ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 4—
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

(ON BEHALF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
ON PUBLIC LANDS)

FEBRUARY 24, 2021

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.

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 junipers (Juniperus scopulorum) known as swamp cedars, are sacred to the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation, the Ely Shoshone Tribe and the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe and are part of their spiritual and cultural practices; and
2 WHEREAS, The Bahsahwahbee, the Newe word for the location of the swamp cedars in Spring Valley, has been a meeting place for intertribal gatherings since time immemorial; and
3 WHEREAS, The swamp cedar trees are believed to be the spiritual embodiment of tribal ancestors who were killed during three separate massacres at Bahsahwahbee and the Tribes use the swamp cedar trees in their ceremonial practices; and
4 WHEREAS, The spiritual and cultural heritage of the Tribes would be irreparably damaged without the swamp cedar trees; and
5 WHEREAS, The swamp cedar trees in Spring Valley are a rare occurrence of Rocky Mountain junipers and may be on their way to
becoming a new species because the trees grow at a low elevation and depend on a unique perched water table; and

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.