

From: Olivia Tanager
Sent: Sunday, March 9, 2025 10:00 PM
To: Venicia Considine Assemblymember
Subject: Re: AB 242

Thanks for reaching out about it. I assumed it would go to NR and missed that it was referred to GA.

We are pretty strongly opposed. The credit system is a pretty poor mitigation tactic as is. Our sagebrush ecosystems can't be treated like credit and debiting a bank account. Sage Grouse are notoriously place-based and extremely sensitive to place, and destroying their mating sites (leks), even if you are "creating" a similar ecosystem elsewhere, does little to prevent sage grouse populations from declining as a result of the destruction. Sage grouse lek at the same place each year, and when you destroy their lekking sites, reproductive rates go down dramatically. Destroying the lekking site effectively extirpates that population. There is no study that shows any success, i.e. no sage grouse seem to be using the "created" habitat (at least that has been made public, I have asked for sage grouse population numbers backing up the credit system several times and have yet to get them so I'm assuming there are no reliable studies showing success). They are also "creating" habitat by clearcutting pinyon juniper forests, which in some places are encroaching on sagebrush ecosystems but not all places, and the requirements for the "created" habitat are quite limited. Clearcutting pinyon juniper forests also destroys pinyon jay habitat, another sensitive species. Meaning that we are decreasing the population of pinyon jays and doing nothing to help the simultaneously decreasing population of sage grouse. Indigenous communities also still harvest nuts from pinyon juniper trees, so the clearcutting of PJ forests decreases access to culturally significant ecosystems. The Indigenous leaders who have talked to me about this issue before might be calling in on Monday, I reached out to them to let them know this is being discussed.

Sage grouse are iconic in Nevada, and I think any effort and resources going to protect them should be scientifically based (and I can definitely think of better ways to spend \$800,000 on sage grouse conservation). While I appreciate Assm. DeLong's knowledge, I am concerned this is an attempt from the mining industry to circumvent having to do meaningful mitigation. Sage grouse are on the express route to extinction as it stands, and I fear continuing to rely on this unscientific system will only get them there faster.

I hope you had a lovely weekend. I'll see you on Tuesday at the latest!

Olivia Tanager
Toiyabe Chapter Director