



**Board of County Commissioners
Nye County
Tonopah, Nevada**

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November 3, 2015

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

**Subject: Appeal of BLM/USFS Greater Sage-Grouse Land Use Plan
Amendments**

Dear Governor Sandoval:

Nye County is relieved that the Greater Sage-grouse (GSG) was found to be not warranted for listing as an endangered or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. However, we are concerned with the provisions of the BLM and USFS Land Use Plan Amendments (LUPA) that have been approved for implementation in Nevada. Nye County agrees with Eureka County and has joined with other Nevada counties and industry to challenge the BLM/USFS LUPAs.

Nye County wishes to ensure that the State and local plans, policies, and proposals for GSG conservation are properly considered and implemented for management of GSG and their habitat in Nevada. We are convinced that these localized plans and policies are and will continue to conserve GSG in Nevada. Nye County believes the management plans in Nevada can and are implemented in a way that balances the needs of GSG and the sagebrush ecosystem with our long-term socioeconomic stability and way of life. The LUPAs will prove detrimental to our economy and community stability.

We appreciate the effort you took to ensure inconsistencies between State and local plans, policies and programs were highlighted and elevated during your consistency review of the GSG LUPA Final EIS. We strongly believe that your requests and recommendations were more than reasonable in providing for balance between the national interest and the State's interest. We also are grateful for your appeal to the BLM Director of the BLM State Director's rejection of your consistency review requests. Unfortunately, since BLM chose to disregard the large bulk of the State Plan and local plans, policies, and proposals, we now believe that the only avenue available to address these shortcomings is to seek redress in the courts.

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We respectfully ask that you continue to advocate for the State Plan and local plans and policies through joining on or bringing an independent request for legal review of the LUPAs.

Again, thank you for your efforts to conserve the sagebrush ecosystem while providing for the current and future needs of our citizens and economy while protecting existing rights.

Sincerely,



Lorinda Wichman,
Chairman

cc: NV Sagebrush Ecosystem Council
NV Association of Counties
NV Boards of County Commissioners