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Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2014 8:25 AM
To: cthunt@gov.nv.gov
Cc: eurekavet@sbcglobal.net; Ron Cerri; Desiree Seal
Subject: NDOW

Mr. Hunt,

Members of the Nevada Cattlemen's Association were amazed and disappointed at the bold response NDOW (through staff biologist Shawn Espinosa) gave to the DEIS concerning sage-grouse. On NDOW letterhead Mr. Espinosa boldly supported (on behalf of NDOW) alternative D rather than the governor's task force Option E. Governor Sandoval assigned the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to be the official lead for all matters relating to management and conservation of the sage-grouse in Nevada. Is NDOW not a state agency?

NDOW's statements seems to deliberately and arrogantly attack livestock grazing, the livestock industry and rural Nevada. Case in point: Taking portions of the EIS and stating in half-truths such as 23% of rangelands are meeting standards and inferring that grazing is the issue while not recognizing that there are 10 million acres that are not looked at and much of these are meeting standards. Are these the true feelings of NDOW relative to the DEIS or are these the opinions of the wildlife biologists? Questioning the science related to livestock grazing as a tool to reduce fire hazard is yet another sign of arrogance which indicates the true mind set of NDOW staff toward livestock and the livestock industry. Is it any wonder that NDOW and the agriculture community are often tangled in controversy when these types of statements are made by third level staff biologists and these individuals are utilized as spokesman for NDOW.

NCA certainly hopes that NDOW's position on this issue are different than what is reflected in these statements made by staff biologists utilizing NDOW letterhead who overstepped his authority.

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