

# Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Program

The role and responsibilities of the Nevada  
Division of Forestry SETT representative

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Presented by  
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NEVADA  
**SAGEBRUSH ECOSYSTEM  
PROGRAM**



# General Responsibilities of the NDF Team Member

- Alternative Mitigation on Public Lands
- Public Lands Credit Projects
- Debit Projects
- Technology Support
- Collaboration with Conservation Districts (CDs) and Share Stewardship
- Grant Administration
- Public Information Officer (Outreach)
- Other Shared Responsibilities
  - Debit Project End of Life
  - Semi Annual Reporting
  - Adaptive Management

# Alternative Mitigation on Public Lands

- Pinyon-juniper woodland removal, meadow enhancement, and anthropogenetic feature removal
- Develop new CCS policies and procedures such as
  - Credit release schedules
  - New mitigation project types
  - Restoration collaborations with other agencies
  - Best restoration standards for CCS restoration mitigation
- Present ideas and goals to the SEC and Science Committee
- Discuss opportunities with Debit Proponents
  - Net conservation gain
  - Permitting
  - Debit obligation
  - Feasibility

# Project Development

- Early talks with Proponents
- Work with Proponents to find a project area
  - Multiple iterations of this step to find a fitting project
- Start any required permitting and agreements
- Develop a mitigation management plan
- Receive SEC approval if necessary

## NEVADA CONSERVATION CREDIT SYSTEM MITIGATION MANAGEMENT PLAN FORM SECTION A

This entire mitigation management plan should be developed in close coordination with the Sagebrush Ecosystem Program, to ensure compliance and avoid project delays. The purpose of this mitigation management plan is to ensure Credit Projects, in addition to any credits purchased, and their habitat values to sage-grouse are maintained or improved through implementation of mitigation actions and continuous management commitments and confirmed through monitoring and reporting activities. This mitigation management plan is a binding and enforceable instrument, implemented by the Participant Contract covering the Credit Project area. The Credit Developer and Credit System Administrator signatures on this page of this management plan indicate mutual agreement to its contents. If all credits are not acquired within the required timeframe, the Debit Project will be considered out of compliance.

### I. PROJECT INFORMATION

Debit Project Name _____		
County(s) _____		
WAFWA Management Zone(s) _____	Biological Significant Unit(s) _____	NDOW Population Mgmt. Unit(s) _____
Proposed Credit Project(s) _____		
County(s) _____		
WAFWA Management Zone(s) _____	Biological Significant Unit(s) _____	NDOW Population Mgmt. Unit(s) _____
Confirmed Permanent Debit Amount: _____		
Confirmed Term Debit Amount: _____		
Estimated Permanent Credits Needed to Offset (w/Proximity or Phasing Factor): _____		
Estimated Term Credits Needed to Offset (w/Proximity or Phasing Factor): _____		
Estimated Private Land Credits to Purchase or Transfer: _____		
Estimated Public Land Credits to Generate: _____		
Proposed Public Land Project Type (check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> PJ Removal	<input type="checkbox"/> Meadow Enhancement/Restoration	
<input type="checkbox"/> Anthropogenic Removal	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Total Proposed Public Land Project Acreage _____ acres		



Management Actions					
MANAGEMENT ACTION	LOCATION	GOALS	ACTION	ANTICIPATED INTERVAL	COMMITMENT TIME FRAME
<i>Complete &amp; Maintain Conifer Removal Effort</i>	<i>P1 Simpson Parks</i>	<i>Completed and maintained Pinyon-Juniper removal</i>	<i>Cut pinyon and juniper and occasional post-cut regrowth thereafter</i>	<i>After initial lop and scatter work, regrowth expected to require maintenance on a 10-year basis</i>	<i>Duration of Project</i>
<i>Weed Treatment on Phase 2 Conifer</i>	<i>P1 Phase 2 Areas of Simpson Parks</i>	<i>Prevent weeds post-removal</i>	<i>Spray chemical weed control just after the cutting of Phase 2 PJ</i>	<i>After initial lop and scatter work</i>	<i>Initial Cut</i>
<i>Install/maintain grade control structures</i>	<i>P2 Deer Creek, main stem stream</i>	<i>Trend towards achieving and maintaining PFC</i>	<i>Install and maintain grade control structures to address erosion. Map and plans attached</i>	<i>Installation Spring 2019 and maintenance as needed thereafter</i>	<i>Duration of Project</i>
<i>Fencing</i>	<i>P2 Deer Creek</i>	<i>Protect the meadow from overgrazing</i>	<i>Install and maintain fencing to manage grazing. Map and plans attached</i>	<i>Installation Spring 2019 and maintenance as needed thereafter</i>	<i>Duration of Project</i>
<i>Weed Treatment</i>	<i>P2 Deer Creek, South and East Sides</i>	<i>Reduce weed cover to &lt;5%</i>	<i>Spray chemical weed control on noxious weeds twice a year until weeds are under control or removed</i>	<i>Within two years from start of the project, after fencing and grade structure are in place, then maintain every year from there</i>	<i>Duration of Project</i>
<i>Seeding</i>	<i>P2 Deer Creek</i>	<i>Increase of desirable perennial grasses to &gt;30% and forbs to &gt;10%</i>	<i>Seed whenever needed</i>	<i>Within two years from start of the project, after fencing, grade structures, and weed controls are in place, then reseed when needed</i>	<i>Duration of Project</i>

## Monitoring & Reporting Activities Summary Description & Estimated Budget

The typical monitoring activities to be budgeted for are provided below (*italics*). Please update the information and the estimated costs as appropriate.

Monitoring & Reporting Activities Summary Description & Estimated Budget							
MONITORING & REPORTING ACTIVITIES		DESCRIPTION	REQUIRED (YES/NO)	LEVEL OF EFFORT	MONITORING COST	MONITORING FREQUENCY	SCHEDULE (IF APPLICABLE)
P1 Conifer Removal		Verification that Conifer Maintenance has been completed, including photos and a written report	Yes	Low	\$1,000	Every 10 years for 20 years of maintenance	To be completed in years 10 and 20 after maintenance
P2 Meadow Restoration Annual Monitoring		Annual Monitoring to ensure success, to be done in a report by the Credit Developer	Yes	Low	\$500	Annually for 28 years of maintenance	To be completed annually through the life of the project (not needed in year 15)
P2 Meadow Restoration Verification		Full verification at year 15 and reporting completed by a certified Verifier	Yes	Medium	\$15,000	At year 15	To be completed in year 15
		TOTAL			\$31,500		
Required Date of Submittal		The Annual Management and Monitoring Report will be submitted to the Administrator by July 31st of each year that Verification is not conducted.					
*Total Monitoring Cost should be the Monitoring Cost multiplied by the Monitoring Frequency to get the total cost for monitoring over the life of the project.							

# Public Lands Credit Projects

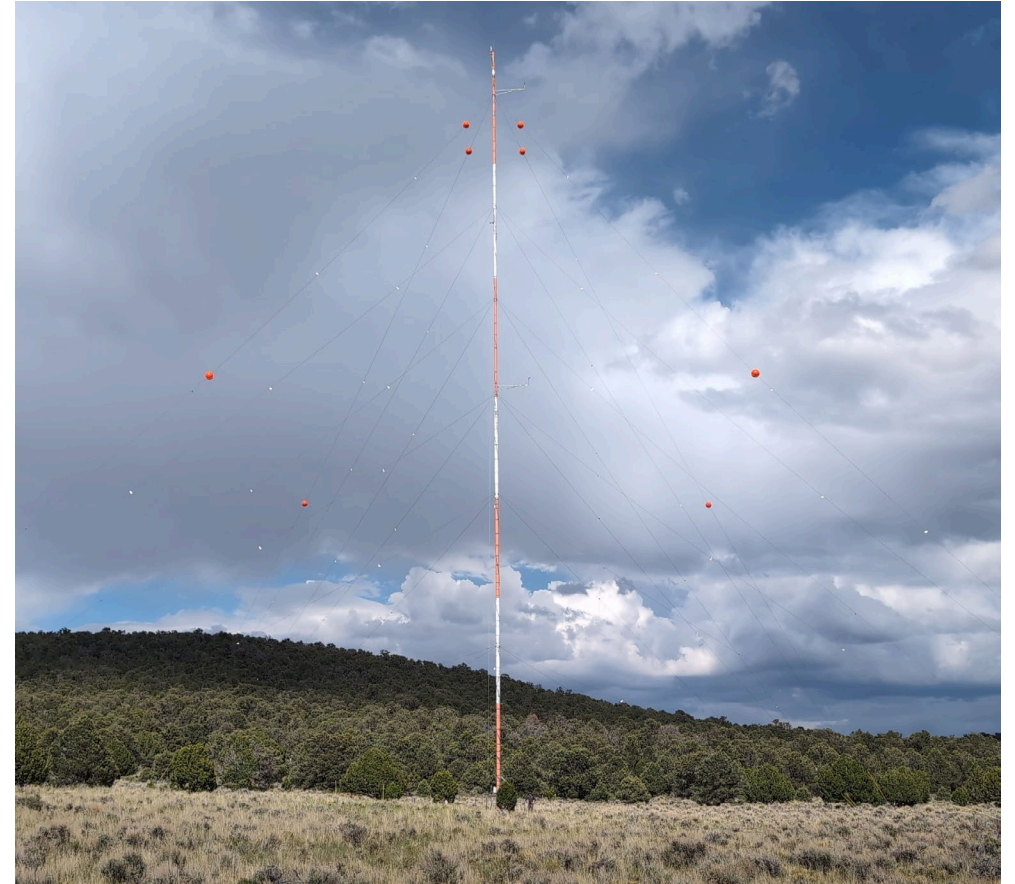
- Active projects
  - Pinyon-juniper woodland removal project with USFS
  - General upland restoration project with NDOW and a Debit Proponent (~50,000 acres)
  - Restoration project to be included in a Debit Projects NEPA
  - Pinyon-juniper woodland removal project under consideration with the BLM (~100,000 acres)
    - Draft Categorical Exclusion





# Debit Project Involvement

- Manage 28 debit projects
  - Attend NEPA meetings
  - Work with Debit Proponents to implement the mitigation hierarchy
  - Assist Verifiers with the HQT
  - Provide quality assurances for pre-field and post-field submissions to ensure the highest quality data and the most accurate debit calculations
  - Assist Proponents in credit purchases—from advising on potential purchases to finalized purchase agreements





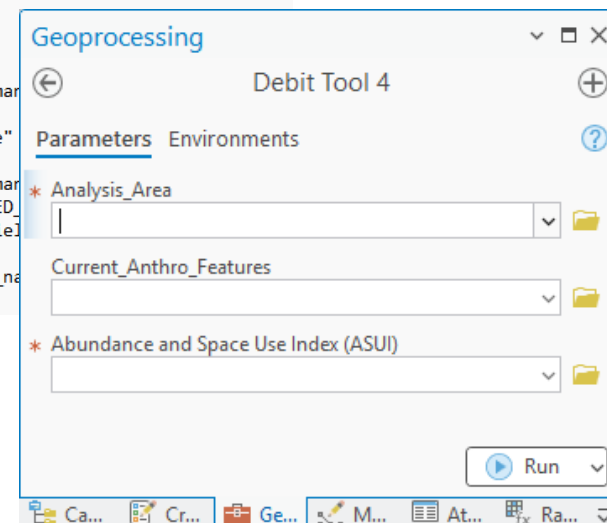
# Technical Support

- Update and maintain the 11 GIS tools of the HQT
  - Approx. 7000 lines of code updated to python3 for HQT v2.0
  - Corrected functionality of the HQT transect tool
- Assist in the hiring and management of IT staff
- Assist IT staff in the development of the Anthropogenetic Removal Tool
- Day-to-day issues

```
# Calculate Projected_Anthro_Disturbance
extent_fc = Analysis_Area
anthro_features = Projected_Anthro_Features
term = ccsStandard.DebitTerms[1]
Projected_Anthro_Disturbance = ccslib.CalcAnthroDist(
    extent_fc, anthro_features, emptyRaster,
    AnthroAttributeTable, term
)
Projected_Anthro_Disturbance.save(PROJECTED_ANTHRO_DISTURBANCE)

# Update message
arcpy.AddMessage("Projected_Anthro_Disturbance Calculated")
arcpy.AddMessage("Creating Permanent Anthro Features and calculating "
    "disturbance")

# Calculate permanent anthropogenic disturbance
# Select permanent anthropogenic features from Projected Anthro Features
mod_field = "Overlap_Status"
returned_field = "Returned"
subtype_mod_field = "Subtype_As_Modified"
duration_field = "Surface_Disturbance"
permanent_codes = ["Term_Reclassified", "Perman"]
reclass_code = "Term_Reclassified"
reclass_subtype_field = "Reclassified_Subtype"
out_name = PERMANENT_ANTHRO_FEATURES
Permanent_Anthro_Features = ccslib.SelectPerman
    Current_Anthro_Features, ELIGIBLE_PROPOSED,
    mod_field, returned_field, subtype_mod_field,
    duration_field, permanent_codes,
    reclass_code, reclass_subtype_field, out_name
)
```



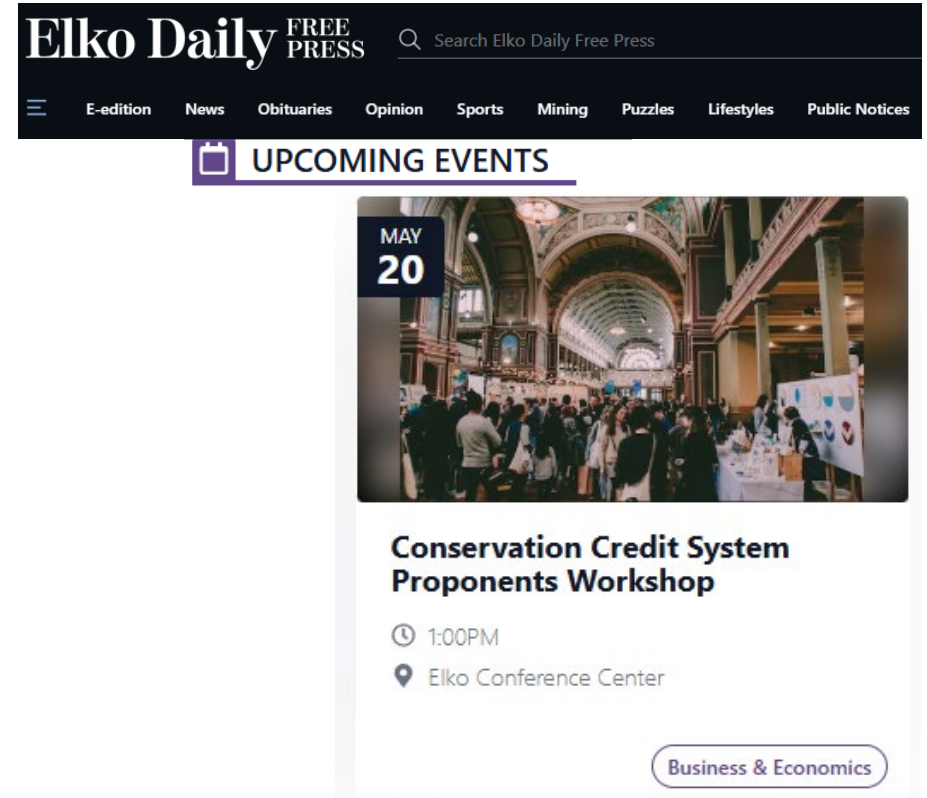
# Collaboration with CDs and Shared Stewardship and Grant Administration

- NV Shared Stewardship Technical Advisory Committee
  - Inter-agency partnership
  - Review pre- and post-funded projects
- Goals: SEP restoration projects for sagebrush ecosystem conservation
  - Apply for Shared Stewardship funding
  - Apply for grants like, the Landscape Scale Restoration Grant



# Public Information Officer (Outreach)

- DCNR Communications Committee
  - Provide info on the SEP and CCS events for media coverage
- Local high school career fairs
- Facilitate advertisement for CCS Workshops through DCNR and local media organizations
- Teach the importance of sagebrush ecosystems in the classroom and field for Natural Resource Rookie Academy (training for future wildland firefighters)
- Guest speaker at Great Basin Outdoor School Day Camp



The screenshot shows the Elko Daily Free Press website. The header includes the newspaper's name, a search bar, and navigation links for E-edition, News, Obituaries, Opinion, Sports, Mining, Puzzles, Lifestyles, and Public Notices. Below the header, there is a section titled "UPCOMING EVENTS" with a calendar icon. The featured event is for May 20, titled "Conservation Credit System Proponents Workshop". The event details include a time of 1:00PM and a location at the Elko Conference Center. A "Business & Economics" tag is visible at the bottom right of the event card.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**MAY 20**

**Conservation Credit System Proponents Workshop**

🕒 1:00PM

📍 Elko Conference Center

Business & Economics

# Other Shared Responsibilities

- Debit Project End of Life
  - Cheyenne and I work together
- Semi Annual Report
  - As a team we each develop the sections of the report that align with our duties
- Adaptive Management
  - Skyler and I work together





# Thank You

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