



Elko County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife

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August 22, 2023

Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners
wildlifecommission@ndow.org

Dear Commissioners:

The Elko County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife, County of Elko, State of Nevada, opposes the proposed Winecup Gamble Congressional Land Exchange. Our opposition is based on the following listed reasons and concerns.

- Major loss of public access to over 300,000 acres that are currently accessible.
- This would be the largest land exchange considered in history. Due to the scale, this would cause many unknown issues that we can't even begin to see yet.
- For decades, outdoorsmen and women from the State of Nevada, as well as folks from all over the world, have traditionally utilized this land for hunting and other recreational opportunities.
- As proposed, the loss of public ground would reduce public access by approximately 50%.
- Sportsmen have invested in excess of \$500,000 in water development for wildlife in this land area. This money was provided by sportsmen of Nevada. Question: Under private ownership, who, if anyone, would be responsible for maintaining these guzzlers that provide water for elk, deer, antelope, birds and other wildlife?
- In 2022, the number of hunting tags issued by the Nevada Department of Wildlife to sportsmen, who applied for tags in this proposed land exchange area, included 1900 mule deer tags, 278 antelope tags, and 762 elk tags.
- As a result of the land exchange, the ranch could possibly receive more elk incentive tags than the quota for the general public, or possibly they would create a massive private hunting reserve.

- This land exchange could negatively impact the Elko County economy by \$9.3 million per year.
- Wildlife corridors and migration routes should remain a major priority of consideration in any land exchange; not to be overshadowed by energy development such as solar panel fields, wind turbines and lithium mining.
- The ranch is retaining all water and mineral rights to this land transferring to the public, which devalues the land.
- 40,000 acres on Nine Mile is already consolidated public land. (Appears to be a land grab.)

After listening to the presentation by the Western Lands Group, Inc. at the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners' meeting on August 11, 2023, it was their intent to propose legislation in 2024. We are very concerned about the lack of information available to the public, and the fast track they seem to be pursuing. Because of all the questions and concerns that we have listed, the Elko County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife opposes the Winecup Gamble Congressional Land Exchange. We request our Senatorial and Congressional representatives oppose this land exchange which impacts Elko County and the State of Nevada.

Respectfully submitted,



Jim Cooney, Chairman
Elko CAB

Copies distributed to:

United States Senator Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator Jacky Rosen
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United States Congressman Mark Amodei
United States Congresswoman Susie Lee
United States Congressman Steven Horsford
Nevada Governor Joe Lombardo
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Elko County Board of Commissioners
Elko County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife