

DRAFT

Example Scenario for SEC (Tier 1)

Nevada ROD Implementation Network

The *Nevada ROD Implementation Network* (i.e. Collaborative Framework – still looking for the right name) will provide an organized interdisciplinary approach for discussion and resolution of questions and problems that may arise during implementation of the new Land Use Plan Amendments for Greater Sage-grouse.

It is anticipated that most issues that arise at the local or field management levels will be reconciled through a local process or through an intra-agency process. However where the ROD requires input from an 'inter-agency team' would be elevated to the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council (Tier 1 of the Network) for deliberation, expert opinion, analysis, and conflict resolution recommendations.

Specific conflicts or unique events or circumstances that cannot be resolved at the local level could also be elevated to the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council for deliberation and potential conflict resolution recommendations.

The following scenario represents a hypothetical (somewhat worse-case) event where the ROD instructs FS and BLM to make decisions based upon consensus of their agency, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Nevada Department of Wildlife. The *Nevada ROD Implementation Network* expands on that idea to incorporate the full expertise of the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council who would analyze the situation and provide a consensus recommendation to the FS or BLM.

HYPOTHETICAL SCENARIO

A Nevada lek is heavily impacted by wildfire but does not completely blink out. Fire restoration efforts are completed and grazing is allowed to resume after the required rest. The area falls below the disturbance cap, so the federal land management agency permits the construction of a new road nearby to an existing communication tower. The lek, which has been marginal, begins to decline. The population data appear to be approaching a soft trigger. The adaptive management soft trigger is less than .85-.95% percent for two consecutive years and the population rate of change of the lek in relation to its lek cluster is less than 0.85-0.95 for both years [RMP definition of soft trigger].

What is the causal factor for the decline? Is it the wildfire? Allowing grazing in the area too soon? Construction of the new road? or some combination of the three? Is there an issue with the population data? The local area working group and the mid-level interagency group can't agree, so the discussion is elevated to the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council for discussion.

The local and mid-level tiers will present the data and their analyses to the SEC for further discussion of causal factors and management recommendations. The SEC recommendations will be presented to the agency for their final decision.

POSSIBLE PROCESS FOR THE SEC

1. Review existing data.
2. Visit the site.
3. Incorporate additional science and expertise to analyze the situation; Bring in outside experts.
4. Possible recommendations from SEC:

Causal Factor(s)

Recommend additional monitoring or data collection.

Management Actions

No consensus; no recommendation.