

GREATER SAGE-GROUSE NEVADA TIMELINE:

- 2000, then-Governor Kenny Guinn appointed a task force representing various interest groups and agencies to develop a plan that would conserve and protect Nevada's Sage-grouse and their habitat.
- October 2001 the Nevada Sage-grouse Conservation Strategy identified challenges, offered potential solutions, and laid the groundwork for the formation of Local Area Working Groups (LAWG) and Population Management Units (PMU). It provided guidance for developing conservation plans and subsequent legislative endorsements in 2004 and 2010 reinforced Nevada's commitment to conserve the species.
- 2001 to 2004 the Governor's Sage-grouse Conservation Team under leadership of the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) completed an intensive planning effort for the State in which LAWGs developed plans for their respective areas and PMUs.
- June 2004, the *1st Edition of the Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Plan for Nevada and Eastern California* (2004 State Plan) was completed.
- Between 2004 and the present, resource management agencies have implemented conservation projects and instituted policies to support the conservation goals in the 2004 State Plan.
- March 23, 2010, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) determined that listing the sage-grouse was warranted under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA), but precluded due to higher priority species. Consequently, sage-grouse were placed on the federal candidate species list. The USFWS later entered into a court settlement with several environmental groups, which included a schedule for making listing determinations on over 200 candidate species, including the sage-grouse. A proposed decision for sage-grouse is scheduled for September 2015.
- In response, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) developed their National Greater Sage-grouse Planning Strategy in late 2011, a process to revise existing land use plans (LUPs) in order to provide regulatory mechanisms to conserve sage-grouse and their habitats.
- Secretary Salazar invited the states impacted by a potential sage-grouse listing to develop state-specific regulatory mechanisms to conserve the species which could be considered as an alternative in the BLM and USFS LUP revision process.

- March 30, 2012, Governor Sandoval fortified Nevada's commitment to sage-grouse conservation, by issuing Executive Order 2012-09, which established the Governor's Greater Sage-grouse Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) with a directive to provide updated recommendations for sage-grouse conservation in Nevada in order to preclude the need to list sage-grouse under the ESA and provide an alternative for consideration in the BLM/ USFS LUP revision process for Nevada.
- July 31, 2012 the *Strategic Plan for Conservation of Greater Sage-Grouse in Nevada* (2012 State Plan) was completed, which consisted of a list of primary threats to sage-grouse in Nevada and recommendations to the Governor on strategies and actions to conserve sage-grouse in Nevada. One of the main recommendations of the 2012 State Plan was the creation of the Sagebrush Ecosystem Program (SEP), which would consist of the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council (SEC) and the Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team (SETT).
- The SEC was originally established under Executive Order 2012-19, on November 19, 2012, and later codified under state statute NRS Chapter 232.161 and 232.162. The SETT began work on February 11, 2013.
- On April 22, 2013, the SEC directed the SETT to further develop the recommendation in the 2012 State Plan into a more comprehensive and detailed strategy. In 2013, Nevada legislators underscored this commitment by formalizing it within statute (NRS 321.592 and NRS 321.594).
- Governor Sandoval signed AB 461 in June 2013, making Nevada the first state to formalize its commitment to conserve the sagebrush ecosystems within statute. The bill added the key leadership and decision-making capacity of State agency directors representing Wildlife, Conservation & Natural Resources, and Agriculture to the SEC. It also provided permanent ex-officio seats on the SEC to three of the state heads of key federal agencies involved with land and wildlife management in Nevada. The SEC considered proposed revisions over a series of meetings starting in July 2013. Each SEC meeting was held in compliance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law, including multiple opportunities for public comment.
- August 2014 - SEC approved the new maps created by the USGS: Habitat Suitability Index for Greater Sage-grouse in Nevada and Management Categories for Greater Sage-grouse in Nevada.
- The result of those efforts is the *2014 Nevada Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Plan* (2014 State Plan) unanimously approved by the SEC in October of 2014.

- December 2014 - SEC approved the Conservation Credit System Manual Version 1.0 and the Scientific Methods Document Habitat Quantification Tool (HQT) Version 1.0 marking the official opening of the Conservation Credit System.
- December 2014 - to current- SETT is piloting projects in the CCS to adaptively manage the program.
- May 2015 - The SETT on behalf of the SEC submitted Cooperating Agency review comments on the Draft Nevada and Northeastern California Greater Sage-Grouse Proposed Land Use Plan Amendment and Final Environmental Impact Statement (GRSG FEIS/LUPA).
- June 2015 – Governor Sandoval proposed and the Legislature approved approximately seven million dollars from the state general fund to fully fund the Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Program, including two million dollars specifically appropriated to conservation programs.
- June 2015 - The SEP sent a request to Fish and Wildlife Service to establish regulatory assurances for participants in the CCS prior to a listing decision.
- June 2015 - The SEP filed a protest of the GRSG FEIS/LUPA to BLM Director Kornze.
- July 2015 - The SEP, state and local agencies and stakeholders sent letters to Governor Sandoval suggesting he use his authority to file a consistency review of the GRSG FEIS/LUPA which he did on July 29, 2015. John Ruhs, Acting State Director responded to this request on August 6, 2015.
- August 2015 – Governor Sandoval met with President Barack Obama in Las Vegas to discuss the potential of a greater-sage grouse listing on the ESL.
- September 8, 2015 – Governor Sandoval sent an appeal on the Governor's Consistency Review to BLM Director Neil Kornze.