

# Cattlemen encourage public comment on sage grouse plan

## Heather Kennison

ELKO — At a meeting Thursday, the Nevada Cattlemen's Association encouraged residents to submit specific comments about the sage-grouse plan to the Bureau of Land Management.

Comments on the BLM's regional draft environmental impact statement are due Jan. 29. The statement impacts most of Nevada and areas of California.

The town hall meeting took place via interactive video at Great Basin College.

Residents from around the state emphasized the importance of submitting comments before the time's up.

"It's very important that your comments are unique to what you know, and that you have very specific comments on parts of the EIS," said Rick Orr of Caliente. "... A specific comment has to be responded to."

A few residents expressed what they believed were flaws in the EIS.

Nevada Cattlemen's Association Board Member J.J. Goicoechea said the draft EIS fails to accurately address predator control. Kent McAdoo, speaking from Tonopah, agreed.

"Things like predator control have a huge pertinence to the issue and need to be addressed," McAdoo said.

He also said there is a need for further scientific evidence.

"I think the document is really flawed in that regard," McAdoo said.

In response to U.S. Fish and Wildlife State Director Ted Koch's comment that a sage-grouse listing would not destroy the economy, Assemblyman John Ellison addressed the residents gathered.

"This is about as serious as it gets," Ellison said.

Comments on the sage-grouse agency draft plan can be emailed to [blm\\_nv\\_ca\\_sagegrouse\\_eis\\_comments@blm.gov](mailto:blm_nv_ca_sagegrouse_eis_comments@blm.gov) or submitted online at <http://on.doi.gov/14ZD3Rb> (case sensitive) or mailed to BLM-Greater Sage-Grouse EIS attn: Joe Tague 1340 Financial Boulevard, Reno, NV 89502.