The Nevada Wilderness Project last week attended a briefing session sponsored by the Governor's office to hear federal and state regulators reassure state officials, citizens and stakeholders that they are working hard to prevent the sage grouse from being declared an endangered species.

The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service determined in 2010 that an Endangered Species Act listing was warranted for the sage grouse. But its listing was precluded because the government felt other species were more endangered.

Even before that ruling, the NWP was working to bring various agencies and stakeholders together to find solutions to the problems plaguing the bird, including wildfire, pinyon-juniper encroachment, infrastructure development, disease and other issues. NWP staff wildlife biologist Gregg Tanner has been working on this issue since 2000, when he was with the Nevada Department of Wildlife, and has continued this effort since joining NWP.