



**NEVADA LEGISLATURE**  
**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS**  
*(Nevada Revised Statutes 218.5363)*

**SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT**

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The fifth meeting of the Nevada Legislature's Legislative Committee on Public Lands was held on Friday, April 4, 2008, at 9 a.m. at the Humboldt County Commission Chambers, 50 West Fifth Street, Room 201, Winnemucca, Nevada. A copy of this set of "Summary Minutes and Action Report," including the "Meeting Notice and Agenda" ([Exhibit A](#)) and other substantive exhibits, is available on the Nevada Legislature's website at [www.leg.state.nv.us/74th/Interim](http://www.leg.state.nv.us/74th/Interim). In addition, copies of the audio record may be purchased through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's Publications Office (e-mail: [publications@lcb.state.nv.us](mailto:publications@lcb.state.nv.us); telephone: 775/684-6835).

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Senator Dean A. Rhoads, Chairman  
Assemblyman John W. Marvel, Vice Chairman  
Senator Mark E. Amodei  
Senator Terry Care  
Assemblyman David Bobzien (*alternate*)  
Assemblywoman Debbie Smith  
Tom Fransway, Humboldt County Commissioner

**COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:**

Assemblyman Jerry D. Claborn

**LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:**

Michael J. Stewart, Supervising Principal Research Analyst, Research Division  
J. Randall Stephenson, Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division  
Matthew S. Nichols, Senior Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division  
Susan M. Gottschalk, Senior Administrative Assistant, Research Division  
Chuck Anderson, A/V Technical Assistant, Broadcast and Production Services  
Ryan Dombrowski, A/V Technical Assistant, Broadcast and Production Services

## **OPENING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Chairman Rhoads opened the meeting by expressing appreciation to the Town of Winnemucca and Humboldt County for hosting the Legislative Committee on Public Lands.

## **APPROVAL OF THE “SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT” OF THE MEETING HELD ON MARCH 7, 2008, IN CALIENTE, NEVADA**

- The Committee **APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTION:**

SENATOR AMODEI MOVED TO APPROVE THE “SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT” OF THE MARCH 7, 2008, MEETING HELD IN CALIENTE, NEVADA. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FRANSWAY AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **UPDATE OF PUBLIC LANDS AND RELATED NATURAL RESOURCE ISSUES IN NORTH-CENTRAL NEVADA**

*Introductory Remarks and Review of Public Lands and Related Natural Resource Issues in Humboldt County*

- John H. Milton, III, Chair, Board of County Commissioners, Humboldt County, discussed public lands issues and related natural resource issues in Humboldt County, which included: (1) the adoption of a new mission statement; (2) intergovernmental cooperation with federal and local agencies; (3) burned area reseeding south of Winnemucca as a result of the 2007 Thomas Fire; (4) recent land purchase near the Winnemucca airport for an expansion of the industrial park; (5) mineral exploration; (6) development of a geothermal power plant near Blue Mountain; (7) the purchase of lands by private individuals from the BLM; (8) concerns regarding balancing private land purchases by public agencies; and (9) expediting possible right-of-way easements for private individuals in checkerboard pattern areas. (Please see [Exhibit B.](#))

*Update of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Planning Efforts of the Winnemucca Field Office and Discussion of BLM Activities in North-Central Nevada*

- Gail Givens, Field Manager, Winnemucca Field Office, BLM, United States Department of the Interior (DOI), provided an update of the BLM planning efforts in the Winnemucca Field Office and discussed the activities of the BLM in north-central Nevada, which included: (1) energy and geothermal exploration; (2) minerals; (3) land and realty, including sales, Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) acquisitions, and major rights-of-way projects; (4) recreation and cultural resources; (5) fisheries; (6) wildlife, including the possible listing of the sage grouse as an endangered species; (7) wild horses and burros; (8) range management programs

and grazing permit renewal; (9) fire operations, including fuels management, prevention, stabilization, rehabilitation, planning, and the Wildfire Support Group; (10) the Winnemucca Resource Management Plan; and (11) the Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area and associated wilderness. (Please see [Exhibit C.](#))

There was a discussion between Chairman Rhoads and Mr. Givens regarding the accountability for the affected counties of “no net loss.” Mr. Givens noted that his policy is “no net loss” of private lands and that the BLM has not acquired more land than it has sold for private ownership.

- Senator Rhoads queried as to the number of grazing permit renewals that had been completed. Mr. Givens noted approximately half of the grazing permits had been processed for renewal and the deadline for completion could be October 1, 2008, or October 1, 2009, the beginning or end of the fiscal year, depending on the interpretation of the deadline by the BLM.

*Update of U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Activities and Planning Efforts in the Santa Rosa Mountains*

- Jose Noriega, District Ranger, Santa Rosa Ranger District, USFS, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), provided an update on the USFS activities and planning efforts in the Santa Rosa Mountains, which included: (1) the Martin Basin Rangeland Project Environmental Impact Statement; (2) the Santa Rosa Ranger District Travel Management Project; (3) noxious weed management; (4) Service First Agreement with the BLM regarding fire management to capitalize on interagency efficiencies; (5) Nevada First purchase under the SNPLMA; (6) challenges to resources from unauthorized livestock; and (7) a summary of the successes of the USFS, such as the Abel Seeding Watershed Project. (Please see [Exhibit D-1](#), [Exhibit D-2](#), [Exhibit D-3](#), and [Exhibit D-4](#).)

There was a discussion between Assemblyman Bobzien and Mr. Noriega regarding internal resources for law enforcement officers. Mr. Noriega noted that there is a Forest Protection Officer in Elko, Nevada, and there are other officers who are certified to issue notices of violation. Assemblyman Bobzien and Mr. Noriega further discussed the possibility of interagency cooperation with Nevada’s Division of Wildlife as a resource for enforcement of laws within the forest.

A discussion ensued between Senator Care and Mr. Noriega regarding the designation of 327 miles of roads and trails open to all motorized vehicles. Mr. Noriega noted that public meetings were held that assisted in the decision for the designation.

There was a discussion between Vice Chairman Marvel and Mr. Noriega on whether some of the unauthorized horses had ever been domesticated prior to roaming on USFS

land. Mr. Noriega pointed out that most of the unauthorized horses are from owners who do not have the means or ability to take care of the animals and those animals are now reproducing in the wild, which creates a strain on land and resources.

Commissioner Fransway discussed with Mr. Noriega the issue of the horse impounds and the possibility of relocating the animals to the BLM's National Wild Horse and Burro Center at Palomino Valley. Mr. Noriega surmised that relocation of the animals from remote areas of the forest is extremely difficult and the needed resources are not available.

## **OVERVIEW AND STATUS REPORT OF LAND PURCHASE PROPOSALS IN THE TROUT CREEK AND JUNGO HILLS AREA OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY**

- Gail Givens, Field Manager, Winnemucca Field Office, BLM, DOI, offered a brief history and status report of the land purchase proposals in the Trout Creek and Jungo Hills Area of Humboldt County, which included: (1) the original application from DeLong Ranches, Inc., to purchase approximately 9,000 acres in the vicinity of ranching operations; (2) BLM's interest in other applications for numerous sales of other public lands and continuous work on the proposed land sale to DeLong Ranches, Inc.; (3) issues with the original agreed-upon resolution of the proposed land sale; (4) the requirement of an environmental assessment for the proposed land sale; and (5) the lack of funding and staff to efficiently expedite the proposed public lands sale. (Please see [Exhibit E](#).)
- John DeLong, President, DeLong Ranches, Inc., provided a brief overview of the land purchase proposals in the Trout Creek and Jungo Hills area of Humboldt County, which included: (1) working with the BLM to purchase public land in the vicinity of the ranch; and (2) the 10-year time lapse for the request to purchase the land.
- Commissioner Fransway commented that Mr. DeLong has been working toward purchasing the land since 1992 and that he has spent his own personal funds to assist in expediting of the sale of the public lands.
- Mary Connelly, State Director, Office of U.S. Senator Harry Reid, noted that the process of transferring public lands to a private individual can be cumbersome. She further commented that Senator Reid's office does not oppose the sale of land to Mr. DeLong.

There was a discussion between Assemblyman Marvel and Mr. Givens regarding the existence of a "grandfather provision" that would allow expediting the process of selling the public lands to Mr. DeLong. Mr. Givens replied that in this case a "grandfather clause" would not be plausible.

- Commissioner Fransway requested an update on the land purchase proposals in the Trout Creek and Jungo Hills area of Humboldt County be provided at the August 22, 2008, Legislative Committee on Public Lands' meeting in Lovelock, Nevada.

## **DISCUSSION OF ISSUE PAPER REGARDING THE IMPACT OF FEDERAL AND STATE FUNDING ON WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION EFFORTS AND OVERVIEW OF THE CHANGING ROLE OF FIRE DISTRICTS**

- Pete Anderson, Administrator, Nevada's Division of Forestry (NDF), State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, discussed the issue paper regarding the impact of federal and State funding on wildfire suppression efforts and the changing role of the fire districts, which included: (1) significant fires of 2007; (2) burned acres reported in 2007; (3) significant fires by agency; (4) number of wildland fires; (5) acres burned by wildland fire; (6) the early arrival of the fire season in the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range; (7) an increase in frequency and magnitude in the wildland urban interface fires; (8) the intensity of fire behavior; (9) cost containment; (10) jurisdictional authorities; (11) issues faced by NDF; and (12) possible solutions for the issues faced by NDF. (Please see [Exhibit F.](#))
- Chairman Rhoads referenced Senate Bill 224 from the 2007 Legislative Session which would have allowed for ranchers and volunteer firefighters to act as first responders since those individuals have a greater knowledge of access to fire-afflicted areas. Senator Rhoads stated that he would resubmit this measure to the 2009 Legislative Session.

There was a discussion between Commissioner Fransway and Mr. Anderson regarding NDF's relationship with the Fire Safe Council. Mr. Anderson opined that NDF has a very positive relationship with the Fire Safe Council, however, the critical issue with both agencies is lack of funding for fire management.

## **OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES OF NEVADA'S WILDFIRE SUPPORT GROUP**

- Jan Schade, Coordinator, Wildfire Support Group (WSG), provided a brief overview of the accomplishments of the WSG, which included: (1) efforts of the fire team's cooperation with the BLM; and (2) work and coordination with the BLM to reach a cooperative agreement for an initial fire attack response.

A discussion ensued between Senator Rhoads and Mr. Schade regarding the structure of the WSG. Mr. Schade remarked that the Wildfire Support Group is comprised of private individuals that support the efforts of the different firefighting agencies. Chairman Rhoads further queried regarding the Groups' funding. Mr. Schade reported that one source of funding is obtained through certain BLM allocations.

- John McLain, Consultant, WSG, Resource Concepts, Inc., provided details of the programs and activities of Nevada's WSG, which included: (1) dramatic impacts of fire on Nevada's natural resources and rural economy; (2) Nevada wildland acres burned by decade; (3) wildfire impacts, such as loss of sagebrush habitat for sage

grouse and infestation of cheatgrass; (4) the purpose and mission of the WSG; (5) fuel loading and fuel reduction, such as with mechanical treatments; (6) firebreaks; (7) prescribed grazing; (8) changing the fire regime with presuppression; (9) statewide expansion of the WSG model; and (10) the future healthy vision of the functioning rangeland. (Please see [Exhibit G.](#))

There was a discussion between Assemblywoman Smith and Mr. McClain regarding the WSG's involvement in reseeding of burned lands. Mr. McLain noted that reseeding is part of the WSG's plan, but permission for private citizens must be obtained from the appropriate government agency in order to reseed on any public lands.

- Paul Peterson, Fire Management Officer, Winnemucca Field Office, BLM, DOI, explained the differences between the types of classification of firefighters. BLM has their firefighters train to a national standard and the volunteer firefighters train within their particular training program and protocol. Typically the training standards are the same, however, training for volunteer firefighters may not be as frequent.

A discussion ensued between Commissioner Fransway and Mr. McClain regarding NACO entering into an agreement with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service for the Administration of Funding for Rangeland Conservation. (Please see [Exhibit H.](#))

## **DISCUSSION OF SELECT WATER ISSUES IN NORTH-CENTRAL NEVADA**

### *Update on the Activities and Programs of the Humboldt River Basin Water Authority (HRBWA)*

- Mike L. Baughman, Ph.D., President, Intertech Services Corporation and Contract Executive Director, HRBWA, provided an update on the activities and programs of the HRBWA, which included: (1) Humboldt River Basin characteristics and the Humboldt River system; (2) the formation of the HRBWA; (3) major roles and responsibilities; (4) publications sponsored by the HRBWA; (5) key issues addressed by the HRBWA; and (6) recommendations regarding several key issues for the Legislative Committee on Public Lands to act upon. (Please see [Exhibit I.](#))

There was a discussion between Senator Amodei and Dr. Baughman regarding Senate Bill 275 (Chapter 246, *Statutes of Nevada 2007*). Senator Amodei stressed that part of the purpose of S.B. 275 was to curtail the proliferation of parcels that would be entitled to drill domestic wells in basins that have been previously designated as such. Senator Amodei noted that domestic wells and drilling needs further attention, which is significant for those individuals who had participated in the appropriate administrative procedures for water from wells on undeveloped lands. Dr. Baughman opined that there are unintended consequences of that legislation.

*Overview of Programs and Activities of the Pershing County Water Conservation District (PCWCD) and Status Report on the “Humboldt Title Transfer” Project*

- Bennie Hodges, Secretary-Manager, PCWCD, discussed the programs and activities of the PCWCD, which included: (1) a brief history and purpose of the PCWCD; (2) an update on the rebuilding of the Rogers Dam in Lovelock; (3) a brief history of the Humboldt Project; and (4) a detailed account of the “Humboldt Title Transfer” project.

Mr. Hodges expounded upon the lands of the “Humboldt Title Transfer” which encompasses primarily the Battle Mountain Community Pasture, Rye Patch Reservoir lands, and Humboldt Sink lands. Mr. Hodges explained that there are two types of land in the Humboldt Project: (1) withdrawn land that was formerly under BLM ownership; and (2) acquired land. The environmental impact statement has been completed on all of these lands, which totals over 82,000 acres.

Responding to Assemblyman Marvel regarding when the PCWCD would receive the title, Mr. Hodges stated he expects the title transfer to be completed in approximately two years.

In response to Commissioner Fransway’s question regarding the anticipated amount of water that will be in Rye Patch Reservoir after the 2007-2008 winter season’s snowmelt, Mr. Hodges estimated the volume may reach approximately 180,000 acre-feet.

**DISCUSSION AND OVERVIEW OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO (UNR), STUDY TO REVIEW THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION AND EXTENDED STUDIES (UNCE) PROGRAMS**

- Robert E. Dickens, Ph.D., Director, Office of Governmental Relations, UNR, briefly discussed UNR’s study to review UNCE’s programs. On behalf of Milton Glick, President, UNR, Mr. Dickens noted: (1) UNR has no intention of closing UNCE’s programs; (2) the study provided a basis for decisions about learning, discovery, and outreach at UNR; (3) the importance of funding for the programs to be used as intended; and (4) the importance of visiting communities in Nevada to obtain feedback on UNCE’s programs. (Please see [Exhibit J.](#))
- Stanley Johnson, Assistant to the Dean, College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources, UNR, discussed the following highlights of the report addressing the review of UNCE’s programs: (1) a formulated vision for UNCE by the UNR committee that conducted the study; (2) opportunities for increasing the effectiveness of UNCE; (3) improvements in coordination that are possible for UNCE; and (4) organizational models for UNCE. (Please see [Exhibit K.](#))

Discussion ensued among Assemblyman Marvel, Mr. Johnson, and Mr. Dickens regarding the lack of private sector involvement in the UNR study to review UNCE's programs and Mr. Marvel's concerns about how UNCE's programs are funded.

- Responding to Senator Care regarding the location of UNCE offices in the State, Karen L. Hinton, Dean and Director, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, stated that each county has an office except for two and those two counties have access to UNCE offices in neighboring counties.
- Ms. Hinton summarized the recommendations from the UNR study, which included: (1) implementing measures to recognize and reward outreach activities; (2) initiating immediate action to establish a university-wide outreach council; (3) conducting further analysis and discussion of the results from the study; (4) establishing uniform policies related to joint positions with UNR and UNCE; (5) forming a committee to review split appointments; (6) encouraging continued support from UNR for program enhancements for UNCE; and (7) having the President and Provost of UNR work with UNCE administration to position UNCE as the model for outreach. (Please see [Exhibit L-1](#), [Exhibit L-2](#), and [Exhibit L-3](#).)

## **REVIEW OF THE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE NEVADA FARM BUREAU**

- Doug Busselman, Executive Vice President, Nevada Farm Bureau, reviewed the programs and activities of the Bureau, which included: (1) the Farm Bureau's grassroots structure regarding policy direction from farmers and ranchers; (2) interruptible irrigation rate structure from Assembly Bill 144 (Chapter 495, *Statutes of Nevada 2007*) and the implementation of regulations; (3) the Walker River Acquisition Project and protection for agricultural structure and operations; (4) the Lyon and Mineral County Lands Bill and related wilderness designations and local citizens' input; (5) sage grouse conservation activities; and (6) pre-wildfire resource management. (Please see [Exhibit M-1](#) and [Exhibit M-2](#).)

## **DISCUSSION OF EXISTING PROVISIONS IN NEVADA LAW CONCERNING OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES (OHVS) AND INPUT ON POSSIBLE FUTURE LEGISLATION REGARDING THE TITLING AND REGISTRATION OF OHVS**

*Overview of the OHV "Certificate of Operation" Program and Related Provisions Administered by Nevada's Department of Taxation (TAX)*

- Dino DiCianno, Executive Director, Nevada's Department of Taxation, provided an overview of the OHV "Certificate of Operation" program and related provisions administered by TAX, which included: (1) TAX's position on OHV registration; (2) the use of authorized dealers to issue Certificates of Operation; (3) absorption of



the cost of the stickers into TAX's budget; (4) the different types of OHVs; (5) concern over the loss of sales tax to out-of-state sales; and (6) cooperation from out-of-state dealers regarding OHVs purchased by Nevada residents.

*Discussion and Suggestions From the Nevada Farm Bureau on Potential Future OHV Legislation in Nevada*

- Doug Busselman, Executive Vice President, Nevada Farm Bureau, discussed the perspective of the farmers and ranchers regarding potential future OHV legislation in Nevada, which included: (1) the important role of OHVs as farm equipment in fencing, irrigation, and livestock management activities; (2) the need to tax and register OHVs as farm equipment when used in farming and ranching actions for farmers and ranchers; (3) Farm Bureau members' concern over inappropriate use of OHVs and increased wildfire risk; (4) the need for balanced OHV legislation that corresponds with balanced business use of equipment; and (5) the need to keep Farm Bureau members informed on the progress of OHV legislation recommendations by the Legislative Committee on Public Lands. (Please see [Exhibit N.](#))

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**(As directed by Chairman Rhoads, this agenda item was taken out of order.)**

- Leah Bradle, Executive Director, Nevada Powersport Dealers Association (NDPA), opined that the letter written to Senator Dean A. Rhoads, submitted on behalf of Clay Thomas, Deputy Director, Nevada's Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), regarding potential future OHV legislation, had inaccuracies that needed to be addressed, which included: (1) out-of-state dealers not collecting sales tax as an incentive for purchasers; (2) the DMV is capable of issuing titles and should be used as a tool to verify sales tax payments if titles are issued; (3) contributions by OHV riders to the gas tax, which the DMV states is "incidental" use; and (4) NDPA difficulties in reaching a consensus among various OHV groups regarding potential future OHV legislation. (Please see [Exhibit O.](#))
- Chairman Rhoads stated that agencies such as the DMV and Nevada's Department of Wildlife were invited to testify at the April 4, 2008, meeting of the Legislative Committee on Public Lands. However, Jim Gibbons, Governor, State of Nevada, replied that no State agency would comment on an OHV proposal until the Legislative Committee on Public Lands had made a recommendation regarding State agencies and organizations that would be effected by potential future OHV legislation.

There was a discussion between Assemblywoman Smith and Ms. Bradle regarding the connection between OHV titling and registration programs and the ability to show proof of

ownership to obtain OHV insurance. Ms. Smith noted that there is a need to be able to prove ownership in order to insure an OHV.

## **UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF FEDERAL LANDS LEGISLATION IMPACTING NEVADA COUNTIES**

### *Discussion of Various Federal Lands Legislative Proposals Under Consideration by Nevada's Congressional Delegation*

- Kevin Kirkeby, Rural Coordinator, Office of U.S. Senator John Ensign, briefly discussed the various federal lands legislative proposals under consideration by Nevada's Congressional Delegation, which included: (1) the Lyon and Mineral County Lands Bill and local citizen opposition; (2) the potential wilderness designation initiated by the Nevada Wilderness Project; and (3) the development of federal lands bills at the local level.
- Matt Tuma, Regional Representative, Office of U.S. Senator Harry Reid, emphasized the need to obtain input from local counties in the development of a public federal lands bill. Mr. Tuma noted that Nevada's Congressional Delegation is participating in the beginning stages of the public lands bill and has not started the drafting phase of a federal lands bill.
- Mary Connelly, State Director, Office of U.S. Senator Harry Reid, noted that there is a Senate bill concerning the Owyhee Tribal lands and that bill has a small component of a public lands bill.
- Verita Black Prothro, District Director, Office of U.S. Congressman Dean Heller, submitted a statement on behalf of Congressman Heller, which included a brief discussion of constituent concerns with the development of the public lands bill for Lyon and Mineral Counties. (Please see [Exhibit P.](#))
- Michael J. Stewart, Supervising Principal Research Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, submitted a letter on behalf of Shaaron Netherton, Executive Director, Friends of Nevada Wilderness, and John Wallin, Director, Nevada Wilderness Project, to the Legislative Committee on Public Lands, which expressed concern over misinformation regarding potential wilderness designations in Lyon and Mineral Counties. (Please see [Exhibit Q.](#))

### *Review of Potential Wilderness Designations That May Be Included in Proposed Federal Lands Legislation*

- Emery Thran, Coalition for Public Access, provided a brief review of potential wilderness designation issues that may be included in proposed federal lands legislation, which included: (1) the need for specific written criteria and definitions

from the BLM regarding the suitability of potential public lands for wilderness designation; and (2) the potential for the proposed federal lands legislation creating a wilderness designation which would hamper the ability to use the pinon pine as a potential source of “green” energy.

- Phil Tucker, Coalition for Public Access, offered a brief review of the economic impacts of the potential wilderness designation that may be included in proposed federal lands legislation, which included: (1) the effects on local area businesses from limited areas available for OHV activity; and (2) the negative consequences to small OHV dealerships from lack of business.

There was a discussion between Senator Care and Mr. Thran regarding the desired amount of lands that could be designated as wilderness and the individuals who are proponents for wilderness designation. Mr. Thran noted it appears that the quest for the wilderness designation has been initiated by groups located in Reno, and not the local area residents in Mineral and Lyon Counties.

- Mark Nixon, Private Citizen, Hawthorne, Nevada, reviewed the impacts of the proposed wilderness designation that may be included in the proposed federal lands legislation, which included: (1) potential negative impacts on mining activity in Mineral County from the proposed wilderness designation; and (2) potential negative economic hardships to the Town of Hawthorne as a result of the proposed wilderness area.

Mr. Thran also urged the Legislative Committee on Public Lands to issue a letter of nonsupport to Nevada’s Congressional Delegation regarding the proposed wilderness designation. (Please see [Exhibit R.](#))

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Leah Bradle, previously identified, commented that NPDA is opposed to the current proposed wilderness designation in Mineral and Lyon Counties.
- Doug Bussleman, previously identified, requested that the Legislative Committee on Public Lands obtain BLM’s criteria for determining wilderness designation characteristics and requirements.

**POSSIBLE WORK SESSION ON PRECEDING AGENDA ITEMS AND CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS MADE AT THE MARCH 7, 2008, MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS CONCERNING RAILROAD CORRIDORS PROPOSED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE)**

- Michael J. Stewart, previously identified, discussed testimony from the March 7, 2008, meeting of the Legislative Committee on Public Lands concerning railroad corridors proposed by the DOE and specific recommendations made to the Committee, which included: (1) a draft letter to the DOE; and (2) a draft letter to the BLM. (Please see [Exhibit S](#), [Exhibit T](#), and [Exhibit U](#).)
- The Committee **APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTION:**

SENATOR AMODEI MOVED TO FINALIZE AND MAIL THE DRAFT LETTERS TO THE DOE AND THE BLM FROM THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS REGARDING THE RAILROAD CORRIDORS PROPOSED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FRANSWAY AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Susan M. Gottschalk  
Senior Administrative Assistant

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Michael J. Stewart  
Supervising Principal Research Analyst

APPROVED BY:

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Senator Dean A. Rhoads, Chairman

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## LIST OF EXHIBITS

[Exhibit A](#) is the “Meeting Notice and Agenda” provided by Michael J. Stewart, Supervising Principal Research Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB).

[Exhibit B](#) is the written testimony of John H. Milton, III, Chairman, Board of County Commissioners, Humboldt County.

[Exhibit C](#) is document titled “BLM-Winnemucca Field Office Program Overview,” submitted by Gail Givens, Field Manager, Winnemucca Field Office, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), United States Department of the Interior (DOI).

[Exhibit D-1](#) is the written testimony of Jose Noriega, District Ranger, Santa Rosa Ranger District, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

[Exhibit D-2](#) is a document titled “Decision Notice Finding of No Significant Impact,” offered by Jose Noriega, District Ranger, Santa Rosa Ranger District, USFS, USDA.

[Exhibit D-3](#) is a map titled “Nevada First Land Acquisition,” submitted by Jose Noriega, District Ranger, Santa Rosa Ranger District, USFS, USDA.

[Exhibit D-4](#) is a document titled “Summary of Our Successes Santa Rosa Ranger District Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest,” referenced by Jose Noriega, District Ranger, Santa Rosa Ranger District, USFS, USDA.

[Exhibit E](#) is a packet of information regarding the sale of land in the Trout Creek and Jungo Hills area furnished by Tom Fransway, County Commissioner, Humboldt County.

[Exhibit F](#) is a binder prepared by Pete Anderson, Administrator, Nevada’s Division of Forestry, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, which includes:

1. A Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Legislative Committee on Public Lands”;
2. An issue paper dated March 13, 2008, and titled “Nevada Division of Forestry & Wildfire Suppression”; and
3. An online news article from *Firehouse.com* titled “Firefighting Burns Through Forest Service Budget.”

[Exhibit G](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation titled “Wildfire Support Group Wildfire Management Proposal a Cooperative Effort in Fuels Management and Rangeland Restoration,” submitted by John McClain, Consultant to the Wildfire Support Group, Resource Concepts, Inc.

[Exhibit H](#) is a document titled “Agenda Item 10,” provided by Tom Fransway, County Commissioner, Humboldt County.

[Exhibit I](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation dated April 4, 2008, titled “Humboldt River Basin Water Authority Overview of Organization and Key Issues,” given by Mike Baughman, Ph.D., President, Intertech Services Corporation and Contract Executive Director, Humboldt River Basin Water Authority.

[Exhibit J](#) is a copy of a Nevada Farm Bureau newsletter article titled “Presidents Perspective...,” referenced by Robert E. Dickens, Ph.D., Director, Office of Governmental Relations, University of Nevada Reno (UNR).

[Exhibit K](#) is a draft report dated January 15, 2008, titled “Review of Cooperative Extension and Extended Studies,” submitted by Stanley Johnson, Assistant to the Dean, College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources, UNR.

[Exhibit L-1](#) is the written testimony of Karen L. Hinton, Dean and Director, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE).

[Exhibit L-2](#) is report titled “University of Nevada Cooperative Extension” which was furnished by Karen L. Hinton, Dean and Director, UNCE.

[Exhibit L-3](#) is a document titled “UNCE Review – Supplemental Information,” provided by Karen L. Hinton, Dean and Director, UNCE.

[Exhibit M-1](#) is the written testimony outline of Doug Busselman, Executive Vice President, Nevada Farm Bureau, for agenda item “Review of Programs and Activities of the Nevada Farm Bureau.”

[Exhibit M-2](#) is the written testimony of Doug Busselman, Executive Vice President, Nevada Farm Bureau, for agenda item “Review of Programs and Activities of the Nevada Farm Bureau.”

[Exhibit N](#) is the written testimony of Doug Busselman, Executive Vice President, Nevada Farm Bureau for agenda items “Discussion of Existing Provisions in Nevada Law Concerning Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs) and Input on Possible Future Legislation Regarding the Titling and Registration of OHVs” and “Discussion and Suggestions From the Nevada Farm Bureau on Potential Future OHV Legislation in Nevada.”

[Exhibit O](#) is a packet of information offered by Leah Bradle, Executive Director, Nevada Powersport Dealers Association, which includes:

1. A letter dated March 26, 2008, to Senator Dean A. Rhoads, Chairman, Legislative Committee on Public Lands, expressing disappointment with Nevada’s Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) off-highway vehicles (OHV) position;
2. A sample letter from Nevada’s Department of Taxation regarding purchases of tangible personal property;

3. A copy of a certificate of title;
4. An executive agency fiscal note; and
5. A letter dated February 27, 2008, to Senator Dean A. Rhoads, Chairman, Legislative Committee on Public Lands, regarding DMV's position on potential future OHV legislation.

[Exhibit P](#) is the written statement of Congressman Dean Heller, U.S. House of Representatives, Nevada, as referenced by Verita Black Prothro, District Director, Office of U.S. Congressman Dean Heller.

[Exhibit Q](#) is a letter dated April 3, 2008, to the Legislative Committee on Public Lands, regarding proposed federal lands legislation, furnished by Michael J. Stewart, Supervising Principal Research Analyst, Research Division, LCB.

[Exhibit R](#) is a packet of information prepared by Mark Nixon, Private Citizen, Hawthorne, Nevada, which includes:

1. Written testimony of Mark Nixon;
2. A letter dated March 12, 2008, to Senator Harry Reid and Senator John Ensign, U.S. Senate, Nevada, and Congressman Dean Heller, U. S. House of Representatives, Nevada, regarding proposed federal lands legislation, from Jim Gibbons, Governor, Nevada;
3. A letter to U.S. Senator Harry Reid, Nevada, from Nevada State Senator Mike McGinness and Nevada Assembly Members Ed Goedhart, Tom Grady, and James Settlemeyer, regarding the potential expansion of wilderness areas;
4. Mineral County Resolution No. 08-003 regarding opposition to wilderness area designations in Mineral County;
5. A letter to the Legislative Committee on Public Lands from Shelley Wadsworth Hartman, Mineral County Economic Development Authority, regarding potential federal lands legislation;
6. A letter dated March 25, 2008, to Congressman Dean Heller, U.S. House of Representatives, Nevada, from Betty Easley, Citizen, Hawthorne, Nevada, regarding concerns for potential federal lands legislation in Mineral County;
7. A document and map regarding the Buller Mountain Wilderness proposal; and
8. A document titled "Nevada Wilderness Study Area Notebook," by the Carson City Field Office, BLM, DOI.



[Exhibit S](#) is a draft letter from Nevada’s Legislative Committee on Public Lands to Ward Sproat, Director, Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and Ned B. Larson, Project Director, Nevada Rail Project, Office of Civilian Waste Management, DOE, regarding impacts on public lands users of the proposed Caliente Rail Alignment, submitted by Michael J. Stewart, Supervising Principal Research Analyst, Research Division, LCB.

[Exhibit T](#) is a draft letter from Nevada’s Legislative Committee on Public Lands to Ron Wenker, Director, Nevada State Office, BLM, DOI, and John Ruhs, District Manager, Ely Field Office, BLM, DOI, regarding impacts on public lands users of the proposed Caliente Rail Alignment, presented by Michael J. Stewart, Supervising Principal Research Analyst, Research Division, LCB.

[Exhibit U](#) is a letter dated March 11, 2008, to Senator Dean A. Rhoads, Chairman, and Members, Nevada’s Legislative Committee on Public Lands, regarding a written response to questions on the proposed railroad corridors, offered by Michael J. Stewart, Supervising Principal Research Analyst, Research Division, LCB.

This set of “Summary Minutes and Action Report” is supplied as an informational service. Exhibits in electronic format may not be complete. Copies of the complete exhibits, other materials distributed at the meeting, and the audio record are on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, Carson City, Nevada. You may contact the Library online at [www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/feedbackmail.cfm](http://www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/feedbackmail.cfm) or telephone: 775/684-6827.