



# Nevada Farm Bureau Federation

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September 1, 2021

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

Governor Sisolak:

As you may be aware, Nevada Farm Bureau Federation is the largest agricultural organization in the State of Nevada. We represent nearly 19,000 members across the state who are very interested in our public lands and the rich heritage that goes along with them.

We are writing today to express our concerns and frustrations regarding your Executive Order 2021-18 which directs the Nevada Department of Wildlife to establish a Nevada Habitat Conservation Framework. Additional provisions of the Executive Order also include the Department of Wildlife development of a comprehensive Sagebrush Habitat Plan and a statewide Nevada Wildlife Connectivity Plan.

In several areas of the direction given to the Nevada Department of Wildlife the concepts of “collaboration” are mentioned. Unfortunately, this Executive Order comes without any prior notification or sufficient information after being issued to know what the Nevada Department of Wildlife is planning to do by way of “collaboration.” If this were indeed a collaborative work, we believe that there should have been some communication with us before issuing the edict.

While some folks in Nevada agriculture have had contact with the Nevada Department of Wildlife concerning the agency’s intentions to press forward with creation of their plans, the majority of agricultural interests (including Nevada Farm Bureau) had no contact or forewarning.

In our view, the “Whereas” assertion that agricultural conversion of sagebrush has been a significant negative factor on “range-wide” and “historic” sagebrush consequences demonstrates the bias of the Nevada Department of Wildlife as being anti-agriculture and anti-private property. There are a number of other examples which reinforce this same theme. Our members often speak about the long-standing disdain for private property and the absolute hatred for agriculture that emits from NDOW.

We hold that the very best wildlife habitat in the State of Nevada is on our working farms and ranches. Our farm and ranch families have spent their lives building, improving and maintaining working lands that produce food, forage, and fiber for markets; along with food, water and protection for multiple wildlife species.

NDOW has been talking about lower deer populations and presumably has been working on Sage Grouse issues for over two decades. It appears that their efforts have been an abject failure if NO progress has been made. It is our opinion that the only success that NDOW has shown proclivity for is to use public funds to purchase working farms and ranches (used extensively by wildlife) and turn them into duck ponds and noxious weeds (driving the wildlife away).

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 stakeholders who represent farming and ranching as well as private landowners. We maintain that we should be provided with opportunity for meaningful engagement and the ability to fully represent the interest of our members, who will be impacted by the Nevada Department of Wildlife’s likely intentions for control of what they believe might fit within a “Nevada Habitat Conservation Framework.”

Absent a legitimate process for developing a balanced framework, sagebrush plan or connectivity plan – we are opposed to any further intrusion by the Nevada Department of Wildlife in pursuit of harming agriculture’s use of natural resources and individual’s private property.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bevan Lister".

Bevan Lister, President  
Nevada Farm Bureau Federation