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We must give these birds a chance because they are coming back. Everybody is rushing to quick to list them. They have had a tuff time the last few years because of West Nile, fires, and the drought of the last 10 years. Also the predators have not been controlled, especially the ravens. They are robbing the nests. Also the coyotes and hawks have increased. If we list them, we will have less chance to help them because of ESA regulations. I can't see where the USFWS have saved or helped any species they have listed. They have created lots of problems with the economy where ever they have acted first. Just to mention a few, the spotted owl, the desert turtle and the suckerfish at Klamath Lake. They have all been a disaster for the people and the species. Remember farming and livestock is the 3rd largest industry in Nevada. Some of the sage hen plans have been based on false science and false assumptions.

#1. Emphasized too much on tall grass. The birds need the short tender grass

#2. Cut too many AUM's and left millions of acres of rough grass to burn and at the same time burned up the sage hen and other wildlife.

#3. Prior to 1850 biologist assumed lots of sage hen here, wrong, very few. As settlers came the sage hen increased. The settlers developed water and pasture.

#4. When we had more sheep on the range, we had fewer fires and more sage hen.

#5. The livestock people built reservoirs which made more strutting grounds.

#6. If you list the Bird you will be penalizing the very people who created the habitat, controlled the predator, which helped sustain the Bird.

Submitted by Fred Fulstone on 3-27-2013

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