Local Area Meetings for Sagebrush Habitat Planning Processes

Multiple local area meetings were held across the state in January 2023 for sagebrush habitat planning efforts by the State of Nevada's Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team (SETT) and Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW). The SETT is working under the Sagebrush Ecosystem Program to update their Strategic Action Plan from the previous iteration found here, whereas NDOW is working on a Habitat Conservation Framework, for which more detail is provided here. Shared meetings made sense to provide the opportunity to inform and receive feedback from the public all in one place and given the intent of both documents of strategic conservation in the sagebrush ecosystem and the likelihood of similarities including updated priority maps for conservation endeavors. At the meetings, a slide show was presented which is still available at the second link above. Input was also welcomed and is still welcomed from interested parties through that link. Potential ideas for providing helpful input include:

- Contact information for other interested parties,
- Feedback on draft geospatial products outlined in the presentations and their possible uses,
- Other approaches to identifying priority landscapes at different scales from state-wide to regional to project scales,
- What are Nevada's priority threats and actions and how to best address in a way that is helpful for various needs.

When finished, these plans to conserve sagebrush ecosystems, greater sage-grouse, and other sagebrush obligate species will create efficient roadmaps that with ample follow-through implementation of the most effective conservation actions should help ameliorate the losses of these resources. Depending on treatments, implementation successes stemming from these conservation efforts may offer benefits including improved habitats for wildlife, increased forage for wildlife and livestock, improved riparian systems and potentially water availability, and the potential of a reduction in fire frequency through post-fire treatments of invasive annual grasses, among others.