

# BDR 18-214 AB 242

## EXECUTIVE AGENCY FISCAL NOTE

AGENCY'S ESTIMATES

Date Prepared: March 4, 2025

Agency Submitting: State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Items of Revenue or Expense, or Both	Fiscal Year 2024-25	Fiscal Year 2025-26	Fiscal Year 2026-27	Effect on Future Biennia
Personnel (Expense)		\$235,778	\$318,234	\$636,468
Sagebrush Ecosystem Technical Team Operating (Expense)		\$118,834	\$87,540	\$175,080
Total	0	\$354,612	\$405,774	\$811,548

Explanation

(Use Additional Sheets of Attachments, if required)

The Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Program was established through NRS 321.592-594, to create and administer a mitigation program to offset loss and damage to sagebrush ecosystems. The Conservation Credit System (System) was designed to create a consistent measure of habitat loss and subsequent mitigation offset for Greater Sage-grouse. The Program is already required to review and improve this System on an annual basis. As drafted, AB 242 would require codification of countless methodologies and formulas the System currently uses, codification of any new methodologies and formulas, and codification of any tweaks to these methodologies or formulas. Accordingly, the additional workload from this bill necessitates two new staff to consistently keep up with the internal and open meeting law requirements of continual administrative rulemaking changes throughout the year. Moreover, the increased compliance requirements resulting from these codified methodologies would necessitate two additional staff to conduct on-the-ground site visits and compliance checks, and to help existing staff with the increased workloads. At least two staff members would need access to ArcGIS, a key software for our System. Due to increased compliance checks for Projects across much of the State, the Program's travel budget would also need to increase. Finally, to ensure compliance with these more complex regulations, Program staff would be required to conduct more frequent and intense consultant trainings.

Name Kelly Williams

Title Administrative Services Officer IV

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF FINANCE COMMENTS

Date Monday, March 03, 2025

The agency's response appears reasonable.

Name Tiffany Greenameyer

Title Director