

Sagebrush Ecosystem Program

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STATE OF NEVADA
Sagebrush Ecosystem Program

SAGEBRUSH ECOSYSTEM COUNCIL
STAFF REPORT
MEETING DATE: October 27, 2014

DATE: October 22, 2014
TO: Sagebrush Ecosystem Council Members
FROM: Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team
Telephone: 775-684-8600
THROUGH: Kacey KC, Program Manager
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SUBJECT: Nevada Sage-grouse Strategic Action Plan (SAP)

SUMMARY

This agenda item is presented to discuss the purpose and projected timeline for the *Nevada Sage-grouse Strategic Action Plan (SAP)*. The SAP will be a companion document to the 2014 State Plan and will go into greater detail and identify general areas to focus conservation efforts in order to achieve the broad goals and objectives outlined in the 2014 State Plan. The SETT will develop a draft outline to the SEC for the December 4th, 2014 meeting and a final plan to the Council in April 2015. As they did with the 2014 State Plan, the SETT will bring drafted chapters to the Council from January through April for review and approval, with final approval of the SAP in April 2015.

PREVIOUS ACTION

July 30, 2013. The Council adopted the Sagebrush Ecosystem Strategic Detailed Timeline, which included revision of the State Plan/EIS Alternative, which included the Strategic Action Plan.

DISCUSSION

Given the tremendous complexities within geographical areas, threats, conditions, landownership, etc., the SETT acknowledges the limitations that will exist when a SAP is developed. However, the SAP is needed to identify in broader than “site specific” terms, areas that would benefit from specific actions to help ameliorate threats. The SAP will include, but not be limited to:

- what and where the State should focus limited resources and its capacity to implement this program
- encourage and assist private landowners to participate voluntarily through the Conservation Credit System or other conservation programs

- identify funding sources to implement the management actions recommended in the 2014 plan
- enlist participating agencies/stakeholders involvement and outline their roles and responsibilities based on management actions outlined in the 2014 State Plan
- recommend specific needs for public outreach and education to enhance public awareness and stewardship opportunities
- validate where the primary threats to sage-grouse habitat are located across the landscape and provide specific guidance on how to ameliorate these threats based upon the most recent and best available sciences
- be updated at least every 5 years to reflect advances in available science and technology, as well as a better understanding of those sciences and their applications in more effectively managing sage-grouse and the sagebrush ecosystem

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Council discuss additional items for inclusion in the SAP and direct the SETT staff to develop a draft outline for the Strategic Action Plan and a timeline for completion of that document for consideration at the next SEC meeting on December 4, 2014.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with the staff recommendation, a possible motion would be, “Motion that the SETT staff develop a draft outline for the Strategic Action Plan and a timeline for completion of that document for consideration at the next SEC meeting on December 4, 2014.”

Attachments:

1: None