

STATE OF NEVADA
LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
401 S. CARSON STREET
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701-4747
Fax No.: (775) 684-6600



LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION (775) 684-6800
JOHN OCEGUERA, *Assemblyman, Chairman*
Lorne J. Malkiewich, *Director, Secretary*

INTERIM FINANCE COMMITTEE (775) 684-6821
BERNICE MATHEWS, *Senator, Co-Chair*
STEVEN HORSFORD, *Senator, Co-Chair*
Mark Krmptic, *Fiscal Analyst*
Tracy W. Raxter, *Fiscal Analyst*

LORNE J. MALKIEWICH, *Director*
(775) 684-6800

BRENDA J. ERDOES, *Legislative Counsel* (775) 684-6830
PAUL V. TOWNSEND, *Legislative Auditor* (775) 684-6815
DONALD O. WILLIAMS, *Research Director* (775) 684-6825

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 11, 2010

NEWS RELEASE

Legislative Committee on Public Lands (NRS 218.5363)

Date: Thursday, March 18, 2010
Time: 9 a.m.
Place: Legislative Building
Room 3137
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada
Videoconference:
Grant Sawyer State Office Building.
Room 4412
555 East Washington Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada; and
Great Basin College
Greenhaw Technical Arts Building
Room 118
1500 College Parkway
Elko, Nevada

Contact: Susan E. Scholley, Staff Director
Research Division
Legislative Counsel Bureau
Legislative Committee on Public Lands
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747
(775) 684-6825
research@lcb.state.nv.us

PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE TO MEET IN CARSON CITY

Senator Dean A. Rhoads (R-Tuscarora), Chairman of the Legislative Committee on Public Lands, announced that the Committee will hold its third meeting of the 2009-2010 Legislative Interim at the Legislative Building (Room 3137) in Carson City on Thursday, March 18, at 9 a.m. The meeting will also be simultaneously videoconferenced to the Grant Sawyer State Office Building (Room 4412) in Las Vegas, and Great Basin College, (Greenhaw Technical Arts Building, Room 118) in Elko, Nevada. An agenda is attached to this news release.

At the Carson City meeting, the Committee will receive updates from the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service on their activities and planning efforts in western Nevada. **“Communities in western Nevada are impacted by the policies and programs of the BLM and the Forest Service every day. The Committee believes it is important for**

- more -

the Legislature to stay up-to-date on the activities of these federal agencies and equally important to give Nevada citizens the opportunity to hear what is happening outside the borders of their cities and towns,” said Rhoads.

Nevada’s Division of Forestry and the Nevada Fire Safe Council will provide an overview of programs and activities relating to wildfires on public lands and in the urban interface. **“Wildfire is a fact of life in many parts of Nevada, and many communities in western Nevada are all too familiar with devastating effects of wildfires on public lands. Successful implementation of strategies for preventing fires, fighting fires, and rehabilitating burned areas are critical to protecting our natural resources,”** declared Rhoads. Presentations by the State Department of Agriculture and the Tri-County Weed Group on dealing with noxious weeds will also be heard. Rhoads explained that, **“The Public Lands Committee has been monitoring efforts to prevent and control noxious weeds, such as cheatgrass, for many years and looks forward to hearing what progress is being made on this issue.”**

One of the statutory duties of the Committee is to receive reports from water districts and agencies across the State. The Truckee-Carson Irrigation District, the Carson Water Subconservancy District, and the Gardnerville Ranchos General Improvement District will provide reports to the Committee. The State Engineer will update the Committee on statewide water issues, litigation, and programs. **“Managing our water resources is always an issue of critical importance, and the Committee will be interested in hearing from the State Engineer and any recommendations he may have for future legislation,”** said Rhoads.

Also on the agenda is an update on the status of the sage grouse in Nevada by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Nevada’s Department of Wildlife. **“The status of the sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act is something the Committee has been monitoring for a long time. Because the recent USFWS decision may have significant impacts for many parts of the State, the Committee will be interested to understand the decision better,”** noted Rhoads.

Finally, the Committee will hear from Carson City, and Churchill, Pershing, Storey, and Washoe Counties about their public lands and natural resources issues. Rhoads explained **“The insights and experiences of local governments related to public lands and water are invaluable.”**

The Legislative Committee on Public Lands was created in 1983 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 two more meetings—in Tonopah on May 7 and its final meeting in Ely on July 30, 2010. At its last meeting, the Committee may make recommendations for legislation in the 2011 Session or for other legislative action.

The members of the Committee are: Senator Terry Care (D-Las Vegas); Senator John J. Lee (D-Las Vegas); Senator David R. Parks (D-Las Vegas); Senator Dean A. Rhoads (R-Tuscarora); Assemblyman Paul Aizley (D-Las Vegas); Assemblyman David P. Bobzien (D-Reno); Assemblyman John C. Carpenter (R-Elko); Assemblyman Jerry D. Claborn (D-Las Vegas); and Clark County Commissioner Tom Collins. Alternate members are: Senator Mike McGinness (R-Fallon); Senator Michael A. Schneider (D-Las Vegas); Assemblyman Pete Goicoechea (R-Eureka); and Assemblywoman Ellen B. Spiegel (D-Henderson).