

USDA Rural Development State Director Sarah Adler

Remarks for opening ceremony of the Nevada Pinyon Juniper Restoration and Utilization Summit

Dec. 8, 2010.

First, let's look at this photo. Looks like a Nature Conservancy July Calendar shot, maybe? So why are we here. Let me ask you – and pretend this dramatic photo was not on the screen, please raise your hand if you are content with the status quo in our woodlands and sagebrush steppe

It is essential to underscore that this project has been entirely responsive to critical needs identified, and that we are still at the beginning

I know you are concerned about the plight of the sage grouse. Please raise your hand if you are concerned about the impact of the sage grouse being listed on the T & E list would have on our state and its economy. Please raise your hand if you think our rural economy needs development and diversification in general? Now, please raise your hand if you think that development is worth it an any environmental cost.

As you will see as you absorb the material in your conference binder, we propose that a landscape size region in eastern Nevada be formally identified as a demonstration area where we can work together to positively change the status quo, with resource restoration as the target, and utilization as a beneficial outcome, that brings money back into the restoration cycle.

Please raise your hand if you believe you have expertise or resources that can be value-added to others in this room to change the status quo, to bring about resource improvement.

Who thinks the status quo is acceptable? Who has got time for navel gazing?

What we need to be about is an appropriate level of risk, and we need our leadership to back us, so that we can really dig in to this very complex problem, but one that has so many potential benefits

We are here, after 14 months of putting this on the radar screen, but really just 7 months of intensive work

Introduce Dallas Tonsager.