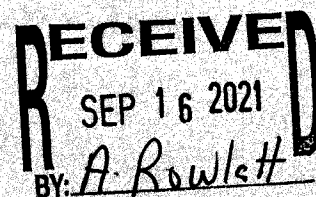




Board of County Commissioners
Lincoln County, Nevada

P.O. Box 90 – Pioche, Nevada 89043
Telephone (775) 962-8077



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Jared Brackenbury, Chair
Bevan Lister, Vice Chair
Kevin Phillips
Keith Pearson
Varlin Higbee

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Dylan V. Frehner

COUNTY CLERK

Lisa C. Lloyd

September 7, 2021

Governor Steve Sisolak
101 N Carson St. Suite 1
Carson City, NV 89701

Governor Sisolak:

Lincoln County is a political subdivision of the state of Nevada. It is the 7th largest county in the United States of America – with just about 2% of the land being held in private ownership, we are constantly challenged to raise enough tax revenue to provide essential services to our citizens.

Our purpose in writing to you is to express deep concern over your Executive Order 2021-18. This edict ‘gives’ direction and power to the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) that is troublesome to us and in direct conflict with current Nevada Law. The direction to establish a Nevada Habitat Conservation Framework including a comprehensive Sagebrush Habitat Plan flies directly in the face of the Statute that creates, empowers and directs the Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Program to do this work (which is already done, but the state has neglected to fund to any adequate degree). We have endorsed and supported the efforts of the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council and the work of the Program to benefit sagebrush obligate species.

Your Decree speaks often about the concept of NDOW working in ‘collaboration’ with groups and local governments. In the spirit of collaboration, it seems a little odd to have this hit us completely from the dark, never having been presented or discussed with us as a unit of local government. However, this does fit the model of communication and collaboration exhibited by NDOW over past couple of decades. Our experience has been that the department is totally dismissive of local government.

Where Lincoln County has such a limited amount of private land, we certainly see no purpose or benefit to anyone to create a Wildlife Connectivity Plan that affects areas of our county. Our communities are the ones that need improved connectivity. Better highways would greatly improve our way of life without affecting wildlife at all. We believe the goal of improving Wildlife Connectivity within Lincoln County to be redundant and fruitless.

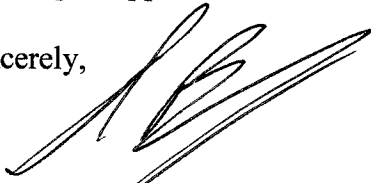
The 'Order' mentions the challenges to the sagebrush biome and how mule deer and sage grouse populations are struggling. To our understanding, this has been an ongoing issue for decades. If NDOW has been working at this for decades and now something 'more' must be done – it appears that all of the work by NDOW has failed. Why should we 'double down' on this ongoing failure? Again, we express our support for the Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Council and Program. Why not fund and support this program rather than take from it to give to a failed program?

The history of NDOW has only shown one success – taking tax payer dollars and purchasing private land (ranches and farms), taking that land off from the tax rolls and destroying it for wildlife use. We simply can not tolerate any more of Lincoln County being taken out of private ownership and turned into weeds and reeds that no wildlife will use.

Given that there has been no outreach from the Nevada Department of Wildlife or your office, we are unaware of what might be considered "collaboration" with local government. We argue that we should be provided with opportunity for full engagement and the ability to represent the interest of our citizens who will be impacted by the NDOW's arbitrary actions.

We implore you to rescind this arbitrary and contentious 'Order' and place your support behind the lawfully empowered agency in this state to do the work you have indicated needs to be done. If you continue down the path you have started, we insist that you offer meaningful opportunities for local government (Lincoln County) to be at the table.

Sincerely,



Jared Brackenbury
Commission Chairman