

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 3, 2000

NEWS RELEASE

Nevada's Legislative Committee on Public Lands
(Nevada Revised Statutes 218.5363)

Date:	May 12, 2000
Time:	9 a.m.
Place:	University of Nevada, Reno Fire Science Academy Auditorium, Room 335 100 University Avenue Carlin, Nevada

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PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE TO MEET IN CARLIN

Senator Dean A. Rhoads (R-Tuscarora) is pleased to announce that Nevada's Legislative Committee on Public Lands will hold its sixth in-state meeting of the 1999-2000 legislative interim at the University of Nevada, Reno, Fire Science Academy in Carlin, Nevada, on Friday, May 12, at 9 a.m. (An agenda is attached to this news release.)

Senator Rhoads, Chairman of the committee, explained that the meeting will begin with an update of public lands issues in Elko County and a discussion of various mining-related issues including the Environmental Protection Agency's Toxics Release Inventory program and abandoned mine lands. The committee will also hear a report about the economic benefits that Nevada's hard-rock mining industry provides to other states. **"Mining serves as one of Nevada's most important industries and Carlin is at the heart of Nevada's mining region,"** Rhoads explained. **"It is vital that we, as legislators, closely monitor any proposals affecting the public lands to ensure that mining operations are not jeopardized."**

Also on the agenda is an update of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) reseeding and range rehabilitation efforts following the devastating wild fires of 1999 as well as a discussion regarding the BLM's "Great Basin Restoration Initiative," a proposal for a long-term restoration program that will allow for the return of lands dominated by noxious weeds and annual grasses to their native condition.

In addition, the committee will receive a report of the results of a Humboldt River Basin Water Authority study. A presentation from several students in Michael Teichert's class at the Orovada School regarding the designation of "Orovada Soil" as the official state soil for Nevada will also be heard. **"This will be a great opportunity for the students to take part in a legislative committee hearing and see democracy in action,"** noted Rhoads. **"Many of us were surprised to learn that every state in the U.S. has selected a state soil, but only 15 have been legislatively established. We're looking forward to hearing from the students on this interesting topic."** Finally, the committee will receive an update on the efforts to designate a National Conservation Area in the Black Rock Desert and a review of the Nevada Land Use Summit, which was held on April 17 and 18 in Verdi. A period for public comment will also be provided. Friday's meeting will be preceded by an informational tour of Jerrit Canyon mine on Thursday, May 11. **"The committee travels to Elko County every interim. We are looking forward to hearing from all the meeting participants and anticipate a very productive and worthwhile meeting,"** Rhoads concluded.

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.

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