

Nevada

Sagebrush Ecosystem Program

Proposed Bill Draft
Request to Adjust NRS
Authority and Collect
Proposed Fees and
Penalties

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

Presented by
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Reasoning

- On October 30, 2019, the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council passed regulations that required the use of the Conservation Credit System for any mitigation regarding impacts to Greater Sage-Grouse.
- Since then, the number of projects coming through the Program has exponentially increased.

Reasoning

- Debit Proponents have requested to have a mechanism to allow the collection of a set cost for small credit amounts (e.g. <10) to be compiled to fund a bigger, more impactful project
 - Not many landowners like to sell a handful of credits at a time
 - Removes the bulk of the paperwork for small transactions for landowners, debit producers, and SETT staff
- Add in a penalty structure to ensure Debit Project compliance with NAC 232.400 – 232.480.
 - Have had 3 non-compliance issues
- Charge fees for doing work for a proponent that a Verifier can be hired to do
 - 100% HSI
 - Public Lands Mitigation

Conceptual Change

NRS 232.161 Account to Restore the Sagebrush Ecosystem: Creation; duties of Director; limitations on use of money in Account.

1. The Account to Restore the Sagebrush Ecosystem is hereby created in the State General Fund. The Director shall administer the Account in a manner consistent with policies and priorities established by the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council created by NRS 232.162.
2. *Any money received through the following sources must be deposited into the Account:*
 - a) ~~Any The Director may apply for and accept any~~ gift, donation, bequest, grant or other source of money *applied for and accepted by the Program Manager*. ~~Any money so received must be deposited in the Account.~~
 - b) *In-lieu fees collected pursuant to paragraph (e) of subsection 7 of NRS 321.162 to fulfill their obligation as set forth in regulation.*
 - c) *Penalties for non-compliance of authority pursuant to paragraph (e) of subsection 7 of NRS 321.162 collected as set forth in regulations.*

Conceptual Change

NRS 232.162 Sagebrush Ecosystem Council: Creation; members; terms; vacancies; compensation; powers and duties; biannual report to Governor.

6. The Council may:

- a) Adopt regulations to govern the management and operation of the Council;
- b) Establish subcommittees consisting of members of the Council to assist the Council in the performance of its duties;
- c) *Establish reasonable fees and penalties related to the activities prescribed by paragraph (e) of subsection 7, and*
- d) Consider and require the recovery of costs related to activities prescribed by paragraph (d) of subsection 2 of NRS 321.594 ~~pursuant to NRS 701.600 to 701.640, inclusive, or any other authorized method of recovering those costs.~~

Conceptual Change

NRS 321.594 Powers and duties of Administrator and Division regarding programs to improve sagebrush ecosystems; Division authorized to make certain grants and enter into certain contracts and agreements; regulations.

2. In carrying out the program described in subsection 1, the Division, on behalf of the Director of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, shall:...

(d) If requested, consult with persons proposing to conduct activities in any area which includes any *sagebrush ecosystem* ~~habitat of the greater sage grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*)~~ to suggest measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate the effect of the activities on any sagebrush ecosystem;

(e) Solicit grants and private contributions for projects to improve sagebrush ecosystems; ~~and~~

(f) Authorize reasonable hosting expenditures for meals, beverages, and small gifts through the general fund by or on behalf of Sagebrush Ecosystem Program who is conducting business activities necessary to provide a benefit to the Sagebrush Ecosystem Program by establishing goodwill, promoting the Program, or otherwise advancing the mission of the Program; and

Conceptual Change

NRS 321.594 Powers and duties of Administrator and Division regarding programs to improve sagebrush ecosystems; Division authorized to make certain grants and enter into certain contracts and agreements; regulations.

2. In carrying out the program described in subsection 1, the Division, on behalf of the Director of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, shall:...

(~~f~~g) On or before ~~August 1~~ *June 30* of each year, submit a report to the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council created by NRS 232.162. The report must include, without limitation:...

(4) A description of any significant activities conducted in any area which includes *sagebrush ecosystem* ~~habitat of the greater sage grouse~~ and all measures adopted to avoid, minimize or mitigate the effect of the activities on any sagebrush ecosystem; ~~and~~...

(5) The amount of money dispersed for hosting expenditures and the specific purpose and activity for which the money was expended; and

~~(56)~~ Any other information specified by the Division or requested by the Council.



Questions?

Thank You



NEVADA
**SAGEBRUSH ECOSYSTEM
PROGRAM**



Nevada Department of
**CONSERVATION &
NATURAL RESOURCES**



NDA
Nevada
Department
of Agriculture



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