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ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3—COMMITTEE  
ON NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND MINING

(ON BEHALF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS)

FEBRUARY 9, 2011

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Referred to Committee on Natural Resources,  
Agriculture, and Mining

SUMMARY—Urges proactive protection and restoration of the  
population and habitat of the greater sage grouse in  
Nevada. (BDR R-214)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

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ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Urging proactive  
protection and restoration of the population and habitat of  
the greater sage grouse in Nevada.

1 WHEREAS, The status of the population and habitat of the  
2 species of wild bird known as the greater sage grouse has been  
3 extensively considered in recent years throughout the natural range  
4 of the greater sage grouse, which includes the states of California,  
5 Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, South  
6 Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming; and

7 WHEREAS, In the past, significant efforts have been made by  
8 numerous governmental agencies and conservation groups to  
9 address the issue of the possible listing of the greater sage grouse as  
10 an endangered or threatened species under the Endangered Species  
11 Act of 1973, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1531 et seq.; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2005, the Nevada Legislature adopted Senate  
13 Concurrent Resolution No. 15, File No. 48, Statutes of Nevada  
14 2005, at page 3022, in which the efforts of those agencies and  
15 groups were recognized and all persons involved were encouraged  
16 to contribute their efforts to maintain their successful strategies to  
17 ensure that greater sage grouse populations and habitat could be  
18 restored and an ecological crisis averted; and



1 WHEREAS, On March 23, 2010, after extensive litigation, the  
2 United States Fish and Wildlife Service issued its findings  
3 concerning the status of the population and habitat of the greater  
4 sage grouse; and

5 WHEREAS, In those findings, the United States Fish and Wildlife  
6 Service indicated that both the rangewide population of the greater  
7 sage grouse and a distinct population segment of the greater sage  
8 grouse located in portions of California and Nevada warranted  
9 listing as an endangered or threatened species, but the listing was  
10 currently precluded because of the listing of other species having a  
11 higher priority; and

12 WHEREAS, Although the greater sage grouse has been  
13 designated as a candidate species, the United States Fish and  
14 Wildlife Service has indicated it will continue to monitor the status  
15 of the greater sage grouse to determine whether that designation or  
16 level of priority should be changed; and

17 WHEREAS, The Natural Resources Conservation Service of the  
18 United States Department of Agriculture maintains several programs  
19 to provide limited federal assistance to owners of land who wish to  
20 join in efforts to conserve habitat for wildlife, including the Wildlife  
21 Habitat Incentive Program, which provides up to 75 percent cost-  
22 sharing assistance to improve fish and wildlife habitat, and the  
23 Environmental Quality Incentives Program, which offers financial  
24 and technical assistance to eligible farmers, ranchers and  
25 landowners to install or carry out approved conservation practices  
26 on eligible agricultural land; and

27 WHEREAS, In 2004, the *Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation*  
28 *Plan for Nevada and Eastern California* was published under the  
29 direction of former Governor Guinn, which contained an assessment  
30 of greater sage grouse populations in Nevada, the risks facing those  
31 populations, strategies to reduce those risks and methods to carry  
32 out and monitor the effectiveness of those strategies; and

33 WHEREAS, Acquiring and maintaining sufficient sources of  
34 money and other funding to carry out the *Greater Sage-Grouse*  
35 *Conservation Plan for Nevada and Eastern California* and other  
36 federal, state and local programs to assist in conserving wildlife  
37 habitat and creating projects to ensure the health and habitat of the  
38 greater sage grouse throughout its natural range is absolutely  
39 essential to prevent the listing of the greater sage grouse as an  
40 endangered or threatened species; now, therefore, be it

41 RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE  
42 SENATE CONCURRING, That the members of the 76th Session of the  
43 Nevada Legislature hereby urge each state and local governmental  
44 agency, each user of public lands, each member of a conservation  
45 group and any other person who is involved in activities to improve



1 the population of the greater sage grouse and to prevent the greater  
2 sage grouse from being listed as an endangered or threatened  
3 species to engage in those activities in a positive and proactive  
4 manner to ensure the protection and restoration of the population  
5 and habitat of the greater sage grouse and to mitigate any future  
6 damage to that habitat and population in Nevada; and be it further

7       RESOLVED, That the members of the 76th Session of the Nevada  
8 Legislature hereby recognize the need for acquiring and maintaining  
9 sources of money and other funding to assist in the efforts to protect  
10 and restore the habitat and population of the greater sage grouse and  
11 encourage all persons involved to continue in their efforts to acquire  
12 and use those sources of money and other funding for that purpose;  
13 and be it further

14       RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and  
15 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Governor, the Director of  
16 the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the  
17 University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and the Director of the  
18 Department of Wildlife for distribution to the conservation groups  
19 which have participated in the effort to prevent the greater sage  
20 grouse from being listed as an endangered or threatened species.

