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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 2, 2009

NEWS RELEASE

Legislative Committee on Public Lands (NRS 218.5363)

Date: Friday, November 6, 2009
Time: 10 a.m.
Place: Humboldt County Commission Chambers
Room 201
50 West Fifth Street
Winnemucca, Nevada

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PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE TO MEET IN WINNEMUCCA

Senator Dean A. Rhoads (R-Tuscarora), in his capacity as Chairman of the Committee from the 2007-2008 Interim, is pleased to announce that Nevada's Legislative Committee on Public Lands will hold its first meeting of the 2009-2010 Legislative Interim at the Humboldt County Commission Chambers (Room 201) in Winnemucca on Friday, November 6, at 10 a.m. An agenda is attached to this press release.

Due to budget cuts in the 2009 Session, the Committee will hold only five meetings during the interim but will continue travel to rural communities for all but one of the meetings.

The first meeting will begin with the election of the chair and vice-chair. The Committee will then receive updates from the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service on their activities and planning efforts in northeastern Nevada. **"The activities of the BLM and Forest Service affect our State and especially our rural communities in many ways and it is important that the Committee be knowledgeable about the current programs and policies of these federal agencies,"** noted Rhoads.

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The Committee will also hear updates from the State Departments of Agriculture and Conservation and Natural Resources on wild horses. Senator Rhoads commented, **“Wild horses continue to be an issue for both residents and public land managers and the Committee is looking forward to being informed about new developments in this area, such as the Winecup Ranch sanctuary proposal.”**

In addition to its other duties, the Committee is mandated to review the programs and activities of public water authorities, districts, and systems in the State of Nevada. At the Winnemucca meeting, the Committee will hear from the Humboldt River Basin Water Authority and the State Department of Agriculture on water issues affecting rural areas.

Also on the agenda is an update on mining from the Commission on Minerals, the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Nevada Mining Association. **“Mining plays a critical role in our rural economies and raises a number of public lands and natural resource issues,”** Rhoads explained. Other agenda items include updates from representatives of the Humboldt and Lander County Commissions and the Wildfire Support Group.

The Public Lands Committee was created in 1983 as a permanent Committee of the Nevada Legislature. Its purposes are to review and comment on federal land management policies and practices and to provide a forum for the discussion of public lands matters. The Committee will hold meetings throughout Nevada between November 2009 and August 31, 2010, to hear from federal, State, and local entities, and Nevada residents on public lands and water issues. At its last meeting in 2010, the Committee may make recommendations for legislation in the 2011 Session or for other legislative action.

Under legislation approved by the 2009 Nevada Legislature, the Committee has expanded from six to eight legislators. The members of the Committee are: Senator Dean A. Rhoads (R-Tuscarora); Senator Terry Care (D-Las Vegas); Senator John J. Lee (D-Las Vegas); Senator David R. Parks (D-Las Vegas); Assemblyman Jerry D. Claborn (D-Las Vegas); Assemblyman David P. Bobzien (D-Reno); Assemblyman Paul Aizley (D-Las Vegas); Assemblyman John C. Carpenter (R-Elko); and Clark County Commissioner Tom Collins.

Alternate members are: Senator Michael A. Schneider (D-Las Vegas); Senator Mike McGinness (R-Fallon); Assemblywoman Ellen B. Spiegel (D-Henderson); and Assemblyman Pete Goicoechea (R-Eureka).

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