

Protection of Natural Treasures



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**LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION'S SUBCOMMITTEE TO STUDY
THE PROTECTION OF NATURAL TREASURES**

BULLETIN NO. 07-13

JANUARY 2007

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SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION'S SUBCOMMITTEE TO STUDY THE PROTECTION OF NATURAL TREASURES

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 35
(File No. 101, *Statutes of Nevada 2005*)

Following is a summary of the recommendations adopted by the Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study the Protection of Natural Treasures at its June 19, 2006, meeting. These recommendations will be forwarded to the Legislative Commission and to the 2007 Session of the Nevada State Legislature.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO DRAFT LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

1. Draft a bill amending Chapter 459 of *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) to require the State Environmental Commission to adopt regulations modifying the Chemical Accident Prevention Program. The bill would require the regulations to include provisions to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of this State in the handling and storage of large quantities of mercury related to consolidation of the national strategic stockpile in Nevada. The modification also should allow for regulation only of the stockpile, due to its unique qualities of quantity and long-term storage. **(BDR 40-209)**
2. Draft a bill creating an Office of State Paleontologist. The position would be headquartered in the southern part of the State. The State Paleontologist would systemically inventory the paleontological resources within the State of Nevada and compile a database of fossil resources; coordinate and promote paleontological research activity within the State; help disseminate knowledge gained from this research; and use Nevada's paleontological resources to enhance tourism within the State. The Director of Nevada's Department of Cultural Affairs would employ a State Paleontologist with the approval of an officer of the Nevada System of Higher Education. The Nevada System of Higher Education would be authorized to provide office space and supplies. The State Paleontologist may be employed by the Board of Regents as a teacher, and may accept employment as a consultant. **(BDR 33-210)**
3. Draft a bill requiring Nevada's Department of Transportation (NDOT), to the extent it is not contingent on losing federal funding, to fix a reduced maximum weight limit for motor vehicles traveling on a public road or highway under the jurisdiction of NDOT, which has been designated as a "scenic route." The NDOT must fix a reduced maximum weight limit if the use of the road or highway would result in dangerous or hazardous safety conditions for the public. **(BDR 43-211)**
4. Draft a bill amending Chapter 41 of NRS to add "bicycling" as a recreational activity for the purposes of the statute limiting the liability of an owner, lessee, or occupant of any premises to persons using the premises for recreational purposes. Additionally,

the bill would ensure that landowners, lessees, and occupants do not have a duty of care to trail users if they make trail improvements, as long as those improvements meet accepted design standards. The bill also would provide protection from liability to nonprofit volunteer trail groups for personal injuries incurred by trail users. Further, the bill would encourage public and private landowners, including the University of Nevada, Reno, railroad companies, and utility companies to provide access/easements across their property for the Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway. **(BDR 3-212)**

5. Draft a resolution recognizing the month of May as Archeological Awareness and Historic Preservation Month in Nevada. Additionally, the resolution would recognize the importance of Tule Springs in Las Vegas as an area where fossil remains of mammoths, bison, horses, camels, giant sloths, and other Pleistocene fauna have been found. The resolution would further commemorate Tule Springs as well known in the scientific world as one of the best examples of Pleistocene paleontologic sites in Western North America. **(BDR R-213)**

RECOMMENDATIONS TO DRAFT A LETTER ON BEHALF OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE

6. Draft a letter requesting the Walker River Irrigation District, in collaboration with other appropriate entities, to submit, on or before January 31, 2007, a report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for distribution to the 74th Session of the Nevada Legislature. The report must include the progress of the negotiations regarding the Walker River system and water resources, Walker Lake water quality, and any ongoing litigation and mediation.
7. Draft a letter urging Nevada's Congressional Delegation to continue their efforts to keep 100 percent of the money from the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 in Nevada and the Lake Tahoe area.
8. Draft a letter to the Division of State Lands and the Division of State Parks, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (SDCNR), supporting establishment of a State park at Monte Cristo's Castle in Esmeralda County. The State park would be approximately 10 square miles in area
9. Draft a letter encouraging the Governor of the State of Nevada, the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Finance, and the Chairperson of the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means to include additional funding to the Division of State Parks, SDCNR, for advertising, maintenance, and operations during the 2007-2008 biennium.
10. Draft a letter to the United States Forest Service (USFS) of the United States Department of Agriculture encouraging continued collaboration between the USFS, the State of Nevada, the Nye County Board of Commissioners, the Town of Pahrump, and other affected citizens of Nevada as it develops the Spring Mountains National

Recreation Area (SMNRA) West Side Master Plan. The Plan should consider the importance of future development along the Pahrump side of the SMNRA. The letter is to request that the USFS submit, on or before, January 31, 2007, a progress report of the development of the West Side Master Plan to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for distribution to the 74th Session of the Nevada Legislature.

11. Draft a letter requesting Scenic Nevada to submit, on or before January 31, 2007, a report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for distribution to the 74th Session of the Legislature. The report must include a list of the Nevada LAST CHANCE Scenic Places, selected by Scenic Nevada, and a copy of the brochure prepared by Scenic Nevada.
12. Draft a letter to the Division of State Lands, SDCNR, University of Nevada, Reno, and the Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway project supporting the creation of the proposed 116-mile Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway. The letter should encourage ownership by the State, if possible, of trail areas not able to be owned by a city or county.
13. Draft a letter urging the Commission on Tourism, the Division of Tourism of the Commission on Tourism, the Division of State Parks of SDCNR, each of Nevada's Boards of County Commissioners, and every local Convention and Visitors Authorities, to include in their program for tourism support for, and information to attract, visitors to Nevada's natural treasures, which include Mount Charleston and Walker Lake. The letter may specify that a program for tourism should educate and support protecting the threatened and endangered pupfish located at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. Additionally, the letter should encourage greater collaboration in an effort to publicize the State park system to residents and visitors.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO INCLUDE A STATEMENT IN THE FINAL REPORT

14. Include a statement in the final report urging the USFS to construct a permanent rest stop at Mount Charleston to be maintained by NDOT. The statement also should support an increase in NDOT's budget to maintain the rest stop.
15. Include a statement in the final report expressing the Subcommittee's support of the Nevada Fire Safe Council, which serves as a bridge between fire services and public agencies, and communities threatened by wildfire.
16. Include a statement in the final report recognizing the need to educate the public concerning Nevada's rural heritage and natural treasures. To achieve this goal, a coordinated system should be established, which involves a broad array of compatible community-based programs and economic services. Such a program may be modeled after Utah's Community Cultural Heritage Coordinating Council, Department of Community and Economic Development.

**REPORT TO THE 74TH SESSION OF THE NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION'S SUBCOMMITTEE TO STUDY
THE PROTECTION OF NATURAL TREASURES**

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 35
(File No. 101, *Statutes of Nevada 2005*)

I. INTRODUCTION

This report is submitted in compliance with Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 35 (File No. 101, *Statutes of Nevada 2005*) (see Appendix A of this report) of the 73rd Session of the Nevada State Legislature, which directs the Legislative Commission to appoint a Subcommittee to conduct a study concerning the protection of Nevada's natural treasures. The Subcommittee was directed to conduct an interim study of any measures necessary for the protection and maintenance of Mount Charleston and Walker Lake, and any other area of the State the Subcommittee deems appropriate.

The Subcommittee held a total of five public meetings, including a work session, during the course of the study. Two of the hearings were conducted through simultaneous videoconferences between legislative meeting rooms at the Grant Sawyer State Office Building in Las Vegas and the Legislative Building in Carson City, Nevada. One meeting was held at the Pahrump Community Library, one meeting was held at the El Capitan Hotel and Casino in Hawthorne, and one meeting was held at the Bristlecone Conference Center in Ely, which did not have videoconferencing capabilities.

During the course of the interim study, the Subcommittee reviewed a variety of issues related to the protection of Mount Charleston, Walker Lake, and other natural treasures. At the fifth and final meeting, members conducted a work session at which they adopted 16 recommendations, five of which are bill draft requests (BDRs). The recommendations address topics such as: handling and storage of large quantities of mercury in Nevada; creating an Office of State Paleontologist; establishing a State park at Monte Cristo's Castle in Esmeralda County; protecting Mount Charleston; monitoring the progress of the negotiations regarding the Walker River system; and supporting tourism for Nevada's natural treasures.

The following legislators served on the Subcommittee during the 2005-2006 legislative interim:

Senator Dina Titus, Chairwoman
Senator Mark E. Amodei
Senator Dean A. Rhoads
Assemblyman Tom Grady
Assemblyman Joseph M. Hogan
Assemblyman Harry Mortenson
Assemblyman Harvey J. Munford

The Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) provided staff services to the Subcommittee. Research Division staff included Marjorie Paslov Thomas, Senior Research Analyst, and Kay Graves, Senior Administrative Assistant. Legal Division staff included Leslie K. Hamner, Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel, and Joel C. Benton, Senior Deputy Legislative Counsel.

II. REVIEW OF SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 35 (FILE NO. 101, *STATUTES OF NEVADA 2005*)

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 35 describes the diverse natural treasures of Nevada, as well as their unique characteristics and contribution to the quality of life and economic prosperity of this State. The resolution directs the Legislative Commission to conduct an interim study of any measures necessary for the protection and maintenance of Mount Charleston and Walker Lake, and any other area of the State the interim committee deems appropriate. The Legislative Commission must submit a report of the results of the study and any recommendations for legislation to the 74th Session of the Nevada State Legislature.

III. SUMMARY OF THE 2005-2006 LEGISLATIVE INTERIM ACTIVITIES

The Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study the Protection of Natural Treasures maintained an active schedule during the 2005-2006 legislative interim period. This section of the report briefly summarizes the activities of the Subcommittee and the topics discussed at the meetings. Additional details of testimony received and exhibits provided are available in the Subcommittee's minutes. All minutes of meetings and their corresponding exhibits are on file in the LCB's Research Library (775/684-6827) and also are available on-line at the following address: <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/73rd/Interim/Studies/Treasures/>.

Following are summaries of the Subcommittee's deliberations and activities at each of the five meetings:

1. Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, on November 7, 2005

The Subcommittee's first meeting was held in Las Vegas on November 7, 2005. Members heard several presentations by representatives of federal agencies concerning the cultural and historic natural treasures located on federal lands in Nevada. In particular, the Subcommittee heard about protecting and enhancing the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area (SMNRA), which has many unique areas and special qualities. The Subcommittee also learned about the natural and cultural resources at Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

Additionally, a representative of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) provided an overview of the roughly 2 million acres of land that are cultural resources under its control in Nevada. It was noted there are approximately 75,000 archaeological sites located on these

lands that range from mammoth kill sites to a variety of specific fossil sites, which are important in preserving the history of the evolution of cultural resources over time.

Presentations followed regarding a number of State and local programs relating to natural treasures. The Subcommittee heard an overview of State land programs that preserve natural treasures such as bond issues and the 2002 Conservation Bond, Question 1; environmental projects funded by money derived from special license plates; and State protection of special wilderness lands and wildlife management areas throughout Nevada. The Subcommittee received a briefing on Nevada's park system and Clark County's development process throughout northwest Clark County, which includes the areas of Blue Diamond, Kyle Canyon, Mount Charleston, and Red Rock.

The Subcommittee reviewed the differences between State cultural resources and State natural resources. Members mentioned that cultural resources refer to prehistoric times before people had a written record of their existence, whereas, natural treasures have a paleontological nature.

Finally, the Subcommittee listened to presentations concerning Nevada's public lands and wilderness areas by Friends of Nevada Wilderness and the Toiyabe Chapter Sierra Club.

2. Meeting in Pahrump, Nevada, on February 10, 2006

The Subcommittee held its second meeting in Pahrump on February 10, 2006. The Subcommittee received an overview of the programs and activities at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. The overview included information on the Refuge's success in obtaining Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act of 1998 (SNPLMA) funds, which are used for restoration projects. Information also was provided on the declining pupfish population, non-native aquatic species, fires, non-native invasive species, seed harvesting for native species, water issues, and signage at Ash Meadows.

The Subcommittee engaged in conservation with the United States Forest Service (USFS) regarding the USFS' activities on the west Side of the SMNRA, Tecopa charcoal kilns, anti-litter program, and fire suppression resources of the SMNRA.

The Subcommittee heard a presentation by the Executive Director of the Nevada Fire Safe Council (NFSC). The NFSC provided information about its history in Nevada, the State Wildfire Risk Assessment Project, and an update of current legislative funding.

A presentation followed regarding the *SMNRA Forest Highway Transportation Study*. The study proposes and encourages a safe and efficient transportation system that improves mobility and access to and within SMNRA for residents and visitors, while protecting natural, cultural, and recreational resources, and improving air quality.

The Subcommittee also received a briefing concerning the *Clark County Environmentally Sensitive Lands Advisory Report*. The Clark County Board of Commissioners created the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Advisory Committee, which was tasked with making recommendations to develop criteria to identify sensitive lands; establish priorities to protect those lands; and advise Clark County about appropriate ways of protecting those lands.

The Subcommittee heard briefings by Nevada's Department of Transportation (NDOT) on current and future transportation projects along the "Blue Diamond Highway" (State Route 160); and the Public Lands Advisory Board of the Town of Pahrump concerning the west side of Mount Charleston.

3. Meeting in Hawthorne, Nevada, on March 10, 2006

On March 10, 2006, the Subcommittee held its third meeting in Hawthorne. The Subcommittee received presentations concerning establishment of a State park at Monte Cristo's Castle in Esmeralda County by both the Division of State Parks and supporters of the park.

The United States Department of Defense provided a report on its plan to store approximately 4,000 metric tons of toxic mercury at the Hawthorne Army Ammunition Depot. A discussion followed concerning mercury; who buys mercury; monitoring, testing, and contamination procedures for mercury storage; live ammunition placements as it relates to the mercury storage site; consolidation of and other options for mercury storage; and the environmental impact of mercury storage. Opposition was raised by the State of Nevada and the Director of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (SDCNR) discussed the State's recourses in stopping the consolidation of mercury in Nevada.

The Subcommittee heard discussion on the controversial issue of water rights related to Walker Lake. A representative for United States Senator Harry Reid presented information and addressed questions concerning ongoing mediation and litigation related to the Walker River system; Farm Bill money; breakdown and itemization of how the Farm bill money is to be spent; and establishment of a stakeholders group to oversee the lease and purchase of water for Walker Lake. The SDCNR provided information on the State's role concerning Walker Lake and the Walker River system. The Walker River Paiute Tribe provided a brief synopsis of the cultural, historical, and current uses of Walker Lake. Additionally, the Walker River Irrigation District provided background information on the Irrigation District and the status of the ongoing mediation regarding the pending litigation concerning water rights and Walker Lake, and the Walker River system. Finally, the Walker Lake Working Group provided a report on its activities that include advocating and educating the public about Walker Lake.

Representatives of Nevada's Department of Wildlife provided presentations on Nevada's wildlife action plan and grants program, which help protect wildlife resources of the State's natural treasures, Walker Lake water levels, and Walker Lake fisheries.

4. Meeting in Ely, Nevada, on May 19, 2006

Ely was the site of the Subcommittee's fourth meeting on May 19, 2006. The Subcommittee received an update of the BLM's planning effort in resource management and critical areas in the Ely Field Office. The members received information concerning planning timelines for the resource management plan, areas of critical environmental concern, designated wilderness areas, and wilderness study areas.

Next, the Subcommittee received a report of the activities at Great Basin National Park, which included discussion about acreage, budget, personnel, major resource issues, primary features, economic impact on White Pine County, and funding.

The Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition is a collaborative group of federal, State, county, and private entities that works to restore the diverse landscapes of the Great Basin for present and future generations. The Subcommittee was briefed on issues of fire management, tree thinning of forests, erosion and invasive species, noxious weeds, manpower for projects, Nevada fire safety councils, and long-term water supply.

The pinion juniper harvest in eastern Nevada has many environmental and economic uses and benefits. Discussion arose regarding the importance of tree thinning of pinion and juniper trees, ground water issues, and native plant and wildlife habitat.

Finally, staff of Sierra Pacific Resources provided an overview of the Ely Energy Center project. Staff testified that the energy produced at the Center will be used in Nevada where need is great, and not sold out of state.

The Subcommittee entertained a variety of public comments. A citizen from Las Vegas provided information concerning Tule Springs, an important archeological and historic site in Las Vegas, and suggested that the area be considered a natural treasure as it contains late Pleistocene geological stratigraphy and significant information about early man in Nevada. Additionally, comments were received that favored developing and maintaining both the historical and natural history of White Pine County.

5. Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada, on June 19, 2006

The Subcommittee's fifth meeting and work session was held on June 19, 2006, in Las Vegas. The Subcommittee received a briefing of the activities of the Mount Charleston Visitors Impact Task Force. The Task Force addressed the possibility of restricting traffic when the mountain is full or if extreme road conditions exist due to weather; implementing universal or bilingual road signs; and allocating funds to the NFSC.

The Scenic Nevada provided a presentation on the "Nevada LAST CHANCE Scenic Places" program, which began in spring 2006. Representatives noted that the program showcases the

State's most beautiful and at-risk sites. An endangered scenic place in Nevada is any place of beauty or distinctive character that is in danger of being permanently lost, such as a scenic vista, a river corridor, or a historic urban neighborhood.

Representatives of the Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway presented information about the proposed 116-mile Bikeway trail, which will follow the Truckee River from its source at Lake Tahoe to its desert terminus, Pyramid Lake. Representatives explained that the project has encountered difficulty in gaining access to areas along the trail that are privately owned. The Bikeway urged the Legislature to endorse the project, enhance the recreation use statutes regarding liability protection for landowners, and promote State ownership of trail areas where the local government is not able.

Finally, the Subcommittee undertook its "Work Session Document," and added two BDRs and two letters to the pending list. Ultimately, the Subcommittee voted to request the drafting of five bills, send eight Subcommittee letters on various topics, and include three statements of support for specific issues.

IV. FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE

At its work session in Las Vegas, the Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study the Protection of Natural Treasures considered numerous recommendations for action by the Legislature during the 2007 Session. The Subcommittee also considered, at its work session, sending policy statements through Subcommittee letters. The members voted to proceed with many of these recommendations, which resulted in five BDRs and numerous official Subcommittee letters and statements.

A. BILL DRAFT REQUESTS

This section provides a brief summary of each of the approved recommendations for legislative action. More detailed background information on many of the recommendations was previously described in the meetings identified earlier in this report. The assigned BDR number is provided at the end of each recommendation summary. A list of the BDRs is found in Appendix C of this report.

1. Chemical Accident Prevention Program (CAPP) Regulations Concerning Mercury

The Subcommittee learned that the United States Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) is planning to consolidate its commodity-grade, elemental mercury stockpile at one site in Hawthorne, Nevada. The decision to consolidate the mercury is based on a combination of environmental and economic factors, policy considerations, and stakeholder comments. The DLA currently stores this type of mercury in enclosed warehouses at four sites in the United States: Hillsborough, New Jersey; New Haven, Indiana; Oak Ridge, Tennessee; and Warren, Ohio.

Members of the Subcommittee received information from the Director of the SDCNR, which addresses the State's opposition of consolidating and storing the strategic mercury stockpile anywhere in Nevada. The Director informed the Subcommittee that mercury is not included under the CAPP. Further, if a threshold value is not established, then the storage of the national strategic mercury stockpile in Nevada would not be regulated by the State. The Director recommended that the Subcommittee encourage the Governor of the State of Nevada to continue his efforts to ensure that the State Environmental Commission adopts a threshold value for mercury through the CAPP, which establishes a threshold measure for the prevention of an accidental release to the environment from the storage and handling of mercury at storage facilities in Nevada.

Therefore, the Subcommittee approved the following recommendation:

Draft a bill amending Chapter 459 of *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) to require the State Environmental Commission to adopt regulations modifying the CAPP. The bill would require the regulations to include provisions to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of this State in the handling and storage of large quantities of mercury related to consolidation of the national strategic stockpile in Nevada. The modification also should allow for regulation only of the stockpile, due to its unique qualities of quantity and long-term storage. (BDR 40-209)

2. Creation of the Office of State Paleontologist

The Subcommittee received information throughout the interim that Nevada has many paleontological resources. Some of these fossils remain in the ground on federal, State, and private land, and many fossils have been collected by academic paleontologists and other collectors. For instance, the ichthyosaur (*Shonisaurus popularis*), the State fossil, on display at Berlin Ichthyosaur State Park is a rare example of a fossil resource that has been properly cared for and studied. Much more commonly, Nevada's paleontological treasures have, at best, ended up in research collections in other states or, at worst, disappeared completely into private collections.

Nevada has not developed a mechanism for systematically paying attention to issues of paleontological stewardship and research. It was noted that by not paying attention to these issues, the State has lost a significant portion of its natural treasures. Fossil resources are important to Nevada since they provide a tangible record of deep history, thus promoting pride in the State and a sense of place. Fossils also excite the imagination of people, especially children, and promote the study of science. Finally, fossils promote tourism.

Members also heard that due to the rapid growth in southern Nevada, there are many paleontological resources in that part of the State that are being lost or taken to out-of-state repositories. A State Paleontologist should be headquartered in the southern part of the State to watch over those resources.

Therefore, the Subcommittee approved the following recommendation:

Draft a bill creating an Office of State Paleontologist. The position would be headquartered in the southern part of the State. The State Paleontologist would systemically inventory the paleontological resources within the State of Nevada and compile a database of fossil resources; coordinate and promote paleontological research activity within the State; help disseminate knowledge gained from this research; and use Nevada's paleontological resources to enhance tourism within the State. The Director of Nevada's Department of Cultural Affairs would employ a State Paleontologist with the approval of an officer of the Nevada System of Higher Education. The Nevada System of Higher Education would be authorized to provide office space and supplies. The State Paleontologist may be employed by the Board of Regents as a teacher, and may accept employment as a consultant. (BDR 33-210)

3. Weight Limits for Motor Vehicles Traveling on Nevada's Scenic Routes

The Subcommittee received information from NDOT concerning heavy residential and construction traffic on the "Blue Diamond Highway" (State Route 160 [SR-160]). Members expressed concern that because of road construction projects in this area, motor vehicle congestion, and growth at the south and west ends of the Las Vegas Valley and Pahrump, motorists and trucks are using State Route 159 (SR-159), also known as Charleston Boulevard, as an alternative route from Las Vegas to Pahrump. (State Route 159 begins at the junction of SR-160 near Blue Diamond, Nevada, circles around the Red Rock Canyon area, and runs due east towards downtown Las Vegas.)

State Route 159, a NDOT designated scenic route, is a mix of bicyclists, commuters, trucks, and natural treasures. Representatives of NDOT testified that there have been several accidents on SR-159 within the past year. The Subcommittee expressed its support of increasing the safety of people traveling along scenic roads.

Therefore, the Subcommittee approved the following recommendation:

Draft a bill requiring NDOT, to the extent it is not contingent on losing federal funding, to fix a reduced maximum weight limit for motor vehicles traveling on a public road or highway under the jurisdiction of NDOT, which has been designated as a "scenic route." The NDOT must fix a reduced maximum weight limit if the use of the road or highway would result in dangerous or hazardous safety conditions for the public. (BDR 43-211)

4. Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway Project

Subcommittee members heard that the Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway project is building a 116-mile recreational trail along the Truckee River from Lake Tahoe to Pyramid Lake using a combination of existing dirt and paved roads, plus some sections of new trails and bridges.

The Subcommittee agreed that the Bikeway trail provides an excellent opportunity for people who wish to engage in recreation and want to experience the State's natural treasures.

Representatives of the Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway testified that the project has encountered reluctance and refusal by both public and private landowners to allow the trail to cross over their property. For the most part, landowners are concerned about liability arising from personal injuries to trail users. At the meeting on June 19, 2006, a representative of the Bikeway requested the Subcommittee to include bicycling as a recreational activity in the law; clarify the existing law that landowners do not have a duty of care if they improve the trail according to design specifications; and offer liability protection for nonprofit volunteer groups.

Therefore, the Subcommittee approved the following recommendation:

Draft a bill amending Chapter 41 of NRS to add "bicycling" as a recreational activity for the purposes of the statute limiting the liability of an owner, lessee, or occupant of any premises to persons using the premises for recreational purposes. Additionally, the bill would ensure that landowners, lessees, and occupants do not have a duty of care to trail users if they make trail improvements, as long as those improvements meet accepted design standards. The bill also would provide protection from liability to nonprofit volunteer trail groups for personal injuries incurred by trail users. Further, the bill would encourage public and private landowners, including the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), railroad companies, and utility companies to provide access/easements across their property for the Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway. (BDR 3-212)

5. Archeological Awareness and Historic Preservation Month

The Subcommittee received information that Tule Springs, which is located in Floyd Lamb State Park in Las Vegas, is known as one of the best examples of Pleistocene paleontologic sites in Western North America. Tule Springs is one of the few sites in the United States where evidence suggests the presence of man before 11,000 B.C. Scientific evidence shows that this area, once covered with sagebrush and bordered with yellow-pine forests, had many springs that were centers of activity for both big game animals and human predators. Evidence found at these fossil springs shows the presence of several extinct animals 14,000 to 11,000 years ago, such as the ground sloth, mammoth, prehistoric horse, and American camel. The first Nevada record of the extinct giant condor comes from Tule Springs. The Subcommittee acknowledged the importance of preserving archeological sites in Nevada, which include Tule Springs.

Therefore, the Subcommittee approved the following recommendation:

Draft a resolution recognizing the month of May as Archeological Awareness and Historic Preservation Month in Nevada. Additionally, the resolution would recognize the importance of Tule Springs in Las Vegas as an area where fossil remains of mammoths, bison, horses, camels, giant sloths, and other Pleistocene fauna have been found. The resolution would further commemorate Tule Springs as well known in the scientific

world as one of the best examples of Pleistocene paleontologic sites in Western North America. (BDR R-213)

B. LETTERS AND FINAL STATEMENTS

This section provides a brief summary of each of the letters sent from the Subcommittee to various elected representatives; federal, State, and local government officials; and others. Detailed background information on many of the topics was previously described in the meetings identified in this report. Copies of the corresponding letters can be found in Appendix B of this report.

1. Walker Lake Negotiations

During the 2005-2006 legislative interim, the Subcommittee was charged with studying how to protect and maintain Walker Lake. The Subcommittee received information that all the interested parties are working together to strike a balance between necessary water use and the need to conserve water for the preservation of Walker Lake.

The Subcommittee learned that the following parties have agreed to attempt to resolve the Walker River water issues through mediation with a third-party mediator: the United States; the State of Nevada; the State of California; the Walker River Paiute Tribe; Lyon County, Nevada; Mineral County, Nevada; Mono County, California; the Walker Lake Work Group; and the Walker River Irrigation District. The testimony indicated that negotiations are ongoing and confidential. The Subcommittee supports resolution of this matter.

Therefore, the Subcommittee approved the following recommendation:

Draft a letter requesting the Walker River Irrigation District, in collaboration with other appropriate entities, to submit, on or before January 31, 2007, a report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for distribution to the 74th Session of the Nevada Legislature. The report must include the progress of the negotiations regarding the Walker River system and water resources, Walker Lake water quality, and any ongoing litigation and mediation.

2. Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (SNPLMA)

Throughout the interim, the Subcommittee received information on how revenue from SNPLMA helps maintain many of the State's natural treasures. After learning that President George W. Bush proposed to divert 70 percent of the revenue from SNPLMA to the federal Treasury in 2005, the Subcommittee expressed a desire to urge Nevada's Congressional Delegation to continue its support for keeping all SNPLMA funds in Nevada. Most recently, the Congressional Delegation successfully kept 100 percent of the SNPLMA funds in Nevada and the Lake Tahoe area during Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 and FY 2007.

Therefore, the Subcommittee approved the following recommendation:

Draft a letter urging Nevada's Congressional Delegation to continue their efforts to keep 100 percent of the money from SNPLMA in Nevada and the Lake Tahoe area.

Note: The SNPLMA allows the BLM to sell public land within a specific boundary around Las Vegas, Nevada. The revenue derived from land sales is split between the State of Nevada General Education Fund (5 percent); the Southern Nevada Water Authority (10 percent); and a special account available to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior for parks, trails, and natural areas; capital improvements; conservation initiatives; multi-species habitat conservation acquisitions; and Lake Tahoe restoration projects. Other provisions in the SNPLMA direct certain land sale and acquisition procedures, direct the BLM to convey title to land in the McCarran Airport noise zone to Clark County, and provide for the sale of land for affordable housing.

3. Proposed State Park at Monte Cristo's Castle in Esmeralda County, Nevada

The Subcommittee received a presentation concerning the establishment of a State park at Monte Cristo's Castle in Esmeralda County. Sponsors of the proposed State park testified that Nevada's state parks have a significant positive economic impact on State and local economies. A State park at Monte Cristo's Castle would be an economic catalyst for a three-county area comprised of Esmeralda, Mineral, and Nye Counties, which are considered to be economically disadvantaged.

Additionally, the Subcommittee learned that this area is receiving a high volume of visitors and needs to be protected and supervised to prevent erosion and possible destruction. The Subcommittee concurred that it is necessary to preserve and protect the natural features at Monte Cristo.

The Chairwoman indicated that this recommendation would be contained in a letter instead of a BDR since the Legislative Committee on Public Lands (NRS 218.5363) plans to recommend a bill for the creation of this park. (A copy of the BDR approved by the Legislative Committee on Public Lands is contained under No. 35-401 on the BDR list of the 74th Session of the Nevada State Legislature.)

Therefore, the Subcommittee approved the following recommendation:

Draft a letter to the Division of State Lands and the Division of State Parks, SDCNR, supporting establishment of a State park at Monte Cristo's Castle in Esmeralda County. The State park would be approximately 10 square miles in area.

4. Additional Funding for Advertising, Maintenance, and Operations of State Parks

The Subcommittee was impressed with the many efforts of the Division of State Parks to operate and maintain a system of parks and recreation areas throughout the State. The Subcommittee noted that through the Division, residents and visitors are able to enjoy the many natural treasures located throughout the park system; however, the Subcommittee received information from the Division that it does not have an advertising budget to promote the parks.

Additionally, the Subcommittee expressed concern that despite the Legislature's and the Governor's support of the Division's operation and maintenance of Nevada's exceptional State parks, funding remains insufficient. Members agreed that the Division's budget should be increased to ensure that future generations of Nevadans are able to enjoy the natural treasures at each park.

Therefore, the Subcommittee approved the following recommendation:

Draft a letter encouraging the Governor of the State of Nevada, the Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Finance, and the Chairperson of the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means to include additional funding to the Division of State Parks, SDCNR, for advertising, maintenance, and operations during the 2007-2008 biennium.

5. Spring Mountains National Recreation Area West Side Master Plan

One of the many important topics the Subcommittee monitored was the SMNRA. The SMNRA is in close proximity to the Las Vegas Valley and contains recreation trails and recreational opportunities such as camping, skiing, and dining. The Subcommittee agreed with the USFS that it is important to preserve the balance between protection of the SMNRA, a natural treasure, and increased recreational opportunities for residents and tourists.

At meetings held during the interim, the USFS testified that it was developing three options in its vision of the west side that explore the range of viable facilities, recreation uses, and conservation measures. The Subcommittee supported the development of the West Side Master Plan with the affected parties.

Therefore, the Subcommittee approved the following recommendation:

Draft a letter to the USFS of the United States Department of Agriculture encouraging continued collaboration between the USFS, the State of Nevada, the Nye County Board of Commissioners, the Town of Pahrump, and other affected citizens of Nevada as it develops the SMNRA West Side Master Plan. The Plan should consider the importance of future development along the Pahrump side of the SMNRA. The letter is to request that the USFS submit, on or before, January 31, 2007, a progress report of the

development of the West Side Master Plan to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for distribution to the 74th Session of the Nevada State Legislature.

6. Nevada LAST CHANCE Scenic Places

The Subcommittee received positive information regarding the activities and programs of Scenic Nevada. In particular, the Nevada LAST CHANCE Scenic Places program showcases the State's most beautiful and at-risk sites. Any special place of beauty or distinctive character that is at risk of being lost due to neglect, insufficient funds, and inappropriate development may be nominated. At the June 19, 2006, meeting in Las Vegas, Scenic Nevada had approximately 12 nominations of areas throughout the State including Clark County, Esmeralda County, Mineral County, Storey County, and Washoe County. Scenic Nevada will review the nominations and depict the winners in a brochure, which will be distributed in fall 2006.

At the Subcommittee's meeting, it was noted that the brochure will be available after the Subcommittee has completed its work for the interim. Members were interested in the program and its efforts to protect Nevada's natural treasures.

Therefore, the Subcommittee approved the following recommendation:

Draft a letter requesting Scenic Nevada to submit, on or before January 31, 2007, a report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for distribution to the 74th Session of the Legislature. The report must include a list of the Nevada LAST CHANCE Scenic Places, selected by Scenic Nevada, and a copy of the brochure prepared by Scenic Nevada.

7. Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway Project

Representatives of the Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway project explained to the Subcommittee that the Bikeway trail consists of both public and private land in two states, five counties, one Indian reservation, and three federal agencies. One of the main challenges to completing the Bikeway project is refusal by some private property owners to grant access to their land. The Subcommittee expressed concern that the Bikeway project has not been granted real estate access along the Emigrant Trail next to the Truckee River, where the land is completely undeveloped and privately owned.

The Subcommittee was impressed with the many efforts of the Bikeway project to obtain real estate or approval by private owners for building the trail. Although acquisition of private land is still needed to complete the bike trail, the efforts of the Bikeway project have taken root and are acknowledged as very useful.

Therefore, the Subcommittee approved the following recommendation:

Draft a letter to the Division of State Lands of the SDCNR, UNR, and the Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway supporting the creation of the proposed 116-mile Tahoe Pyramid Bikeway trail. The letter should encourage ownership by the State, if possible, of trail areas not able to be owned by a city or county.

8. Promoting Tourism of Nevada's Natural Treasures

The Subcommittee was presented information that tourists have an opportunity to visit fascinating natural and cultural treasures throughout the State. However, very little collaboration exists between State agencies, local governments, and local Convention and Visitors Authorities to promote and attract visitors to Nevada's natural treasures. The Subcommittee agreed that these agencies and organizations already have the tools and knowledge to make tourists aware of the State's natural treasures. Therefore, the Subcommittee agreed that a shared commitment between agencies and organizations to encourage tourists to visit the State's natural treasures will foster economic development and ensure quality experiences.

Therefore, the Subcommittee approved the following recommendation:

Draft a letter urging the Commission on Tourism, the Division of Tourism of the Commission on Tourism, the Division of State Parks of SDCNR, each of Nevada's Boards of County Commissioners, and every local Convention and Visitors Authorities, to include in their program for tourism support for, and information to attract, visitors to Nevada's natural treasures, which include Mount Charleston and Walker Lake. The letter may specify that a program for tourism should educate and support protecting the threatened and endangered pupfish located at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. Additionally, the letter should encourage greater collaboration in an effort to publicize the State park system to residents and visitors.

9. Rest Stops at Mount Charleston

The Subcommittee learned that more roadside sanitation facilities are needed in the SMNRA. Currently, the USFS has 37 restroom facilities located at 13 sites in Kyle and Lee Canyons and Deer Creek Highway. The concessionaires are responsible for the facilities and the restroom facilities are part of campgrounds or picnic areas. Although the USFS may use SNPLMA funding to construct more rest stop facilities, it cannot use SNPLMA funding for operations and maintenance. The USFS requested that if it builds roadside sanitation facilities, then NDOT maintain and operate them. The Subcommittee specifically supported the need for additional restroom facilities at Mount Charleston.

Therefore, the Subcommittee approved the following recommendation:

Include a statement in the final report urging the USFS to construct a permanent rest stop at Mount Charleston to be maintained by NDOT. The statement also should support an increase in NDOT's budget to maintain the rest stop.

10. Nevada Fire Safe Council

The impact of fires on Nevada's natural treasures was an area of concern and interest to the Subcommittee. Efforts to suppress and fight fire on public and private lands throughout the State require coordination at all levels of government. Subcommittee members were pleased to learn that the NFSC is a private, independent, nonprofit membership corporation whose purpose is to reduce the loss of lives, property, natural resources, and natural treasures from wildfires in Nevada.

The Subcommittee made certain observations regarding the NFSC, including the importance of raising awareness for and educating individuals and communities of the threat of wildfires and what can be done to protect the natural resources and private property. The Subcommittee strongly supported the activities of the NFSC.

Therefore, the Subcommittee approved the following recommendation:

Include a statement in the final report expressing the Subcommittee's support of the NFSC, which serves as a bridge between fire services and public agencies, and communities threatened by wildfire.

11. Establishment of Public Education of Nevada's Rural Heritage and Natural Treasures

Throughout the interim, the Subcommittee received presentations concerning rural heritage and natural treasures. The Subcommittee learned that the State of Utah has a heritage tourism program that incorporates local heritage to expand the tourism base of an area and also is a tool to protect valuable resources. Heritage resources help keep tourism development authentic while connecting it to the life of a community. An area's heritage resources reflect the distinctiveness of the people and events that are important to the lifestyle and history of a community. Members expressed support for creating a similar program in Nevada to preserve and manage the State's heritage treasures.

Include a statement in the final report recognizing the need to educate the public concerning Nevada's rural heritage and natural treasures. To achieve this goal, a coordinated system should be established, which involves a broad array of compatible community-based programs and economic services. Such a program may be modeled after Utah's Community Cultural Heritage Coordinating Council, Department of Community and Economic Development.

V. CONCLUDING REMARKS

The Subcommittee worked on numerous issues relating to the protection of natural treasures in Nevada during the 2005-2006 legislative interim, and addressed many areas of concern at the federal, State, and local levels of government.

The members of the Subcommittee would like to thank elected officials; representatives from federal, State, and local government; private organizations; citizens; and all other participants in this interim's hearings. The Subcommittee members appreciate the important assistance and cooperation consistently provided by the many talented and knowledgeable people who testified at its meetings and participated in informational exchanges.

VI. APPENDICES

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APPENDIX A

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 35
(File No. 101, *Statutes of Nevada 2005*)

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 35—Senator Titus

FILE NUMBER 101

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Directing the Legislative Commission to conduct an interim study of measures needed to protect and maintain the natural treasures of Nevada.

WHEREAS, Nevada exists in a high desert region of the western United States displaying rugged snow-capped mountains, towering alpine forests, deep azure lakes, rocky cliffs, dramatic canyons, unexpected sand dunes and whitewater rivers and is one of the most biologically diverse states of our Nation; and

WHEREAS, In 1992, the Nevada Natural Heritage Program recognized over 100 locations in Nevada as areas with a multitude of rare species, known as biodiversity hot spots, with many of these species being endemic to a particular Nevada habitat; and

WHEREAS, The diverse landscape of northwest Nevada includes the expansive volcanic plateaus of Sheldon, the glaciated peaks and basins of Blue Lakes, the baked dry lake bed of the Black Rock Desert and the starkly beautiful and mysterious Pyramid Lake; and

WHEREAS, The northeast corner of Nevada is defined by its waters which carve canyons and create, in contrast to the arid deserts that cover a large portion of the State, a spectacularly lush oasis teeming with wildlife; and

WHEREAS, The mountainous terrain of eastern Nevada exhibits such wonders as Wheeler Peak, the second highest mountain in Nevada, which holds the only active glacier in the Great Basin, the Lehman Caves, a major cave system with a fascinating wonderland of limestone formations, Lexington Arch, a natural limestone arch more than six stories high, stands of bristlecone pines, which are among the world's oldest living organisms and can live for more than 4,000 years, Cathedral Gorge with its unique formations of circular shafts and steep spires carved by the erosion of soft bentonite clay, and the Ruby Mountains, sometimes referred to as the Nevada Alps, home to lush valleys, wildflower meadows, alpine lakes, waterfalls, glacially formed canyons, including the dramatic Lamoille Canyon and Chimney Rock; and

WHEREAS, With sections stretching from Lake Tahoe and Reno south to the Las Vegas area, the Toiyabe National Forest is the largest national forest outside Alaska and, with its wide range of elevations combined with variable climates and soils, holds a wide diversity of plant life, ranging from Joshua trees and creosote bushes to bristlecone pines, and animal life, including mule deer, black bear, mountain lion, bobcat, wild burros and horses, and innumerable small mammals, reptiles and birds; and

WHEREAS, The area known as Mount Charleston is made up of the 316,000-acre Spring Mountains National Recreation Area and boasts the highest point in southern Nevada, Charleston Peak, which looms over the desert floor of the Las Vegas Valley at an elevation of 11,918 feet; and

WHEREAS, In the shadow of the Spring Mountain Range lie multicolored sandstone formations, known as Red Rock Canyon, replete with unique flora and a large number of animals including the desert bighorn sheep, the official state animal of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, One of the Silver State's most startlingly beautiful desert environments is the

wind-sculpted sandstone of the Valley of Fire State Park which sports colors from a deep red to a golden orange that contrast with the sparkling white of the regal Silica Dome also contained in the park; and

WHEREAS, Walker Lake, part of the remains of a prehistoric lake which covered much of the western United States, contains various native fish species that are vital to thousands of birds that rely on the lake as a fueling and rest stop on their migratory routes, including spring and fall visits from 1,400 common loons, the largest known inland congregation west of the Mississippi, and is rumored to be the home of Cecil the sea serpent; and

WHEREAS, Other amazing treasures of Nevada include the fossilized remains of the prehistoric ichthyosaurs who ruled the warm, shallow seas that covered Nevada during the late Triassic Period, “singing” Sand Mountain which was created when sand from surrounding flats, once part of the bottom of ancient Lake Lahontan, was blown against nearby mountain walls to form a dune rising 600 feet high and stretching for 2 miles, and the abundance of geothermal resources that can be found throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, Nevada’s vast and diverse landscape has always been part of the State’s history, people and wealth, and has provided assets such as minerals, forage and fertile soil, as well as the invaluable resources of clean water and air, abundant wildlife and open space; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of different kinds of life call Nevada home and hundreds of these live nowhere else, and the health and economic well-being of our State depend directly upon wise stewardship of its land and all the life it supports; and

WHEREAS, The challenge to make decisions in the best interest of future generations of Nevadans increases as population and land use pressures grow, but with early planning and responsible development, economic growth and our biological resources can successfully exist side by side; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the Legislative Commission is hereby directed to conduct an interim study of any measures necessary for the protection and maintenance of Mount Charleston and Walker Lake and any other area of the State the committee appointed to conduct the study deems appropriate; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Legislative Commission shall submit a report of the results of the study and any recommendations for legislation to the 74th Session of the Nevada Legislature.

APPENDIX B

Letters Drafted Upon Adoption of Recommendations by the S.C.R. 35 Subcommittee

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September 15, 2006

Ken Spooner, Executive Director
Walker River Irrigation District
Post Office Box 820
Yerington, Nevada 89447-0820

Dear Mr. Spooner:

The Nevada Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study the Protection of Natural Treasures (Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 35 [File No. 101, *Statutes of Nevada 2005*]) recently completed its work for the 2005-2006 legislative interim period. The Subcommittee was charged with studying Nevada's natural treasures with specific direction to consider how to protect and maintain Walker Lake.

During the legislative interim, the Subcommittee heard testimony from a variety of sources regarding the current and historical uses of water within the Walker River basin. The Subcommittee received information that all the interested parties are working together to strike a balance between necessary water use and the need to conserve water for the preservation of Walker Lake. Further, the parties, which are comprised of the United States; State of Nevada; Lyon County, Nevada; Mineral County, Nevada; Walker Lake Working Group; Walker River Irrigation District; Walker River Paiute Tribe; State of California; and Mono County, California, have agreed to attempt to resolve the Walker River issues through mediation with a third-party mediator. The testimony indicated that the negotiations are ongoing and confidential; however, the mediator periodically provides updates to the federal court.

The Subcommittee members sincerely hope the issue will be resolved to the satisfaction of all interested parties. The protracted litigation surrounding Walker Lake attests to the scarcity and value of water and the importance of water conservation efforts. Walker Lake is one of our State's natural treasures. Therefore, the Subcommittee requests that the Walker River Irrigation District, in collaboration with the other appropriate entities, submit, on or before January 31, 2007, a report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for distribution to the 2007 Legislature concerning the progress of the negotiations regarding the Walker River system and its water resources, water quality, and any ongoing litigation and mediation.

I know that the Subcommittee members would appreciate your attention to this very important matter. I would be pleased to discuss this issue in greater detail if you so desire.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dina Titus".

Dina Titus, Chairwoman

Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to
Study the Protection of Natural Treasures

DT/kg:W62961



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September 15, 2006

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Ensign
United States Senate
356 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Shelley Berkley
House of Representatives
439 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim Gibbons
House of Representatives
100 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jon C. Porter Sr.
House of Representatives
218 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

To Nevada's Congressional Delegation:

The Nevada Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study the Protection of Natural Treasures (Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 35 [File No. 101, *Statutes of Nevada 2005*]) recently completed its work for the 2005-2006 legislative interim period. The Subcommittee considered a broad range of issues relating to the protection of Nevada's natural treasures.

During the legislative interim, the Subcommittee received positive updates regarding the continued implementation of the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act of 1998 (SNPLMA), which allows the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to sell public land within parts of the Las Vegas Valley. The Subcommittee received testimony indicating that revenue from SNPLMA provides for the continued protection of our State's natural treasures by providing revenue for: development of parks, trails, and natural areas; capital improvements in areas administered by the BLM in Clark County; conservation initiatives; development of a multi-species habitat conservation plan in Clark County; environmentally sensitive land acquisitions; and restoration projects in Lake Tahoe. However, it came to our attention that President George W. Bush proposed to divert 70 percent of the revenue from SNPLMA

Senator Harry Reid, Senator John Ensign, Congresswoman Shelley Berkley,
Congressman Jim Gibbons, and Congressman Jon C. Porter Sr.

Page 2

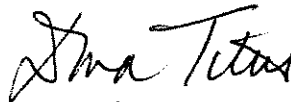
September 15, 2006

to the Federal Treasury. We were encouraged to learn that Nevada's Congressional Delegation continues to make certain that 100 percent of the money from SNPLMA remains in Nevada to protect our natural treasures.

At its final meeting and work session in June 2006, the Subcommittee voted to send you this letter requesting your continued effort to keep 100 percent of the money from the SNPLMA in Nevada and the Lake Tahoe area, and not divert these funds to the Federal Treasury. As you know, under the current SNPLMA formula, 5 percent of the proceeds from the land sales is distributed to the State of Nevada for educational purposes; 10 percent is distributed to the Southern Nevada Water Authority for infrastructure enhancement and development; and the remaining 85 percent is placed with the U.S. Department of the Interior in a special account. This funding provides money to develop, maintain, and protect our State's natural treasures.

I know the Subcommittee members would appreciate your attention to this very important matter. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if the Subcommittee or I may be of any assistance to you.

Sincerely,



Dina Titus

Nevada State Senator, Chairwoman,
Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to
Study the Protection of Natural Treasures

DT/kg:W62960

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September 15, 2006

Pamela B. Wilcox
Administrator and State Land Registrar
Division of State Lands
State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 5003
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Ms. Wilcox:

The Nevada Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study the Protection of Natural Treasures (Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 35 [File No. 101, *Statutes of Nevada 2005*]) recently completed its work for the 2005-2006 legislative interim period. The Subcommittee considered a broad range of issues relating to the protection and maintenance of Nevada's natural treasures.

The Subcommittee heard a presentation by its supporters concerning the establishment of a State park at Monte Cristo's Castle. We concur that it is necessary to preserve and protect the unique natural features at Monte Cristo, which include geologic formations from a multitude of eras. Based on testimony, the Subcommittee learned that this area is receiving a high volume of visitors and needs to be protected and supervised to prevent erosion and possible destruction.

Therefore, the Subcommittee finds the establishment of a State park at Monte Cristo's Castle to be an important step towards preserving one of Nevada's natural treasures and voted unanimously to provide you with this letter of support.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if the Subcommittee or I may be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dina Titus".

Dina Titus, Chairwoman
Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to
Study the Protection of Natural Treasures

DT/kg:W62959-1
cc: David K. Morrow, Administrator, Division of State Parks
Michael Hackett, Manager, Legislative and Regulatory Services, Alrus Consulting
Andrea Robb-Bradick, Owner, Jim Butler Motel

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September 15, 2006

David K. Morrow, Administrator
Division of State Parks
State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 5005
Carson City, Nevada 89701-5248

Dear Mr. Morrow:

The Nevada Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study the Protection of Natural Treasures (Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 35 [File No. 101, *Statutes of Nevada 2005J*]) recently completed its work for the 2005-2006 legislative interim period. The Subcommittee considered a broad range of issues relating to the protection and maintenance of Nevada's natural treasures.

The Subcommittee heard a presentation by supporters to establish a State park at Monte Cristo's Castle. We concur that it is necessary to preserve and protect the unique natural features at Monte Cristo, which include geologic formations from a multitude of eras. Based on testimony, the Subcommittee learned that this area is receiving a high volume of visitors and needs to be protected and supervised to prevent erosion and possible destruction.

Therefore, the Subcommittee finds the establishment of a State park at Monte Cristo's Castle to be an important step towards preserving one of Nevada's natural treasures and voted unanimously to provide you with this letter of support.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if the Subcommittee or I may be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dina Titus".

Dina Titus, Chairwoman
Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to
Study the Protection of Natural Treasures

DT/kg:W62959

cc: Pamela B. Wilcox, Administrator and State Land Registrar, Division of State Lands
Michael Hackett, Manager, Legislative and Regulatory Services, Alrus Consulting
Andrea Robb-Bradick, Owner, Jim Butler Motel

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BRENDA J. ERDOES, *Legislative Counsel* (775) 684-6830

September 15, 2006

The Honorable Kenny C. Guinn
Governor of Nevada
101 North Carson Street, Suite 1
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4786

Dear Governor Guinn:

The Nevada Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study the Protection of Natural Treasures (Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 35 [File No. 101, *Statutes of Nevada 2005*]) recently completed its work for the 2005-2006 legislative interim period. The Subcommittee considered a broad range of issues relating to the protection and maintenance of Nevada's natural treasures.

One of the many important topics the Subcommittee considered was to increase funding to the Division of State Parks of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources during the 2007-2009 biennium for advertising, maintenance, and operation of Nevada's State parks. The Division operates and maintains 24 State parks and two management areas. Each park and management area is a unique natural treasure with historical and cultural importance.

The Subcommittee learned that despite the Legislature's and your support of the Division's operation and maintenance of our exceptional State parks, funding remains insufficient. Without adequate financing, the Division will not be able to continue operating and maintaining State parks at their current levels, which ultimately could have a negative impact on the citizens of Nevada and tourists visiting our State. Therefore, at its final meeting and work session in June 2006, the Subcommittee voted to send this letter urging you to consider increasing the Division's advertising, maintenance, and operation budget in your *Executive Budget* during the 2007-2009 biennium.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if the Subcommittee or I may be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dina Titus".

Dina Titus, Chairwoman
Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to
Study the Protection of Natural Treasures

DT/kg:W62958

cc: Senator William J. Raggio, Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance
Assemblyman Morse Arberry Jr., Chairman, Assembly Committee on Ways and Means

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BRENDA J. ERDOES, *Legislative Counsel* (775) 684-6830

September 15, 2006

The Honorable William J. Raggio, Chairman
Senate Committee on Finance
Nevada State Senate
Post Office Box 281
Reno, Nevada 89504-0281

Dear Senator Raggio:

The Nevada Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study the Protection of Natural Treasures (Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 35 [File No. 101, *Statutes of Nevada 2005J*]) recently completed its work for the 2005-2006 legislative interim period. The Subcommittee considered a broad range of issues relating to the protection and maintenance of Nevada's natural treasures.

One of the many important topics the Subcommittee considered was providing additional funding to the Division of State Parks of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources during the 2007-2009 biennium for advertising, maintenance, and operation of Nevada's State parks. The Division operates and maintains 24 State parks and two management areas. Each park and management area is a unique natural treasure with immeasurable historical and cultural importance.

The Subcommittee learned that despite the Legislature's and the Governor's support of the Division's operation and maintenance of our exceptional State parks, funding remains insufficient. Without adequate financing, the Division will not be able to continue operating and maintaining State parks at their current levels, which ultimately could have a negative impact on the citizens of Nevada and tourists visiting our State. Therefore, at its final meeting and work session in June 2006, the Subcommittee voted to send this letter urging you, as you review the proposed *Executive Budget* for the 2007-2009 biennium, to consider increasing the Division's budget so that it may better advertise, maintain, and operate Nevada's State parks.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if the Subcommittee or I may be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dina Titus".

Dina Titus, Chairwoman
Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to
Study the Protection of Natural Treasures

DT/kg:W62958-1
cc: Kenny C. Guinn, Governor, State of Nevada
Assemblyman Morse Arberry Jr., Chairman, Assembly Committee on Ways and Means

STATE OF NEVADA
LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU

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September 15, 2006

The Honorable Morse Arberry Jr., Chairman
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means
Nevada State Assembly
5300 West Spring Mountain Road, No. 104
Las Vegas, Nevada 89146-8721

Dear Assemblyman Arberry:

The Nevada Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study the Protection of Natural Treasures (Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 35 [File No. 101, *Statutes of Nevada 2005*]) recently completed its work for the 2005-2006 legislative interim period. The Subcommittee considered a broad range of issues relating to the protection and maintenance of Nevada's natural treasures.

One of the many important topics the Subcommittee considered was providing additional funding to the Division of State Parks of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources during the 2007-2009 biennium for advertising, maintenance, and operation of Nevada's State parks. The Division operates and maintains 24 State parks and two management areas. Each park and management area is a unique natural treasure with immeasurable historical and cultural importance.

The Subcommittee learned that despite the Legislature's and the Governor's support of the Division's operation and maintenance of our exceptional State parks, funding remains insufficient. Without adequate financing, the Division will not be able to continue operating and maintaining State parks at their current levels, which ultimately could have a negative impact on the citizens of Nevada and tourists visiting our State. Therefore, at its final meeting and work session in June 2006, the Subcommittee voted to send this letter urging you, as you review the proposed *Executive Budget* for the 2007-2009 biennium, to consider increasing the Division's budget so that it may better advertise, maintain, and operate Nevada's State parks.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if the Subcommittee or I may be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dina Titus".

Dina Titus, Chairwoman
Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to
Study the Protection of Natural Treasures

DT/kg: W62958-2
cc: Kenny C. Guinn, Governor, State of Nevada
Senator William J. Raggio, Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance

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September 15, 2006

Stephanie Phillips, Deputy Forest Supervisor
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
U.S. Forest Service
4701 North Torrey Pines Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130

Dear Ms. Phillips:

The Nevada Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study the Protection of Natural Treasures (Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 35 [File No. 101, *Statutes of Nevada 2005*]) recently completed its work for the 2005-2006 legislative interim period. The Subcommittee considered a broad range of issues relating to the protection and maintenance of Nevada's natural treasures.

One of the many important topics the Subcommittee monitored was the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area (SMNRA). The SMNRA is in close proximity to the Las Vegas Valley and contains trails for biking, hiking, and horseback riding; and facilities for camping, picnicking, skiing, lodging, dining, and environmental and historical education. The Subcommittee strongly agrees with the Forest Service that it is important to preserve the balance between protection of our natural treasure, the SMNRA, and increased recreational opportunities for both residents and tourists.

At meetings during this interim, we received informative, professional, and timely reports and presentations from you regarding the various programs and activities of the Forest Service in southern Nevada. Based on your testimony, we believe it is imperative that the Forest Service develop a SMNRA West Side Master Plan that preserves the area's history and unique environment as well as encouraging a broad spectrum of users to bond with the West Side's vast and rustic landscape.

We understand that the Forest Service has developed three options in its vision for the West Side that explore the range of viable facilities, recreation uses, and conservation measures. The concepts range from maximizing solitude and adventure to emphasizing developed recreation. Based on the comments received from citizens at the open house held by the Forest Service in Pahrump in February 2006, we understand that the Master Plan may provide a mix of recreation opportunities that are sensitive to the unique resources of each distinct area of the SMNRA.

Stephanie Phillips
Page 2
September 15, 2006

At our last meeting in June 2006, the Subcommittee voted to send you this letter requesting that the Forest Service submit, on or before January 31, 2007, a progress report on the development of the West Side Master Plan to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for distribution to the 74th Session of the Nevada Legislature. We encourage the Forest Service to continue working with the State of Nevada, the Nye County Board of Commissioners, the Town of Pahrump, and affected citizens of Nevada as it develops the Master Plan.

The Subcommittee greatly appreciates your continued efforts to protect our State's natural treasures. As always, please contact me if the Subcommittee or I may be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dina Titus".

Dina Titus, Chairwoman
Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to
Study the Protection of Natural Treasures

DT/kg:W62957

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September 15, 2006

Douglas G. Smith, *Chairman*
Scenic Nevada
Post Office Box 32
Reno, Nevada 89504

Dear Mr. Smith:

The Nevada Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study the Protection of Natural Treasures (Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 35 [File No. 101, *Statutes of Nevada 2005*]) recently completed its work for the 2005-2006 legislative interim period. The Subcommittee considered a broad range of issues relating to the protection of Nevada's natural treasures.

During the legislative interim, the Subcommittee received very positive information regarding the activities and programs of Scenic Nevada. In particular, the Subcommittee received testimony regarding the Nevada LAST CHANCE Scenic Places program, which showcases the State's most beautiful and most at-risk sites. According to testimony, Nevada has many special places of beauty or distinctive character that are at risk of being lost due to neglect, insufficient funds, or inappropriate development. We understand that Scenic Nevada will develop and distribute individualized press releases for each of the LAST CHANCE Scenic Places selected this year.

At our last meeting in June 2006, the Subcommittee voted to send you this letter requesting that Scenic Nevada submit, on or before January 31, 2007, a report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for distribution to the 74th Session of the Nevada Legislature. The report should include a list of the Nevada LAST CHANCE Scenic Places, which were selected by Scenic Nevada, and a copy of its brochure. The Subcommittee greatly appreciates your continued efforts to protect our State's natural treasures.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if the Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study the Protection of Natural Treasures or I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dina Titus".

Dina Titus, *Chairwoman*
Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to
Study the Protection of Natural Treasures

DT/kg:W62956

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November 30, 2006

Pamela B. Wilcox
Administrator and State Land Registrar
Division of State Lands
State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 5003
Carson City, Nevada 89701-5246

Dear Ms. Wilcox:

The Nevada Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study the Protection of Natural Treasures (Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 35 [File No. 101, *Statutes of Nevada 2005*]) was charged with making recommendations in the best interests of future generations of Nevadans by balancing the needs of our growing population with the protection of our natural treasures. After considering a broad range of issues relating to the protection and maintenance of Nevada's natural treasures, the Subcommittee has completed its work for the 2005-2006 legislative interim.

One of the topics the Subcommittee considered was construction of the Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway trail, which follows the Truckee River from its source at Lake Tahoe to its desert terminus at Pyramid Lake. As you are aware, the Truckee River corridor is one of our State's natural treasures, which is culturally, environmentally, and historically rich. When completed, the Bikeway trail will descend approximately 2,000 feet over 116 miles, using a combination of existing dirt and paved roads, plus some new trails and bridges. In addition to recreational features, trail users will enjoy the vast and diverse landscape that has always been one of Nevada's most prized attributes. Once the Bikeway is completed, the Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway organization plans to turn ownership of the trail over to local governmental entities for maintenance and operation.

As you are aware, the Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway organization plans to construct portions of the Bikeway along the Emigrant Trail so that the path will be directly adjacent to the Truckee River. The Subcommittee was pleased to learn that the organization applied for and received funding under Question 1 to build a pedestrian bridge at Pioneer Crossing.

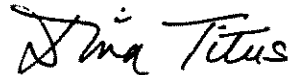
Pamela B. Wilcox
Page 2
November 30, 2006

Unfortunately, issues have arisen regarding building the bridge, which has put the project on hold. Additionally, Subcommittee members heard that local governments and private property owners have declined to grant access to portions of their land directly along the Truckee River.

Members of the Subcommittee understand the challenge of making decisions in the best interest of future Nevadans as land-use pressures grow; however, by supporting responsible projects such as the Bikeway trail, we can ensure that valuable natural resources continue to successfully coexist alongside existing development and that Nevadans are able to responsibly enjoy and protect the State's natural resources. Therefore, at its final meeting in June 2006, the Subcommittee voted to send you this letter urging the Division of State Lands to cooperate with the Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway organization as it constructs the bike trail. Additionally, the Subcommittee encourages the State of Nevada to take ownership of portions of the Bikeway, once completed, where the city or county is unable to do so.

I know the Subcommittee members would appreciate your attention to this very important matter. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if the Subcommittee or I may be of any assistance to you.

Sincerely,



Dina Titus, Chairwoman
Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to
Study the Protection of Natural Treasures

DT/kg:W62962-1
cc: Janet R. Carson, President, Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway
Debbie Shosteck, Legal Counsel, Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway

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November 30, 2006

Milton D. Glick, Ph.D., President
University of Nevada, Reno
Office of the President/001
Reno, Nevada 89557-0001

Dear Dr. Glick:

The Nevada Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study the Protection of Natural Treasures (Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 35 [File No. 101, *Statutes of Nevada 2005*]) was charged with making recommendations in the best interests of future generations of Nevadans by balancing the needs of our growing population with the protection of our natural treasures. After considering a broad range of issues relating to the protection and maintenance of Nevada's natural treasures, the Subcommittee has now completed its work for the 2005-2006 legislative interim.

One of the topics the Subcommittee considered was the Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway, which follows the Truckee River from its source at Lake Tahoe to its desert terminus at Pyramid Lake. As you are aware, the Truckee River corridor is one of our State's natural treasures, which is culturally, environmentally, and historically rich. When completed, the Bikeway trail will descend approximately 2,000 feet over 116 miles, using a combination of existing dirt and paved roads, plus some new trails and bridges. In addition to scenic features, trail users will enjoy the vast and diverse landscape that has always been one of Nevada's most prized attributes.

During the interim meetings, the Subcommittee learned that portions of the proposed Bikeway trail will be constructed on property owned by the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). However, UNR has expressed concern that access from its property to a permanent bicycle trail along the Truckee River may compromise the integrity of existing structures. As you are aware, the majority of the Truckee River can be accessed only from Interstate 80; therefore, this portion of the proposed Bikeway route on UNR's property, which is directly adjacent to the Truckee River, will allow users of the trail direct access to the River's natural features.

Milton D. Glick
Page 2
November 30, 2006

Members of the Subcommittee understand the challenge of making decisions in the best interest of future Nevadans as land-use pressures grow; however, by supporting responsible projects such as the Bikeway, we can ensure that valuable natural resources continue to successfully coexist alongside existing development. Therefore, at its final meeting in June 2006, the Subcommittee voted to send you this letter urging UNR to reconsider allowing the Bikeway organization to construct a path that traverses the S-S Ranch and proceeds directly adjacent to the Truckee River.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if the Subcommittee or I may be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dina Titus", written in a cursive style.

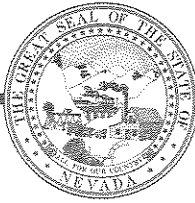
Dina Titus, Chairwoman
Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to
Study the Protection of Natural Treasures

DT/kg:W62962

cc: Janet R. Carson, President, Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway
Debbie Shosteck, Legal Counsel, Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway

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December 19, 2006

Janet Carson, President
Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway
4790 Caughlin Parkway, No. 138
Reno, Nevada 89509

Dear Ms. Carson:

The Nevada Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study the Protection of Natural Treasures (Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 35 [File No. 101, *Statutes of Nevada 2005*]) was charged with making recommendations in the best interests of future generations of Nevadans by balancing the needs of our growing population with the protection of our natural treasures. After considering a broad range of issues relating to the protection and maintenance of Nevada's natural treasures, the Subcommittee has completed its work for the 2005-2006 legislative interim.

One of the topics the Subcommittee considered was the Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway trail. Members learned that when completed, the trail will descend approximately 2,000 feet over 116 miles and follow the Truckee River from its source at Lake Tahoe to its desert terminus at Pyramid Lake. In addition to recreational features, trail users will enjoy the vast and diverse landscape that has always been one of Nevada's most prized attributes. Members of the Subcommittee believe that the Truckee River corridor is one of Nevada's many natural treasures that should be used and explored by residents and visitors of our State. Therefore, at its final meeting in June 2006, the Subcommittee voted to send you this letter supporting the construction of the Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway.

I know the Subcommittee members look forward to seeing this project completed. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if the Subcommittee or I may be of any assistance to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dina Titus".

Dina Titus, Chairwoman
Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to
Study the Protection of Natural Treasures

DT/kg:W62962-2
cc: Debbie Shosteck, Legal Counsel, Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway

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September 15, 2006

Lorraine T. Hunt
Lieutenant Governor and Chair
Commission on Tourism
401 North Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Ms. ^{Lorraine}Hunt:

The Nevada Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study the Protection of Natural Treasures (Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 35 [File No. 101, *Statutes of Nevada 2005*]) recently completed its work for the 2005-2006 legislative interim period. The Subcommittee considered a broad range of issues relating to the protection and maintenance of Nevada's natural treasures.

At each meeting, the Subcommittee heard presentations concerning our State's natural treasures. Based on testimony, we learned that visitors may enjoy a wide range of recreational activities, cultural and historical sites, and pristine environmental areas that include rugged snow-capped mountains, towering alpine forests, deep azure lakes, rocky cliffs, dramatic canyons, unexpected sand dunes, and whitewater rivers. Moreover, Nevada is home to many plant and animal species found nowhere else in the nation, such as the threatened and endangered pupfish located at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge.

Tourists visiting Nevada have an opportunity to visit diverse areas such as Cathedral Gorge, Mount Charleston, Ruby Mountains, Walker Lake, and Wheeler Peak. Other states cannot match the diversity of these areas. The Subcommittee believes it is important for the State of Nevada, each of Nevada's counties, and every local Convention and Visitors Authority to promote these unrivaled natural resources.

Therefore, at our final meeting in June 2006, the Subcommittee voted to send you this letter urging the Commission on Tourism, the Division of Tourism of the Commission on Tourism, the Division of State Parks of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, each Board of County Commissioners, and every local Convention and Visitors Authorities to work together and include in their tourism program support for and information to attract visitors to each of Nevada's natural treasures. Each of these agencies and organizations already has the tools and knowledge to encourage tourists to visit our natural treasures. A shared commitment making tourists aware of these areas will foster economic development statewide and ensure quality recreation experiences in our State's natural setting.



Lorraine T. Hunt
Page 2
September 15, 2006

The Subcommittee appreciates your continued hard work in promoting the unspoiled beauty of our natural treasures and State parks. Enclosed is a copy of S.C.R. 35 for your information. As always, please contact me if the Subcommittee or I may be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dina Titus".

Dina Titus, Chairwoman

Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to
Study the Protection of Natural Treasures

DT/kg:W63739
cc: See Attached Distribution List
Enc.

Distribution List:

Lorraine T. Hunt, Lieutenant Governor, Chair, Commission on Tourism
Bruce Bommarito, Executive Director, Division of Tourism
David K. Morrow, Administrator, Division of State Parks
Marv Teixeira, Mayor, Carson City
Gwen Washburn, Chairperson, Churchill County Board of Commissioners
Rory Reid, Chairman, Clark County Board of Commissioners
James Baushke, Chairman, Douglas County Board of Commissioners
Warren Russell, Chairman, Elko County Board of Commissioners
R.J. Gillum, Chairman, Esmeralda County Board of Commissioners
Donna Bailey, Chairwoman, Eureka County Board of Commissioners
John H. Milton III, Chairman, Humboldt County Board of Commissioners
Steven Stienmetz, Chairman, Lander County Board of Commissioners
George T. "Tommy" Rowe, Chairman, Lincoln County Board of Commissioners
Bob Milz, Chairman, Lyon County Board of Commissioners
Richard Bryant, Chairman, Mineral County Board of Commissioners
Gary Hollis, Chairman, Nye County Board of Commissioners
Darin Bloyed, Chairman, Pershing County Board of Commissioners
John Flanagan, Chairman, Storey County Board of Commissioners
Robert Larkin, Chairman, Washoe County Board of Commissioners
Brent Eldridge, Chairman, White Pine County Board of Commissioners
Candace Duncan, Executive Director, Carson City Convention and Visitors Bureau
Skip Sayre, Executive Director, Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Authority
Don Newman, Executive Director, Elko Convention and Visitors Authority
Rick Gray, Executive Director, Fallon Convention and Tourism Authority
Marie Acosta, Director of Cultural Arts and Tourism, Henderson Convention Center and Visitors Bureau
William Hoffman, Executive Director, Incline Village and Crystal Bay Visitors and Convention Bureau
Patrick J. Kaler, Executive Director, Lake Tahoe Visitors Authority
Rossi Ralenkotter, President and CEO, Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority
Ellen Oppenheim, President and CEO, Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority
James Eason, Town Manager, Town of Tonopah, Tonopah Convention Center
Chris Melville, City Manager, City of West Wendover, West Wendover Tourism and Convention Bureau
Ed Spear, Executive Director, White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board
Kim Petersen, Executive Director, Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Authority

APPENDIX C

Suggested Legislation

The following bill draft requests will be available during the 2007 Legislative Session, or can be accessed after “Introduction” at the following Web site: <http://www.leg.state.nv.us/74th/BDRList/page.cfm?showAll=1>

- BDR 40-209:** Requires the Adoption of Regulations Concerning the Handling And Storage of Large Quantities of Mercury In Nevada.
- BDR 33-210:** Creates Office of State Paleontologist.
- BDR 43-211:** Requires Reduced Maximum Weight Limit for Vehicles Traveling on Certain Scenic Routes.
- BDR 3-212:** Makes Various Changes Concerning Liability of Landowners, Lessees and Occupants to Persons Using Premises for Recreational Activities.
- BDR R-213:** Recognizes May as Archeological Awareness and Historic Preservation Month.