



State officials, organizations send sage grouse letter to feds

4 HOURS AGO

ELKO — Several state and local officials, ranchers, wildlife board members and hunting organizations have sent a letter to President Barack Obama and congressional leaders regarding issues surrounding the sage grouse.

The letter was signed by more than 50 conservationists, ranchers, elected officials, sportsmen, mining interests and the general public from across the state.

The signers are asking for Congress to give the state's conservation plan time to work.

According to the letter, "Sage-grouse total range-wide breeding populations have increased by 63% over the last two years with a total breeding population of 424,645 birds across 11 western states."

"The letter specifically discusses the Senate Resolution from the 2015 Nevada Legislature in support of Congressional action," stated Eureka County Commissioner J.J. Goicoechea. "It is clear that anti-use special interest groups opposed to the inclusion of Sage-grouse provisions on the Omnibus do not represent Nevada's interests. Nevadans want their leaders in Congress to protect the interests of the good, hard-working families of the State. Let's allow Sage-grouse to be managed through the Nevada Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Plan."

The full letter is on today's Opinion page.