

Performance Note SB0200 - Compensatory Mitigation Program for Sage Grouse

Sponsor: Sen. Van Tassell, Kevin

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Performance Note Report

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Agency: Department of Natural Resources

Funding For:

New Services or Benefit

Public Benefit:

Purpose: To provide opportunities to allow responsible development of resources in Utah through mitigation of sage grouse habitat according to the Conservation Plan for Greater Sage-grouse in Utah as developed and approved by the governor.

Services: The services provided by this program are opportunities to promote the conservation of the Greater Sage-grouse in Utah while providing opportunities for resources development including oil and gas development. This position will work to establish administrative rules to promote the conservation of the Sage-grouse through the establishment of a system that allows credits for conservation. Likewise, the system would allow for a person that seeks to develop land to purchase conservation credits. This position would work with the public, be required to hold public meetings for public feedback and to provide detailed accounting systems to account for the cost of the lands being mitigated.

Expected Outcome: The expectation is that the program will promote Utah's Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Plan while providing opportunities for business to develop lands in Utah. The disturbed areas would be required to mitigate at a ratio of 4 acres of mitigation to every 1 acre of disturbed habitat.

Implementations and Resources: The bill will be implemented by this FTE within the fiscal year when the funding is appropriated.

How: The proposed activities will achieve two key goals of improved Sage-grouse habitat and multiple use of land resources in Utah.

Performance Measures

Goal

Title: Continued implementation of the Utah Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Plan and multiple use of land resources in Utah.

Description: The input is a new infrastructure for individuals and government agencies to provide habitat improvements for Sage-grouse that can be used as credits for to offset Sage-grouse disturbances in areas where economic development is desirable and beneficial. The desired output is conservation of the Sage-grouse while promoting responsible economic development in Utah.

Collection Method: Information that will be collected are the costs associated with mitigation improvements, the number of acres improved and the number of acres disturbed. The 4:1 ratio of mitigation to improvement will be measured and tracked.

By rule, performance notes are provided by the governmental entity that will supervise the new agency or administer the new program. Performance notes are not written by the Office of the Legislative Fiscal Analyst.