

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS

Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 218E.510

This summary presents the recommendations approved by the Legislative Committee on Public Lands at its meeting on September 22, 2020. The bill draft requests (BDRs) will be forwarded to the Legislative Commission for transmittal to the 81st Session of the Nevada Legislature.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEGISLATION

1. Draft a bill authorizing a board of county commissioners to establish a groundwater board for areas designated as a groundwater basin by the state engineer. Further, county commissions may appoint members to the groundwater board and a groundwater board may only be dissolved by the board of county commissioners. **(BDR 48–462)**
2. Draft a bill to appoint one tribal member to the Legislative Committee on Public Lands. **(BDR 17–463)**
3. Draft a bill to replace the current off-highway vehicle (OHV) registration system with an annual use decal; require out-of-state OHV users and vehicles registered for street use and modified for off-road riding to acquire an annual sticker; and require all OHV users under 16 years of age to wear a helmet on all types of OHVs. **(BDR 43–464)**
4. Draft a bill to provide an exemption to the Open Meeting Law to allow local governments to engage in deliberative and predecisional nonpublic meetings with federal agencies concerning matters related to the National Environmental Policy Act. **(BDR 19–466)**
5. Draft a bill to list the Spring Valley, Nevada, population of the swamp cedar as a protected species of native flora. **(BDR 47–468)**
6. Draft a resolution urging the federal government to protect certain portions of Spring Valley identified as having cultural and historical importance to Native American tribes in the region. **(BDR R–467)**
7. Draft a resolution supporting land sales and transfers of property owned under the [Recreation and Public Purposes Amendment Act of 1988](#) (H.R. 4362, 100th Congress) to local governments and nonprofit agencies where they have constructed and operate public and not-for-profit facilities. **(BDR R–470)**
8. Draft a resolution seeking the transfer of certain federal lands to the State of Nevada for the purpose of supplementing the state’s Permanent School Fund through the addition of school trust lands. **(BDR R–469)**

9. Draft a bill to expand the qualifications for the position of state water engineer to include experience and/or advanced education in geology, hydrology, water resource engineering, and water rights. **(BDR 48–471)**
10. Draft a resolution calling on the United States Congress to provide funding to successfully reduce the number of free-roaming wild horses and burros to appropriate management levels, using nonlethal means, within six years, to protect and restore the health and viability of public lands in Nevada. **(BDR R–465)**

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COMMITTEE ACTION

11. Send a letter to the Division of Forestry, State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), requesting a study of the swamp cedar groves located in Spring Valley, Nevada.
12. Send a letter to the Office of Historic Preservation, DCNR, and the Nevada Natural Heritage Program requesting a review of the historical significance and possible protection of the swamp cedar groves located in Spring Valley.
13. Send a letter expressing the Committee’s support of the Great Basin National Park federal funding requests, particularly funds for maintenance backlogs on public lands, under [H.R. 1957](#) (Great American Outdoors Act) of the 116th Congress, introduced by Representative John Lewis (D-Georgia) and enacted on August 4, 2020.
14. Send a letter to the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Department of the Interior, urging their continued cooperation with state, local, and private land owners to address wildfire in Nevada. Further, request each agency to amplify fire suppression efforts, seek flexible land management options, and increase financial resources available to address the issue.
15. Send a letter to the governor, attorney general (AG), chair of the Senate Committee on Finance, and chair of the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means of the 2021 Legislative Session seeking funds to implement [Senate Bill 456](#) (2015), which urges the AG to take a leadership role in pursuing actions on behalf of the state and counties in formalizing and finalizing title to accessory roads and public roads.
16. Send a letter urging Nevada’s Congressional Delegation to support the BLM’s 2020 report to Congress to seek the removal of excess horses and burros to appropriate management levels within six years.
17. Include a position statement supporting the expansion of current 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.