

Elko County Board of Commissioners

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March 6, 2014

The Honorable Brian Sandoval
Governor, State of Nevada
c/o Mr. Cory Hunt
101 N Carson Street
Carson City Nevada 89701

RE: NDOW Comments Concerning Greater Sage-Grouse DEIS

Dear Governor Sandoval,

As you are aware comments from the Nevada Department of Wildlife were submitted to the BLM concerning the Northeastern California and Nevada Greater Sage-Grouse Land Use Plan Amendment Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The State of Nevada comments submitted were prepared by and submitted to the BLM by Nevada Department of Wildlife's, Shawn Espinosa, a Wildlife Staff Specialist. Evidence indicates that prior to submittal to the BLM/USFS the comments were not reviewed by the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Council or the Governor's office as should have been the case. The comments were submitted to the BLM and USFS without review even though NDOW's recommendations and comments will influence and empower the BLM / USFS in the development of the Final EIS regulatory actions that will serve to be the most significant cultural and economic negative impacts that has ever occurred in the State of Nevada.

As did many others in the State, the Elko County Board of Commissioners supported Alternative "E" of the LUPA / DEIS with some reservations. However, the State of Nevada permitted a NDOW Staff Biologist to respond to the LUPA / DEIS without specific direction from the NDOW Director, NDCNR Director or the Governor's office. The comments submitted by NDOW concerning the alternative selection are entirely converse to Alternative "E" as developed by the State of Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Council. The NDOW inclusive support of Alternative "D" as written is very detrimental to the sustainability, future and existence of Ranching, Mining, Recreation as well as all multiple uses on federally managed public lands. The Elko County Board of Commissioners and many others are incensed that considering such an important decision was at stake, there was not a collective decision from NDOW, NDCNR and your office for the entire State of Nevada.

You resolved on August 28, 2012 that NDCNR would be the lead agency in all matters related to Greater Sage-Grouse management in the State of Nevada. The Board of Commissioners ask, how you would allow a subordinate department such as NDOW to make such a determination alone for our state and to additionally author comments in a decision as important as this one? We find it unbelievable that a document of this importance wouldn't have come from the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Leo Drozdoff, Director, or more importantly your office. What inconceivable messages are we sending to the BLM, USFS and ultimately the USFWS when the State of Nevada's Ecosystem Council developed and supported Alternative "E" as written and a subordinate department, NDOW, determines that Alternative "D" written by the BLM / USFS is the regulatory approach that Nevada should proceed with?

In closing we ask you to please take charge of this issue and officially withdraw the comments and recommendations submitted by NDOW to the BLM / USFS concerning the LUPA / DEIS. Unfortunately the damage may have already been done as the document submitted by NDOW on behalf of the State of Nevada was submitted representing the people of Nevada; ranchers, miners and recreationalists. We contend that no document of this importance should have ever left NDOW without the signature of either NDCNR Director Drozdoff or you specifically as the State of Nevada comments and recommendations.

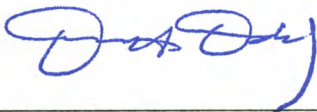
Respectfully,



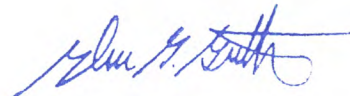
Charlie Myers, Chair



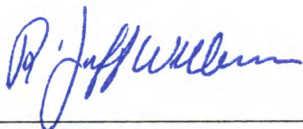
Grant Gerber, Vice Chair



Demar Dahl, Commissioner



Glen Guttry, Commissioner



Jeff Williams, Commissioner