

Sagebrush Ecosystem Council

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STATE OF NEVADA
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February 26, 2024

Paul Souza
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pacific Southwest Region
Migratory Bird Program
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825
PermitsR8MB@fws.gov

Dear Mr. Souza,

The Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Council (Council) is a statutorily established body that collaborates with landowners, tribal nations, non-governmental organizations, local, state, and federal agencies in order to address and mitigate the threats related to the sagebrush ecosystem and to the Greater Sage-Grouse (sage-grouse). We are particularly concerned about increased threats due to the steady population increase of Common Ravens (ravens) in Nevada. The increase in the raven population has led to severe depredation of sensitive species, such as Greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*). This escalation in predation poses a significant threat to the conservation efforts of this vulnerable species.

The Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Council supports Alternative 2, Authorizing up to the Potential Lethal Take Maximum in the 2024 Environmental Impact Statement for Depredation Permits for Common Raven Removal. It is essential that decisive action is taken to mitigate the detrimental effects of raven predation on native wildlife populations.

Additionally, we strongly recommend the implementation of a **Conservation Order** or something similar against Common Ravens in Nevada in order to reduce the population. By reducing the population size of raven to a manageable level, we can begin to address the negative impact they have on sensitive wildlife species and restore the ecological balance in the region. This measure is crucial in ensuring the long-term sustainability of the affected ecosystems and safeguarding the survival of imperiled wildlife species.

We urge the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to prioritize the protection of these at-risk wildlife and consider the urgent need for effective management of Common Ravens in Nevada. Your commitment to conservation and biodiversity preservation is vital in addressing the escalating threat of raven predation on sensitive wildlife species.

Thank you for considering our concerns and taking proactive steps towards mitigating the destructive impacts of Common Ravens in Nevada. Your dedication to wildlife conservation is deeply appreciated, and we look forward to seeing positive and sustainable outcomes for the affected ecosystems.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris MacKenzie', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Chris MacKenzie

Chairman

Sagebrush Ecosystem Council