

*** Save the Date ***

BUILDING CONSENSUS AND FINDING SHARED SOLUTIONS
For Implementation of the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management
Sage-Grouse Plan Amendments
Reno, NV Nov 29, 30, Dec 1, 2016

YOU are invited to participate in a workshop focused on consensus building and finding shared solutions as we work together on implementation of the new sage-grouse plan amendments.

This workshop provides an opportunity to learn collaborative processes and develop relationships among the people who will be implementing the recently adopted sage-grouse plan amendments and the people who will be affected by them.

The State of Nevada, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (USFS) are sponsoring a two and one-half day workshop in partnership with the BLM National Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution Office to provide participants with a better understanding and basic tools for engaging in consensus building and facilitating consensus-based processes.

The first workshop will be held in Reno on Nov 29, 30, and Dec 1, 2016 at the Desert Research Institute Northern Nevada Science Center. The key audience and primary focus of the Nov-Dec workshop is to bring together the sagebrush ecosystem council, the executive level administrators and field line officers from state and federal resource management agencies, ranchers and other Stakeholders in northern Nevada who operate in and around the sagebrush focal areas.

The same three-day workshop will be held in early to late-March at a location to be determined for BLM Districts, USFS Ranger Districts, and Stakeholders located in Central Nevada.

The sessions will run from 8:30 am-5:00 pm on Tuesday and Wednesday, and 8:30 to noon on Thursday. You are encouraged to stay for all two and one-half days of the training. The first two days will lay the foundation for continued planning of the ***Nevada Collaborative Network***¹ that will occur during the next morning.

Why YOU should attend...As sage-grouse plan amendment implementation begins, many opportunities for collaboration will arise – both to resolve conflicts and to pursue opportunities. The State of Nevada, the USFS, and the BLM are working together to establish a collaborative network that builds on agency flexibility by empowering both stakeholders and land managers with the tools to cooperatively resolve conflict and build a collaborative position, whether the discussion is at the local level, or when appropriate, elevated to the Governor’s Sagebrush Ecosystem Council.

There is no charge for participation but each session will have a limited group size of approximately 60 people. ***Please RSVP to Cheva Gabor (chevalgabor@fs.fed.us) with “collaboration” in the subject line no later than October 15. If more than 60 RSVPs are received, they will be reviewed with the intent of achieving a good balance of participants. Cheva will send an email on October 22 confirming your registration.***

¹ More information on Nevada’s Collaboration Network will be available soon on the Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Program website.

What you will learn... Participants will 'learn by doing' to understand proven techniques for moving people through difficult and contentious situations in a respectful, inclusive, and civil manner that builds a sense of partnership and trust. At the conclusion of the workshop, participants will be able to interact effectively in diverse groups by expressing shared beliefs and values to articulate short-term purpose and long-term vision, and to develop strategies and actions agreed upon for moving forward.

Workshop discussions and activities will occur within the framework of the sage-grouse plan amendments, the local uses and needs from public lands, and the conservation of natural resources in sagebrush ecosystems. Even though the workshop will focus on this real-world topic, it is not a facilitated participatory decision making-process; but rather a training in consensus-building techniques to enable participants to effectively engage in future land management and conservation.

The workshops will be conducted by Mike Lunn and Diane Groves (private conflict resolution specialists) and Laura Van Riper (BLM social scientist). More information on the workshop, instructor biographies, and testimonials/feedback from past participants will soon be available on the Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Program website.