

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 22, 1999  
**NEWS RELEASE**

**Nevada's Legislative Committee on Public Lands**

<b>DATES:</b>	Wednesday, October 27, 1999, and Thursday, October 28, 1999
<b>PLACE:</b>	Washington, D.C.

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**PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE TO VISIT WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Senator Dean A. Rhoads (R-Tuscarora) is pleased to announce the schedule for an informational tour in Washington, D.C., by Nevada's Legislative Committee on Public Lands on October 27 and 28, 1999. A schedule is attached to this news release.

The purpose of this informational tour is to visit with Congressional representatives and Federal Executive Branch officials to discuss public lands issues of importance to the citizens of Nevada. The committee has scheduled numerous briefings during its two-day visit to the nation's Capitol, including discussions with federal agency officials from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). In addition, the committee will hear from Nevada Senators Richard Bryan and Harry Reid as well as Congressman Jim Gibbons and Congresswoman Shelley Berkley. Committee members will also receive briefings regarding pending federal legislation affecting public lands from representatives of the Senate Budget Committee, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, and the House Committee on Natural Resources. Finally, the Committee on Public Lands will attend a congressional hearing on a House measure regarding the management of wild horses and burros, and will visit with Congressman James Hansen (R-Utah), who is chairman of the House Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands.

Senator Rhoads, chairman of Nevada's Legislative Committee on Public Lands, noted that it is crucial for federal lawmakers and officials to understand the concerns of Nevadans about public lands issues. **"The upcoming tour in Washington will be particularly important because of the recent introduction of federal legislation that greatly impacts Nevada,"** he explained. **"The committee is very interested in the progress of S. 719 [sponsored by Senator Reid] and H.R. 1506 [sponsored by Congressman Gibbons]. Both measures allow for the sale and auction of public lands to benefit Nevada's local economies and are similar to the Southern Nevada Land Management Act, which has been very successful."** The Southern Nevada Land Management Act was passed last year.

Commenting on the BLM briefings, Senator Rhoads noted, **"We are looking forward to once again visiting with the BLM, which manages 68 percent of Nevada's land. Clearly, any contact with and information exchange between Nevada officials and the BLM will help in addressing our concerns about certain land management policies."** A major discussion topic at the BLM briefing will be proposed amendments to federal mining regulations that will greatly affect mining operations in Nevada.

The Public Lands Committee was created in 1983 as a permanent committee of the Nevada Legislature. The purposes of the committee 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 federal government manages almost 87 percent of the land in Nevada.

Traditionally, the committee tours Washington, D.C., annually to visit with key federal officials to emphasize positions taken on public lands issues by the Nevada Legislature. **"These visits are always very productive and worthwhile,"** noted Rhoads. **"They provide an important opportunity for the committee to discuss with federal policymakers the concerns expressed by many Nevada residents and businesses about federal land management in our state."**

The other members of the Committee on Public Lands are Assemblyman John W. Marvel (R-Battle Mountain), Vice Chairman; Senator Terry Care (D-Las Vegas); Senator Mark A. James (R-Las Vegas); Assemblyman Jerry Claborn (D-Las Vegas); Assemblyman P.M. Roy Neighbors (D-Tonopah); and Humboldt County Commissioner, Alex "Buster" Dufurrena.