

Sage Grouse Plan Aims For Balance Between Industry, Wildlife

BY MATTHEW BROWN AND MEAD GRUVER
Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. — A cooperative effort to save a ground-dwelling bird has diverted it from possible extinction, federal officials declared Tuesday, as they sought to safeguard the habitat of a declining species while maintaining key pieces of the American West's economy — oil and gas drilling and ranching.

The Obama administration said the greater sage grouse does not require Endangered Species Act protections, walking a fine line with its assertion that economic development and preservation can coexist across the bird's 11-state range.

But critics from each side of the political spectrum quickly denounced the move, concentrating on new plans signed in conjunction with the decision that will guide the use of 67 million acres of public lands.

Industry representatives and some Republicans claim the plans would unnecessarily lock up land from drilling, mining and other uses. Wildlife advocates countered that loopholes in those plans still would allow drilling, further threatening the chicken-sized grouse.

Tuesday's announcement reversed a 2010 finding that the bird was headed toward possible extinction as development cut into its vast but shrinking sagebrush habitat ranging from California to the Dakotas.

Flanked by the governors of Wyoming, Montana,

Nevada and Colorado, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said at an event near Denver that a massive five-year effort to keep the bird off the endangered and threatened species list had paid off. That includes commitments of more than \$750 million from government and outside interest groups to buy up conservation easements and restore the bird's range.

Jewell called it "the largest, most complex land conservation effort" in U.S. history.

"It does mean a brighter future for one amazing, scrappy bird," Jewell said at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge.

The government will provide some level of habitat protections on most federal lands in the grouse's range, including 12 million acres where strict limits on oil and gas limits will be enforced, Jewell said. The federal holdings make up more than a third of the animal's total range and do not include millions of acres of private land that will be restored or protected, agency officials said.

The species once numbered an estimated 16 million birds. Over the last century, they lost roughly half their habitat to development, livestock grazing and an invasive grass that's encouraging wildfires in the Great Basin of Nevada and adjoining states. An estimated 200,000 to 500,000 birds now occupy sagebrush habitat spanning 11 states.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2010 declared the species to be in precipitous

decline. Under a court settlement with the group WildEarth Guardians, Fish and Wildlife faced a Sept. 30 deadline to decide the bird's status.

Criticism of the administration had been brewing for months, as the deadline approached and drafts of the land-use plans emerged.

Erik Molvar with WildEarth Guardians said Interior Department officials had turned an opportunity to help the grouse into "an epic conservation failure." He said exceptions, modifications and waivers within the land-use plans mean protections could evaporate with the stroke of a pen.

Republicans cast the issue as evidence of endangered-species laws run amok. Congress last year voted to block Fish and Wildlife from spending money on efforts to change the bird's legal status.

House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop said the decision on grouse was a "cynical ploy" intended to mask the fact that the Obama administration was imposing limits on development across the West.

"Do not be fooled," the Utah Republican said in a statement. "The Obama administration's oppressive land management plan is the same thing as a listing" under the Endangered Species Act.

Jewell said the strictest development rules don't apply to 90 percent of lands with "medium or high potential" to produce oil and gas.

At the center of the fracas

has been Wyoming, home to roughly 40 percent of the bird's population and a hub of fossil fuel development, with huge potential for wind energy and uranium mines.

Efforts to avoid protections there have resulted in a significant impact: No drilling may take place near vital sage grouse breeding grounds during nesting season and oil and gas wells in core habitat must be clustered together. Other states have adopted similar plans.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture also has worked with ranchers to improve habitat by removing fences, uprooting invasive trees and buying conservation easements to keep the land from being altered.

Nevada rancher Duane Coombs said a more trustful relationship between residents of Western states and Washington helped make those measures possible.

He said during Tuesday's event that although he inherited his father's distrust of the federal government, he raised his daughter to help him tie markers on ranch fences to keep sage grouse from flying into them and getting killed.

"The sage grouse was going to be the spotted owl for the livestock grazing industry," he said, referring to federal wildlife protections approved 25 years ago that greatly impeded the logging industry. "You know, we saw the way the spotted owl, the impact that that had on the timber industry in the 80s. And that was the fear."

Manslaughter Trial Delayed For Midwife

BROKEN BOW, Neb. (AP) — A trial has been scheduled in April for an unlicensed midwife charged with manslaughter and other crimes in the 2011 death of a Nebraska newborn.

The trial of 68-year-old Judy Jones, of Irene, South Dakota, had been scheduled to begin next month. Broken Bow radio station KNCN reports that Custer County Attorney Steven Bowers asked for a delay, however, so evidence from a defense expert could be reviewed. The nonjury trial has been rescheduled to begin April 19.

Jones is charged with manslaughter, practicing without a license and criminal impersonation. Authorities have said Jones helped deliver a baby in rural Custer County home in September 2011, defying orders prohibiting her from practicing as a midwife in Nebraska and South Dakota. The infant died shortly after birth.

Fall Enrollment At Public Universities

PIERRE (AP) — Enrollment at South Dakota's six public universities has remained flat this fall.

The South Dakota Board of Regents on Tuesday said the headcount enrollment was down by 93 students to 36,439, a decrease of about quarter a percent over last year.

The number of full-time equivalent students decreased by more than 50 students to about 26,684, that's a drop of about one-fifth of a percent. The number of full-time equivalent students is based on total credit hours generated by all students within the university system.

CEO Mike Rush says the board is not surprised by the flat enrollment given the very low unemployment rates in the state. He adds education officials must continue to emphasize the "critical role" that higher education plays in individual success and the state's economy.

Crash Near Plankinton Kills Man

PLANKINTON (AP) — A two-vehicle crash near Plankinton has killed a man from the town.

The Highway Patrol says 59-year-old James Knigge was driving a van that collided with a semitrailer at an intersection a mile east of Plankinton shortly before 6 p.m. Monday.

Knigge died at the scene. The 74-year-old Plankinton man driving the semi was not hurt.

18-Year-Old Shot By Law Enforcement

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say an 18-year-old transient man who was shot by law enforcement officers outside the Nebraska Capitol was fleeing from a police traffic stop.

Lancaster County Sheriff Terry Wagner says Tarek Artis of Lincoln jumped out of the backseat of the car that a Lincoln police officer had stopped shortly after 1 p.m. Tuesday. Wagner says Artis had a handgun and led authorities on a chase that ended when he was shot.

Authorities say a Lancaster County deputy sheriff and a deputy U.S. marshal who joined the chase both fired their weapons. Witnesses say they heard three or four shots and reported that Artis appeared to have been hit in the thighs.

The deputy sheriff has been placed on administrative leave. Lincoln police are investigating.

Man Accused Of Shackling Teen

PLATTSMOUTH, Neb. (AP) — A December trial has been scheduled for a 35-year-old eastern Nebraska man accused of shackling his teenage nephew to a bed to keep the boy from going out and misbehaving.

Cass County District Court records say Wade Merry, of Plattsmouth, on Monday pleaded not guilty to felony child abuse. His trial is set to begin on Dec. 2.

Police say the 14-year-old was shackled to the bed at least a dozen times. A court document says Merry told police he restrained the boy while Merry worked overnight shifts at a bakery. Merry says he was frustrated by the boy's behavior problems.

Police say Merry gave the boy a cup in case he needed to use a bathroom while shackled.

Man Charged Again With 2009 Slaying

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A 25-year-old man awaiting trial in two 2014 slayings has been charged again with fatally shooting one man and wounding another at a northeast Omaha store in 2009.

Police say Akeem Jones is charged with murder, assault and two weapons counts stemming from the March 11, 2009, shooting inside BJ's convenience store. Twenty-two-year-old Gary Holmes died later and Rodney Smith, then 22, was hospitalized.

Jones was charged with the same crimes then, but a judge dismissed the case a year later when a key witness didn't show up for a hearing.

Jones also is accused of killing Johnnesha Brown and her boyfriend, Stephen Arps, in November 2014. Jones has pleaded not guilty.

His attorney in the 2014 case didn't immediately return a call Tuesday from The Associated Press.

Second Week Of Trial Of Peterson Case

CANTON (AP) — The prosecution has rested its case in the South Dakota trial of a man accused of killing the 2-year-old son of Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson.

Twenty-nine-year-old Joseph Patterson has pleaded not guilty to second-degree murder and other charges in the October 2013 death of Tyrese Robert Ruffin, who was the son of his girlfriend and Peterson.

Patterson's trial is in its second week. The state rested its case Monday, and it's now the defense's turn to present witnesses.

The main question jurors must answer is whether the death of Tyrese was an accident. Investigators allege that Patterson assaulted Tyrese while they were alone in a Sioux Falls apartment. Patterson says Tyrese choked on a fruit snack.

Patterson faces a mandatory life prison sentence if convicted of second-degree murder.

Group Buying Properties To Create Art District In Omaha

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A group led by the Peter Kiewit Foundation has been purchasing properties in downtown Omaha where it will create an "arts and trades" district.

Future Forward LLC is investing about \$7 million to buy buildings and offer affordable leases to entrepreneurs, artisans, techies and other creative tenants. The group has assembled more than 25 acres with buildings containing 175,000 square

feet of space in an area north of TD Ameritrade Park, the *Omaha World-Herald* reported.

Lyn Wallin Ziegenbein, a spokeswoman for Future Forward, said the investors don't intend to develop the land. But they plan to clean up and make structural improvements to the neighborhood.

The investors, who wish to remain anonymous, hope the district will revitalize the area formerly dominated by heavy

industry and commerce, where it seems development has stalled.

"We want to be a good steward of this section of the community, which is fragile and has, in some ways, been abandoned," said Ziegenbein, executive director emerita of the Peter Kiewit Foundation.

Patches of the area have been so neglected and isolated that chop shops and other unlicensed operations have been able to move in, she said.

OBITUARIES

Sandra 'Sandy' Langeland

Sandra Kaye "Sandy" (Johansen) Langeland, age 60 of Yankton, passed away Thursday, September 17, 2015 at Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton.

Memorial services will be at 11:00 a.m. Friday, September 25 at Christ the King Lutheran Church, Yankton, with Rev. Dani Jo Ninke officiating. Burial will be in the Spring Valley Lutheran Cemetery, rural Viborg, SD at a later date.

Visitations will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, September 24 at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home and Crema-



Langeland

tory, Yankton with a prayer service and memory sharing at 7:00 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

For online condolences, go to www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com.

Sandra was born on April 29, 1955 in Viborg, SD to Robert and Dorothy (Dickerson) Johansen. Sandy attended school in Viborg, Freeman, and Menno and graduated from

Menno High School in 1973. She was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith and was a member of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Yankton.

Sandra worked at the Human Services Center for 24 years and other numerous places in Yankton thereafter. She loved being on the farm, working with animals, spending time with her family and friends and going to rummage sales and antique shops with her friends.

Sandra is survived by many beloved friends and family including: her two sons, Travis Langeland of Seattle, WA and Jef-

frey (Nicole) Langeland of Minneapolis, MN; two grandchildren, Harrison and Elijah Langeland; her parents, Robert and Dorothy Johansen; three brothers: Neal (Linda) Johansen of Corpus Christi, TX, David (Jane) Johansen of Omaha, NE, and Timothy Johansen of Cheyenne, WY and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents.

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September 23, 2015

PSAHL-KOSTEL
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY INC.
Online condolences at:
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Nicolene Fiedler

Nicolene Clare Fiedler, age 75, of Yankton, South Dakota, died from severe, untreatable complications from cancer on Sunday, September 20, 2015. One of her final wishes was to spend her final days in the familiar surroundings of her home under hospice care. Her family cannot say enough on behalf of the people that are a part of the Hospice Team. Their compassion, caring and professionalism provided a personal loving kind of care that was an answer to so many prayers.

A Memorial Mass will be at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, September 24 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Yankton with Reverend Larry Regynski officiating. Inurnment will be in the Garden of Memories Cemetery in Yankton. The family will receive friends



Fiedler

one hour prior to the Mass on Thursday at the church.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton.

Urnbearers are Rex Fiedler and Nick Paulus.

Nicolene Clare Fiedler was born May 28, 1940, in Eau Claire, Wisconsin to Otto and Catherine (Paulus) Teske. She graduated from Regis High School in Eau Claire in 1958. Nicci's career in life was spent in the banking industry. She retired from Omaha National Bank in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1985. She was in charge of the department that readied student loan packages for sale on the secondary markets. After leaving

Omaha, Nicci spent several years working as a teller in various South Dakota and Iowa local banks. She married Terry Fiedler on June 2, 1984 in Omaha. They lived in Cedar Rapids Iowa for many years before moving back to South Dakota. Her devotion to helping Merlin and Aileene in their final years was a blessing to the entire family.

She faithfully attended Mass at Bishop Marty Chapel in Yankton for many years. She cherished the close friendships she made with so many of the Benedictine Sisters. Each of them was very special to her. Her friendly spirit and caring attitude touched the lives of everyone she met.

Survivors include her husband, Terry Fiedler of Yankton; three in-laws: Rex (Kay) Fiedler of Topeka, Kansas; Erna Huitema of Yankton; and Judi Teske of

Eau Claire, Wisconsin. It was very hard for her friend, Rose Jueden, her husband, Terry and of course, Peanut, to see her go.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers: Robert and Richard Teske; and two sisters: Orita Liska and Audrey Eels. Nicci was the last of the five Teske siblings to die.

To send an online message to the family, please visit www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
September 23, 2015

WINTZ & RAY
FUNERAL HOME and CREMATION SERVICE
Online condolences at:
www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com

Helen Anderson

Helen M. Anderson, 86, of Sioux Falls passed away Friday, Aug. 21, 2015, at the Human Services Center in Yankton.

It was Helen's wish to have her body donated to science at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion.

Arrangements were under the direction of the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Yankton.

To send an online message to the family, visit www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

Hill, died Sunday, September 20, 2015, at the age of 95, at Avera Sister James Care Center in Yankton.

No local services are planned. Arrangements are under the direction of the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Yankton.

To post an online sympathy message, visit [wintzrayfuneralhome.com](http://www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com).

Shirley Bouska

Shirley Marie Bouska, 78, passed away Monday, Sept. 21, 2015, due to complications from a fall at home.

Funeral services are pending with the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home &

Crematory, Yankton.

Kimberly Frasch

Mass of Christian Burial for Kimberly Frasc, 43, of Tabor will be 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 26, at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Butte, Nebraska.

The Rev. Doug Scheinst will be Celebrant, with burial in Butte City Cemetery.

Visitation will be Friday from 5-7 p.m. at the church, with a 7 p.m. Rosary.

Brockhaus Funeral Home in Spencer is in charge of arrangements.

Kimberly died Sunday, Sept. 20, 2015.

Troy Howes

Troy A. Howes, 49, of Yankton passed away Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2015, at his residence.

Memorial services are 11 a.m. Monday, Sept. 28, at the Wintz & Ray Funeral Home in Yankton with the Rev. Clyde Teel officiating. Inurnment will be at the Milltown Cemetery in rural Parkston at a later date.

The family will receive friends one hour prior to the memorial service on Monday.

To send an online message to the family, visit www.wintzrayfuneralhome.com.

Bernie Wagner

Bernie E. Wagner, 91, of Yankton and formerly of Tyndall, passed away on Monday, September 21, 2015 at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton.

Funeral services will be held at 1:30 p.m. at the Goglin Funeral Home of Tyndall on Monday, September 28 with visitation prior to the service beginning at 10:00 a.m. Burial will follow in the Czech National Cemetery, Tyndall.

Funeral arrangements

are being handled by the Goglin Funeral Home of Tyndall.

Online condolences may be sent at www.goglinfh.com.



IN REMEMBRANCE

Nicolene Clare Fiedler 10:30 AM, Thursday Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Yankton	Douglas L. Thelen 10:30 AM, Friday St. Boniface Catholic Church, Menominee
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