



United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Nevada State Office  
1340 Financial Blvd  
Reno, NV 89502

**NOV - 1 2017**



Mr. Demar Dahl, Commissioner of Elko County  
540 Court Street Ste 101  
Elko, Nevada 89801

Dear Commissioner Dahl:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has initiated a planning effort to consider amending the Land Use Plans within Nevada regarding Greater sage-grouse conservation. The amendments are being prepared in response to the recent Secretarial Order 3353 (Greater sage-grouse Conservation and Cooperation with Western States) and the Secretary of the Interior's direction to implement the "Report in Response to Secretarial Order 3353". This planning effort will be supported by an associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared under the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations (40 CFR §1500-1508).

In the spirit of cooperative consultation and collaborative public involvement, the BLM Nevada State Office hereby invites your agency to become a Cooperating Agency for these amendment processes. The CEQ Regulations (40 CFR 1501.6 and 1508.5) implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), allow Federal agencies (as lead agencies) to invite tribal, state, and local governments, as well as other Federal agencies, to serve as Cooperating Agencies in the preparation of EISs. Cooperating Agency status provides the opportunity for us to work together collaboratively and to enhance the BLM's planning efforts. As an agency potentially affected by the proposed activities, this letter of invitation invites you to participate in the planning and EIS processes as a Cooperating Agency. Specific on the ground knowledge of sagebrush habitat and the species that rely on sagebrush would qualify you as having special expertise and therefore a candidate as Cooperating Agency.

Local, state, and tribal governments, as well as other Federal agencies, have similar cooperating agency opportunities. At a minimum, agencies, governments, and the public have participation opportunities, such as attending public meetings, and reviewing and commenting on the draft and final EIS. Being a Cooperating Agency affords you the opportunity to take on additional roles and responsibilities beyond these basic participation opportunities. As a Cooperating Agency you may agree to contribute staff to review the amendment analysis of a discipline for which you have special expertise or jurisdiction by law, potentially host public meetings, participate in any needed meetings or conference calls, and fund your own participation.

If you elect to become a Cooperating Agency for the amendment process the BLM will provide a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for your review and approval. The MOU

defines and explains expectations and time commitments, such as providing an agency representative to attend meetings to accomplish tasks specified in the MOU. The BLM anticipates a number of meetings or conference calls over the approximate 12-18 months to complete the NEPA process. There will also be specified timelines and deadlines to review and provide comments on any documents.

To assist in your decision of this invitation, specific information concerning Cooperating Agency relationships is available at the following website: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/planning-and-nepa>. Please be assured that whether you elect to become a Cooperating Agency or not, we will afford your agency ample opportunities to participate in the NEPA process.

We would be more than happy to discuss and provide an overview of materials to date for you and/or your staff members. Should you elect to become a Cooperating Agency, you will work closely with the BLM throughout the planning and EIS process. With Cooperating Agency status, you do not waive your rights to protest or appeal the EIS Record of Decision.

We cordially request a response regarding your Cooperating Agency status. Please complete the enclosed response form to indicate the desired level of involvement and return it to Matthew Magaletti, Great sage-grouse Coordinator, BLM Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Blvd, Reno, NV 89502 or via email at [mmagalet@blm.gov](mailto:mmagalet@blm.gov). Establishing Cooperating Agency status via an MOU is most beneficial if done early in the planning process. Upon confirmation, the BLM will provide you with an MOU for review that describes the respective roles, responsibilities, and timelines. We also would need a point of contact to finalize the MOU, as well as the name of the agency representative for the planning process. The BLM will also schedule an informational cooperators' call, date to be determined, to introduce our partners to the proposals.

The BLM Nevada State Office has also scheduled three public scoping meetings throughout the State, which we formally invite you to attend. The public scoping meetings will be held in Reno, Elko and Ely in order to provide venues in areas covered by the Greater sage-grouse plan. BLM staff will be on hand to gather information about potential issues to be considered related to any plan amendments.

Meeting Locations:

**Reno**

Location: The Nugget, Sierra Room 1, 1100 Nugget Avenue, Sparks, NV

Date and Time: Tuesday, November 7, 4:30-6:30 PM

**Elko**

Location: Elko Convention Center, 700 Moren Way, Elko, NV

Date and Time: Wednesday, November 8, 4:30-6:30 PM

**Ely**

Location: Bristle Cone Convention Center, 150 W. 6th Street, Ely, NV

Date and Time: Thursday, November 9, 4:30-6:30 PM

If you have any questions regarding Cooperating Agency status, the upcoming public scoping meetings, or require any additional information concerning opportunities available for your

agency to participate in the EIS process, please contact Matthew Magaletti, at (775) 861-6572 or via email at [mmagalet@blm.gov](mailto:mmagalet@blm.gov). Thank you for your interest in the NEPA process and management of your public lands. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



For  
Marci L. Todd  
Acting State Director

Enclosure  
1 – Agency Return Form