## Subcommittee on Public Lands of the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources

**Nye County Presentation** 

August 23, 2024

Presented by Megan Labadie, Director of Natural Resources and Federal Facilities



Nye County, Nevada is the third largest county in the lower 48 states and the largest county in Nevada with a land area of about 11,600,000+ acres of which 96.9% of the County's lands are public lands managed by several federal agencies including the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Forest Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, Department of Defense, and the Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration. 2.9% of the land is privately owned and the remaining land for Tribal and State lands represent .2% of the total acreage. (UNR, 2021).

The county has jurisdiction over lands that are used for livestock grazing and other agriculture, mining, renewable and non-renewable energy production, recreation, and a variety of other goods and services. Nye County's economic base includes many small ranchers and farmers, range conservationists, agricultural specialists, miners and exploration geologists, eco-tourism, as well as larger ranching and farming businesses, junior and large mining companies, engineering, science and technical services, people engaged in sales of equipment and supplies, and more.

Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plan

Nye County contributions to the terminated Resource Management Plan Update

**Focused Plan Amendment efforts with BLM** 

**State-Wide RMP** 

# DoD and DOE Land Withdrawals/ Expansions

Nye County concerns and mitigation caveats

 Socioeconomic considerations and PILT loss

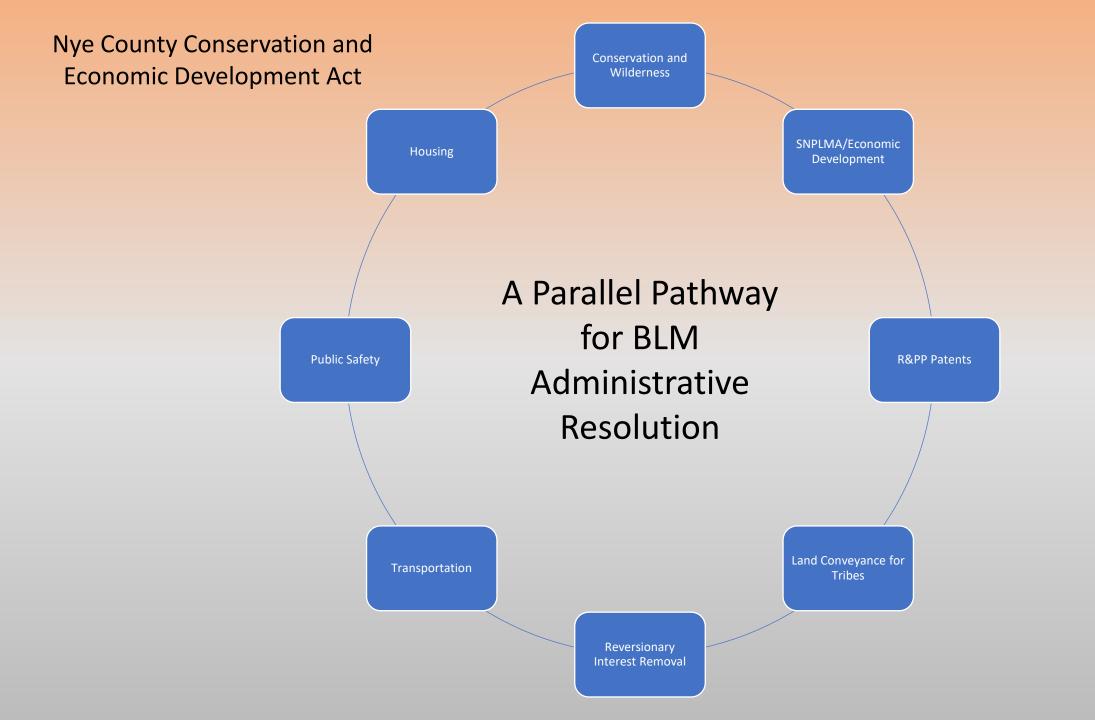
 1991 Special Nevada Report data

# Nye County Conservation and Economic Development Act

#### Purpose of the bill

Public and State involvement

What would the Act achieve?



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## Solar Siting in Rural Communities

- Rural Community Concerns
  - Wildlife/desert habitat
  - Recreation
  - Water
  - Air quality
  - Property value decline
- 25GW by 2025
  - Surpassed Biden
     Administrative goal in April
     2024
- Utility-Scale Solar PEIS
  - Among other landscapelevel plans
- Smart From the Start program

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Mining
Impacts in
Rural
Communities

- Water
- Recreation
- Housing and Community Resources
- Wildlife Impacts and Ground Disturbance

#### Recommendations

- Resolve BLM-administrative delays through support of the Nye County Conservation and Economic Development Act.
- Fund and implement the State-Wide RMP prior to expedition of landscape-level programs and fast-paced renewable energy siting.
- Implement Start from the Start Program as the preferred alternative in the Utility-scale Solar PEIS.
- Require mitigation of federal land actions impacting natural resources.
- Update the 1991 Special Nevada Report (SAIC).

### Questions?