



## State of Nevada

June 14, 2012

Dear Sage-grouse Local Area Working Group Leader:

In a June 4 letter to Local Area Working Groups (LAWGs), I asked you to be prepared to respond to preliminary mapping of sage-grouse habitats that will be considered by the Nevada Greater Sage-grouse Advisory Committee. In line with this request, the enclosed sage-grouse mapping was approved on June 11 by the Committee for LAWG review and response.

Using the enclosed maps and your local knowledge, the Advisory Committee is hopeful that the LAWGs can help to better define the areas in Nevada where greater sage-grouse and their habitat occur.

This process will require the LAWG to review the information provided to:

- 1) Fine-tune "Preliminary Habitat Area" designations. Specifically, we need your close examination of habitat boundaries as they relate to actual habitat. We are aware that these are currently very rough estimations of Sage-grouse areas.
- 2) Identify habitat conflicts with existing and projected land uses (energy, mining, etc.). You can divide these into major and minor categories, but we do not expect a prioritized list.
- 3) Confirm that habitat designations align with current habitat status (i.e. has a fire occurred since?).
- 4) Identify and rank primary threats and potential ways to address those threats for each of the Preliminary Habitat Areas your LAWG is assigned.

The enclosed mapping includes:

- Three copies of a sage-grouse habitat map showing *Preliminary Sage-grouse Habitat Areas* that depict the current habitat and bird distribution in your area;
- A location and place name map for the LAWG planning area;
- A land status and ownership map;
- A range map;
- A wildfire map;
- A locatable minerals map; and
- An energy development and power transmission map.

Each project map referenced above contains several sources of information pertaining to the titled subject matter. Land use maps also contain the sage-grouse habitat information that the LAWGs are being asked to review and respond to. Copies of this mapping can also be downloaded from the Advisory Committee's website, found at <http://sagegrouse.nv.gov/>, if additional map copies are needed during this LAWG review.

For the Advisory Committee to meet a tight deadline of June 30, we are requesting LAWG responses to this inquiry by no later than **Tuesday, June 26**. This deadline was set so your recommendations could be compiled and presented in sufficient time to meet these tight deadlines. We value your inputs and we collectively hope that your LAWG can react within the constraints of the June 26 deadline.

Please compile all of your revisions on the map labeled "LAWG Revised Habitat Map" and send them for delivery no later than Tuesday, June 26 to Resource Concepts, Inc., c/o Don Henderson at 340 N. Minnesota Street, Carson City, Nevada, 89703. If you have questions concerning this request, please contact Don Henderson or Sheila Anderson at (775) 883-1600.

It is also essential to note that these Habitat Areas and designations are by no means final. The Committee anticipates additional near- and long-term opportunities for review and revision in. If successfully completed, this effort will put Nevada in a much better position to lead sage-grouse management efforts.

To answer your questions concerning this request, Committee staff have scheduled a toll-free conference call for 6:00 PM on Monday, June 18, for all LAWG leaders and interested parties. This conference call will provide an opportunity to ask questions and confirm the charge given by the Committee. To access this toll-free conference call, dial (866) 528-2256, access code 1420062.

As a Committee, we are well aware that we are asking much from the LAWGs within a very short time frame. We also recognize and place a high value of including local insights and knowledge into the recommendations that will result from this Advisory Committee. Based on this need, it is our sincere hope that the LAWGs can effectively respond to this request within the specified time frame.

Thank you for your continuing efforts for sage-grouse conservation in Nevada and for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Robert L. Crowell  
Chairman, Nevada Sage-grouse Advisory Committee  
Mayor, Carson City

Enclosures: 3 Habitat Maps, One Land Uses & Resources Map Packet of six maps