



# The Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Program (SEP)



## Assembly Bill 242

Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team (SETT)

April 17, 2025



# AB242

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Section 1. NRS 232.162 is hereby amended to read as follows:

232.162

7. The Council shall:

- (e) Establish *by regulation* a program to mitigate damage to sagebrush ecosystems in this State by authorizing a system that awards credits to persons, federal and state agencies, local governments and nonprofit organizations to protect, enhance or restore sagebrush ecosystems;
- 8. *In establishing a program to mitigate damage to sagebrush ecosystems pursuant to paragraph (e) of subsection 7, the Council shall:*
  - (a) Outline the necessary process for enrollment of a debit project and/or credit project;*
  - (b) Develop a process for the review of, and decisions on, enrollment of a debit project and/or credit project;*
  - (c) Develop a process for a project proponent to appeal to the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council a final determination of the amount of credits or debits; and*
  - (d) Develop a process for the periodic review of credit and/or debit projects*

*Section 2. 1. This act becomes effective on July 31, 2027.*

# AB242 as Amended

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Section 1. NRS 232.162 is hereby amended to read as follows:

7. The Council shall:

- (e) Establish *by regulation* a program to mitigate damage to sagebrush ecosystems in this State by authorizing a system that awards credits to persons, federal and state agencies, local governments and nonprofit organizations to protect, enhance or restore sagebrush ecosystems;
- 8. *In establishing a program to mitigate damage to sagebrush ecosystems pursuant to paragraph (e) of subsection 7, the Council shall set forth in regulation:*
  - (a) The process for a person, federal or state agency, local government or nonprofit organization to apply to participate in the program by:*
    - (1) Proposing an activity or project that will create credits to protect, enhance or restore sagebrush ecosystems; or*
    - (2) Acquiring debits to compensate for the loss or degradation of habitat of the greater sage-grouse caused by a proposed activity or project;*
  - (b) The process for the review of an application described in paragraph (a) by the Council;*
  - (c) The process by which a person, federal or state agency, local government or nonprofit organization that applies to participate in the program pursuant to paragraph (a) may appeal any decision of the Council relating to the application; and*
  - (d) The process by which the Council will periodically review any activity or project that has been approved by the Council to create credits or acquire debits pursuant to the program.*

Sec 2. 1. *This section becomes effective upon passage and approval.*

2. *Section 1 of this act becomes effective:*

- (a) Upon passage and approval for the purpose of adopting any regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act; and*
- (b) On July 31, 2027, for all other purposes.*



# AB242

- Referred to Committee on Government Affairs
- Voted to pass it on
- Fiscal Note from DCNR based on original language
- May change when final language comes out

**BDR 18-214**  
**AB 242**

## EXECUTIVE AGENCY FISCAL NOTE

### AGENCY'S ESTIMATES

Date Prepared: March 4, 2025

Agency Submitting: State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Items of Revenue or Expense, or Both	Fiscal Year 2024-25	Fiscal Year 2025-26	Fiscal Year 2026-27	Effect on Future Biennia
Personnel (Expense)		\$235,778	\$318,234	\$636,468
Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team Operating (Expense)		\$118,834	\$87,540	\$175,080
Total	0	\$354,612	\$405,774	\$811,548

### Explanation

(Use Additional Sheets of Attachments, if required)

The Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Program was established through NRS 321.592-594, to create and administer a mitigation program to offset loss and damage to sagebrush ecosystems. The Conservation Credit System (System) was designed to create a consistent measure of habitat loss and subsequent mitigation offset for Greater Sage-grouse. The Program is already required to review and improve this System on an annual basis. As drafted, AB 242 would require codification of countless methodologies and formulas the System currently uses, codification of any new methodologies and formulas, and codification of any tweaks to these methodologies or formulas. Accordingly, the additional workload from this bill necessitates two new staff to consistently keep up with the internal and open meeting law requirements of continual administrative rulemaking changes throughout the year. Moreover, the increased compliance requirements resulting from these codified methodologies would necessitate two additional staff to conduct on-the-ground site visits and compliance checks, and to help existing staff with the increased workloads. At least two staff members would need access to ArcGIS, a key software for our System. Due to increased compliance checks for Projects across much of the State, the Program's travel budget would also need to increase. Finally, to ensure compliance with these more complex regulations, Program staff would be required to conduct more frequent and intense consultant trainings.

Name	Kelly Williams
Title	Administrative Services Officer IV

### GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF FINANCE COMMENTS

The agency's response appears reasonable.

Date	Monday, March 03, 2025
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Name	Tiffany Greenameyer
Title	Director

QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU!