

# Letter: Obituary for Nevada, age 150

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Editor: RIP Nevada, 1864-2014.

Battle born, Nevada persevered for 150 years. The state finally succumbed to a long illness caused by the inefficient and obstructive agenda of the federal government.

At the time of death, unrelenting federal bureaucracy had consumed nearly 85 percent of land within the State, leaving Nevada with no realistic means to fund schools, build roads and create a hospitable economic environment.

Unfortunately, the recently imposed Sage Grouse EIS, bloated with over-regulation and lacking any commonsense solutions, proved to be the final nail in the coffin for the distressed state.

Nevada will be remembered as home to great resources and potential that languished because of federal control. She is survived by numerous other Western states that were too ill to attend the funeral because of their own oppressive control by the federal government.

This obituary is a crystal ball into our future unless we take a stand against more federal intervention in our community. Mining and ranching serve as the foundation of Elko County's community and economy.

Our entire existence is threatened by the federal government's current efforts to gain more control with the overbearing and nonsensical regulations contained in the Draft EIS. If Washington, D.C., were really concerned about saving the sage grouse the Draft EIS would contain measures that would have an immediate impact in protecting our the sage grouse population.

In a study conducted in Northern Nevada, nest depredation accounted for 94 percent of sage grouse nest failures. Of these depredations, almost half were the result of ravens, whose population has recently increased in Nevada by over 600 percent. If the Draft EIS contained serious alternatives addressing predator control, sage grouse populations would improve while having a minimum effect on Elko County's livelihood.

Please let Washington D.C. know that we oppose more bureaucracy and that Nevadans wish to be responsible for our own future by sending your personal comments on the Draft Sage Grouse EIS by Jan. 29. Please go to [www.blm.gov/nv](http://www.blm.gov/nv) to make your own comment.

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