



## Environmental Plaintiffs File Two Lawsuits Challenging Federal Oil and Gas Lease Sales in Wyoming, North Dakota, Montana, Nevada and Utah

On April 30, 2018, environmental plaintiff organizations filed two separate lawsuits challenging Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) 2017 and 2018 federal oil and gas lease sales. Specifically, the lawsuits challenge the following BLM oil and gas lease sales:

### Wyoming:

- February 2017 (Powder River Basin, Wind River Big Horn Basin)
- June 2017 (Pinedale, Rawlins, Rock Springs, and Kemmerer Offices)
- September 2017 (Powder River Basin, Wind River Big Horn Basin)
- December 2017 (Rawlins and Kemmerer Offices)
- March 2018 (Powder River Basin, Wind River Big Horn Basin)

### North Dakota and Montana:

- June 2017 (Miles City District)
- December 2017 (Miles City District)
- March 2018 (North Dakota)

### Utah and Nevada:

- September 2017 (Utah)
- December 2017 (Nevada)
- March 2018 (Nevada)

The complaints allege that the Department of the Interior and BLM violated the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA) and the National Environmental Policy Act in offering the lease parcels for sale. The suits allege that BLM failed to comply with the federal land use plan prescriptions regarding greater sage grouse management.

In addition, one of the lawsuits seeks a declaratory order and injunctive relief requiring BLM to adhere to the sage grouse provisions of federal land use plans and policies issued in 2015 under the prior presidential administration.

The lawsuits are styled: [\*Western Watersheds Project, and Center for Biological Diversity. vs. Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior, et al.\*](#) CV No. 01:18-cv-187 (D. Idaho) and [\*Montana Wildlife Federation, The Wilderness Society, National Audubon Society, and National Wildlife Federation vs. Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior, et al.\*](#), No. 4:18-cv-000699-BMM (D. Mont.)

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