

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  
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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  
April 30, 2010

## NEWS RELEASE

### Legislative Committee on Public Lands (NRS 218E.510)

Date: Friday, May 7, 2010  
Time: 8:30 a.m.  
Place: Tonopah Convention Center  
301 West Brougner Avenue  
Tonopah, Nevada

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

### PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE TO MEET IN TONOPAH

Senator Dean A. Rhoads (R-Tuscarora), Chair of the Legislative Committee on Public Lands, announced that the Committee will hold its fourth meeting of the 2009-2010 Legislative Interim at the Tonopah Convention Center in Tonopah on Friday, May 7, at 8:30 a.m. An agenda is attached to this news release.

At the Tonopah meeting, the Committee will receive updates from the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service on their activities and planning efforts with a focus on the Tonopah Field Office of the BLM and the Austin and Tonopah Ranger Districts of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. **“Given that approximately 87 percent of Nevada is federally owned, the policies and programs of these two federal agencies have an enormous impact on the citizens of Nevada. There are also many businesses in our State, such as farms, ranches, recreational concessions, and energy companies, to name a few, that depend upon public land permits. Clearly, it is important to know what is going on at the federal level and to look for areas or issues that need attention,”** declared Rhoads.

One of the Committee’s several statutory duties is oversight of Nevada water law and the activities of water districts and water agencies across the State. The Committee looks forward to a presentation by the Central Nevada Regional Water Authority on its activities and suggestions for future legislation. **“The Central Nevada Regional Water Authority has taken a leadership role in water resource planning in the rural counties and is to be commended for taking a regional approach to managing such a critical and limited resource,”** said Rhoads.

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The State Engineer will be updating the Committee on the status of pending litigation, including the Great Basin Water Network case currently pending before the Nevada Supreme Court.

The Committee will also hear from Esmeralda, Mineral and Nye Counties about their public lands and natural resources issues. Rhoads explained **“One of the most important benefits of the Committee’s meetings outside of Carson City and Las Vegas is the opportunity to hear from county commissioners and others about their experiences and insights into the complex public lands and water issues they face every day,”** explained Rhoads.

Silver Peak Operations of Chemetall Foote Corporation (lithium mine), and Solar Millennium and SolarReserve (solar energy projects), in Nye County, will be making presentations to the Committee. Rhoads noted that, **“The Public Lands Committee typically hears a lot of testimony by state and federal agencies and it will be good for the Committee to balance that perspective with testimony from a mining operator and two solar energy developers on their views of federal and state permitting processes and public land policies that impact their businesses.”**

Informational items on the agenda include the May 2009 reconnaissance survey by the National Park Service on Goldfield, Nevada, and a proclamation honoring Allen Biaggi, the Director of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, who retired on April 30.

In anticipation of its final meeting and work session on July 30, 2010, in Ely, Nevada, the Committee will be asking for recommendations for legislative action and giving notice of the July 2, 2010, deadline for submittal of any recommendations. **“The Committee has already received a number of recommendations during its earlier meetings but would like to let everyone know that there is still time to submit ideas for the Committee’s consideration at its Ely meeting. Example of recommendations include suggested State legislation in the 2011 Session or requests for the Committee to take a position relative to a specific federal or state policy or program affecting public lands or water resources,”** explained Rhoads.

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 is one of the two legislative committees which regularly hold meetings outside of Carson City or Las Vegas.

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).

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