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August 11, 2013

Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Council  
c/o Mr. Allen Biaggi

Dear Members of the Nevada Sagebrush Council

Northwest Mining Association (NWMA) is a 2,400 member national association representing the hardrock mining industry with members residing in 42 U.S. states, seven Canadian provinces or territories, and ten other countries. More than 500 of our members are based in Nevada. NWMA represents the entire mining life cycle, from exploration to reclamation and closure, and is the national voice for exploration, the junior mining sector, and maintaining access to public lands. Our membership represents every facet of the mining industry including geology, exploration, mining, engineering, equipment manufacturing, technical services, and sales of equipment and supplies. Our broad-based membership includes many small miners and exploration geologists as well as junior and large mining companies. More than 80% of our members are small businesses or work for small businesses. Most of our members are individual citizens.

On behalf of our more than 500 members operating in Nevada, NWMA has closely followed the development of Nevada's Strategic Plan for Conservation of Sage-Grouse. NWMA also has read the changes to Section 3.0, Objectives and Policies, of the 2012 Strategic Plan for Conservation of Sage-Grouse in Nevada that the Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team ("SETT") recently proposed to you for your review and possible approval.

NWMA is strongly opposed to several of the proposed modifications to the 2012 Strategic Plan for Conservation of Sage-Grouse in Nevada ("2012 State Plan") for the reasons set out in the comments of the Nevada Mineral Resources Alliance (NVMRA) dated August 10, 2013. NWMA adopts the comments of the NVMRA as though fully set forth herein and respectfully requests that the Council take the actions recommended in the NVMRA comments.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. If there is anything NWMA or our members can do to assist the Council, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Skaer  
Executive director