



Elko County Board of Commissioners

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December 12, 2012

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

Dear Governor Sandoval:

It is painfully obvious to the Elko County Board of Commissioners that Elko County will be the most affected of all Nevada counties by future actions of the Federal Government concerning the potential of listing Sage Grouse as an endangered species along with the implementation of Sage Grouse and habitat restoration and preservation plans. We have reviewed the organization and approach being taken by the State of Nevada. The Elko County Board of Commissioners are in complete agreement with your letter and proposition to identify the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources as the lead agency in control of the Nevada Department of Wildlife and that Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources would make all final decisions concerning the **“Sage Grouse populations”** and habitat planning.

We emphatically believe that the upper management of the Nevada Department of Wildlife may not embrace Elko County's and Nevada's economic and social future as one of their highest priority. Therefore, we strongly recommend that you reorganize the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to encompass the Nevada Department of Wildlife as a division within the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. We believe that this action would allow the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Director to establish policies and instruction affecting the actions of the Department of Wildlife.

We are aware that currently there is in excess of \$6,000,000 of the Ruby Pipeline mitigation fund available for funding of ground based Sage Grouse and habitat mitigation and / or research projects. However, currently this funding is controlled by the Bureau of Land Management and the Nevada Department of Wildlife. It is also our adamant recommendation that the State of Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources take control of this funding source.

Respectfully,

R. JEFF WILLIAMS, CHAIR

GLEN GUTTRY, VICE CHAIR

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