinda Morain](#) or [Bret Sumner](#).