



# Elko County Board of Commissioners

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December 7, 2015

The Honorable Brian Sandoval  
Governor, State of Nevada  
101 North Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

### **RE: Elko County's Concerns About Your Recent Sage-Grouse Negotiations with Secretary Jewell**

Dear Governor Sandoval:

Elko County appreciates your ongoing interest in the problems with the new Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and US Forest Service (USFS) Sage-Grouse Land Use Plan Amendment (LUPA). However, we are concerned that your recent negotiations with Secretary Jewell do not solve critical harms that the LUPA has created in Elko County and in other rural counties.

Elko County is Ground Zero for the harms associated with the LUPA in Nevada. Priority Habitat Management Areas (PHMA), General Habitat Management Areas (GHMA) and other (OHMA) cover roughly 75 percent of Elko County. Although we are hopeful that BLM's new map will correct some of the inaccuracies in the LUPA maps, they still will be landscape-scale maps that will not show critically important on-the-ground information about actual habitat conditions. Without dramatic changes to the LUPA, BLM and USFS will continue to implement the LUPA land use restrictions and prohibitions on 75 percent of the land in Elko County based on broad-scale mapping rather than site-specific data, like the counties provided to BLM during the LUPA process but which was ignored. We have serious doubts that the new map will do much if anything at all to alleviate the serious harms to Elko County's economy and the County's land use planning and management efforts.

Moreover, we note your letter indicates that BLM will adopt the new map "... and use the most expeditious option, by your administrative action if possible." Based on Elko County's extensive experience working with the BLM that process could take months

