



Elko County Board of Commissioners

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November 27, 2017

**Mr. Matthew Magaletti
Greater Sage-Grouse Coordinator**

BLM Nevada State Office
1340 Financial Blvd
Reno, Nevada 89502

RE: Request to become Cooperating Agency for Land Use Plans Regarding Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation. 82 Fed. Reg. 47248.

Dear Mr. Magaletti,

Elko County, Nevada is requesting Cooperating Agency status for the Greater Sage-grouse Land Use Plan Amendment EIS. Elko County may serve as a Cooperating Agency either under jurisdiction by law or special expertise. 40 CFR 1508.5 (CEQ); 40 CFR 1501.6 and 1508.5; 40 CFR 1508.26. Elko County qualifies as government entity possessing expertise (1) relevant to land use planning, withdrawals, and its many impacts on county governance; and (2) contains program focus and staff capabilities to help raise concerns, collaborate, and provide relevant analyses.

County staff has extensive expertise in land use and environmental issues specific to our region, which will be addressed in the EIS. We maintain interest in collaboration with the BLM. The County is aware of and prepared to carry out responsibilities associated with Cooperating Agency status. 43 CFR §1501.6; 43 CFR 46.230.

The County also requests a consistency review through this process. The County adopted a Master Plan pursuant to NRS 278.150 to establish our vision for the future. This Master Plan provides the framework and foundation for decision making by the Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners concerning matters relating to growth and development. This request is consistent with FLPMA, 43 U.S.C. § 1712(c)(9), which says the Secretary, through the BLM, shall—

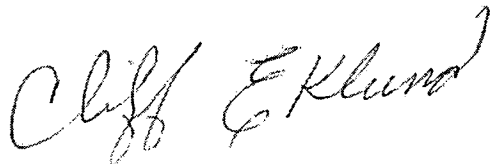
"to the extent consistent with the laws governing the administration of the public lands, coordinate the land use inventory, planning, and management activities of or for such lands with the land use planning and management programs of other Federal departments and agencies and of the States and local governments within which the lands are located, including, but not limited to, the statewide outdoor recreation plans developed under the Act of September 3, 1964 (78 Stat. 897), as amended [16 U.S.C. 4601-4 et seq. note], and of or for Indian tribes by, among other things, considering the policies of approved State and tribal land resource management programs. In implementing this directive, the Secretary shall, to the extent he finds practical, keep apprised of State, local, and tribal land use plans; assure that consideration is given to those State, local, and tribal plans that are germane in the development of land use plans for public lands; assist in resolving, to the extent practical, inconsistencies between Federal and non-Federal Government plans, and shall provide for meaningful public involvement of State and local government officials, both elected and appointed, in the development of land use programs, land use regulations, and

land use decisions for public lands, including early public notice of proposed decisions which may have a significant impact on non-Federal lands. Such officials in each State are authorized to furnish advice to the Secretary with respect to the development and revision of land use plans, land use guidelines, land use rules, and land use regulations for the public lands within such State and with respect to such other land use matters as may be referred to them by him. Land use plans of the Secretary under this section shall be consistent with State and local plans to the maximum extent he finds consistent with Federal law and the purposes of this Act."

We work closely with and wish to designate as a representative the Nevada Association of Counties ("NACO"), which provides us a continuous point of contact and access to the mutual expertise and information we need on public land policy and natural resources projects.

Elko County is seeking Cooperating Agency status because of our expertise in environmental issues specific to this region and our duty to guide and regulate land development to promote general welfare and manage use of our resources to maintain our quality of life for future generations. The proposed Greater Sage-Grouse Plan Amendment has the potential to change uses of public lands and significantly reduce the availability of resources, therefore we respectfully request that Elko County be designated as a Cooperating Agency in the EIS. Should we be granted Cooperating Agency status, the County is fully prepared to meet our obligations. We look forward to your favorable consideration of this request.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cliff Eklund". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Cliff Eklund, Chair
Elko County Board of Commissioners**

COOPERATING AGENCY RETURN FORM

Cooperating Agency Representative:

This form is provided for your convenience in responding to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) invitation to becoming a cooperator with the BLM in preparation of a Land Use Plan Amendment within Nevada regarding Greater sage-grouse conservation and supporting Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Please fill out and return this form. Be assured that we will follow up with you in accordance with your response.

- Our agency has decision making authority or special expertise and would like to become a cooperator with BLM.
- The information that you have provided is sufficient, and we do not desire to become a cooperator at this time. We do, however, request updates on the draft and final EISs and associated documents generated during the development of the Land Use Plan Amendment.
- Thank you for your correspondence. Our agency has no further interest in this planning process and request you remove us from your mailing list.

Name of individual responding to this form:

Robert Stokes
(Please print)

Title: Elko County Manager
(Please print)

Phone: 775 738 5398

email: rstokes@elkocounty.nv.net

Signature: 

Date 11/27/2017