

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 19, 2014

## PRESS RELEASE

Legislative Committee on Public Lands (NRS 218E.510)

Date: Monday, March 24, 2014  
Time: 10 a.m.  
Place: Winnemucca Convention and Visitors  
Authority  
West Hall Facility  
50 West Winnemucca Boulevard  
Winnemucca, Nevada

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### PUBLIC LANDS COMMITTEE TO MEET IN WINNEMUCCA

Assemblyman Paul Aizley is pleased to announce that Nevada's Legislative Committee on Public Lands will hold its second meeting of the 2013-2014 Legislative Interim at the Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Authority in Winnemucca on Monday, March 24, at 10 a.m. An agenda accompanies this news release.

**"The Committee is excited to be back in Humboldt County to hear about issues that affect this part of the State."** said Aizley, Chairman of the Committee. The meeting will begin with updates from the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service on agency activities and planning efforts in north-central Nevada.

The agenda includes a review of a drought environmental assessment being conducted by the BLM. The assessment involves an analysis of grazing activity across northern Nevada. **"The ongoing assessment may result in significant changes in grazing allotments on federal land in the year ahead,"** noted Aizley. **"The proposals being considered will likely impact the region's cattle industry."**

Also on the agenda are reports regarding fire suppression activities and planning efforts for the coming fire season. **"We are very excited to hear from State Forester Pete Anderson, the Wildfire Support Group, and from BLM and USFS staff,"** noted Aizley. **"As we suffer through a third straight year of drought, the risk for large scale wild land fires is as high as ever. Firefighting agencies throughout Nevada need to collaborate and pool resources to effectively manage what is shaping up to be a very dangerous fire season."**

This meeting provides a forum for the Committee and the public to learn about what measures are being taken to plan for and alleviate the risk of wild land fires this summer.

**Also on the agenda is a discussion of land ownership issues in the I-80 corridor. “Thousands of acres of land along the I-80 corridor are owned and managed in a checkerboard pattern. This ownership pattern creates unique land management challenges both for private and public land owners,”** said Aizley. To address the issue, presenters representing private and public interests will review the challenges they face in managing and developing land with limited access and, at times, conflicting land use policies.

The agenda also includes an update and review of the activities of the State Department of Agriculture and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. **“These agencies provide vital services to the State’s agricultural industry, particularly in north-central Nevada”** said Aizley. Jim Barbee, Director of the Department and Bruce Petersen, State Conservationist, are scheduled to provide a review of the programs administered by each agency.

Finally, the Committee will receive an update from the Pershing County Water Conservation District on their activities, as well as a review of water issues pertaining to mining, pit lakes, and underground pumping.

The Public Lands Committee was created in 1983 as a permanent Committee of the Nevada Legislature. Its purposes are to review and comment on federal land management policies and practices and to provide a forum for the discussion of public lands matters. The Committee holds meetings throughout Nevada during the interim period between sessions of the Nevada Legislature and looks to local governments and residents to provide information that may be used for future legislation or other legislative actions.

The other members of the Public Lands Committee are Senator Aaron D. Ford (D-Las Vegas); Senator Pete Goicoechea (R-Eureka); Senator Donald G. Gustavson (R-Sparks); Senator David R. Parks (D-Las Vegas); Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton (D-Las Vegas); Assemblyman John Ellison (R-Elko); Assemblyman Ira Hansen (R-Sparks); and Clark County Commissioner Tom Collins.

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**MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA**

Name of Organization: Legislative Committee on Public Lands  
(*Nevada Revised Statutes* [NRS] 218E.510)

Date and Time of Meeting: Monday, March 24, 2014  
10 a.m.

Place of Meeting: Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Authority  
West Hall Facility  
50 West. Winnemucca Boulevard.  
Winnemucca, Nevada

Note: Minutes of this meeting will be produced in summary format. Please provide the secretary with electronic or written copies of testimony and visual presentations if you wish to have complete versions included as exhibits with the minutes.

**Note:** Items on this agenda may be taken in a different order than listed. Two or more agenda items may be combined for consideration. An item may be removed from this agenda or discussion relating to an item on this agenda may be delayed at any time.

I. Opening Remarks

II. Public Comment  
(Because of time considerations, the period for public comment by each speaker may be limited, and speakers are urged to avoid repetition of comments made by previous speakers.)

*For  
Possible  
Action*

III. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting Held on February 5, 2014, in Las Vegas, Nevada

*For  
Possible  
Action*

IV. Update on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Programs and Activities in the Winnemucca BLM District  
Gene Seidlitz, District Manager, Winnemucca District Office, BLM,  
United States Department of Interior (DOI)

*For  
Possible  
Action*

V. Update on U.S. Forest Service Activities in the Santa Rosa Ranger District  
Duncan Leao, District Ranger, Santa Rosa Ranger District,  
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, U.S. Department of  
Agriculture (USDA)

*For  
Possible  
Action*

VI. Review of Land Ownership Issues With Respect to Checkerboard Land Distribution Along the Interstate 80 Corridor  
Donald A. Pattalock, President, New Nevada Resources, LLC  
Gene Seidlitz, District Manager, Winnemucca District Office, BLM,  
DOI

*For  
Possible  
Action*

VII. Overview of the Programs and Activities of the Pershing County Water Conservation District and Review of Water Issues Relating to Mining, Pit Lakes, and Underground Pumping  
Benny Hodges, Executive Director, Pershing County Water  
Conservation District



*For  
Possible  
Action*

- VIII. Update and Overview of the BLM's Drought Environmental Assessment  
Raul Morales, Deputy State Director, Natural Resource, Land,  
and Planning, Nevada State Office, BLM, DOI

*For  
Possible  
Action*

- IX. Review of Fire Suppression Programs and Efforts for the 2014 Fire Season  
Pete Anderson, State Forester Firewarden, Nevada Division of  
Forestry, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
Gene Seidlitz, District Manager, Winnemucca District Office, BLM,  
DOI  
Russell Bird, Forest Fire Management Officer, Humboldt-Toiyabe  
National Forest, USDOA  
Mel Hummel, President, Winnemucca Wildfire Support Group, Inc.

*For  
Possible  
Action*

- X. Review of Agriculture and Grazing Activities and Related Issues on Public  
Lands in Nevada  
Jim R. Barbee, Director, State Department of Agriculture  
Bruce Petersen, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation  
Service, USDA

- XI. Public Comment  
(Because of time considerations, the period for public comment by each speaker may  
be limited, and speakers are urged to avoid repetition of comments made by previous  
speakers.)

- XII. Adjournment

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Note: We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements for the meeting are necessary, please notify the Research Division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, in writing, at the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747, or call the Research Division at (775) 684-6825 as soon as possible.

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Notice of this meeting was posted in the following Carson City, Nevada, locations: Blasdel Building, 209 East Musser Street; Capitol Press Corps, Basement, Capitol Building; City Hall, 201 North Carson Street; Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street; and Nevada State Library, 100 North Stewart Street. Notice of this meeting was faxed or e-mailed for posting to the following Las Vegas, Nevada, locations: Clark County Government Center, 500 South Grand Central Parkway; and Capitol Police, Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue. Notice of this meeting was e-mailed for posting to the following Winnemucca, Nevada, location: Winnemucca Convention and Visitors Authority, West Hall Facility, 50 West Winnemucca Boulevard. Notice of this meeting was posted on the Internet through the Nevada Legislature's website at [www.leg.state.nv.us](http://www.leg.state.nv.us).

Supporting public material provided to Committee members for this meeting may be requested from Natalie J. Pieretti, Committee Secretary, Research Division of the Legislative Counsel Bureau at (775) 684-6825 and is/will be available at the following locations: Meeting locations and the Nevada Legislature's website at [www.leg.state.nv.us](http://www.leg.state.nv.us).