



STATE OF NEVADA  
**STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**  
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**MINUTES**  
**STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING**

Thursday, November 13, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.  
The Fallon Convention Center 100 Campus Way  
Fallon, Nevada

The Nevada State Conservation Commission held a meeting on November 13, 2014, at the Fallon Convention Center, 100 Campus Way, Fallon, NV. The State Conservation Commission considered and acted on the following items.

**Board Members Present:** Chairman Joe Sicking, Paradise/Sonoma CD, Maggie Orr, Lincoln County CD, Leland Wallace, Esmeralda County CD, Jake Tibbitts, Eureka CD, Kathy Mort, Stillwater CD, Vice-Chairman Eric Rieman, Carson Valley CD, and Agee Smith, Northeast Elko CD.

**Board Members Absent:** Tina Mudd, Nevada Department of Agriculture, and Dr. Sherm Swanson, CABNR-NAES.

**Others Present:** Tim Rubald, Conservation Districts Program Manager, Sandy Quilici, DCNR Director's Office, Barbara Perlman-Whyman, Nevada Association of Conservation Districts, and NACD Board Member, Gerald Miller, Conservation Staff Specialist, Elko Area, Marlene Wallace, Nancy Sicking, Carl Clinger, and Rick Orr. There were no teleconference participants.

**I. CALL TO ORDER, DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

- A. All those present introduced themselves and are noted above.
- B. Chairman Sicking called the meeting to order at 2:55 p.m. due to unforeseen delays with the NvACD business meeting. A quorum was established. (*ed. note - Tim Rubald monitored the telephonic conference line from 2:00p.m. until approximately 2:45p.m. and no one joined the connection.*)

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT** There were no public comments.

**III. DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS APPROVED BY THE NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS DURING THEIR BUSINESS MEETING ON NOVEMBER 12 AND 13, 2014 - \*FOR POSSIBLE ACTION\***

Commissioner Tibbitts read a resolution:

"A resolution for improving understanding about the establishment and abandonment of homesteads in Nevada and their influence on sage grouse populations.

Whereas the greater sage grouse has been considered for listing as threatened or endangered by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Whereas the greater sage grouse is considered a landscape level species that depends upon using meadows for forage forbs during the dry summer months.

Whereas the widespread establishment of many small homesteads and ranches throughout the moist arid sagebrush habitat of Nevada created meadows and summer habitat and provided predator control where none previously existed. Whereas the declines in the greater sage grouse population have coincided with the abandonment of many historic homesteads and the associated management and maintenance related to these homesteads including expansion of meadows and predator control.

Be it resolved that the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts directs the United States Fish and Wildlife Service prior to any listing decision to determine one) the distribution of historic homesteads in the meadows across Nevada's sagebrush regions, two) the effect of human management and maintenance of developed meadows associated with homesteads toward greater sage grouse populations in arid sagebrush regions where few meadows previously existed, three) how greater sage grouse populations responded to the loss of homestead associated meadows management and maintenance and how they may respond if those meadows were recreated and four) how the removal of grazing has allowed woody species and weeds to invade and overtake many of these meadows and spring complexes.

Be it further resolved that if human created meadows and other management actions associated with abandoned homesteads and other management actions including predator control associated with abandoned homesteads are shown to have contributed to the large population in sage grouse from the 1890's to the 1950's and the loss of these habitats features and management actions are linked to the decline of sage grouse since the 1950's that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will collaborate with private land owners, the appropriate government agencies, the non-governmental organizations, to establish the meadows and other management actions including focused predator control needed to expand sage grouse populations in Nevada sagebrush regions."

Commissioner Orr made a motion to support the resolution, Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. There was a vote and the motion passed unanimously. **\*ACTION TAKEN\***

**IV. COMMISSIONER ITEMS – \*NOT FOR POSSIBLE ACTION\*** There were no items.

**V. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING - \*FOR POSSIBLE ACTION\*** Chairman Sicking said the next Commission meeting will be January 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015, at a location TBD in Carson City to review the Strategic Plan. **\*NO ACTION TAKEN\***

**VI. PUBLIC COMMENT** There was no public comment.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT** Chairman Sicking adjourned the meeting at 3:02 p.m.