MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS
(*Nevada Revised Statutes* 218.5363)
August 25, 2000
Eureka, Nevada

The seventh meeting of the Nevada Legislature's Committee on Public Lands (*Nevada Revised Statutes* [NRS] 218.5363) during the 1999-2000 interim was held on Friday, August 25, 2000, at the Eureka Opera House, 31 South Main Street, Eureka, Nevada. Pages 3 and 4 contain the "Meeting Notice and Agenda" for this meeting.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Dean A. Rhoads, Chairman
Assemblyman John W. Marvel, Vice Chairman
Senator Mike McGinness (alternate)
Assemblyman P.M. "Roy" Neighbors
Assemblywoman Kathleen A. Von Tobel (alternate)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Senator Terry Care
Senator Mark A. James
Assemblyman Jerry D. Claborn
Buster Dufurrena, Humboldt County Commissioner

OTHER LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Assemblyman John C. Carpenter
Assemblyman Marcia de Braga

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Michael J. Stewart, Senior Research Analyst
J. Randall Stephenson, Senior Deputy Legislative Counsel
Kimberly Marsh Guinasso, Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel
Christine Kuhl, Senior Research Secretary

MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

Name of Organization: Nevada's Legislative Committee on Public Lands
(*Nevada Revised Statutes* 218.5363)

Date and Time of Meeting: Friday, August 25, 2000
9:30 a.m.

Place of Meeting: Eureka Opera House
31 South Main Street
Eureka, Nevada 89316

A G E N D A

I. Opening Remarks and Introductions

*II. Approval of the Minutes of the Meetings Held on December 15, 1999, in Lovelock, Nevada, and on May 12, 2000, in Carlin, Nevada

*III. Reports to the Committee

*A. Update of Public Lands Issues in Eureka and Lander Counties
Pete Goicochea, Chairman, Eureka County Board of Commissioners
Cheryl Lyngar, Member, Lander County Board of Commissioners
Jerry Smith, Battle Mountain Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), United States Department of the Interior (DOI)

*B. Overview of the Nevada Land Use Summit Held on April 17 and 18, 2000, and Discussion of Grant Awarded to the Nevada Land Use Summit Pursuant to Senate Bill 560 (Chapter 544, *Statutes of Nevada 1999*)
Assemblyman Marcia de Braga, Nevada Assembly District No. 35

*C. Update on Wild Horse Issues in Nevada
Meg Jensen, Deputy State Director for Natural Resources, Lands, and Planning, BLM, DOI
Catherine Barcomb, Administrator, Nevada's Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (SDCNR)
Gracian Uhalde, Commissioner, Nevada's Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses, SDCNR
Pete Goicochea, Chairman, Eureka County Board of Commissioners

*D. Overview of "Draft Road Jurisdiction Protocol Pilot Project" and Other Road Issues in Nye County, Nevada
Richard Carver, Chairman, Nye County Board of Commissioners
Bob Vaught, Forest Supervisor, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, U.S. Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture

*E. Update of the Rangeland Resources Commission Created in Senate Bill 310 of the 1999 Legislative Session (*Nevada Revised Statutes* 563.250 to 563.380, inclusive) and Discussion of S.B. 560 Grant Awarded to the Nevada Cattlemen's Association
C. Joseph Guild III, President, Nevada Cattlemen's Association

*F. Overview of Nevada's Seedbank Program
Gail Durham, Nevada State Seedbank Coordinator, Nevada's Division of Forestry (NDF), SDCNR

Wade Mothershead, Seasonal Fire Rehabilitation Specialist, NDF, SDCNR

IV. Public Comment

*V. Work Session on Preceding Agenda Items

*Denotes items on which the committee may take action.

Note: We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements for the meeting are necessary, please notify the Research Division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, in writing, at the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747, or call Christine Kuhl at (775) 684-6825 as soon as possible.

Notice of this meeting was posted in the following Carson City, Nevada, locations: Blasdel Building, 209 East Musser Street; Capitol Press Corps, Basement, Capitol Building; City Hall, 201 North Carson Street; Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street; and Nevada State Library, 100 Stewart Street. Notice of this meeting was faxed for posting to the following Las Vegas, Nevada, locations: Clark County Office, 500 South Grand Central Parkway; and Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue. Notice of this meeting was faxed for posting to the following Eureka, Nevada, location: Eureka Opera House, 31 South Main Street.

OPENING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Rhoads brought the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. Roll was called and a quorum present. He noted that the final Committee meeting, originally scheduled to be held on September 29, 2000, has been rescheduled for October 6, 2000. The meeting will be held in Yerington, Nevada.

Please note that a packet of information prepared for Committee members by Michael J. Stewart, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB), was submitted as Exhibit A.

Assemblyman Marvel extended a “thank you” to the Committee staff for going “above and beyond the call of duty” when assisting Assemblyman Neighbors with a medical emergency during the June 2000 Committee tour in Washington, D.C. Assemblyman Neighbors also thanked the staff members.

Chairman Rhoads invited Robert E. Erickson, Research Director, Research Division, LCB, to provide additional opening comments.

Mr. Erickson thanked Chairman Rhoads for the opportunity to present the findings of his research regarding Eureka County’s legislative history. He noted that this is perhaps the first legislative meeting to be held in the town of Eureka, Nevada, since Eureka County has had a legislative delegation. He explained that during the 1877 Legislative Session, Eureka County had six representatives in the Nevada Legislature. Additionally, the last time that the town of Eureka had a resident as a legislative member was in 1965; both Senator Jack Bay and Assemblyman Ed Delaney were from the town.

Continuing, Mr. Erickson explained that at each legislative session, an especially distinguished former Nevada State Senator is inducted into the Senate Hall of Fame. He announced that the nominations Guy Louis Rocha, Assistant Administrator for Archives and Records (State Archivist), State Library and Archives Division, and he will present during the upcoming session are former White Pine County Senator Henry Cummins and former Eureka County Senator George Cassidy. Mr. Erickson noted that both Senators served before the turn of the century. Additionally, Mr. Cassidy was the first Senator to represent Eureka County; he was elected in 1875. Prior to 1875, Mr. Cassidy had served as a Senator from Lander County, Nevada, during the 1873 Legislative Session. Additionally, he served as the editor for the *Eureka Sentinel*.

In conclusion, Mr. Erickson informed the Committee that Mr. Rocha and he are continuing to search for descendants of Mr. Cassidy and invited anyone with information to contact him. Mr. Erickson announced that he would keep Eureka County informed regarding information about Mr. Cassidy and the outcome of the selection for the Senate Hall of Fame.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON DECEMBER 15, 1999, IN LOVELOCK, NEVADA AND ON MAY 12, 2000, IN CARLIN, NEVADA

ASSEMBLYMAN MARVEL MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETINGS HELD ON DECEMBER 15, 1999, IN LOVELOCK, NEVADA, AND ON MAY 12, 2000, IN CARLIN, NEVADA. ASSEMBLYMAN NEIGHBORS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN VON TOBEL WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.

REPORTS TO THE COMMITTEE

Update of Public Lands Issues in Eureka and Lander Counties

Pete Goicochea

Pete Goicochea, Chairman, Eureka County Board of Commissioners, provided the Committee with a prepared statement (Exhibit B).

Mr. Goicochea addressed the issue of wildfires and opined that Eureka County has been fortunate thus far in 2000, having only experienced one large fire, the Beowawe Fire, which burned approximately 14,000 acres. He attributed the fire suppression success to the fact that there are approximately 40 volunteer firefighters and road department employees in Eureka County certified as wildland firefighters. Additionally, Eureka County now has a better understanding of the fire fighting crew dispatching structure and limited resources, which has facilitated effective fire suppression efforts. He noted that obtaining additional resources for the local volunteer fire department and the creation of a northeastern regional strike team is an upcoming challenge. Additionally, Mr. Goicochea requested that the Committee recommend to the State Legislature an appropriation to fund northeastern regional strike teams. However, he noted that regional strike teams for specific areas (i.e., individual counties) should remain in their respective area at all times, or such regional teams would be useless. For example, if the Eureka County regional strike teams were to travel to Elko County, Nevada, to assist in fire suppression and a fire broke out in Eureka County, there will be no immediate response available to fight the new fire.

Assemblyman Carpenter agreed with Mr. Goicochea that regional strike teams are beneficial to rural communities and urged the Committee to assist Nevada's counties in obtaining funds to establish such teams. He suggested that approximately $250,000 would be sufficient.

Continuing, Mr. Goicochea addressed contract fire suppression and expressed concern that this industry is rapidly replacing the livestock industry in Nevada. He noted that fire suppression costs place a burden on the taxpayer because no product is generated, and, therefore, no revenue is realized.

Turning to the discussion of roads, Mr. Goicochea explained that due to the filing of a County road map in 1971, Eureka County was confident that most roads in the County were secured as County-owned roads. However, he noted that in a memorandum dated July 20, 2000, from Barna Juhasz, Director, Office of Highway Policy Information, United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), to John T. Price, Division Administrator, Nevada Division Office, Federal Highway Administration, USDOT, it is noted that a significant amount of Nevada's inventoried roads will be placed in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), United States Department of the Interior (DOI), non-public administrative category. Mr. Goicochea stipulated that this will result in approximately a 25 percent loss of federal revenue provided to the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT). He noted that of the roads in question, eight are located in Eureka County. Additionally, he explained that Eureka County is working with NDOT to trade eight miles of Eureka County Route 237A for a portion of State Route 780.

Continuing, Mr. Goicochea explained that Eureka County is concerned about the many miles of road in the County that cross private property. He noted that these roads have been established through years of prescriptive use but have no legal easement. He opined that balancing public access, while maintaining private property rights, is a

difficult situation to address.

Chairman Rhoads noted that addressing the issue of historically used roads over private property would be a worthy Legislative interim study.

Next, Mr. Goicochea requested that J.P. "Jim" Ithurralde, Eureka County Assessor, explain what he referred to as the "Newmont mining appeal."

Mr. Ithurralde approached the Committee and explained that on February 14, 2000, Newmont Mining Company (NMC) filed a petition with the Eureka County Board of Equalization to classify NMC property in Eureka County as personal property, not real estate. He reported that NCM argued that their taxable value exceeded full cash value because once dismantling of a building commences, the property must be classified as personal property, not real estate. He noted that in Nevada, real estate has a 50-year depreciation schedule, whereas personal property has a 15-year depreciation schedule. He further noted that this appeal was also filed in the Nevada Counties of Elko, Humboldt, and Lander. The Counties of Elko, Eureka, and Lander denied the appeal; Humboldt County did not rule on the appeal. Consequently, NMC appealed to the State Board of Equalization. Mr. Ithurralde explained that the NMC changed methodology in the State appeal and argued that mine buildings and improvements do not have a 50-year life. Therefore, NMC argued that the depreciation schedule for a mine should be based on the economic or mine life, i.e., 11 to 15 years. He explained that the State agreed with NMC. In conclusion, Mr. Ithurralde reported that as a result, Eureka County has experienced a revenue loss of $576,540.

At the request of Chairman Rhoads, Tim Crowley, Community Relations/Issues Manager, Nevada Mining Association (NMA), noted that buildings constructed on mining properties are currently depreciated over a 50-year period. He explained that in some cases, a mine's life may be 50 years; however, there results an economic liability when the mine life is less than 50 years and the company continues to pay taxes. The NMA is working with the State Department of Taxation to determine a fair depreciation scale and, although no meetings were scheduled to date, Mr. Crowley noted that meetings would be held in the "next few months." Additionally, he opined that legislation is not the appropriate avenue by which to achieve a decision. Concluding, he explained that he is unable to speak regarding the pending lawsuits concerning the issue.

Continuing, Mr. Goicochea explained that the Eureka County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing regarding the proposed disposal of high-level radioactive waste at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. The Commission proposed a Resolution to demand public lands be relinquished to Nevada in the event Yucca Mountain is found suitable for a repository site. He noted that the majority of the people in attendance felt that nuclear waste was unacceptable and settlement demands would weaken that position.

Mr. Goicochea next informed the Committee that a Sage Grouse tour of the 3-Bars/Santa Fe area is scheduled for September 16, 2000. He invited the Committee to attend.

In conclusion, Mr. Goicochea expressed gratitude for the recent emergency gatherings of wild horses. He opined that it was inevitable that forage or water would cease to exist because many herd management areas (HMAs) are at double to triple the appropriate management level (AML). He noted that the item is on the Committee's agenda and would refrain from additional comments until the topic was revisited.

Jerry Smith

Jerry Smith, Battle Mountain Field Manager, BLM, DOI, provided a document titled "Current Projects in the Battle Mountain Field Office, Nonrenewable Resources" (Exhibit C).

Mr. Smith opined that the current relationship between the BLM and Eureka and Lander Counties is the best it has been in a long time because the entities have worked together to address common problems.

Continuing, Mr. Smith discussed the following nonrenewable resource projects addressed by the BLM Battle Mountain Field Office:

- Hazardous Materials:

- The Stewart Mill clean-up, west of Austin, Nevada, is complete;
- The Monarch Mill clean-up, north of Austin High School, is scheduled for completion in approximately one-year; and
- Clean-up of the Norse Windfall, located south of Eureka, is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2001.

➢ Mining:

- Battle Mountain Gold is working on an environmental impact statement (EIS) to analyze the proposed Phoenix Project. The EIS is scheduled to be completed in March 2001; and
- An EIS that analyzed Cortex Gold Mines' development of the south pipeline ore deposit is complete. A Record of Decision was signed on June 27, 2000, and the Western Mining Action Project filed an Appeal and Request for Stay on July 31, 2000. The issue is currently pending.

➢ Exploration:

- Cortex Gold Mine has proposed a 50-acre disturbance southeast of the Cortez Mine facilities in Eureka and Lander Counties;
- Tonkin Springs has requested an exploration disturbance of 21.12 acres, located 40 miles northwest of Eureka; and
- White Knight Gold has proposed an exploration project.

➢ Real Estate:

- The BLM is processing a request for the title transfer to Lander County of the land which houses the Austin Airport;
- United States Senator Harry Reid has introduced a bill in the United States Senate, S. 2618, to allow for the sale of land to Kingston, Nevada, for use as the Kingston Airport;
- Eureka County has requested a right-of-way to allow rerouting of 1.75 miles of Cottonwood Road, which currently runs through privately owned land;
- Approval of the Falcon-Gonder powerline is pending; and
- Sierra Pacific Communications has applied for a right-of-way to install a buried fiber optic line between Reno, Nevada, and Salt Lake City, Utah. The issue is pending.

Next, Mr. Smith discussed the following renewable resource projects addressed by the BLM Battle Mountain Field Office:

➢ Wild Horses and Burros:

- In Fiscal Year (FY) 2000, there have been 1,300 wild horses gathered due to wildland fires;
- To conduct drought assessments on the HMAs, data is being collected to assess the vegetative and water conditions on the allotments in the Shoshone-Eureka Area; and
- Areas above AML receive first priority for drought assessment.

- Sage Grouse:
  - The BLM is working with the University of Nevada, Reno; the Nevada Division of Wildlife (NDOW), State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (SDCNR); and Eureka and Lander Counties to develop a local conservation plan for Sage Grouse.
- Emergency Fire Rehabilitation:
  - All reseeding projects are complete;
  - The original fence contract was defaulted; however, a new contract has been awarded and fencing should be completed by spring 2001; and
  - BLM has requested money to reimburse counties for the repair of road damage caused by fire suppression efforts.

Mr. Smith next identified the following fire-related projects addressed by the BLM Battle Mountain Field Office:

- Working Relationships:
  - Cooperative agreements between the counties within the Battle Mountain District and the BLM are in development and will address fires, fire fighting, and reimbursement.
- County Liaisons:
  - County liaisons and personnel have been identified to respond to fire emergencies.
- Fires to Date:
  - Fifty fires have ignited thus far in the year 2000, and approximately 11,000 acres have burned; and
  - The comparatively low amount of acreage burned is due to additional funding, initial attack, and improved resources.

Cheryl Lyngar

Cheryl Lyngar, Member, Lander County Board of Commissioners, explained that the County is working to sustain its existing industries: grazing; mining; and recreation.

She noted that the County supports the permitting of the Cortez Mine south pipeline project and the merger of Battle Mountain Gold and NMC to mine the Battle Mountain area.

Ms. Lyngar informed the Committee that she has spoken with Tom Baker, Rural Area Director, Office of United States Senator Richard H. Bryan, regarding S. 1941, which is sponsored by Senator Bryan. The bill would amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to provide additional funding for regular and volunteer fire departments, which would directly benefit Lander County. She noted that the Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) passed a Resolution in support of this bill.

Responding to a question posed by Chairman Rhoads, Mr. Smith, previously identified, explained that in order to reach an AML in Nevada, wild horses must be removed from the range. He noted that 60 percent to 70 percent of the horses currently on the range are too old to be adopted. Robert V. Abbey, State Director, Nevada State Office, BLM, DOI, who was in the audience, noted that the designated sanctuary for wild horses is in Oklahoma.

Sandy Green, Member, Eureka County Board of Commissioners, explained that a project is currently underway to

designate a portion of U.S. Highway 50 from Utah to Austin, Nevada, as a heritage area. The heritage designation would bring tourists to the area.

Continuing, Ms. Lyngar opined that Lander County has a good working relationship with the BLM Battle Mountain Office. Additionally, the County is working to complete infrastructure projects and the Battle Mountain Chamber of Commerce has been restructured.

Overview of the Nevada Land Use Summit Held on April 17 and 18, 2000, and Discussion of Grant Awarded to the Nevada Land Use Summit Pursuant to Senate Bill 560 (Chapter 544, *Statutes of Nevada 1999*)

Assemblyman Marcia de Braga

Assemblyman Marcia de Braga, Nevada Assembly District No. 35, provided the Committee with three documents (Exhibit D). Please refer to the "List of Exhibits" for details.

Chairman Rhoads commended Assemblyman de Braga for conceptualizing the idea for a Nevada Land Use Summit and expressed his pleasure to have served as a co-chairman of the event.

Assemblyman de Braga explained that the goal in hosting the first Nevada Land Use Summit was to bring together all parties interested in land use or land management issues in Nevada. Approximately 240 participants with varied backgrounds attended the Summit, she reported. Participants were divided into five groups to address the following areas: (1) biological issues; (2) inter-governmental relations; (3) land based industries; (4) recreation and public use; and (5) special land designations. She noted that the intent was to have a result-oriented conference, rather than define the issues; however, this did not occur. Rather, participants listed and prioritized issues. The main issues of concern included the designation of wilderness study areas (WSAs), road access, Sage Grouse, and wildfires.

Continuing, Assemblyman de Braga reported that a committee to plan the next Summit has been appointed by Senator Rhoads and her. The focus of the next Summit will be result-oriented and an attempt will be made to reach several possible solutions to existing problems. She noted that the Summit is intended to be a grassroots effort and not strictly a government sponsored event. Consequently, the next Summit will be held on one weekday and one weekend day in an attempt to allow as many people as possible to attend. Additionally, the event will take place early during the 2001 Legislative Session in order to utilize the Legislative Building and LCB Staff.

In conclusion, Assemblyman de Braga discussed the financial status of the Summit and reported that of the $8,000 S.B. 560 Grant provided by the Legislative Committee on Public Lands, $5,454.01 is being returned. She noted that volunteer labor was utilized to a large extent and Stephanie Licht, Legislative Consultant, has compiled a database of participants and issues for future use. She further noted that in order to organize the upcoming Summit, funds will again be requested; however, they may be managed by LCB staff.

Overview of Nevada's Seedbank Program

Pete Anderson

Pete Anderson, Resource Program Coordinator, Nevada's Division of Forestry (NDF), SDCNR, explained that the need to establish a seedbank was first introduced by NACO in a wildfire management report in 1988. Since that time, the Nevada Legislature has provided funding and a grant was received from Nevada's Division of Environmental Protection, SDCNR, to establish and maintain the program.

Mr. Anderson made the following points regarding seedbank inventory:

- Storage capacity is 30,000 pounds;
- Equipment is leased from the operators; and

- Bagging, laying, and mixing equipment is portable.

He noted that the seedbank is operated by Dan Greytak, Nursery Seedbank Manager; Gail Durham, Seedbank Coordinator; and Pete Anderson, Nursery/Seedbank Program Manager. Inmate crew support is also utilized.

Continuing, Mr. Anderson explained that the seedbank committee partners include various federal, State, county, and private agencies. He noted that the program has supplied support to NDOW and the BLM Battle Mountain Field Office, and is currently strained to meet the demand for services. Additionally, he reported that 98 percent of the budget is used for seed acquisition and to reimburse the Conservation Camp Crew for collection of shrub seeds.

Concluding his presentation, Mr. Anderson thanked the Nevada Legislature for providing funding for the seedbank. He noted that in the future, the seedbank will play a key role in meeting immediate needs regarding not only response to burned areas, but also noxious weeds and invasive species.

In response to Assemblyman Marvel, Mr. Anderson explained that the State Weed Plan has identified the seedbank program as a primary resource for addressing noxious weeds and invasive species.

Gail Durham

Gail Durham, Forestry Staff Specialist, Forest Stewardship Program Coordinator, and Nevada Seedbank Coordinator, NDF, SDCNR, provided the Committee with four documents (Exhibit E). Please refer to the "List of Exhibits" for details.

Ms. Durham explained that the mission of the seedbank is to provide a mechanism to reduce or mitigate the growing frequency and severity of impacts resulting from wildland fires throughout Nevada. Greenstripping is most frequently used to achieve this goal. She noted that two of the main reasons for the increased fire frequency in Nevada are: (1) Cheatgrass and invasive noxious weed infestation; and (2) increased development and recreation in rural areas without appropriate preventative measures. Ms. Durham explained that rehabilitation of land burned by wildfires is critical to prevent Cheatgrass dominance on rangelands. Currently, the nonnative species used to rehabilitate burned areas and provide a fuel break include Crested Wheatgrass, Hycrest Wheatgrass, and Kochia. She noted that Kochia is a small sub-shrub, not native to Nevada, which stays green for a long period of time, is palatable to wildlife, and grows in very low precipitation areas. Ms. Durham noted that the seedbank intends to continue to collect adaptive and native seeds, cooperate with multiple partners, and provide a mechanism for presuppression actives.

In conclusion, Ms. Durham identified Nevada's native grasses and shrubs used for fire rehabilitation reseeding:

- Nevada's native grasses used in reseeding are:
  - Indian Rice Grass;
  - Bottlebrush Squirreltail;
  - Bluebunch Wheatgrass; and
  - Basin Wild Rye.
- Nevada's native shrubs which are collected and processed by the seedbank, then used in reseeding are:
  - Wyoming Sagebrush;
  - Antelope Bitterbrush; and
  - Fourwing Saltbush.

Wade Mothershead

Wade Mothershead, Seasonal Fire Rehabilitation Specialist, NDF, SDCNR, identified eight fire rehabilitation projects, completed or currently being conduced, funded by Nevada's Disaster Relief Fund as follows:

1. Sutro Fire (completed) — Washoe Lake State Park, Washoe County, Nevada;

2. Poker Brown Fire — Rye Patch Reservoir State Park, Pershing County, Nevada;

3. Lone Butte Fire — Humboldt County;

4. Mule Fire (completed) — Lander County;

5. Rochester Fire — Pershing County;

6. Eugene Fire — Lander County;

7. Chimney Fire (completed) — Elko and Humboldt Counties; and

8. Antelope Fire — Lander County.

Pete Anderson, previously identified, concluded by making the following three points:

1. Fall is the season in which to reseed and the time frame is very short;

2. Greenstripping around newly developed areas, both rural and urban, is essential; and

3. The demands for services provided by the seedbank require that funding be obtained to employ a full-time seedbank manager.

In response to Chairman Rhoads, Ms. Durham explained that there has been no opposition to using nonnative species in reseeding efforts.

Update on Wild Horse Issues in Nevada

Meg Jensen, Catherine Barcomb, Gracian Uhalde, and Pete Goicochea

Meg Jensen, Deputy State Director for Natural Resources, Lands, and Planning, BLM, DOI, provided the Committee with two documents (Exhibit F). Please see the "List of Exhibits" for details.

Ms. Jensen explained that an initiative in the form of a $9 million appropriation is contained in the DOI's FY 2001 budget. If approved, this initiative will help to achieve healthy rangelands and viable herds, and will assist in restoring threatened watersheds. Further, she reported that as of October 2000, there is expected to be approximately 50,000 wild horses and burros in the western United States and about one-half are in Nevada. Additionally, 75 of the HMAs in Nevada are over AML and increase in population at a rate of approximately 20 percent annually. She explained that overpopulation has a negative impact on the health of individual animals, the herd, riparian areas, upland vegetation, watersheds, and water quality. Additionally, overpopulation may impact Sage Grouse habitat and the riparian areas necessary for the Cutthroat Trout. She also noted that overgrazing might lead to viable conditions for invasive species. Also, conflict surrounding public land use policy increases when pressures are put on the environment.

Continuing, Ms. Jensen explained that obtaining AML on all HMAs is the most critical program BLM is currently facing, and achieving AML as effectively and quickly as possible is an immediate goal. Funding is currently available to gather and adopt 6,000 animals per year on a national basis; in 1999, approximately 2,500 horses were removed from Nevada. She noted that, at this rate, AML will never be obtained. Ms. Jensen opined that if this trend continues, Nevada would have more than 65,000 horses on its ranges by 2010, which is four-times the AML.

Chairman Rhoads noted that the Committee discussed this topic with Senator Reid during the Committee's June 2000 tour in Washington, D.C. and was informed that he would not support funding for wild horse programs because past efforts have failed. Chairman Rhoads inquired if Senator Reid now supports additional funding, given the fact that BLM has devised a precise strategy to achieve healthy rangelands and viable herds.

Ms. Jenson explained that Senator Reid may support funding for the wild horse initiative, due to the fact that many people have requested him to do so.

Catherine Barcomb, Administrator, Nevada's Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses (NCPWH), SDCNR, explained that Gracian Uhalde, Commissioner, NCPWH, SDCNR, and she addressed the issue in Washington, D.C. She opined that there seems to be a lack of support of the program in Washington, D.C. Ms. Barcomb provided the Committee with a briefing memorandum that she addressed to Governor Kenny C. Guinn, dated August 15, 2000, from Cathy Barcomb (Exhibit G).

Mr. Uhalde opined that the key issue to address in obtaining support for funding is demonstrating accountability.

Pete Goicochea, previously identified, opined that a successful wild horse gather could not be accomplished unless achievable goals are set.

Continuing her presentation, Ms. Jenson explained that under the current management approach, adoption is the only option for wild horse removal from the rangeland. She noted that adoption is only available to animals aged five years and younger. She further noted that fertility control research is ongoing, and currently, an inoculation that prevents conception for one-year is being used on a research basis. She explained that the BLM's preferred strategy reduces all HMAs to AML by removing animals of ages, which is significantly different from the approach of recent years. The BLM proposes to remove 6,000 wild horses annually from Nevada, beginning in FY 2001, and continuing for six years. After six years, the number of wild horses on the range is expected to drop to 25,000. In order to achieve AML, additional funding in the amount of $9 million annually, through 2005, is required.

Regarding the adoption program, Ms. Jenson noted that enhanced marketing of the animals and adoption events is planned, as is the training and gelding of wild horses.

Ms. Barcomb questioned if the wild horse population which remains on the range following a gathering, increases due to the availability of additional resources. Ms. Jenson noted that there is generally a small increase but the numbers eventually "even out."

- Ms. Jenson noted that the proposal will:

  - Significantly contribute to the improvement of watershed health;
  - Contribute to healthy, viable herds on all HMAs;
  - Balance the wild horse and burro population with the capability of the lands;
  - Achieve AML in the shortest amount of time (four years);
  - Require annual removal of fewer animals, which results in fewer animals in the adoption system, provides long-term cost savings, and potentially reduces litigation;
  - Not require changes to law or regulations; and
  - Reduce resource conflicts.

Ms. Jenson noted that the proposed program allows for achievement of a thriving natural ecological balance as required by the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act.

- She explained that the BLM must:
  - Establish AMLs on each HMA;
  - Provide a model for each HMA;
  - Prepare horse gather plans;
  - Adjust AMLs; and
  - Conduct a census prior to conducting horse gatherings.

Continuing, Ms. Jenson informed the Committee that approximately 4,000 horses have been gathered this year. She noted that the BLM had planned to remove 2,700 horses, but due to drought and fires, additional animals were gathered. She explained that, of the horses gathered, approximately 2,000 were removed due to rangeland fires. Of those, approximately 300 are in a long-term holding area and, due to their unique characteristics, will be retuned to the appropriate HMA once the area recovers. Of the 2,000, the remaining 1,700 animals are in the adoption process.

Responding to Assemblyman Carpenter, Mr. Smith, previously identified, explained the process by which the horses will be returned to the HMAs. First, an area near the HMA with a spring and water right is fenced. Next, the animals are placed in the fenced area and fed. Finally, the gate is slowly opened to allow the horses to return to the area where they were born and have lived their lives. He explained that the horses should remember the area. Mr. Smith opined that it is best to remove the animals from the range to allow for rangeland recovery before reintroduction, thereby preserving the land for future use.

Mr. Goicochea, explained that he has been awarded the contract to hold the 300 horses for 16 to 28 months. The involved cost is approximately $1,000 per day.

Ms. Barcomb urged the Committee to support the $9 million annual appropriation included as part of the DOI budget legislation. She noted that the National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board and NCPWH support the appropriation.

C. Joseph Guild III, President, Nevada Cattlemen's Association, noted that the National Cattlemen's Association is lobbying in Washington, D.C. in support of the appropriation.

Mr. Goicochea opined that $9 million will not be adequate to cover the long-term costs associated with holding the horses and additional funding will be required.

Mr. Uhalde noted that the original appropriation was a request for $12 million. He opined that $9 million and a four-year commitment would not eradicate Nevada's wild horse overpopulation.

Ms. Barcomb reported that the NCPWH has completed a strategic plan for the management of horses and burros and is working to complete the recommendations contained therein. She added that the NCPWH is also working on a proposal that would help market, on a national scale, the BLM's wild horse and burro adoption program. Ms. Barcomb explained that the creation of a "foundation" to handle the public relations and advertising of the adoption program is a critical component of the proposal. She noted that the BLM has agreed to co-fund the project and she is hopeful, with many more horses expected to be gathered in the next five years, that more horses will be placed. She added that older horses, typically not part of the adoption program, could also be marketed as suitable for placement. Ms. Barcomb concluded that a report highlighting the "foundation" concept will be available in early September and may contain proposed legislation to assist in the implementation of the program.

Additionally, Ms. Barcomb reported that NCPWH is working with the Walt Disney Production Company on a movie that involves ranching and wild horses. She opined that the movie would bring attention to the issue.

Ms. Barcomb concluded by noting that the sale of adopted horses to slaughterhouses presents an upcoming legal challenge.

Overview of "Draft Road Jurisdiction Protocol Pilot Project" and Other Road Issues in Nye County, Nevada

Richard Carver

Richard Carver, Chairman, Nye County Board of Commissioners, provided a document titled "Draft Road Jurisdiction Protocol Pilot Project and Tri-Party Framework for Interactions to Address Public Land Issues in Nye County, Nevada" (Exhibit H).

He thanked the BLM and the United States Forest Service (USFS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), for doing an "outstanding job" with regard to recent fire suppression efforts in Nye County. He noted that there is no agency response team in the area and the local volunteer fire department provides support until units arrive.

Mr. Carver next thanked the Committee for inviting him to speak. He reported that Dr. Jim Marble, Director, Nye County Natural Resource Department, and representatives from the BLM and the USFS developed the "Draft Road Jurisdiction Protocol Pilot Project and Tri-Party Framework for Interactions to Address Public Land Issues in Nye County, Nevada." He noted that the County would like to work with the Secretaries of the DOI and USDA to resolve the "RS 2477 issue." He proposed selecting five roads upon which the County claims jurisdiction, to conduct research into their legal and historic aspects in order to reach an agreement. He opined that this would provide framework for the future. Additionally, he noted that, contained in the USFS's "Fact Finding Report," (Exhibit H), is a sentence which reads: "...regional office should adopt the Humboldt-Toiyabe draft pilot for Nye County or develop a pilot for evaluating claims to rights-of-way under RS 2477." Mr. Carver expressed frustration with USFS for not moving forward with a right-of-way pilot. He requested that the Committee send a letter to the Secretaries of the DOI and USDA to request a conclusion to this issue.

Mr. Carver next addressed the "roadless initiative" and explained that the USFS has concluded that the Forest Act of 1907 suspended the RS 2477 Regulations on USFS managed lands. He noted that Nye County does not interpret the Act this way. He opined that all laws referring to rights-of-way were repealed by the Federal Lands Policy Management Act of 1976. Additionally, he asserted that the Opinion issued in the case of *USA v. Shumway*, from the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, established that a mining claim is a property interest, which in itself is real property. He noted that RS 2477 is a result of the Mining Act of 1866. He opined that if a mining claim possesses the property interest right, the RS 2477 roads that provide access to that mining claims carries the same rights.

Mr. Carver extended a "thank you" to Bob Vaught, Forest Supervisor, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, USFS, USDA for opening a road, located in Nye County, in June 2000.

In conclusion, he asserted that the issue of removal of federal road funds from Nevada, by placing BLM managed roads under the non-public administrative category must be addressed. He noted that 399 miles of road in Nye County have been so designated. He informed the Committee that the County's legal staff is researching the issue. Michelle Gamble, Program Assistant, NACO, noted that NACO is addressing the situation.

Bob Vaught

Bob Vaught, previously identified, thanked the Committee for allowing him to address this issue. He stated, "As you all know, we have a long and significantly sordid history in terms of our relationship and, to tell you the truth, I don't know that we agree on any more today than we did 10 or 12 years ago, but we have a much better relationship." He noted that the agreement between the USFS and Nye County allows for interaction prior to action, and facilitates a process whereby disagreements can be discussed before they escalate. Continuing, he expressed his desire that this process be a model for similar agreements with other counties.

He expressed support for the agreement with Nye County; however, he noted that budgets have declined, which significantly limits the ability to complete important projects. He provided an example with the Tonopah District, which has two employees and requires six to ten to operate affectively.

Responding to Assemblyman Neighbors, Mr. Vaught explained that he has decision-making authority of

approximately 95 percent of the issues he faces. The remaining 5 percent must be referred to persons "higher up" in the organization.

Continuing, Mr. Vaught expressed desire to resolve the RS 2477 issues. He noted that when people refer to RS 2477, they are referring to the following quote: "the right-of-way for construction of highways over public lands not reserved for public uses is hereby granted." He explained that the federal government has two significantly different views of the issue than those of counties. The first is with regard to the National Forest. He explained that the position of the federal government is that when the National Forest was created, it was reserved for specific public uses. With regard to Nye County, this was enacted in 1906. Mr. Vaught explained that he is therefore required to negotiate from this position. Secondly, it is the federal government's position that the use of the word highway is intended to refer to a road with a much higher standard than those contained in the counties resolutions, which refer to pathways of a lesser standard.

In conclusion, Mr. Vaught espoused that he will work cooperatively with Nevada's counties' to identify actions to take in order to move forward in a positive way.

Mr. Carver again requested that the Committee "put pressure" on the Secretaries of the DOI and USDA to address this issue.

Mr. Abbey, previously identified, explained that the BLM is in the same position as is the USFS. He noted that the BLM's Washington, D.C., office would rather refer the issues to the courts than make a decision. He opined that local district management offices need the authority to address these and other road issues. Further, he noted that the local BLM does not have many differences of opinion with those of the counties. He speculated that in the future the most contentious area, however, will be with regard to roads contained within WSAs. He noted that there is currently no policy to provide a time frame for management under the interim policy management of WSAs. Currently, 5.1 million acres in Nevada fall under this category until the U.S. Congress takes action and designates these areas as WSAs or provides for other appropriate management activities.

Continuing, Mr. Abbey reported that he has been advised that a national environmental organization intends to move into Nevada in January 2001 and identify additional public lands for WSA designation. Mr. Abbey opined that until legislation is passed to identify WSAs and release of areas not appropriate for such designation, the potential for such activity exists. He urged the Committee to pursue development of a consensus building process to develop a WSA policy to introduce to Nevada's Congressional delegation.

In conclusion, Mr. Abbey thanked the Committee for providing a forum for discussion of public lands issues and for traveling to Nevada's rural areas to hold meetings. Additionally, he thanked the Committee for traveling to Washington, D.C., to discuss public lands issues with Nevada's Congressional delegation and agency officials. He informed the Committee that following its June 2000 Washington, D.C. tour, he received more telephone calls within 24 hours after the Committee discussed issues with the BLM than he had received in six months.

Mr. Carver opined that the legal issue of RS 2477 will never be resolved in court and will be returned to the U.S. Congress for decision. He further opined that Congress would then seek the consensus of the county, thus creating a "vicious circle." This is why, he asserted, a resolution must be reached.

Update of the Rangeland Resources Commission Created in Senate Bill 310 of the 1999 Legislative Session (*Nevada Revised Statutes* 563.250 to 563.380, inclusive) and Discussion of S.B. 560 Grant Awarded to the Nevada Cattlemen's Association

C. Joseph Guild III

C. Joseph Guild III, President, Nevada Cattlemen's Association, noted that based on his experience, the "spirit of communication" with federal land managers has improved and he has "very positive relationships" with federal land management agencies. He credited Robert V. Abbey and Bob Vaught, both identified previously, with facilitating the change.

Mr. Guild discussed the $10,000 S.B. 560 Grant awarded to the Nevada Cattlemen's Association by the Committee. He reported that the funding was used to assist in the appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court of the case titled *Public Lands Council v. Babbitt*. He noted that the Court issued an Opinion in June 2000. He opined that from the perspective of the cattle industry, "we won," although it has been stated that the industry lost. He explained that the decision did go against the Public Lands Council; however, the Court upheld preference rights, denied non-use permits, and delegated ability to the Secretary of the Interior to enter into contracts for range improvements to be owned by a rancher. He thanked the Committee for the grant.

Next, Mr. Guild discussed the $10,000 S.B. 560 Grant awarded to the Nevada Cattlemen's Association to be used to prepare a preferred grazing alternative as part of the forest planning process for the Monitor and Hot Creek Mountain Ranges. Mr. Guild noted that the amendment to the Monitor and Hot Creek Mountain Ranges' Forest Plan was scheduled for release in April 2000, but has not materialized. Consequently, the response has not been prepared. In the meantime, reported Mr. Guild, a Sierra Framework Project EIS and a Northern Sierra Amendment have been released. He requested that the grant be redirected to allow for funding response comments, to be prepared by a Wyoming law firm. He noted that this would provide the foundation to create a grazing fee alternative.

Chairman Rhoads requested that Kimberly Marsh Guinasso, Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel, and J. Randall Stephenson, Senior Deputy Legislative Counsel, both from the LCB Legal Division, research the request. The item will be placed on the agenda for the final Committee meeting, he noted.

Mr. Guild next informed the Committee that the Rangeland Resources Commission, created in S.B. 310 of the 1999 Legislative Session (*Nevada Revised Statutes* 563.250 to 563.380, inclusive), is holding quarterly meetings as mandated. Additionally, commission members represent both the cattle and woolgrowing industries.

The commission has created a work plan and a mission statement, reported Mr. Guild. Additionally, the Idaho Range Commission presented information and insight based on their five years in existence, which assisted in providing framework for the Rangeland Resource Commission. Further, the commission attempted to retain an advertising agency but was limited by available funds. Consequently, the commission purchased the copyright to radio advertisements created by the Idaho Range Commission and utilized volunteer labor to record two 30-second radio spots. Mr. Guild reported that air-time was purchased in the following areas:

- Six stations in Reno;
- Three stations in Las Vegas;
- Two stations in Elko;
- Two stations in Ely;
- One station in the Carson Valley;
- One station in Fallon; and
- One station in Winnemucca.

Continuing, Mr. Guild reported that the commission is considering billboard advertising in the Reno/Tahoe International and McCarran (Las Vegas) Airports. The cost per billboard is $13,000 for two years. Currently, a tri-fold, colored brochure is being developed and the commission plans to create educational information for use by teachers in classrooms statewide.

Mr. Guild noted that of the individuals who were assessed fees, approximately 20 percent have requested a fee refund. He opined that as the commission improves, this percentage would decrease. He further noted that approximately $90,000 was collected and $35,000 was spent on the radio project. Mr. Guild estimated that the brochure will cost between $2,000 and $5,000.

In conclusion, Mr. Guild played a recording of the two radio advertisements, which he described as being "off the wall," but really "grab" the listener's attention. He noted that the advertisements are intended to inform the nonranching community of the responsible management activities conducted on Nevada's rangelands.

PUBLIC COMMENT

George Parman

George Parman, a resident of Diamond Valley, provided the Committee with four documents (Exhibit I). Please refer to the "List of Exhibits" for details.

Mr. Parman thanked the Committee for holding a meeting in Eureka and addressed the issue of fire suppression. He explained that he is involved with a group of individuals who are urging Nevada's counties to pass resolutions to implement grazing as part of fire suppression measures. He noted that such resolutions have been submitted to the Board of County Commissioners in Elko and Mineral Counties. Copies of the resolutions are contained in Exhibit I.

Ray H. Williams, Jr.

Ray H. Williams, Jr. thanked the Committee for meeting in Eureka and noted that he closely follows the activities of the Committee.

Mr. Williams asked the Committee what its position is regarding the Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1999 (CARA). Chairman Rhoads explained that the Committee addressed the topic while in Washington, D.C., in June 2000, but has never voted to take a position regarding CARA. He opined that if the Committee did vote on the issue, it would oppose it and advised Mr. Williams to supply the Committee with any information regarding the issue.

Carl Slagowski

Carl Slagowski, who identified himself as a rancher from Pine Valley, directed his comments to the Rangeland Resources Commission. He explained that he received a fee invoice from the State Department of Agriculture as part of the Rangeland Resources Commission's program. Mr. Slagowski received the fee invoice on January 11, 2000, and submitted payment on January 24, 2000. He sent a refund request via certified mail on February 4, 2000, and it was received by the Department on February 8, 2000. On July 1, 2000, Mr. Slagowski had not received a refund and began to inquire as to the status of his request. He informed the Committee that he was informed that the "check was in the mail." As of August 24, 2000, he had not received a refund.

In response to Mr. Slagowski, Mr. Guild, previously identified, explained that the commission was not accustomed to the State of Nevada's process regarding the issuance of checks. Additionally, the staff was not provided with necessary information to process refunds, due to the time frame in which the commission met. He asserted that the problem has been rectified and in the future, refunds will be processed within 30 days of a refund request.

Chairman Rhoads agreed that Mr. Slagowski had a valid complaint and urged the commission to process refunds in a more expeditious manner in the future.

Floyd Rathbun

Exhibit J is a letter from Floyd Rathbun, dated August 28, 2000, addressed to Senator Dean Rhoads. The letter was submitted via U.S. mail by Floyd Rathbun to be included as public comment for this meeting.

WORK SESSION ON PRECEDING AGENDA ITEMS

ASSEMBLYMAN MARVEL MOVED THAT NEVADA'S LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS SEND A LETTER TO UNITED STATES SENATOR HARRY REID IN

SUPPORT OF THE $9 MILLION APPROPRIATION CONTAINED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS MEASURE, TO FUND THE FOUR-YEAR PLAN TO GATHER AND ADOPT WILD HORSES. ASSEMBLYMAN NEIGHBORS SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chairman Rhoads noted that the upcoming meeting, scheduled to be held on October 6, 2000, in Yerington, would be the Committee's final meeting and work session of the 1999-2000 interim.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman Rhoads thanked the speakers and adjourned the meeting at 3 p.m.

Exhibit K is the "Attendance Record" for this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Kuhl
Senior Research Secretary

Michael J. Stewart
Senior Research Analyst

APPROVED BY:

_____
Senator Dean A. Rhoads
Chairman

Date: _____

LIST OF EXHIBITS

Exhibit A is a packet of information prepared for Committee members by Michael J. Stewart, Senior Research Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau.

Exhibit B is the prepared statement of Pete Goicoechea, Eureka County Commissioner.

Exhibit C is a document titled "Current Projects in the Battle Mountain Field Office, Nonrenewable Resources," provided by Jerry Smith, Field Manager, Battle Mountain Field Office, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), United States Department of the Interior (DOI).

Exhibit D, provided by Assemblyman Marcia de Braga, consists of the following documents:

1. "NV Land Use Summit 2000 Sponsorships";

2. "NV Land Use Summit 2000 Cash Flow Statement, August 1, 2000"; and

3. "Nevada Land Use Summit, April 17 & 18, 2000, Boomtown, Nevada."

Exhibit E, provided by Gail Durham, Forestry Staff Specialist, Forest Stewardship Program Coordinator, Nevada's Division of Forestry (NDF), State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (SDCNR) consists of the following items:

1. A Memorandum dated August 22, 2000, to Seedbank Steering Committee Members and Interested Parties, from Gail Durhan, Seedbank Coordinator;

2. A document titled "Species Used by BLM in 1999 Fire Rehab Projects in Nevada";

3. An article titled "NDF Seedbank Program Works for Nevada," which appeared in the June 2000 issue of the *Nevada Farm Bureau Agriculture & Livestock Journal*; and

4. A document titled "Nevada's Seedbank."

Exhibit F, provided by Meg Jensen, Deputy State Director for Natural Resources, Lands, and Planning, BLM, DOI, consists of the following documents:

1. A document titled "Bureau of Land Management, National Wild Horses and Burro Program"; and

2. A document titled "Briefing Paper."

Exhibit G, provided by Catherine Barcomb, Administrator, Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses, SDCNR, is a briefing memorandum addressed to Governor Kenny C. Guinn, dated August 15, 2000, from Cathy Barcomb.

Exhibit H is a document titled "Draft Road Jurisdiction Protocol Pilot Project and Tri-Party Framework for Interactions to Address Public Land Issues in Nye County, Nevada" provided by Richard Carver, Chairman, Nye County Board of Commissioners.

Exhibit I, provided during public comment by George Parman, consists of the following documents:

1. "Cliff Gardner Ordinance, Submitted by Special Committee in 1997";

2. "Dave Horton Ordinance, Prepared for Mineral County, in July of 2000";

3. "Grant Gerber Ordinance, First submitted in 1995"; and

4. "The Effect of Wildfire on Bitterbrush."

Exhibit J is a letter from Floyd Rathbun, dated August 28, 2000, addressed to Senator Dean Rhoads. The letter was submitted by Floyd Rathbun to be included as public comment.

Exhibit K is the "Attendance Record" for this meeting.

Copies of the materials distributed in the meeting are on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, Carson City, Nevada. The library may be contacted at (775) 684-6827.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AML	Appropriate Management Level
BLM	Bureau of Land Management, DOI

CARA	Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1999
DOI	United States Department of the Interior
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
HMA	Herd Management Area
LCB	Legislative Counsel Bureau
NACO	Nevada Association of Counties
NCPWH	Nevada Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses, SDCNR
NDF	Nevada's Division of Forestry, SDCNR
NDOT	Nevada Department of Transportation
NDOW	Nevada's Division of Wildlife, SDCNR
NMA	Nevada Mining Association
NMC	Newmont Mining Company
SDCNR	State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USDOT	United States Department of Transportation
USFS	United States Forest Service, USDA
WSA	Wilderness Study Area