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| **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Date: October 21, 2015** | **Contact: Monica Moazez****Mmoazez@ag.nv.gov** **/** **702-486-0657** |

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**Attorney General Laxalt Joined Suit Challenging Federal Land-Use Plan**

**Carson City, NV** –Today, Nevada Attorney General Adam Paul Laxalt joined a suit on behalf of the state of Nevada challenging the federal government’s greater sage-grouse land-use plans. In ten western states including Nevada, the federal plan withdraws more than ten million acres of federal land from public use. In Nevada alone, mineral exploration and development is barred on nearly three million acres. The plan also imposes significant restrictions on livestock grazing, resource development, and public access on over sixteen million acres of public land in Nevada.

“The federal government’s one-size-fits-all sage-grouse plan will greatly hinder Nevada’s growth and success and have an adverse impact on Nevada’s economy, affecting ranchers, mining exploration, new energy source development, recreation and everyone who works in these industries,” said Laxalt. “While I appreciate and applaud all of the efforts that have been made to negotiate a favorable outcome for Nevada, and continue to hope that ongoing negotiations may result in a better plan for Nevada, my office, after careful legal analysis, has concluded that this suit is necessary to fully protect the interests of the state.”

Before the federal government adopted its final plan, Nevada developed a State Plan that focuses on the specific needs of the sage-grouse population within the state while balancing relevant economic and rural concerns, and ensuring that federal land remains available for multiple uses. The plan was developed through the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council, and received input from all stakeholders including representatives from local government, the general public, wildlife, mining, ranching, tribal nations, energy, agriculture and conservation organizations.The federal government is required by law to adopt a plan that allows for multiple uses and that is consistent with the State Plan where possible. Despite repeated efforts by state and local officials, the federal government rejected major portions of the State Plan and withdrew millions of acres from other uses.

[Insert Heller, Hardy, Amodei and Heck quotes]

Attorney General Laxalt continues, “Being home to the second highest population of sage-grouse, this iconic bird has long been a part of Nevada’s rural culture and history. Nevada has already demonstrated that our State Plan does a better job protecting sage-grouse than the federal plan, while also respecting the other needs of Nevadans. I am encouraged by the overwhelming support of federal, state and local government officials, together with Nevadans across our state on my decision to join this suit.”

Nevada counties who have joined the lawsuit include: Churchill, Elko, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lincoln, Pershing, Washoe and White Pine. Other community leaders and associations that support this action include: Senator Settelmeyer, Senator Peter Goicoechea, Assemblyman Jim Wheeler, Assemblyman John Ellison, Assemblyman Ira Hansen, Washoe County Commissioner Jeanne Herman, Elko County Commissioner Demar Dahl, Executive Director of the Nevada Petroleum Marketers Association Peter Krueger and the Manager of Ninety-Six Ranch Fred Stewart.

To view Nevada’s filed complaint, click here. To view the statements of those who support this action, click here.

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