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ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4—  
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

(ON BEHALF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE  
ON PUBLIC LANDS)

FEBRUARY 24, 2021

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Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Urges Congress to designate certain land in Spring Valley as a National Heritage Area. (BDR R-467)

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.

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ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging the Congress of the United States of America to designate certain land containing swamp cedars in Spring Valley as a National Heritage Area.

1 WHEREAS, The Spring Valley population of Rocky Mountain  
2 junipers (*Juniperus scopulorum*) known as swamp cedars, are sacred  
3 to the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation, the Ely  
4 Shoshone Tribe and the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe and are part of  
5 their spiritual and cultural practices; and

6 WHEREAS, The Bahsahwahbee, the Newe word for the location  
7 of the swamp cedars in Spring Valley, has been a meeting place for  
8 intertribal gatherings since time immemorial; and

9 WHEREAS, The swamp cedar trees are believed to be the  
10 spiritual embodiment of tribal ancestors who were killed during  
11 three separate massacres at Bahsahwahbee and the Tribes use the  
12 swamp cedar trees in their ceremonial practices; and

13 WHEREAS, The spiritual and cultural heritage of the Tribes  
14 would be irreparably damaged without the swamp cedar trees; and

15 WHEREAS, The swamp cedar trees in Spring Valley are a rare  
16 occurrence of Rocky Mountain junipers and may be on their way to



1 becoming a new species because the trees grow at a low elevation  
2 and depend on a unique perched water table; and

3 WHEREAS, The swamp cedars are at risk of extinction due to  
4 groundwater pumping and drought; now, therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
6 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That members of the 81st Session of the  
7 Nevada Legislature hereby urge the Congress of the United States of  
8 America to designate the land in Spring Valley that contains the  
9 swamp cedar trees as a National Heritage Area; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and  
11 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United  
12 States as the presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the  
13 House of Representatives and each member of the Nevada  
14 Congressional Delegation; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon  
16 passage.

