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Governor



Sagebrush Ecosystem Program

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STATE OF NEVADA
Sagebrush Ecosystem Program

Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025

Time: 8:30 a.m.

Place: DCNR Bonnie Room (First Floor)

901 S Stewart St, Carson City, NV 89701

Teams Access:

Meeting ID: 230 636 959 726 2

Passcode: 4p5hj2c4

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, Jon Raby, Alan Jenne (NDOW), JJ Goicoechea (NDA)

Members and Ex-Officio Absent: Jon Standsfield (USFS), Kristen Jule (USFWS), Heidi Ramsey (NRCS), James Settelmeyer (DCNR)

Other Staff Present: Kathleen Steele, Casey Adkins, Skyler Monaghan, Sarah Hale, Nicole Ting, Donminique Etchegoyhen

2. PUBLIC COMMENT- No Public Comment

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

Member Davis moved to approve the agenda for Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025. Member Swanson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION*

SEC Meeting Held Monday, August 4th, 2025 - Member Swanson moved to approve August 4th, 2025, minutes. Member Molini seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Minutes from August 04, 2025 meeting are not included in the packet however are available Online.

Regulations Workshop Held Tuesday, September 2nd, 2025 – Member Tibbitts moved to approve Tuesday, September 2nd, 2025, Minutes and Member Boies seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. COUNCIL MEMBER ITEMS AND CORRESPONDENCE – FOR DISCUSSION:

No items

6. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE GOVERNOR'S CONSISTENCY REVIEW FOR GREENLINK NORTH TRANSMISSION PROJECT *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION* –

Chase McNamara, Office of Governor Lombardo - Provided a presentation on behalf of the Governor's Office Regarding the consistency review they submitted to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the Greenlink North Transmission Project. (a copy of the given Presentation is attached, and available in Audio/ video recording of the meeting)

SEC Members and the SETT worked through the Presentation. Members provided feedback and asked questions. (Please refer to Audio/Video Recording for further details.)

7. DISCUSSION OF FIRE-AFFECTED CREDIT PROJECTS AND CONSIDERATION OF RESERVE ACCOUNT USE - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION* Skyler Monaghan and Sarah Hale, SETT

Skyler Monaghan (SETT) provided a presentation on the 2025 Fire Season Summary and Reserve Account Concerns. Solutions presented are as follows:

1. Add in all reserve account credits generated from Private Lands Credit Projects upon signature of the Management Plan.
2. SETT will use federal, private, or state grants to complete projects on public land to generate reserve account credits.
3. Use NVCCS State Seed Funding to generate reserve account credits on public land.
4. Increase reserve account contribution for Private Lands Credit Projects.
5. Combine Reserve Account for Public and Private Land Credit Projects.

SEC Members and the SETT worked through the presentation. Members provided feedback and asked questions. (Please refer to Audio/Video Recording for further details.)

Member Tibbitts motioned to move forward with option #1 direct the SEC to push it out for more detail, on items 2 and 3 to immediately move forward and to Table 4 and 5 on the Reserve Account solutions Slide. Motion seconded by Member Lister.

Further Discussion, Member Davis would like additional information on 2 and 3 on how the credits are held and how the monitoring and maintenance is done on them.

Motion was Amended by Member Tibbitts for options 2 and 3 that anything to be developed under those two options is brought back for approval by SEC. Second Member Lister was in agreeance with this amendment.

Discussion between SEC and SETT concerning time Frames for Grants (Please refer to Audio/Video Recording for further details.)

Member Lister withdrew his second, and Member Tibbitts withdrew his motion.

Member Lister motioned to move forward with number 1 but to come back with more information, then amended his motion to table number 1.

Motion by Member Lister died by lack of Second.

Member Swanson motioned that the SEC determine if the SETT needs to make a change to the language, change state plan and change Manuals with specific wording to implement the concept. To discuss just the concept to move forward.

Member Molini seconded the motion made by Member Swanson.

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Member Tibbitts to move forward with the concept SETT will use federal, private or state grants to complete projects on public land to generate reserve account Credits. Seconded by Member Boies. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion for #3 to table and bring back for action motion by Member Swanson and seconded by Member Tibbitts. The motion passed unanimously.

Member to remove Option #4 by Member Boies and seconded by Member Swanson. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion for #5 to move forward and consider later at adaptive management meeting, motion moved by Member Swanson and seconded by Member Lister. Motion passed with 1 opposition by Member Tibbitts.
(Please refer to Audio/Video Recording for further details on discussion.)

10 minute recess – Meeting resumed at 11:26 am

8. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF AN ANTHROPOGENIC DISTURBANCE CLASSIFICATION FOR DATA CENTERS- *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION* Kathleen Steele, SETT

Kathleen Steele, Provided a Presentation on Delineation of Data Centers in the CCS.

SEC Members and the SETT worked through the presentation. Members provided feedback and asked questions. (Please refer to Audio/Video Recording for further details.)

Member Swanson Moved for Option # 3 (Own Category - 100% weight with 6km Distance), and was seconded by Member Boies
(Please refer to Audio/Video Recording for further details on this discussion.)

Motion to treat it as Geothermal, for categorization purposes Motion failed to pass with 3 oppositions.

Member Tibbitts motioned for the idea of different categories, seconded by Member Lister. The motion passed unanimously.

9. REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF SEEKING A BILL DRAFT REQUEST FOR STATUTORY REVISIONS AND FEE IMPOSITION - *FOR POSSIBLE ACTION* Kathleen Steele, SETT

Kathleen Steele provided a Presentation on Proposed Bill Draft request to Adjust NRS Authority and collect Proposed Fees and Penalties.

SEC Members and the SETT worked through the presentation. Members provided feedback, discussed language changes and asked questions. (Please refer to Audio/Video Recording for further details.)

Reviewed changes: 1. To NRS 232.161 #2-a - Add Director or Directors designee.

2. To NRS 232.162 #6-c - Add Established by Regulation.

3. To NRS 321.594 make two separate Sagebrush and Sage Grouse.

4. Correction to NRS 232.161 there is no NRS 232.162

5. Changing the language of Host Fund – Reasonable fees and penalties

Member Davis Motioned to direct SETT to move forward with requesting a Bill Draft with the changes discussed, Motion was seconded by Member Molini. The motion passed unanimously.

10. 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. (Please refer to Audio/Video Recording for further details on this discussion.)

Greater Sage-Grouse RMPA – State Directors met with the BLM several months ago to discuss the consistency review and any concerns they have and in collaboration with the BLM the Directors all settled on a few changes that were posted in the final Sage Grouse RMP Amendment and EIS and the comments were due early October.

Summary of changes: (Please refer to Audio/Video Recording for further details on this discussion.)

1. Updated Adaptive Management language to better align with the State's Plan.

2. Elimination of PHMA with Limited Exceptions.

3. Change Major Right of Way in General Habitat Management Areas from Avoidance to Open status.

4. Updated Nesting Habitat Benchmark.

5. Finalized the Map

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

Items for the next meeting

1. Presentation from Range camp

2. SETT to present the Semi-Annual Report to the Governor

3. SETT to bring the Joint Chief project that was postponed

4. Presentation from Fish and Wildlife Service

5. Mapping Changes as well as literature updates and changes to HQT for the next version
6. Bring back Data Centers and the Reserve Account choices as well as reserve potential account credits on public lands from private activities.

Reminder - Hearing will be held online on November 17th, 2025, at 12:00 pm (online only)
– need quorum and temporary regulations are expiring.

Next meeting was set for December 2nd, 2025, location unknown.

12. FEDERAL AGENCY UPDATES AND COMMENTS – FOR DISCUSSION:

A. US Fish and Wildlife Service - None

B. Bureau of Land Management

Jon Raby provided an update on October 30th meeting with the language changes, discussed lapses and appropriations working on several items due to shutdown essential workers and providing critical support, Emergency Response, 80% staffing work force currently and things are moving forward. Wild horse and Burro gather, Snowstorm and Little Humboldt HMA's in response to James Fire, some emergency gathers there. Beatty burro gathers and Pancake gathers as well, then some partnership with Lander County for future gather. Have not had a gathering in Lander in a long time and it is well overdue. Secretarial order establishing the Department of Fire Service, which consolidates all the bureau wild and fire operations within the Department of interior the wild and fire program in Nevada is larger than the entire US Fish and Wildlife services program. This will now be consolidated and no longer report under Jon Raby. it will report under the new Fire and Wildlife chief out of Boise ID. Consolidation scheduled to take place January 20th, 2026.

C. US Forest Service - None

D. USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service - None

E. Other

13. STATE AGENCY UPDATES AND COMMENTS – FOR DISCUSSION:

A. Office of the Governor - None

B. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Dominique Etchegoyhen provided updates:

Nevada National Security Site - received low level radioactive waste, that program will continue and the inspections will continue over the next two weeks. They have contractors in place through experimental management but are expected to be furloughed and leaving so are expecting operations to cease at that point as there will not be anyone to receive those shipments.

Impacts with the EPA - their funding has run out, and majority of their staff are

now furloughed, the Division of Environmental Protection is still sending permits to them for review but will not be reviewed until they are back up and running.

New Fiscal Grant Draw Down system - allowing the grants to continue to be operational.

The Capital Christmas Tree- with assistance through the National Forest Foundation, and the contracts in place the Tree will still be harvested and will be in the Nevada Day parade as we celebrate 161 years! Director Settlemeyer and Dominique will not be at the December meeting as they will be in Washington DC to present the Tree.

Wildfires- just under 400k acres, they have begun prescribed burning this past week. Fuel moisture is low.

Division of State Parks – Valley of Fire Grand opening for new Visitors Center on November 22nd, 2025. Announced the new video Journey through Time and Stone Narrated by William Shatner.

Division of National Heritage - is having large success with the biological observation boxes, they recently documented Western Jumping Mouse in Carson Range, first confirmed sighting since 2005.

Division of Water Resources – Proposed draft curtailment letter for the Humboldt River Basin, long standing issue where senior rights aren't being served because of depletion of junior rights with ground water pumping near the river. Law would require curtailment of the junior rights; there is concern that the curtailment may not remedy the conflicts. Purpose was to show what this curtailment could look like but also allows time to look at other options that would help to resolve the issue. Looking at offset programs, market-based approaches and conservation efforts. Requesting feedback and suggestions.

C. Department of Wildlife

Fire year close to 400k acres, to date Department of Wildlife has applied approximately 42k acres of pre-emergent herbicide to prepare for reseeding efforts for next year. 18,292 acres with additional acres that are finalizing through the restoration planning process. Bartlett and Cottonwood fire, there is consideration of mesocarnivore removals to assist in relieving predation pressure on Sharp-tailed and Grouse and Sage Grouse populations in that area.

D. Department of Agriculture - None

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

Member Lister- stated that it was concerning to hear that we would see a Net Conservation Loss by showing a deficit in the reserve account, that it looks bad from his perspective. Member Lister stated that he understands that it is not the reality, that the reality of it is there has been a tremendous amount of work that has been done. There are a lot of things outside the Conservation Credit System and reserve accounts that benefit Sage-Grouse but just concerning to hear. No additional comment

Member Swanson announced February Zoom Class Riparian Proper Functioning Conditions Assessment, Integrated Riparian Management, and Riparian Grazing Management is the week of

February 16th.

No Further Comment

15. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 1:03pm.