



September 18, 2007

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Dear Ms. Hinton and Mr. Wilson:

The 2007 Nevada Legislative Session recently adjourned and Nevada's Legislative Committee on Public Lands has completed its work for the 2005-2006 legislative interim period. As you know, the Committee travels throughout Nevada and to Washington, D.C., during the 18 months between legislative sessions to listen to citizens' concerns about public lands issues and to review federal and state land management policies with various elected officials, agency personnel, interest groups, and private organizations. In addition, the Committee actively monitors federal legislation impacting Nevada and strives to maintain open communication with federal agency representatives, local government officials, and public land users.

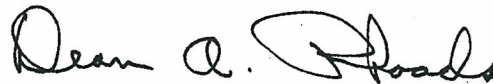
The Legislative Committee on Public Lands regularly discusses the impact of the spread of noxious weeds and other nonnative invasive species throughout Nevada. As you know, noxious weeds compromise agricultural productivity on public and private land, damage native vegetation, increase fire frequency and intensity, and decrease natural biodiversity and wildlife habitat. As in the past, the Committee requested legislation during the 2007 Legislative Session appropriating additional funds for weed control and eradication throughout the State. Unfortunately, these measures were not approved, leaving various weed groups, Cooperative Weed Management Areas, the State Department of Agriculture, and federal agencies without added financial assistance to fight this growing problem.

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The Legislative Committee on Public Lands has always welcomed the informative updates of the Tri-County Weed Group and is impressed with its structure, purpose, and successes in battling the spread of noxious weeds. The Group's ability to foster strong relationships, promote community and stakeholder involvement, and incorporate new weed eradication technologies is commendable and should be used as a model for the development of other regional weed programs in Nevada. Even though additional funds were not approved during the session, the Committee encourages you to continue your tireless efforts in noxious weed control and community collaboration.

We look forward to hearing additional reports on the progress of the Tri-County Weed Group during the upcoming legislative interim period. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me if the Committee or I may be of any assistance to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dean A. Rhoads". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "D".

Senator Dean A. Rhoads
Chairman, Nevada's Legislative
Committee on Public Lands

DAR/gn:L103;W64095

cc: The Honorable Jim Gibbons, Governor of Nevada
John Hiatt, Chairman, Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition
Betsy Macfarlan, Executive Director, Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition
John Ruhs, Field Office Manager, Ely Field Office, Bureau of Land Management