

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS

Nevada Revised Statutes 218E.510

This summary presents the recommendations approved by the Legislative Committee on Public Lands during the 2017–2018 Legislative Interim at the Committee’s final meeting held on September 7, 2018, in Carson City, Nevada. The bill draft requests (BDRs) will be forwarded to the Legislative Commission for transmittal to the 80th Session of the Nevada Legislature.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION

1. Request the drafting of a bill to provide for an interim study regarding the growing wildfire danger and issues in Nevada. Topics to be addressed by the interim study include, but are not limited to, wildfire fuels reduction and early response issues. **(BDR R–509)**
2. Request the drafting of a bill to provide that in the event the Office of the State Engineer, Division of Water Resources, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (SDCNR), issues an order that would curtail existing domestic wells, instead of receiving no water, an owner of an existing domestic well must still be allowed a duty of 0.5 acre feet of water, provided a meter is installed on the well. **(BDR 48–504)**
3. Request the drafting of a resolution supporting [H.R. 4647](#) (Recovering America’s Wildlife Act), 115th Congress, introduced by United States Representative Jeff Fortenberry (R-Nebraska). House Bill 4647 implements the [recommendations](#) of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America’s Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources to provide funding for wildlife conservation as prioritized within state wildlife action plans. **(BDR R–507)**
4. Request the drafting of a bill to require the SDCNR to create, by regulation, a competitive grant program for purpose of providing funds to be used by local communities and conservation groups for the matching of federal funds and provide an appropriation of \$500,000 for that purpose. **(BDR 26–510)**
5. Request the drafting of a bill to require the Office of Historic Preservation, SDCNR, to establish a historic sites passport program. **(BDR 33–505)**
6. Request the drafting of a bill to appropriate funds for five members of the Legislative Committee on Public Lands (including one legislator from each house and party and the local government representative) and one member of its staff to travel to Washington, D.C., and meet with the federal delegation. **(BDR S–508)**
7. Request the drafting of a resolution opposing any potential elimination of the Nevada State Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI). **(BDR R–506)**

8. Request the drafting of a bill revising provisions related to public lands. **(BDR R-511)**
9. Request the drafting of a bill revising provisions related to public lands. **(BDR -512)**
10. Request the drafting of a bill revising provisions related to public lands. **(BDR -513)**

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMITTEE LETTERS

11. Send a letter to the Office of the State Engineer encouraging the Division of Water Resources to complete adjudication of water basins in order to help bring finality to claims to water and reduce conflicts.
12. Send a letter to the federal delegation supporting [H.R. 4647](#) (Recovering America's Wildlife Act), 115th Congress, introduced by United States Representative Jeff Fortenberry (R-Nebraska). H.R. 4647 implements the [recommendations](#) of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Diverse Fish and Wildlife Resources to provide funding for wildlife conservation as prioritized within state wildlife action plans.
13. Send a letter to the Nevada Collaborative Conservation Network indicating the Committee's support of a Nevada policy prioritizing community-based conservation of public lands that integrates local knowledge of natural resources. The purpose of the letter is to underscore the Committee's acknowledgement of the importance of creating and maintaining partnerships between local stakeholders, private landowners, and vested interest groups in collaboration with federal, state, county, local, and private land managers in a shared effort to maintain thriving ecosystems and the associated wildlife, communities, and economies they support.
14. Send a letter to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, and the Governor of the State of Nevada, that recognizes the irreplaceable biological, cultural, recreational, and scenic value of the Ruby Mountains to Nevadans; emphasizes the importance of public involvement in the decision making process; and opposes any leasing of areas within the Ruby Mountains for oil and gas development.
15. Send a letter to the Nevada State Office of the BLM urging it to seek additional resources and staffing for the Ely District Office to implement completed watershed restoration plans. Watershed restoration projects are needed to restore vegetative health, improve wildlife habitat, and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire in various locations within the Ely District.
16. Send a letter to the U.S. Secretary of Energy, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), urging the DOE not to move forward with its proposal to store weapons-grade plutonium at the Nevada National Security Site without fully evaluating the economic, environmental, health, and safety impact on Nevada.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POSITION STATEMENTS IN FINAL REPORT

17. Include a position statement in the final report expressing the Committee's support of efforts to implement landscape scale projects utilizing pinyon-juniper woodland biomass in a way that benefits economic stability, energy production, hydrologic function, rangeland health, and wildlife habitat.
18. Include a position statement in the final report calling for local government land-use plans to be based on identified sustainable water resources and for coordination between local governments and the Office of the State Engineer to assure there is an accurate accounting of water needed for all future land developments.
19. Include a position statement in the final report expressing the Committee's support for the exploration of desalination technology and options as a water resource for Nevada.
20. Include a position statement in the final report expressing the Committee's support for continued funding of cloud seeding activities in Nevada as a longer-term water management tool to enhance snowfall from winter storms and increase the snowpack and runoff water in several rivers across Nevada.
21. Include a position statement in the final report expressing the Committee's support for continued funding for competitive "Drought Initiative" grants administered by the State Department of Agriculture to implement projects that improve water efficiency for agricultural and livestock production including, but not limited to, installing new equipment or technology, implementing best management practices, laser leveling, and riparian improvement (planting soil stabilizers, leaching/run-off control).
22. Include a position statement in the final report expressing the Committee's support of thoughtful examination prior to any retirement of grazing permits on federal land.
23. Include a position statement in the final report encouraging Congress to make payment in lieu of taxes (PILT) a mandatory, fully funded program. The purpose of the statement is to express that the Committee finds that because local governments are unable to tax the property values or products derived from federal lands, PILT payments are necessary to support essential local government services. The provision of services by local governments requires predictable full funding of PILT.