



Sagebrush Ecosystem Program

Tim Rubald, Program Manager

Background

- March 2012 – Governor Sandoval created Advisory Committee for sage-grouse management
- July 31, 2012 – Recommendations to the Governor for Conservation of Greater Sage-grouse in Nevada
- Recommends creation of Sagebrush Ecosystem Program – Council and Technical Team
- January/February 2013 – Council appointed and Technical Team hired
- June 2013 – AB461 passed and signed into law; the first of its kind in any state

Council Members

Sagebrush Ecosystem Council = Council = SEC

Nine Voting Members

- Mining - Allen Biaggi
- Ranching - Steve Boies
- Agriculture - Vacant
- Wildlife Commission - Jeremy Drew
- Tribal Nations - Gerry Emm
- Local Government - J.J. Goicoechea (Chair)
- Energy - Starla Lacey
- General Public - Kent McAdoo (Vice-Chair)
- Conservation and Environmental - Tina Nappe

Six Ex-Officio Members

- BLM, State Director - Amy Lueders
- USFWS, State Supervisor - Ted Koch
- USFS, H-T Forest Supervisor - Bill Dunkelberger
- NDOW, Director - Tony Wasley
- NDA, Director - Jim Barbee
- DCNR, Director - Leo Drozdoff

Technical Team Members

Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team = SETT

- Tim Rubald -Program Manager
- John Copeland -Division of Forestry
- Melissa Faigeles -Division of State Lands
- Kelly McGowan -Nevada Department of Ag
- Lara Niell -NDOW

Major Responsibilities

SETT is Staff to the Council

- State Plan and BLM Sub-regional EIS Alternative
- Conservation Credit System
- Sage-grouse Habitat Suitability Map for Nevada
- USFWS Datacall/Database Development
- Consultation with project proponents in coordination with the BLM/USFS
- Other responsibilities as pertinent to goal and assigned by SEC

State Plan and EIS Alternative

Further Development

- 2012 “State Plan” Revisions
- Alternative E originally developed from 2012 plan

Major Concepts

- Avoid, Minimize, Mitigate
- No net unmitigated loss due to anthropogenic disturbances
- Reduce the rate of loss due to fire and invasive weeds
- Conservation credit system

Working closely with BLM and providing additional detail for the Sub-regional EIS

Conservation Credit System

- Primary regulatory mechanism to meet the objective of No Net Unmitigated Loss of sage-grouse habitat due to anthropogenic disturbances
- Still early in the conceptual phase
- Hired consultant to develop metrics and overall system – Environmental Incentives – South Lake Tahoe
- “EI” and their team are already working and producing product for the Conservation Credit System

Sage-Grouse Habitat Suitability Map

- Contract with the USGS – Dr. Pete Coates to develop for the state (similar to Bi-State mapping effort)
- Funding through NDOW and DCNR – BLM holds contract
- Collaborative effort – BLM, SETT, additional state and federal agencies and experts in the field
- Use as basis of State's management and likely incorporate with BLM's LUPs

USFWS Data Call/ Database Development

- Gather all projects for data call – September 2014
- Establish report to put information in context for USFWS
- Create publically available database so information on projects ecosystem wide are shared – Collaborating with PCD – Lee Turner
- SETT will be the ongoing reporting location for all projects in Nevada pertaining to the Sagebrush Ecosystem – no matter size or property ownership

Other Responsibilities

- Coordination and collaboration with state and federal agencies and other local groups
- Nevada Cheatgrass Action Team
- WAFWA Fire/Invasives Initiative
- Cooperating Agency – BLM RMP Amendments
- Science Workgroup for technical guidance – bringing Nevada's best and brightest to focus on the issues
- Other pertinent activities as they arise...

Thank You!



Questions?

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