

Nevada

Sagebrush Ecosystem Program

Defining the Scope of the
Agricultural Exemption

October 21, 2026

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NEVADA
**SAGEBRUSH ECOSYSTEM
PROGRAM**



Nevada Department of
**CONSERVATION &
NATURAL RESOURCES**



Nevada
Department
of Agriculture





Current Policy

Livestock operations and agricultural activities and infrastructure related to ranch and farm businesses (e.g., water troughs, fences, pivots, virtual fence towers, etc.) are exempt from this definition of Debit Project types and considered a de minimis impact.

Concerns

Large anthropogenic disturbances such as powerlines and roads can technically be tied to agricultural/livestock uses and, thus, the exemption, but cause lingering concerns for Greater Sagegrouse.



Concerns

Anthropogenic features that may be tied to agriculture or livestock operations but are not considered de minimus in the Conservation Credit System

- Powerlines
- Roads
- Cell Towers/Weather Towers
- Solar
- Wind
- Pipelines/Fiber Optic Cables
- Other

Anthropogenic features considered by the Credit System with assigned weights and distances^{t,t2}

DISTURBANCE TYPE	SUBTYPE*	WEIGHT (%)	DISTANCE (Miles (Kilometers))
Towers	Communications ¹	75%	3.73 miles (6 km)
	Meteorological	75%	3.73 miles (6 km)
Power Lines ²	Nest Facilitating	75%	3.73 miles (6 km)
	Non-Nest Facilitating	25%	3.73 miles (6 km)
Mines	Active – Large (≥ 60 acres)	100%	3.73 miles (6km)
	Active – Small (< 60 acres)	100%	1.86 miles (3 km)
	Inactive – Large (≥ 60 acres)	50%	0.62 miles (1 km)
	Inactive – Small (< 60 acres)	10%	0.62 miles (1 km)
	Ancillary – Large	50%	1.86 miles (3 km)
	Ancillary – Small	50%	0.93 miles (1.5 km)
Oil & Gas Wells	Producing	100%	1.86 miles (3 km)
	Non-producing	0%	0 miles (0 km)
Urban, Suburban & Ex-urban Development ³	Med-High	100%	3.73 miles (6 km)
	Low	75%	1.86 miles (3 km)
Roads	Interstate/4-lane	100%	3.73 miles (6 km)
	2-lane Paved & High-use Improved; Commercial	100%	1.86 miles (3 km)
	Low-use Improved; Local	25%	0.62 miles (1 km)
Railways	Railway	100%	1.86 miles (3 km)
Renewable	Geothermal	100%	3.73 miles (6 km)
	Ancillary – Geothermal	50%	1.86 miles (3 km)
	Solar	25%	0.62 miles (1 km)
	Wind	25%	3.73 miles (6 km)
Linear Rights of Way	LROW High	50%	0.62 miles (1 km)
	LROW Low	25%	0.31 miles (0.5 km)
Mineral Exploration ⁴	Exploration	100%	0 miles (0 km)



Considerations

- What was the original intent of the exemption?
- Do we need to further define “...a de minimis impact”?

Proposed Change

Limit the exemption to agricultural activities that are de minimus and can help mitigate impacts to Greater Sage-grouse such as offsite water, fences, and virtual fencing. Do not include impacts that do not fall under this new definition such as powerlines and roads.

NVCCS Manual change:

“Livestock operations and agricultural activities and infrastructure related to ranch and farm businesses that help mitigate impacts to Greater Sage-grouse (e.g., water troughs, fences, pivots, virtual fence towers, etc.) are exempt from this definition of Debit Project types and considered a de minimis impact. Features such as powerlines and roads do not fall under this exemption.”

Thank You

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