

Nevada announces sage grouse team members

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Nevada's sage grouse plan is one step closer to implementation with the naming of the Sagebrush Ecosystem Team members.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources announced the five-member team Thursday.

The team will be led by Tim Rubald, a Nevada administrative veteran. The team includes Kelly McGowan from the Department of Agriculture, Melissa Faigeles representing the Division of State Lands, John Copeland, a forester from the Division of Forestry, and Lara Niell on behalf of the Department of Wildlife.

The team is part of the state's ongoing effort to preclude the listing of the Greater Sage Grouse under the Endangered Species Act. Officials fear listing the chicken-sized bird could bring economically harmful federal intervention to Nevada.

The group begins work in its new Carson City office Feb. 11.