

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 4—Committee on
Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining

FILE NUMBER.....

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service to assist the State of Nevada with the prevention and suppression of wildfires and repeat wildfires in this State.

WHEREAS, The State of Nevada is one of the states that is greatly affected by wildfires; and

WHEREAS, The wildfires in Nevada have burned vast areas of this State, including numerous acres of rangeland and forest located on public lands managed and controlled by the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service; and

WHEREAS, The growth of an invasive, nonnative annual grass known as cheatgrass has been a significant contributing factor to the increased extent and frequency of wildfires in this State; and

WHEREAS, Frequent wildfires and the increased presence of cheatgrass have degraded the ecosystem in this State by inhibiting the establishment of native plant species and increasing the highly volatile fuel load of the nonnative cheatgrass, which substantially increases the chance of a repeat wildfire in the same area; and

WHEREAS, A repeat wildfire in the same area is often more devastating to the ecosystem of the rangeland than the first wildfire; and

WHEREAS, In addition to burning rangeland and forest which support multiple uses, the frequent wildfires have damaged wildlife habitats, including the habitat of the sage grouse, a bird whose populations have been declining for years, and have caused a rise in the costs associated with wildfire suppression and the rehabilitation of those public lands affected by the wildfires and repeat wildfires; and

WHEREAS, In a 1,700-acre study conducted by researchers at the University of Nevada, Reno, late-season livestock grazing was shown to reduce the amount of cheatgrass, which could fuel a fire, from 500 pounds per acre to 25 pounds per acre; and

WHEREAS, Among other options to decrease the extent and frequency of wildfires occurring in Nevada, the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service should partner with local agencies and other interested parties and may consider partnering with the livestock industry to determine whether the timing and intensity of increased livestock grazing based on the actual condition of the rangeland and the cheatgrass fuel load would



reduce the frequency of wildfires and repeat wildfires and enhance the overall condition of the rangeland and forest located on public lands in this State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 77th Session of the Nevada Legislature hereby urge the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service to assist the State of Nevada with the prevention and suppression of wildfires and repeat wildfires in this State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, the Chief of the United States Forest Service and the President of the Nevada Cattlemen's Association; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

