

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

JOINT INTERIM STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS

Nevada Revised Statutes 218E.320 and 218E.510

This summary presents the recommendations approved by the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources at its meeting on August 22, 2022. The bill draft requests (BDRs) will be forwarded to the Legislative Commission for transmittal to the 82nd Session of the Nevada Legislature.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION

Water

1. Request the drafting of a bill to address water conservation and the enhancement of return flow in southern Nevada, including, without limitation, the use of Colorado River water in septic systems and modifications to the nonfunctional turf program. **(BDR –)**
2. Request the drafting of a resolution addressing the management and water conservation efforts of the Colorado River. **(BDR –)**
3. Request the drafting of a bill to clarify the processes and authority for the conjunctive management of surface and groundwater basins, including, without limitation, the public notification processes, appeals processes, and the role of science in modifying management practices within such basins. **(BDR –)**

Wildlife

4. Request the drafting of a bill to authorize Nevada's Department of Wildlife to manage nonpest insects. **(BDR –)**
5. Request the drafting of a bill to establish and fund an account with the purpose to identify, construct, and maintain wildlife crossings. **(BDR –)**
6. Request the drafting of a bill to adjust the predator fee and to remove the requirement to use 80 percent of the predator fee for the lethal management and control of predatory wildlife. **(BDR –)**

Natural Resources Agencies

7. Request the drafting of a bill to establish the Nevada Natural Resources Corps to help attract professionals to Nevada to work for certain state agencies. **(BDR –)**

8. Request the drafting of a bill to authorize members of the Nevada State Board on Geographic Names to receive reimbursement for incidental expenses and to be entitled to receive the per diem allowance and travel expenses provided for state officers and employees. **(BDR –)**
9. Request the drafting of a bill to require that during the 2023–2024 Interim, the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources study state agencies that regulate natural resources. **(BDR –)**

Environmental Issues

10. Request the drafting of a bill to require local governments to include in their master plan a plan for heat mitigation during their urban planning and local code development efforts. **(BDR –)**
11. Request the drafting of a bill to create a working group to review environmental justice issues. **(BDR –)**

Tribal Issues

12. Request the drafting of a bill to establish qualifications for the tribal liaison position and to adjust state agency employment standards to help tribal members obtain state employment. **(BDR –)**

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMITTEE ACTION

13. Draft a position statement in the Committee’s final report expressing concerns to proposed water development projects in southern Utah that would negatively impact groundwater and surface water flows in Nevada and supporting aggressive conservation alternatives.
14. Draft a position statement in the Committee’s final report expressing support for outcome-based grazing practices on federally managed lands.
15. Send a letter to the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections through which the Subcommittee will propose certain statutory changes to the Subcommittee on Public Lands.
16. Draft a position statement in the Committee’s final report expressing support for funding for the Desert Research Institute, within the Nevada System of Higher Education, and its programs.
17. Draft a position statement in the Committee’s final report expressing support for the concept of “Smart from the Start” planning to encourage renewable energy development on already disturbed lands and draft a letter to the U.S. Department of the Interior to the same effect.
18. Draft a position statement in the Committee’s final report expressing support for adequate funding for the Division of Water Resources, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, to update its data collection efforts, studies of water basins, and adjudication of water rights.