
ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION No. 4—COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND MINING

(ON BEHALF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
ON PUBLIC LANDS)

FEBRUARY 20, 2013

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources,
Agriculture, and Mining

SUMMARY—Urges 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. (BDR R-209)

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 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.

- 1 WHEREAS, The State of Nevada is one of the states that is
2 greatly affected by wildfires; and
3 WHEREAS, The wildfires in Nevada have burned vast areas of
4 this State, including numerous acres of rangeland and forest located
5 on public lands managed and controlled by the Bureau of Land
6 Management and the United States Forest Service; and
7 WHEREAS, The growth of an invasive, nonnative annual grass
8 known as cheatgrass has been a significant contributing factor to the
9 increased extent and frequency of wildfires in this State; and
10 WHEREAS, Frequent wildfires and the increased presence of
11 cheatgrass have degraded the ecosystem in this State by inhibiting
12 the establishment of native plant species and increasing the highly



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1 volatile fuel load of the nonnative cheatgrass, which substantially
2 increases the chance of a repeat wildfire in the same area; and

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

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

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

17 WHEREAS, Among other options to decrease the extent and
18 frequency of wildfires occurring in Nevada, the Bureau of Land
19 Management and the United States Forest Service should partner
20 with local agencies and other interested parties and may consider
21 partnering with the livestock industry to determine whether the
22 timing and intensity of increased livestock grazing based on the
23 actual condition of the rangeland and the cheatgrass fuel load would
24 reduce the frequency of wildfires and repeat wildfires and enhance
25 the overall condition of the rangeland and forest located on public
26 lands in this State; now, therefore, be it

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

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

38 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon
39 passage.

