

JOE LOMBARDO
Governor



Sagebrush Ecosystem Program

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Telephone (775) 687-2000

www.sagebrusheco.nv.gov

Kathleen Steele, Program Manager
Casey Adkins, Forestry/Wildland Fire
Sarah Hale, State Lands
Cheyenne Acevedo, Wildlife
Skyler Monaghan, Agriculture

STATE OF NEVADA
Sagebrush Ecosystem Program

Date: Monday, August 4, 2025

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Place: DCNR Bonnie Room (First Floor)
901 S Stewart St, Carson City, NV 89701

Teams Access:

Meeting ID: 255 028 601 580 4

Passcode: 6L86ej3h

1. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at 8:31am

Members and Ex-Officio Present: Chris MacKenzie (Chair), Jake Tibbitts (Vice Chair), Kyle Davis, Steven Boies, Bevan Lister, Daphne Emm Hooper, Mathew Johns, William Molini, Sherm Swanson, Cheva Gabor (USFS), Kristen Jule (USFWS), Kimberly Prill (BLM), Heidi Ramsey (NRCS), James Settlemeyer (NDCNR), Alan Jenne (NDOW), JJ Goicoechea (NDA)

Members and Ex-Officio Absent: none

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

Member Lister moved to approve the agenda for August 4, 2025. Member Boies seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

One small typo to correct; Member Molini moved to approve the June 3, 2025 minutes. Member Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. COUNCIL MEMBER ITEMS AND CORRESPONDENCE – FOR DISCUSSION:

No items

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6. SHARED STEWARDSHIP UPDATE – FOR DISCUSSION – Kacey KC, NDF and Cheva Gabor, USFS

Kacey KC (NDF) and Cheva Gabor (USFS) provided a presentation on Nevada Shared Stewardship updates and accomplishments. Kacey KC, Cheva Gabor, and other members of Shared Stewardship that were present discussed SEC members' comments and answered questions.

7. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF THE SAGEBRUSH ECOSYSTEM PROGRAM STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION* Cheyenne Acevedo, SETT

Cheyenne Acevedo (SETT) provided a presentation on the intent of SAP revisions and provided a demonstration of how the included maps will be used to guide decision-making.

SEC members and the SETT worked through the document. Members provided feedback, asked questions, and revised wording throughout the SAP draft along with the SETT.

Member Tibbitts motioned to approve the SAP with changes discussed today; Member Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC LANDS PROJECT PHASING AND PROXIMITY FACTORS - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION* Casey Adkins, SETT

Casey Adkins (SETT) presented an alternative option for the public lands phasing factor, which proposed only applying a phasing factor to treatment actions that are not completed within 10 years of the Debit Proponent's initial offset of 1/3 of their debit amount (or within 1/3 of their term if the debit term is less than 30 years).

Member Davis motioned to adopt the proposed policy for phasing; Member Tibbitts seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Casey Adkins (SETT) presented a proposal for reducing proximity factors for public lands projects when implemented in SAP Priority Areas.

SEC members discussed their concerns, weighed pros and cons, and asked clarifying questions. The pros included incentivizing public lands credit generation, incentivizing public lands projects in higher-quality areas rather than marginal areas adjacent to debit projects just due to close proximity, and that the proposal was a good compromise between keeping proximity factor policy

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as-is vs. waiving them entirely for public lands projects. The main cons included that proximity factors are not currently a big hurdle to debit proponents, the SAP Priority Areas are too generalized to base financial decisions on, public lands projects would compete with private credit projects, and that reducing proximity factors for public lands projects would go against the intent outlined in the State Plan (to incentivize offset within the same GRSG population).

Member Davis motioned that the SEC adopt the SETT's proposal on reduced proximity factors. No second to the motion. The motion did not pass.

Member Lister motioned that the SEP keep proximity factors as they currently are. Ex-officio Member Settelmeyer stated that a motion to close the item may be appropriate since no changes to policy are involved.

Member Lister motioned to close the agenda item. Member Boies seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC LANDS CREDIT PROJECT CCS MANUAL UPDATES - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION* Casey Adkins, SETT

Casey Adkins (SETT) provided the draft edits to the CCS Manual that incorporated public lands policy approved at the 6/3/2025 SEC meeting. Stated that changes will be incorporated now if accepted by the SEC, but that there will be another round of revisions later this year for v2.1.

SEC members and the SETT worked through the document. Members provided feedback, asked questions, and revised wording throughout the CCS manual draft along with the SETT.

Member Swanson motioned to approve the CCS Manual as edited. Member Johns seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF THE GREENLINK ALTERNATIVE MITIGATION PLAN ON PUBLIC LANDS - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION* Casey Adkins, SETT

Casey Adkins presented an update on the status of the GLN public lands project. The Summit Lake public lands project as an option for mitigation has been put on pause for now. The SETT is working to find alternative potential project sites that will have a net conservation gain for GRSG,

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will create/improve contiguous areas of GRSG habitat, and generate enough credits to offset GLN's remaining debit amount.

The SEC asked clarifying questions to the SETT and other SEC members.

No action was taken.

11. STAFF BRIEFINGS AND UPDATES TO THE COUNCIL – FOR DISCUSSION - SETT Staff

A. CCS Projects Update

SETT staff provided updates of transactions, credits, and debits in the system and a summary of activities since the last meeting.

12. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS DISCUSSED DURING THIS MEETING AND SCHEDULING NEXT SEC MEETING - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

Private lands benefits within SAP map?

WAFWA boundary revisions?

Permanent regs and BDRs on fee authority?

Next meeting was set for Oct 22, 2025 at DCNR.

13. FEDERAL AGENCY UPDATES AND COMMENTS – FOR DISCUSSION:

A. US Fish and Wildlife Service

Kristen Jule provided an update of staffing changes, staffing cuts, partner coordination, and interpretation of new guidance.

B. Bureau of Land Management –

Kimberly Prill provided an update on staffing and budget cuts, BLM's response to the Governor's Consistency Review of the ARMPA, updated NEPA requirements/streamlined processes, and wildfire activity. Stated that the BLM will be relying on cooperating agencies/affected individuals for NEPA work since there is no longer a public comment period.

Alan Shepherd added that the BLM is monitoring forage for livestock and horses with respect to drought. BLM/Ely is the only district that issued a drought letter this year.

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Summarized permitted and upcoming horse gathers that were/will be carried out due to horses getting stuck in the mud and dying when attempting to access water. No gathers are planned for 2026. If the president's budget holds, the BLM will lose 35% of their budget for horses, which will only leave enough for holding and labor.

C. US Forest Service

Cheva Gabor discussed current priorities, changes to NEPA regulations and preparation, and the hiring freeze. Provided an update on fire season and current USFS projects.

D. USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service

Heidi Ramsey provided an update on staffing cuts, stating that currently only 37/85 positions are filled statewide, with several vacant offices or those with only 1 employee. Stated that NRCS was one of 2 agencies in USDA to do critical-fill process, and they are trying to hold on to technical employees. NRCS were able to hire several individuals through this process but are still understaffed with only 12 people in field offices throughout the state. Summarized the NRCS reorganization. NRCS doesn't know what the reorganization will look like other than where the hubs will be. Possibly getting new authorities and CXs for NEPA. Chris Rose will be reaching out to discuss CCS and NRCS alignment.

E. Other

14. STATE AGENCY UPDATES AND COMMENTS – FOR DISCUSSION:

A. Office of the Governor –

Chase MacNamara provided an update that the Governor's office is monitoring NEPA IFR comment submissions, and that they have received BLM's response to the ARMPA Governor's Consistency Review.

B. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources –

James Settelmeyer provided an update on the Governor's Consistency Review of the ARMPA, changes to NEPA timelines, and current fire activity across the state.

Dominique Etchegoyhen provided an update on hiring and activities of various DCNR divisions, continued partnerships, and the discovery of Monte Neva Paintbrush in

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Steptoe Valley. Notified the council that Representative Mark Amodei will be holding a town-hall in White Pine County focusing on the White Pine Hydropower Facility on August 18th.

C. Department of Wildlife

Alan Jenne provided an update on NDOW's interagency coordination on GRSG and wildfire. NDOW currently has enough pre-emergent herbicide to treat 40K acres on-hand. This year's peak male count for GRSG was 12,765 (27.2 males/lek), a 35% increase over 2024's average attendance rate.

D. Department of Agriculture –

JJ Goicoechea thanked Heidi Ramsey for getting NRCS folks out in the field, stating that the industry appreciates it. Discussed staffing changes and openings. Reported that Ventenata and yellow star thistle were discovered on the Sierra-front. NDA is engaged on multiple properties on I-80 corridor and is working with NDOT to determine plans. Stated that NDA is engaged in solar projects, tracking hydrological drought and feed, and working with permittees and partners to address multiple issues throughout the state.

15. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 3:17pm.