

**Sagebrush Ecosystem Program**

201 S. Roop Street, Suite 101  
Carson City, Nevada 89701  
Telephone (775) 684-8600  
Facsimile (775) 684-8604

www.sagebrusheco.nv.gov

BRIAN SANDOVAL  
Governor



**Tim Rubald**, Program Manager  
**John Copeland**, Forestry/Wildland Fire  
**Melissa Faigeles**, State Lands  
**Kelly McGowan**, Agriculture  
**Lara Niell**, Wildlife

**STATE OF NEVADA**  
**Sagebrush Ecosystem Program**

**SAGEBRUSH ECOSYSTEM COUNCIL**  
**STAFF REPORT**  
**MEETING DATE: February 24, 2014**

**DATE:** February 21, 2014  
**TO:** Sagebrush Ecosystem Council Members  
**FROM:** Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team  
Telephone: 775-684-8600  
**THROUGH:** Tim Rubald, Program Manager  
Telephone: 775-684-8600, Email: timrubald@sagebrusheco.nv.gov  
**SUBJECT:** Discussion and possible consideration of Draft Conservation Credit System Manual and Draft Habitat Quantification Tool Scientific Methods Document.

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**SUMMARY**

Environmental Incentives (EI) and their sub-contractor Ecometrix Solutions Group (ESG) will present on the draft Conservation Credit System Manual and draft Habitat Quantification Tool Scientific Methods Document. The Council should discuss and provide recommendations to EI and ESG for these documents to be submitted as part of the State Alternative of the Sub-Regional EIS to the BLM and USFS on February 28, 2014. These documents will provide the framework necessary to the BLM and USFS to conduct analysis on the inclusion of the Conservation Credit System (CCS). The CCS will be fully developed by December 31, 2014 and incorporated as part of the State Plan.

The Conservation Credit System Manual and the Habitat Quantification Tool Scientific Methods Document are available through the Sagebrush Ecosystem Program (SEP) website. <http://sagebrusheco.nv.gov/Meetings/2014/2014/>

**PREVIOUS ACTION**

**June 17, 2013.** The Council gave SETT direction to develop a Request For Proposals that requests the use of existing metrics being successfully implemented elsewhere; a (short) contract term within 6 months, and that would result in a federal agency accepted product.

**December 3, 2013.** Environmental Incentives was hired as the contractor to develop the CCS for greater sage-grouse in Nevada.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact at this time.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends the SEC:

1. approves the proposed Conservation Credit System Manual or provides direction on how to revise it further; and
2. approves the proposed Habitat Quantification Tool Scientific Methods Document or provides direction on how to revise it further;

### **POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Council agree with the staff recommendations, possible motions would be:

1. ““Motion to approve the proposed Conservation Credit System Manual to be included in the State Alternative of the Sub-Regional EIS to the BLM and USFS.”  
or  
“Motion to approve the proposed Conservation Credit System Manual to be included in the State Alternative of the Sub-Regional EIS to the BLM and USFS on condition of specific revisions.”
2. “Motion to approve the proposed Habitat Quantification Tool Scientific Methods Document to be included in the State Alternative of the Sub-Regional EIS to the BLM and USFS.”  
or  
“Motion to approve the proposed Habitat Quantification Tool Scientific Methods Document to be included in the State Alternative of the Sub-Regional EIS to the BLM and USFS on condition of specific revisions.”

### **Attachments:**

1. None.