

January 16, 2003

To: Kari Martin, Nevada Division of Wildlife

Re: [Washoe Environmental Protection Departments comments on the Preliminary Draft/Section 3.0 Pine Nut Management Unit \(PMU\) of the Nevada Sage Grouse Conservation Plan \(Bi-State Planning Area\).](#)

Washoe Tribal Comments:

1. The Washoe Tribes Hunting and Fishing Commission has jurisdiction, exclusive of the state, over wildlife and wildlife related issues on Washoe Tribal Trust Lands and individual Allotment Lands in the Pine Nut Mountain Range.
2. The Washoe Tribe may develop its own sage grouse management plan and may consider sections of the Nevada Sage Grouse Plan for Tribal land in the Pine Nut Mountain Range.
3. Land Ownership: Washoe Tribal Allotment land covers 61,000 acres of the Pine Nut Mountain Range.
4. The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) management does not include Washoe Tribal Trust Lands and individual Allotment land (e.g. cattle grazing permits, wild horse, sage grouse or other plans).
5. Seed areas after burns with native grasses and avoid seeding with naturalized grasses to increase flora/fauna species diversity.
6. Preserve and protect low and big sage brush habitat for sage grouse leking, nesting and forage from human disturbance and activities like off road vehicle use.
7. Actively protect the primary and satellite sage grouse leking sites.
8. Close and reroute roads that fragment or intrude into sage grouse leking and nesting sites.
9. Protect known sage grouse leking areas by excluding recreational and other activities that cause disturbance to leking and nesting behavior.
10. Focus the Nevada sage grouse plan and management actions on "RO" Key Habitat Areas and habitat areas actively used for sage grouse leking, nesting, brooding and foraging.
11. Remove pinyon-juniper encroachment in the immediate sage grouse leking, nesting, drinking and foraging sites only.
12. Limit pinyon-juniper removal to very small (5 acres) areas and to actively used leking, nesting and drinking areas like wet meadows and not biomass timber utilization projects.
13. Increase monitoring efforts on existing leking and nesting sites to determine mean brood size and nesting success.
14. Explore and expand monitoring to additional leking sites.

15. Focus protection on wet and seasonally wet meadows used by sage grouse and their young.
16. Limit grazing, recreational and other activities in wetland areas/meadows used by sage grouse populations.
17. Protect and enhance wetland areas/meadows that sage grouse use as drinking water and forage sites.
18. Conserve riparian corridors like springs and creeks for sage grouse populations and other wildlife species.
19. Sage grouse are a priority species of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Incorporate BLM sage grouse findings and planning considerations into the Nevada Sage Grouse Plan.
20. Incorporate the BLM's Wild Horse Herd Management Area planning objectives and considerations into the Nevada Sage Grouse Plan.
21. Remove wild horses that are impacting sage grouse forage, nesting and leking habitat and behavior.
22. Conduct additional research on herbaceous and shrubby vegetation needed for sage grouse forage.
23. Preserve and protect higher elevation low sage brush species up to 18 inches in height.
24. Rotate grazing activity away from sage grouse leking, nesting and important sage grouse forage areas.
25. Determine habitat needs of sage grouse between lower valley areas and higher elevation sites.
26. Nevada's Sage Grouse Conservation Plan should protect the broadest range of species including smaller/larger mammals, insects, amphibians, reptiles and other species in addition to sage grouse.
27. Protect and gather additional information on specific insect populations needed for the diet of juvenile sage grouse.