



NEVADA LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS
(Nevada Revised Statutes [NRS] 218E.510)

SUMMARY MINUTES AND ACTION REPORT

The fourth meeting of the Nevada Legislature's Legislative Committee on Public Lands was held on Tuesday, June 19, at 9:45 a.m. in the Main Room of the Bristlecone Convention Center and Visitors Bureau, 150 Sixth Street, Ely, Nevada. A copy of this set of "Summary Minutes and Action Report," including the "Meeting Notice and Agenda" ([Exhibit A](#)) and other substantive exhibits, is available on the Nevada Legislature's website at <http://leg.state.nv.us/interim/76th2011/committee/>. In addition, copies of the audio record may be purchased through the Legislative Counsel Bureau's (LCB's) Publications Office (e-mail: publications@lcb.state.nv.us; telephone: 775/684-6835).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN ELY:

Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton, Chair
Senator Dean A. Rhoads, Vice Chair
Senator Don Gustavson (*alternate*)
Senator Mark A. Manendo
Senator David R. Parks
Assemblyman Paul Aizley
Assemblywoman Irene Bustamante Adams
Assemblyman Ira Hansen

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

Commissioner Chris Giunchigliani

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Dave Ziegler, Supervising Principal Research Analyst, Research Division
Daniel Yu, Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel
Natalie J. Pieretti, Senior Research Secretary, Research Division

OPENING REMARKS

- Chair Carlton welcomed everyone to Ely and remarked the Committee will accommodate the public wishing to speak on a topic under each agenda item.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Dean Baker, resident of Baker, Nevada, said his goal is for Nevada to stay productive. He expressed concerns over the pumping and drawdown of water in the Snake Valley and the fact that after 2000, 17 wild horses were killed due to dried up springs. Mr. Baker said flow from a major spring on the Nevada-Utah Border, which, for over 100 years, has been measured at 20 cubic feet per second, is now 13 cubic feet per second with the current development in the area. He remarked there is no clear number on how much water is coming out of Spring Valley into Snake Valley. Mr. Baker opined that, after speaking with the State Engineer in both Nevada and Utah, drawdown has traditionally been acceptable with agricultural fields or cities being constructed on the land, and Nevada should carefully consider the drawdown issue.

Chair Carlton thanked Mr. Baker for taking members of the Committee on the October 2011 tour and encouraged other members to contact Mr. Baker for a tour.

- Mr. Baker said he will be providing a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation to the Committee and finished by commenting that Nevada needs to look toward its future.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MAY 4, 2012, IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

- The Committee **APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ACTION:**

SENATOR RHOADS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 4, 2012, MEETING HELD IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY SENATOR MANENDO AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

UPDATE ON MUSTANG MONUMENT WILD HORSE SANCTUARY, ELKO COUNTY, NEVADA

- Madeleine Pickens, Representative, Saving America's Mustangs Foundation, provided an update on the wild horse eco-sanctuary in Elko County. In speaking about global economy, Ms. Pickens stated her goal is to provide a sanctuary with national and international appeal, rely on state and county resources, create jobs, and stimulate growth. She continued by outlining her plan to save taxpayers millions of dollars and provide a return to the State of Nevada and Elko County. Ms. Pickens said the eco-sanctuary would be home to about 1,000 wild horses currently held in short-term holding at a taxpayer cost of \$5.75, at a reduced cost of \$1.25 per day per horse for a savings of over \$1.5 million a year, or over a 10-year period, a savings of \$220 million based on 15,000

wild horses in short-term holding. She specified the eco-sanctuary would be fenced and monitored, would be owned by a nonprofit entity with any funds received required to be reinvested, and would be nonreproductive so that the number of wild horses would not grow unless the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) determined the forage could sustain additional animals. (Please see [Exhibit B](#), [Exhibit B-1](#), [Exhibit B-2](#), and [Exhibit B-3](#).)

Ms. Pickens noted a smaller ranch, the Warm Creek property, currently holds hundreds of wild horses, which are being managed in a professional manner. She reported she has employed locals on many projects, and purchased as much material as possible from local vendors. In looking toward the future, Ms. Pickens said hundreds of permanent jobs may become available. She projected visitation to the sanctuary may range from one to two million per year, which would considerably boost the local economy.

Ms. Pickens said it will take another two years to complete the environmental impact statement with the assistance of the BLM, and she hopes the Committee will support the eco-sanctuary.

In response to Senator Rhoads' questions on where income will come from and whether admission will be charged, Ms. Pickens stated sustainability is foremost in her mind; the foundation will farm the land and purchase other farms to sustain the eco-sanctuary, and tourism will be very large.

Responding to Chair Carlton's inquiry concerning financial numbers, Ms. Pickens replied approximately 11,000 to 15,000 wild horses are in short-term holding at about \$2,500 per horse per year, and another 30,000 in long-term holding in other states. She said the sanctuary would take horses from short-term holding, which is the higher cost, and take the money the government now pays for long-term holding. She noted the Mustang Monument is a pilot program that can be expanded if the BLM and the public like the results.

- Travis Jackson, Jr., Seminole Tribe, resident of Oklahoma, spoke in support of the Mustang Monument Wild Horse Sanctuary, and said that horses remain a big part of the tribal culture.
- Chair Carlton called for public comment; however, none was provided.

SURVEY OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN RANGE RESEARCH, SCIENCE, AND BEST PRACTICES AFFECTING NEVADA'S PUBLIC LANDS

A. Research on Cheatgrass Invasion, Wildfire, and Restoration

- Jeanne Chambers, Ph.D., Rocky Mountain Research Station, United States Forest Service (USFS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), presented information on sustainable eco-systems, which, she said, are resilient in that they have the capacity to recover following a disturbance, along with being resistant to invasive species, such as cheatgrass. Ms. Chambers spoke on the history of invasion noting that 5 percent to 7 percent of land area is dominated by annual grasses with as much as 50 percent being invaded and 80 percent being susceptible to invasion. She highlighted the effects on eco-systems and species, and the die-off of 500,000 acres of cheatgrass resulting in soil erosion and secondary weed invasion. (Please see [Exhibit C](#), [Exhibit C-1](#), [Exhibit C-2](#), and [Exhibit C-3](#).)

Ms. Chambers stressed the importance of environmental conditions in dealing with cheatgrass. She said warm/dry systems, such as salt desert shrub, and cold/wet systems, such as forest and alpine systems, have the highest resistance, while Wyoming sage, which occurs in the broad central valleys at intermediate elevations, has the lowest resistance. She stated the cheatgrass fire cycle in the Wyoming sage area is the most problematic; however, native grasses and forbs can significantly increase resistance to cheatgrass.

Ms. Chambers discussed a method for establishing priorities for management activities, using the Committee's understanding of resistance and resilience. There are three general management strategies: protection; preventative management; and restoration and rehabilitation. She stated Great Basin National Park, because of its high value and salt desert shrub, and because of its low resilience, are high priorities for protection. Ms. Chambers remarked preventative management of trees encroaching into sagebrush eco-systems can be quite effective with the objective being reducing fuel loads and decreasing the risk of severe fire and cheatgrass invasion by increasing perennial grasses and forbs. Concluding with restoration and rehabilitation, Ms. Chambers said the focus is on severely disturbed areas where cheatgrass is either dominant or at risk of becoming dominant. She said, however, restoration and rehabilitation is generally a lower priority due to the high cost and because salt desert shrub and sagebrush are hard to rehabilitate.

In closing, Ms. Chambers detailed the number of collaborative research and pilot projects currently being performed.

In response to Senator Rhoads' question why only livestock overgrazing, and not wild horses, was cited as causing damage to the land and the return of cheatgrass, Ms. Chambers replied that any disturbance that removes native vegetation can favor cheatgrass, including overgrazing by livestock, sheep, and wild horses.

Senator Rhoads urged Ms. Chambers to include wild horses in any future remarks regarding overgrazing.

In response to Chair Carlton on the issue of when grazing becomes overgrazing and becomes harmful rather than helpful, Ms. Chambers said she has not focused research directly on that topic and more research is needed to adequately address when and where it is appropriate to graze the rangelands to manage cheatgrass and the fire cycles.

In response to Chair Carlton's question whether, when cheatgrass is eliminated, another invasive species will come in that will be more difficult to control, Ms. Chambers replied certain weedy species, such as burr buttercup, come in after cheatgrass, spread rapidly, and are difficult to control.

Discussion ensued between Chair Carlton and Ms. Chambers on the issue of increasing collaboration.

- Assemblyman Hansen remarked that a recent study suggested that sagebrush can become thick and choke out other vegetation in the absence of grazing pressure. Ms. Chambers replied that depending on competitive relationships within the vegetative community, sagebrush communities can thicken over time with the removal of perennial grasses and forbs. She said another part of the equation is fire, which must be considered in evaluating the dynamic in a particular system, and many systems contain pathogens that can kill large areas of sagebrush as well as grasses and forbs.

B. Research on Landscape-Scale Cheatgrass Fuel Load Reduction Using Late-Season Grazing

- Jon Wilker, Staff Research Associate IV, College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources, University of Nevada, Reno, and Gund Ranch Manager, Austin, Nevada reported on a 2006-2009 pilot program utilizing livestock grazing in the fall to reduce cheatgrass fire fuel loads. Mr. Wilker stated: (1) in mid-September, after the seed had fallen, the ranch turned out cattle on 1,700 acres of mostly cheatgrass that had burned in 1999; (2) an Ana-Pro liquid supplement was provided to the livestock to help meet nutritional requirements; (3) the cattle stayed on the pasture for one to one-and-one-half months; (4) cheatgrass was reduced from over 500 pounds of fuel load per acre to 25 pounds per acre, with an increase in perennials from 45 pounds per acre to over 500 pounds per acre; and (5) there was no detriment to the livestock, which maintained or improved body weight and condition. Mr. Wilker further reported that a larger landscape scale project is being considered, with funding commitments from Nevada and Oregon cattlemen, among other entities. (Please see [Exhibit D.](#))

Responding to questioning by Chair Carlton, Mr. Wilker replied because the project was performed on private land, grazing permits were not affected. He said there has

been no evidence of any other invasive species other than cheatgrass coming in, due to a good base of perennial plants.

In response to Assemblyman Hansen's questions, Mr. Wilker said: (1) after the fall grazing, both native perennials and crested wheat grass were present with no negative impact to the native species; (2) in this research, the calves were removed from the pasture, reducing the stock's nutritional needs; and (3) cheatgrass contains 7 percent to 8 percent protein in the fall.

C. Pinyon Juniper Woodlands Ecology and Control of Pinyon Juniper Encroachment

- Jeremy Drew, Resource Specialist, Resource Concepts, Inc., Nevada Pinyon-Juniper Partnership, provided a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation on topics including: a background on Pinyon/Juniper eco-systems, management concerns and challenges; the role of restoration; and the role of utilization. Mr. Drew reported 9 million acres of Pinyon/Juniper woodland exists in Nevada and in the mid-1900s, there was a large influx of new trees, both in terms of infilling existing woodlands and expanding out into sagebrush habitat. (Please see [Exhibit E.](#))

Mr. Drew detailed different phases of Pinyon/Juniper growth as follows: Phase I, the tree establishment phase; Phase II, co-dominance with a mix of Pinyon/Juniper trees and sagebrush; and Phase III, crossing of the ecological threshold to dominance by trees. He stated in Phase III, when the fuel load burns at a very high intensity, cheatgrass, tumble-mustard, and other invasive species come in. Mr. Drew remarked most sites throughout the west are in Phase II, and approximately 200,000 acres throughout the Great Basin go from Phase II to Phase III annually, which is a major issue. He discussed the various costs involved in treatment projects for each phase.

Chair Carlton and Mr. Drew discussed the cost of treatment projects versus the cost of fighting a wildfire and the cost-benefit analysis. Mr. Drew said the University of Nevada has done some studies. He said the risk is loss of the ecosystem and what the ecosystem provides; after treatment, fires are not as catastrophic or as large; and the Partnership advocates for treatments that have a high probability of success, to maximize the return on investment.

Responding to Senator Rhoads' question, Mr. Drew acknowledged he is aware of a remediation project for western Juniper in Lakeview, Oregon, and much of the wood is burned at a biomass plant near Susanville, California.

Senator Gustavson requested a comparison of the costs of prevention versus suppression, and Mr. Drew answered he would provide that to the Committee.

In response to questioning by Assemblyman Aizley regarding relationships among growth of Pinyon/Juniper, water quality, and watershed health, Mr. Drew replied there

is more groundwater in Phases I and II. He said in Phase III, there is less potential for groundwater as deep-rooted trees pull more water, and fuel loading creates the risk for a wildfire, which would create erosion.

- Mr. Drew continued his testimony with a discussion on utilization of Pinyon/Juniper biomass to sustain an industry. He cited examples, including a stewardship contract in which the contractor, who is paid to remove trees, agrees to take the trees as part of the payment, and a ‘fuels for schools’ program in Ely.

Discussion took place between Assemblyman Hansen and Mr. Drew regarding the need to repeat treatments on the Pinyon/Juniper and the possible use of herbicides to reduce costs.

Chair Carlton commented that a possible future funding source may be through the grazing boards if projects meet multiple objectives. Mr. Drew replied the Pinyon/Juniper projects in the implementation phase tend to use funding from multiple sources.

D. Implementing Landscape-Scale and Watershed-Scale Treatments

- Jeanne Higgins, Forest Supervisor, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, USFS, USDA, provided a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation on issues including: Changes in the Pinon-Juniper Landscape; The National Forest System in Nevada; Treatment Costs; and Utilization Opportunities. She noted that sage grouse, mule deer, and pygmy rabbit all depend on sagebrush ecosystems or Pinyon/Juniper ecosystems that have not transitioned to Phase III; that National Forest lands in Nevada are the source of much of the State’s water; that increases in woody species have an impact on water availability; and that unit costs of treatment in larger landscape projects are lower, due to economies of scale. (Please see [Exhibit F.](#))
- Jose Noriega, District Ranger, Ely Ranger District, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, USFS, USDA, provided a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation on the issue of Vegetation and Fuels Projects on the Ely Ranger District. ([Exhibit F.](#))

Responding to Senator Rhoads’ question whether spraying from the air is less expensive, Ms. Higgins replied spray herbicide treatments for removal of vegetation have not been used for quite some time due to controversy that arose in the 1980s.

In response to Assemblyman Hansen’s questioning regarding chaining, Mr. Noriega explained chaining is used in certain instances and is more effective on mature trees.

Responding to a question by Assemblyman Hansen, Ms. Higgins answered when a prescribed burn gets out of control, there are additional costs and a review process is initiated to determine how the fire progressed and what steps can be taken to prevent

fires from escaping in the future. She said if private property is involved, there is a process and mechanism to address damage to the property.

Discussion took place between Chair Carlton and Ms. Higgins regarding expediting mitigation of the cheatgrass problem on USFS lands through grazing. Ms. Higgins said that it is more of an issue on BLM lands, the USFS uses targeted grazing to reduce fuel loads, and the agencies are required to do an analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for any kind of change in treatment that would have environmental effects.

In response to a question by Chair Carlton regarding the cost of fighting a wildfire versus the cost of treatment, Ms. Higgins replied the cost is variable depending on the terrain and values that are being threatened and that, in general, preventive treatments cost less than wildland fire suppression and have fewer adverse effects on the environment.

E. Best Practices in Grazing and Ranching Management in Nevada

- Ron Cerri, Rebel Creek Ranch, Oroville, Nevada, discussed issues related to ranching practices on public lands; efforts to prevent listing of the sage grouse; and reduction of fine fuels. He testified that proper livestock grazing is a valuable tool to use in reducing catastrophic wildfires, and for the preservation of sage grouse habitat. Mr. Cerri stated that he has utilized funds through the Natural Resource Conservation Service to accomplish projects, such as the removal of a fence line on his ranch to protect sage grouse. He continued with descriptions of other practices to protect sage grouse habitat, including the use of rest-rotation and deferred grazing systems on his ranch, weed control activities, and other actions. Mr. Cerri remarked medusa head is more problematic than cheatgrass in his area.

Mr. Cerri testified in support of the Governor's Greater Sage-grouse Advisory Committee, and is hopeful the recommendations of the Governor's committee are supported by the Committee on Public Lands.

Mr. Cerri said most of Nevada is in a severe drought, which has caused him to move livestock off the range earlier than planned, and feed hay, which has reached \$250 per ton. He remarked on the Jackson Mountain wild horse gather currently underway in Humboldt County, where the drought has caused serious concern for the condition of the wild horses.

Mr. Cerri concluded by requesting the Committee consider sending a letter of recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, in support of the recommendations of the Governor's Greater Sage-grouse Advisory Committee and what can be accomplished in the State of Nevada. He expressed appreciation to the committee members, who have made an effort to understand the issues of concern.

- Joseph Guild, Chair, Federal Lands Committee, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, addressed the potential listing of the sage grouse as an endangered species. He stated he represents 28,000 federal lands ranchers in the country and there is justification for not listing the sage grouse as an endangered species, one being many sage grouse exist and are hunted in almost every western state. Mr. Guild advocated livestock grazing, prescribed fire, and chemical applications on decadent climax sagebrush communities as practical solutions for protecting sage grouse habitats.

Mr. Guild testified the board of the Public Lands Council, a national organization, voted to hire Resource Concepts, Inc. of Carson City to compile and provide information on a website on all available science related to the protection of sage grouse short of listing it as an endangered species.

Based on his conversations with various individuals, Mr. Guild recommended that the Committee should send letters: (1) to the Secretary of the Interior and other federal authorities regarding what is being done in Nevada to preclude the listing of the sage grouse; (2) to Nevada's agricultural producers, encouraging them to continue their efforts in this regard; and (3) to Nevada's congressional delegation, who are all concerned about the impacts of a listing on both rural and urban areas.

Responding to Assemblyman Aizley's questions of whether there are areas where restoration of the sage grouse habitat has been successful and if the sage grouse population is growing in the west, Mr. Guild pointed to the Smith Creek Ranch near Austin, Nevada, which eradicated 80 acres of Pinyon/Juniper trees that resulted in better spring flows and the return of sage grouse, as well as areas in Humboldt County, and the states of Oregon and Idaho where there has been success with Juniper eradication. Related to sage grouse population numbers, Mr. Cerri stated the concern of the USFS is not so much the numbers as the habitat and its long-term health.

- Chair Carlton remarked she is looking forward to receiving the report from the Greater Sage-grouse Advisory Committee.

F. Management of Invasive Plants and Restoration of Disturbed Sites Throughout Collaboration and Cooperation

- Betsy Macfarlan, Executive Director, Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition (ENLC), reported on topics including:

§ Completed Restoration Projects including:

- (1) The Baker Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement;
- (2) The Edwards Creek Riparian Stabilization;
- (3) The Gleason Creek Sage Steppe Restoration;
- (4) The Sampson Creek Restoration; and
- (5) The Smith Valley Sage Steppe Restoration.

§ Cooperative Weed Management Area totaling 9,297,776 acres;

- § History of the ENLC;
- § Management of Invasive Plants and Restoration;
- § Mission of the ENLC;
- § New Partners and Projects; and
- § On-the-Ground Accomplishments. (Please see [Exhibit G.](#))

Responding to Assemblyman Hansen's question whether ENLC has monitored the Baker sage grouse habitat since 2001, Ms. Macfarlan replied ENLC has not monitored it in over 7 years.

There was a discussion between Chair Carlton and Ms. Macfarlan regarding the nature of the Pinyon/Juniper problem. Ms. Macfarlan said that research shows the Pinyon and Juniper trees are native to Nevada, but they have invaded the sage steppe areas, which are not historically their habitat.

In response to Assemblyman Hansen, Ms. Macfarlan noted the Baker sage grouse habitat comprises approximately 100 to 120 acres.

- Addressing Assemblyman Hansen's inquiry on the status of the Baker sage grouse habitat, Dean Baker, previously identified, remarked there are sage grouse on the land, overhunting became a factor, and the sage grouse is not as abundant as it once was. He said continued predation of eggs by other birds is also a problem.
- In conclusion, Ms. Macfarlan stated the ENLC is focused on the landscape as a whole, making it healthier and not concentrating on a single species.
- Chair Carlton opened the agenda item for public comment.
- Rick Spilsbury, member, Ely Shoshone Tribe, said in his opinion the Pinyon/Juniper forest is being eliminated for water, and suggested negotiating for water from beneath the Nevada Test Site.
- Delaine Spilsbury, member, Ely Shoshone Tribe, said it takes a Pinyon pine 150 years to produce a good crop of pine nuts, which are a traditional staple of the Shoshone. She said there has not been any official consultation between the agencies and the tribes regarding the removal of the trees, and, therefore, it should not be happening.

UPDATES FROM WHITE PINE COUNTY ON CURRENT ISSUES AND PRIORITIES RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS IN NEVADA

- Gary Perea, Vice Chair, Board of County Commissioners, White Pine County, reported on issues in White Pine County including wild horses and their effects on range lands, numerous green energy projects and associated tax credits, Off Highway Vehicle use

and safety, and multiple use concepts for BLM lands. (Please see [Exhibit H](#), [Exhibit H-1](#), and [Exhibit H-2](#).)

Discussion took place between Chair Carlton and Mr. Perea regarding statewide planning for the water supply.

- Jim Garza, Director, Community and Economic Development, White Pine County, commented on the Pinyon/Juniper infestation. He said from an economic standpoint, it is important to create jobs and White Pine would like to become more involved in the exporting business. Mr. Garza remarked biomass is an important natural resource, including Pinyon/Juniper and white pine, which are prevalent in both White Pine and Lincoln counties, and that collaboration is needed between the counties to utilize the biomass. He said his department made contact with a major biomass power plant producer in Europe regarding the production of wood pellets. The producer needs 120,000 metric tons of pellets shipped annually, which corresponds to 30,000 acres of harvest per year, which is feasible. Mr. Garza commented federal grants should be made available for agencies such as the BLM and USFS to partner with harvesting contractors and manufacturers to take the product to market.

Responding to Assemblywoman Bustamante Adams' inquiry on how tribal needs fit into economic planning, Mr. Garza replied it is necessary to identify mature Pinyon pine trees and not disturb them in areas marked for clearing. He remarked the BLM and the USFS is aware of the issue.

Discussion occurred between Assemblywoman Bustamante Adams and Mr. Garza regarding the closure of a wood pellet facility in Ely.

There was discussion between Chair Carlton and Mr. Garza regarding shipment of wood pellets to Europe. Mr. Garza noted fuel costs are low in the local Nevada market, which makes wood pellets not very competitive, whereas in Europe, fuel is expensive and pellets are a savings.

In response to Chair Carlton's question, Mr. Garza said representatives of White Pine County are involved with the Governor's Office of Economic Development and the county desires to utilize industrial development bonds to bring manufacturers to the county.

- Chair Carlton asked for public comment; however, none was presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT: OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO PUBLIC LANDS AND PUBLIC WATER AUTHORITIES, DISTRICTS, AND SYSTEMS FOR POSSIBLE INCLUSION BY THE COMMITTEE DURING THE WORK SESSION TO BE HELD ON AUGUST 17, 2012

- Gene P. Etcheverry, Executive Director, Lander County, updated the Committee on the county's Great Sage Grouse Conservation and Enhancement Plan. He stated a copy will be provided to the Committee once it is finalized and approved.

- Desiree Seal, Nevada Cattlemen's Association, expressed her appreciation for the Committee's presence in Ely and proffered an invitation to tour public lands in the area.
- Jeremy Drew, previously identified, clarified that the Nevada Pinyon-Juniper Partnership does not believe the Pinyon/Juniper is an invasive species, and is not advocating or promoting the eradication of the trees, but rather the restoration of the natural system. He stated he will meet with the Partnership's executive committee and provide a letter of recommendations to the Committee on Public Lands that may be helpful from a policy standpoint.

UPDATE ON FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS LEGISLATION

- Dave Ziegler, Supervising Principal Research Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) provided a brief update on Federal Public Lands Legislation. (Please see [Exhibit I](#).)

UPDATE ON COMMITTEE SCHEDULE FOR THE 2011-2012 INTERIM

- Chair Carlton stated any other recommendations forthcoming should be submitted to staff as soon as possible before the August 17, 2012, work session. She reiterated ten bill drafts are available to the Committee, which include resolutions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Chair Carlton asked for public comment; however, none was presented.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie J. Pieretti
Senior Research Secretary

Dave Ziegler
Supervising Principal Research Analyst

APPROVED BY:

Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton, Chair

Date: _____

LIST OF EXHIBITS

[Exhibit A](#) is the “Meeting Notice and Agenda” provided by Dave Ziegler, Principal Research Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB), Carson City.

[Exhibit B](#) is a color photograph depicting a wild horse float provided by Madeleine Pickens, Saving America’s Mustangs.

[Exhibit B-1](#) is a pamphlet titled “Mustang Monument Welcome to the Great American West!, Wild Horse Eco-Sanctuary,” provided by Madeleine Pickens.

[Exhibit B-2](#) is a brochure titled “A Plan to Reform the Wild horse and Burro Program,” provided by Madeleine Pickens.

[Exhibit B-3](#) is a coloring book illustrated by Dr. Karen Bale and titled “The Preschool Professors, Meet Madeleine and the Mustangs,” provided by Madeleine Pickens.

[Exhibit C](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint Presentation titled “Ecosystem Sustainability and the Cheatgrass Fire Cycle,” given by Jeanne C. Chambers, Ph.D., Rocky Mountain Research Station, United States Forest Service (USFS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

[Exhibit C-1](#) is a briefing paper by the USDA titled “Forest Service Research and Development,” submitted by Jeanne C. Chambers, Ph.D.

[Exhibit C-2](#) is a November 2011 USDA Forest Service updated titled “GSD Update—Rocky Mountain Research Station, Grassland, Shrubland and Desert Ecosystems Science Program,” submitted by Jeanne C. Chambers, Ph.D.

[Exhibit C-3](#) is a May 2012 USDA Forest Service updated titled “GSD Update—Rocky Mountain Research Station, Grassland, Shrubland and Desert Ecosystems Science Program,” submitted by Jeanne C. Chambers, Ph.D.

[Exhibit D](#) is a February 2012 pamphlet titled “Assessing Landscape Scale Cheatgrass Fuel Load Reduction for Protection of Great Basin Ecosystems and Wildland-Urban Interface Using Late Season Grazing,” provided by Jon Wilker, Staff Research Associate IV, College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources, University of Nevada, Reno, and Gund Ranch Manager, Austin, Nevada.

[Exhibit E](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation provided by Jeremy Drew, Resource Specialist, Resource Concepts, Inc., Nevada Pinyon-Juniper Partnership.

[Exhibit F](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation provided by Jeanne Higgins, Forest Supervisor, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, USFS, USDA.

[Exhibit G](#) is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation provided by Betsy Macfarlan, Executive Director, Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition, titled “Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition,

Management of Invasive Plants and Restoration of Disturbed Sites Through Collaboration and Cooperation.

[Exhibit H](#) is the June 19, 2010 (*sic*), written testimony of Gary Perea, Vice Chair, Board of County Commissioners, White Pine County.

[Exhibit H-1](#) is a May 2012 excerpt from a report titled “National Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy, Land Use Plan Amendments and Environmental Impact Statements, Scoping Summary Report,” submitted by Gary Perea.

[Exhibit H-2](#) is a May 4, 2010, report titled “Sage Grouse and the Endangered Species Act,” submitted by Gary Perea.

[Exhibit I](#) is a June 2012 revised and updated document titled “Selected Federal Legislation Relating to Public Lands in the 112th Congress,” submitted by Dave Ziegler, Supervising Principal Research Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau.

This set of “Summary Minutes and Action Report” is supplied as an informational service. Exhibits in electronic format may not be complete. Copies of the complete exhibits, other materials distributed at the meeting, and the audio record are on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, Carson City, Nevada. You may contact the Library online at www.leg.state.nv.us/lcb/research/library/feedbackmail.cfm or telephone: 775/684-6827.