

**Sagebrush Ecosystem Program**

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

**SAGEBRUSH ECOSYSTEM COUNCIL**  
**PROGRESS REPORT**  
**MEETING DATE: APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2017**

**DATE:** April 3th, 2017  
**TO:** Sagebrush Ecosystem Council Members  
**FROM:** Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team  
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**SUBJECT:** Developing Credits on Public Lands

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**SUMMARY**

On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 the Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team (SETT) submitted a staff report to the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council (SEC) to highlight the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on working with the SETT to implement a process for developing credits on public lands.

Since then, the SETT has entered into initial conversations with the USFS and the BLM. Our first meeting occurred on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 with the BLM. This meeting was considered a brainstorming session where the bulk of our conversation focused on land use authorization tools we have available and the timeliness of them. Two main actions items developed from this meeting:

- 1) The SETT to draft an outline of an initial strategy on how the State envisions the Conservation Credit System (CCS) operating on public lands;
- 2) The BLM to draft a more detailed outline of the tools available for mitigation actions on BLM administered lands.

After our initial meeting, the SETT met with the Division of State Lands Senior Land Use Planner, Skip Canfield and Policy Analyst for the Governor's Office, Shelia Anderson, to discuss land use authorization/mitigation tools available from the State's perspective and outlining a draft initial strategy for credit development on public lands.

Our second meeting with the BLM, and our first meeting with the USFS, occurred on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017. During the BLM meeting, the SETT introduced the draft initial strategy which mainly focused on outlining long-term and short-term options for

developing credits on public lands. The USFS meeting was fairly similar, however, the USFS has conducted several internal conference calls prior to our meeting which provided the SETT an unequivocal direction towards exploring our short-term and long-term options for developing credits on public lands.

### **NEXT STEPS**

Our next step will be to have a larger group meeting with BLM and USFS, with an invitation extended to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The SETT will work with leaders to develop a draft concept on developing credits on public lands which will include short-term and long-term options, and a pilot project proposal. Our goal is to have the SEC review this draft prior to the group meeting for the purpose of providing the SETT the best direction to proceed.