

Statement by Senator Pete Goicoechea:

“Attorney General Adam Laxalt’s move to join Eureka and many other Northern Nevada counties in challenging the BLM and U.S. Forest Service Sage-grouse Management Plan sends a strong signal that this massive, federal land grab has devastating implications for Nevada. Governor Sandoval’s Consistency Review letter and formal appeal provide a strong platform for the attorney general to fight against the land use prohibitions and restrictions in the federal plan which substantially interfere with the state’s and Nevada counties’ Sage-grouse Conservation Plans. The state and county plans focus on habitat conservation, ensure long-term socioeconomic stability to preserve our way of life, and achieve the proper balance between the national interest and state and local interests. The federal plan upsets this balance, does not provide optimal sage-grouse conservation, and will cause widespread economic harm.”

Statement by Senator James Settelmeyer:

“The sage grouse issue has the potential to decimate the way of life in rural communities by restricting access to the public’s lands for recreation or businesses like mining, agriculture and hunting. The current trend by federal regulators needs to be checked by sound scientific data. I support the attorney general in doing just that.”

Statement by Senator Don Gustavson:

“The Western states support land management that is not at the expense of Nevada’s economic development or culture. The federal plan does not take our state’s socioeconomic needs into account, and will be detrimental to Nevada’s development. I applaud the attorney general’s understanding of our rural culture, and support his efforts in this lawsuit.”

Statement by Assemblyman John Ellison:

“I appreciate the attorney general’s challenge to the federal conservation plan, which will have a tremendous effect on Nevada’s cultural landscape and economy. Nevada’s plan strikes a balance between conservation efforts and economic considerations, and would offer this state much-needed stability.”

Statement by Assemblyman Jim Wheeler:

“The federal government’s top-down land management plan will have a significant impact on the western states, especially Nevada. I am grateful to the attorney general and his office for acting in the best interest of this state and its rural culture.”

Statement by Assemblyman Ira Hansen:

“The federal government’s disregard for Nevada’s proposed state conservation plan will devastate our state’s economy. Nevada’s plan was carefully considered and backed by scientific data, and should have been taken seriously by the federal government. I commend the attorney general for taking a stand and protecting this state’s rights and best interests.”

Statement by Washoe County Commissioner Jeanne Herman:

“I want to thank Attorney General Laxalt for joining this litigation challenging the BLM and U.S. Forest Service Sage-grouse Land Management Plan. This Plan has already interfered with Washoe County’s ability to acquire an 80-acre parcel in the North Valleys needed for a new middle school, as well as a 40-acre parcel in Sparks identified for a veterans’ cemetery. BLM’s maps incorrectly show these parcels as sage-grouse habitat even though county maps clearly indicate they are not habitat and are suitable for acquisition and development. Future conflicts are inevitable because public lands surround Reno-Sparks suburban areas. The county must be able to acquire public lands to support future community development objectives.”

Statement by Elko County Commissioner Demar Dahl:

“Attorney General Laxalt’s involvement with this litigation makes a bold statement that the BLM and U.S. Forest Service Sage-grouse Management Plan is wrong for Nevada. As ground zero for the Plan’s draconian land use restrictions and withdrawals, Elko County applauds Attorney General Laxalt’s decision to join this litigation and help us stop the agencies from placing over two million acres in Elko County off-limits to mining and other uses. The Plan has already cost Elko County \$500 million from a wind energy project prohibited from being developed, and will cost at least \$31 million annually in lost agricultural productivity.”

Statement by Nevada Petroleum Marketers Association Executive Director Peter Krueger:

“We are in full support of Attorney General Adam Laxalt’s lawsuit in opposition to the federal government’s latest overreach into state affairs. The BLM’s new land use plans will close down all mining activity in Nevada, hurting not only the residents but all of the mining companies. Our industry is important to Nevada’s economic well-being and employment.”

Statement by the Nevada Association of Counties (NACO):

“The Nevada Association of Counties appreciates Attorney General Adam Laxalt’s decision to join the Counties’ lawsuit to challenge the BLM and U.S. Forest Service Sage-grouse Land Management Plan. This Plan is unprecedented in its scope and is impactful, as it is the first Land Management Plan to use multiple-use statutes to protect a single species to the exclusion of other land uses. The Plan imposes unworkable travel restrictions and buffer zones that interfere with Counties’ police powers and their abilities to provide for public health and safety, as well as recreation, ranching, renewable energy and mining on which these counties rely for funding and employment. Further, the Plan withdraws 2.8 million acres from mining and other uses upon which many county economies depend. We applaud the attorney general for his leadership in helping us protest the federal government’s approach to managing sage grouse habitat—an approach that is not based on best available science, ignores local habitat conservation and land use plans, and fails to include effective measures to reduce the primary threats to sage-grouse habitat.”

Statement by Western Exploration, LLC Project Manager John Cleary:

“Western Exploration, LLC is very pleased that Attorney General Adam Laxalt is helping us challenge the BLM and U.S. Forest Service Sage-grouse Land Management Plan. This Plan threatens to destroy our Gravel Creek Project in Elko County, and the future of our company because our mining claims are in a withdrawal area. Western Exploration’s Gravel Creek Project is an exciting new discovery of a gold deposit that shows real promise to become a viable mining project. The Plan puts at risk our \$32 million investment in this project and the many jobs and state and local economic benefits that would result from future development of a mine. We already have many sage-grouse habitat protection measures in place that make development of this project and sage-grouse conservation mutually compatible objectives, proving that the federal land withdrawal is an extreme measure that is not necessary to protect sage-grouse.”

Statement by Ninety-Six Ranch Manager Fred Stewart:

“We thank Attorney General Laxalt for joining the lawsuit to help us oppose the BLM and U.S. Forest Service Sage-Grouse Land Management Plan. This Plan will effectively put us, and others like us, out of business. It is truly unfortunate that the agencies chose to ignore the strengths of the Nevada Sage-grouse Conservation Plan and Governor Sandoval’s enormous efforts to work with them. As Nevada’s only sesquicentennial ranch owned and operated by one family, we know best how to care for our land and have a demonstrated track record of successfully protecting the sage-grouse habitat. However, we must challenge the federal Plan, which is effectively a massive federal land grab that substantially interferes with our ranching operation, will increase the buildup of rangeland fuels and result in habitat destruction due to wildfires, and threatens our family’s way of life.”