
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 12–
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

MARCH 28, 2011

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Expresses opposition to the designation of certain public lands as Wild Lands and urges the Secretary of the Interior to rescind the order requiring that designation. (BDR R-1113)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Expressing opposition to the designation of certain public lands as Wild Lands and urging the Secretary of the Interior to rescind the order requiring that designation.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 On December 23, 2010, the Secretary of the Interior issued a secretarial order
2 directing the Bureau of Land Management to designate certain areas of public lands
3 with wilderness characteristics as “Wild Lands” and to manage them to protect
4 their wilderness characteristics. (Secretarial Order No. 3310) This resolution
5 expresses opposition to the required designation of Wild Lands for public lands
6 because that designation restricts the use of certain public lands in Nevada. This
7 resolution further urges the Secretary of the Interior to rescind his order requiring
8 the designation of Wild Lands and urges Congress to support the continued
9 multiple use of public lands in the West.

1 WHEREAS, The management of the public lands in Nevada and
2 in the Western United States for multiple uses is necessary for
3 economic stability, is critical to the future of this State and is an
4 important part of the culture and heritage of this State; and

5 WHEREAS, Prudent application of sustainable principles for
6 multiple use allows the State’s renewable and abundant natural
7 resources to be of value to all, while protecting the many unique and
8 sensitive parts of this State; and



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1 WHEREAS, The multiple-use management of the lands
2 administered by the Bureau of Land Management in this State has
3 contributed to the well-being of this State and the nation through the
4 development of energy and minerals, the production of food and
5 fiber, the preservation of habitat and native species and the
6 provision of recreational opportunities; and

7 WHEREAS, The economies of Nevada's rural counties are
8 heavily reliant on activities which are conducted on lands
9 administered by the Bureau of Land Management; and

10 WHEREAS, The Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 established the legal
11 obligation and responsibility of the Federal Government to
12 safeguard livestock grazing rights on public land as part of the
13 cultural and social fabric of the West; and

14 WHEREAS, Generations of economically viable livestock
15 grazing operations in Nevada have been forged by families
16 combining private and public land resources that contribute to local
17 economies and are the catalyst for preserving open space in many
18 rapidly developing areas; and

19 WHEREAS, Management of the unreserved federal lands
20 administered by the Department of the Interior is required under the
21 Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 to be incorporated
22 consistently into agency management plans in partnership with state
23 and local planning agencies; and

24 WHEREAS, On December 23, 2010, the Secretary of the Interior
25 issued Secretarial Order No. 3310, directing the Bureau of Land
26 Management to inventory and designate lands with wilderness
27 characteristics under a new agency definition of "Wild Lands" and
28 diverting funds from critical agency needs; and

29 WHEREAS, The Bureau of Land Management has inventoried
30 lands with wilderness characteristics as part of the agency's
31 Resource Management Planning process, pursuant to the
32 requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; and

33 WHEREAS, Secretarial Order No. 3310 seeks to establish a new
34 level of land designation in Nevada and throughout the West based
35 on the new definition of Wild Lands; and

36 WHEREAS, The revised guidance provided by Secretarial Order
37 No. 3310 grants the Bureau of Land Management broader authority
38 to restrict energy development, livestock grazing, mineral extraction
39 and recreational activities; and

40 WHEREAS, The active management of public lands in Nevada
41 contributes to the health and biodiversity of the resources of this
42 State, and potential designation of those lands as Wild Lands could
43 jeopardize that active management, leading to resource degradation,
44 creating unnecessary duplication of existing wilderness designations



1 and increasing the complexity of the permitting process for all users
2 of public lands; and

3 WHEREAS, Jobs generated through the multiple use of public
4 lands are well-paying jobs which sustain many families in this State
5 and are the economic backbone of Nevada's rural communities;
6 now, therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
8 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 76th Session of the
9 Nevada Legislature hereby urge the Secretary of the Interior to
10 rescind Secretarial Order No. 3310; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That those members of the Nevada Legislature
12 hereby urge Congress to honor the long-standing commitment it has
13 made to managing the multiple use of public lands in Nevada and
14 the Western United States; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and
16 transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United
17 States, the Vice President of the United States as the presiding
18 officer of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of
19 Representatives, each member of the Nevada Congressional
20 Delegation, the Secretary of the Interior and the Director of the
21 Bureau of Land Management; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon
23 passage.

