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JOINT INTERIM STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES



**COMMITTEE BRIEF
2021–2022 INTERIM
JANUARY 21, 2022**

INTRODUCTION

This brief provides information on the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources, including an overview of natural resources issues the Committee may consider during the 2021–2022 Legislative Interim, meeting dates, and Committee staff contact information.

MEMBERS

The following legislators have been appointed to the Committee:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Assemblyman Howard Watts III, Chair;
- Senator Fabian Doñate, Vice Chair;
- Senator Pete Goicoechea;
- Senator Melanie Scheible;
- Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton;
- Assemblyman John C. Ellison;
- Assemblywoman Alexis Hansen; and
- Assemblywoman Sarah Peters.

ALTERNATE MEMBERS:

- Senator Chris Brooks;
- Senator Ira Hansen;
- Assemblywoman Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod;
- Assemblywoman Lesley E. Cohen; and
- Assemblywoman Robin L. Titus.

The members of the Subcommittee on Public Lands will be appointed by the chair of the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources during the Committee's first hearing.

POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE

[Assembly Bill 443](#) (2021) created the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources and set forth its membership, duties, powers, and jurisdictions. The Interim Standing Committee may do the following: (a) evaluate and review issues within the jurisdiction of the corresponding standing committee or committees from the preceding regular session of the Legislature; (b) exercise any of the investigative powers set forth in *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) [218E.105](#) to [218E.140](#), inclusive; and (c) within the limits of the Committee's budget, conduct studies directed by the Legislature or the Legislative Commission.

Additionally, AB 443 replaced the Legislative Committee on Public Lands with the Subcommittee on Public Lands of the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources. The Subcommittee retained its duties as set forth in NRS [218E.500](#) through [218E.525](#). Its purpose is to provide a forum for discussion of policies and issues related to land owned or controlled by the federal government (public lands), which in Nevada accounts for over 85 percent of the state. The Subcommittee monitors and makes recommendations for action and legislation on a wide range of public lands issues, such as: conservation, environmental quality, federal land management policies, grazing, military bases, mining, recreation, water, wilderness, wildfire, and wildlife.

Lastly, the Committee may request up to 14 bill draft requests (BDR) for the 2023 Session that address issues related to natural resources. At least 4 BDRs must relate to public land matters based on the recommendations by the Subcommittee on Public Lands.

COMMITTEE JURISDICTION

The Committee generally has jurisdiction over a wide range of issues concerning natural resources. During past legislative sessions, the Senate and Assembly Committees on Natural Resources have considered measures related to the following topics: agriculture, animals, conservation and environmental policies, food safety, forestry, grazing, historic preservation, mining, public lands, recycling, state parks and monuments, water, wildfire, and wildlife.

RELEVANT REPORTS, PUBLICATIONS, AND AUDITS

A variety of reports, publications, and audits are available regarding natural resource issues in Nevada. Additionally, the Research Division prepares publications on many major policy areas. These publications are available online at: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Division/Research/Content/>

- [Bulletin 21-11: Legislative Committee on Public Lands;](#)
- [Bulletin 21-3: Committee to Conduct an Interim Study Concerning Wildfires;](#)
- [Bulletin 21-12: Legislative Committee for the Review and Oversight of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and the Marlette Lake Water System;](#)
- [Wildfires in Nevada: An Overview;](#)
- [Renewable Portfolio Standards;](#)
- [Water Policy and Issues in Nevada: An Overview;](#)
- [Performance Audit of the State Department of Agriculture's Division of Consumer Equitability 2019](#) by the Legislative Auditor, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) (LA20-08);
- [Audit Report](#) of the Division of Environmental Protection - Petroleum Fund and Certified Environmental Managers Oversight by the Division of Internal Audits (DIA), Office of Finance, Office of the Governor (DIA Report No. 21-04);
- [Audit Report](#) of the State Department of Agriculture – Grants Management.1 by the DIA, Office of Finance, Office of the Governor (DIA Report No. 21-07);
- [Audit Report](#) of State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources – Division of Forestry Overtime by the DIA, Office of Finance, Office of the Governor (DIA Report No. 21-06); and
- [Nevada Drought Forum Recommendations Report 2015.](#)

RELEVANT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

There are a variety of agencies in Nevada that deal with issues concerning natural resources. Some of these agencies are listed below:

- Department of Conservation and Natural Resources;
- Department of Agriculture;
- Department of Wildlife;
- Division of Minerals; and
- Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

The full contact information for relevant government agencies can be found in the [Directory of State and Local Government](#).

2021–2022 MEETING DATES

The budget approved by the Legislative Commission allows the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources to conduct up to five meetings throughout the interim. Additionally, the Subcommittee on Public Lands has an approved budget for up to three meetings. The Committee and its Subcommittee will tentatively meet on the following dates:

COMMITTEE MEETING DATES:

- January 21, 2022;
- February 28, 2022;
- March 21, 2022;
- June 16, 2022; and
- August 22, 2022.

SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATES:

- April 15, 2022;
- May 23, 2022; and
- June 27, 2022.

STAFF SERVICES

The following LCB staff members will provide support for the Committee and its Subcommittee during the 2021–2022 Legislative Interim:

RESEARCH DIVISION

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RESEARCH DIVISION ASSISTANCE

The Research Division is available to assist the Committee and its members on any issue related to matters before the Committee. In addition, staff provide individual members of the Legislature with information and assistance, on a confidential basis, on any topic. Please contact the Research Division by phone (775) 684-6825 or email (research@lcb.state.nv.us).