
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5—
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

(ON BEHALF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS)

FEBRUARY 10, 2011

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Expresses opposition to certain proposed actions concerning wild horse and burro herds on federal public lands in Nevada and urges Congress to take certain actions concerning those herds. (BDR R-215)

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 certain proposed actions concerning wild horse and burro herds on federal public lands in Nevada and urging Congress to take certain actions concerning those herds.

- 1 WHEREAS, The Federal Government manages and controls
2 approximately 87 percent of the land in Nevada, much of it being
3 rangelands populated with herds of wild horses and burros; and
4 WHEREAS, Those rangelands are subject to multiple uses,
5 including livestock grazing, hunting, wildlife viewing and other
6 recreation, and as such, a healthy rangeland is vital to the economic
7 well-being of Nevada; and
8 WHEREAS, The populations of wild horses and burros, if left
9 unmanaged, double approximately every 5 years, threatening the
10 rangelands with overgrazing and placing increased pressure on the
11 ability of the rangelands to support livestock grazing and existing
12 native species of both plants and animals; and
13 WHEREAS, Wild horses and burros are not indigenous species in
14 the rangelands but were introduced by humans, and it is thus the



1 responsibility of humans to manage the populations of wild horses
2 and burros in the rangelands; and

3 WHEREAS, Pursuant to the provisions of the Wild Free-Roaming
4 Horses and Burros Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1331 et seq., the Secretary of
5 the Interior is required to manage wild free-roaming horses and
6 burros in a manner that is designed to achieve and maintain a
7 thriving natural ecological balance on the public lands and to
8 determine appropriate management levels of wild free-roaming
9 horses and burros in a given area in such a manner as to preserve
10 and maintain a thriving natural ecological balance and multiple-use
11 relationship in that area; now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
13 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 76th Session of the
14 Nevada Legislature hereby express opposition to any proposed
15 expansion of wild horse and burro herd management areas within
16 Nevada and to the creation of any wild horse and burro preserves on
17 public lands in Nevada; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That the members of the Nevada Legislature hereby
19 express opposition to any amendments to the Wild Free-Roaming
20 Horses and Burros Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1331 et seq., that would, if
21 enacted, allow any growth of wild horse and burro herds in Nevada,
22 allow the expansion of wild horse and burro herd management areas
23 in Nevada, allow the creation of wild horse and burro preserves on
24 public lands in Nevada or in any other way negatively impact
25 Nevada; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the members of the Nevada Legislature hereby
27 urge Congress to take steps necessary to ensure that the Secretary of
28 the Interior complies with existing laws and regulations relating to
29 wild horses and burros; and be it further

30 RESOLVED, That in complying with those laws and regulations,
31 the Bureau of Land Management is hereby urged to manage the
32 rangelands in Nevada in a manner which ensures the increased
33 health and availability of those rangelands for multiple uses; and be
34 it further

35 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and
36 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United
37 States as the presiding officer of the United States Senate, the
38 Speaker of the House of Representatives, each member of the
39 Nevada Congressional Delegation, the Secretary of the Interior and
40 the Director of the Bureau of Land Management; and be it further

41 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon
42 passage.

