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MOCK-UP

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3
FIRST REPRINT

PREPARED FOR ASSEMBLY NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND MINING
MAY 6, 2003

PREPARED BY THE RESEARCH DIVISION

**NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT SHOWS PROPOSED AMENDMENTS IN
CONCEPTUAL FORM. THE LANGUAGE AND ITS PLACEMENT IN THE
OFFICIAL AMENDMENT MAY DIFFER.**

EXPLANATION: Matter in (1) *blue bold italics* is new language in the original bill; (2) green bold italic underlining is new language proposed in this amendment; (3) ~~red strikethrough~~ is deleted language in the original bill; (4) ~~green bold double strikethrough~~ is language proposed to be deleted in this amendment and (5) green bold dashed underlining is deleted language in the original bill that is proposed to be retained in this amendment.

1 WHEREAS, The provisions of 16 U.S.C. §§ 1131 et seq., commonly
2 referred to as the Wilderness Act, establish the National Wilderness
3 Preservation System, which consists of areas of federal public land that are
4 designated by Congress as wilderness areas; and

5 WHEREAS, Congress has designated approximately 2 million acres of
6 certain federal public lands in Nevada as wilderness areas; and

7 WHEREAS, A reasonable amount of wilderness provides for a
8 diverse spectrum of recreation opportunities in Nevada, is consistent with
9 tourism, provides a place for Nevadans to escape the pressures of urban
10 growth; and

This language is intended to recognize the value of wilderness, particularly for urban residents.

11 WHEREAS, If an area of federal public land is designated as a
12 wilderness area, it must be managed in a manner that preserves the
13 wilderness character of the area and ensures that the area remains
14 unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as a wilderness area; and

15 WHEREAS, In conjunction with the provisions of the Wilderness Act,
16 the Bureau of Land Management of the Department of the Interior in the
17 late 1970s conducted an initial inventory of approximately 49 million acres
18 of federal public lands in Nevada to determine the suitability of such lands
19 for designation as wilderness areas or identification as wilderness study
20 areas and, in 1980, recommended that approximately 5.1 million acres of
21 those lands be identified as wilderness study areas; and

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ASSEMBLY NATURAL RES., AGRICULTURE & MINING
DATE: 9/7/03 ROOM: 316/ EXHIBIT D-3
SUBMITTED BY: Linda Eissmann

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SJR3_R1

1 WHEREAS, Until a wilderness study area is designated by Congress as
2 a wilderness area or released for multiple use, the wilderness study area
3 must be managed in a manner that does not impair its suitability for
4 preservation as a wilderness area; and

5 WHEREAS, In 1991, the Bureau of Land Management recommended
6 that Congress designate as wilderness areas approximately 1.9 million
7 acres of the 5.1 million acres of wilderness study areas in Nevada and
8 release the remainder of the wilderness study areas for multiple use; and

9 WHEREAS, Although Congress recently enacted the Clark County
10 Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002, Public
11 Law 107-282 (2002), which released approximately 224,000 acres in Clark
12 County from its current status as wilderness study areas, the
13 recommendations made by the Bureau of Land Management in 1991 have
14 largely not been acted upon by Congress, and the Bureau continues to
15 manage approximately 3.86 million acres of federal public lands in Nevada
16 identified as wilderness study areas; and

17 WHEREAS, It is important that decisions concerning whether to
18 designate wilderness study areas as wilderness areas or release those areas
19 for multiple use are made in a timely manner without any unnecessary
20 delays as the identification of federal public lands as wilderness study
21 areas imposes significant restrictions on the management and use of those
22 lands; and

23 WHEREAS, It is also important to protect the ecological health and
24 existing and potential economic and recreational benefits of wilderness
25 areas and wilderness study areas in this state by using reasonable and
26 effective methods of fire suppression in those areas; and

27 WHEREAS, Because ~~a considerable amount~~ 2 million acres of federal
28 public land in Nevada has been designated as wilderness areas and
29 approximately 8.6 percent of the federal public land in Nevada that is
30 managed by the Bureau of Land Management has been identified as
31 wilderness study areas and because such designation or identification is
32 believed to impose ~~imposes~~ significant restrictions concerning the
33 management and use of such land, including land used for mining,
34 ranching and recreation, the Legislative Commission appointed a
35 subcommittee in 2001 to conduct an interim study of wilderness areas and
36 wilderness study areas in this state; and

37 WHEREAS, During the 2001-2002 legislative interim, the subcommittee
38 met several times throughout this state and facilitated important and wide-
39 ranging discussions among many agencies, organizations and persons with
40 diverse interests, perspectives and expertise concerning wilderness areas
41 and wilderness study areas; and

42 WHEREAS, The subcommittee received a great deal of valuable input
43 from those agencies, organizations and persons, including many valuable
44 recommendations for Congress to consider in addressing the issues

These are technical corrections to the measure.

This softens the statement that wilderness study areas impose significant restrictions.

1 concerning wilderness areas and wilderness study areas in a responsible,
2 reasonable and fair manner; now, therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA,
4 JOINTLY, That the members of the Nevada Legislature urge Congress to:

5 1. Support efforts to ensure that adequate access to wilderness areas
6 and wilderness study areas is afforded to the appropriate agencies and
7 persons so that those agencies and persons may effectively combat fires in
8 wilderness areas and wilderness study areas;

9 2. Support the use of all reasonable and effective fire suppression
10 efforts in wilderness areas and wilderness study areas without strictly
11 confining such efforts only to the tools determined by the federal agencies
12 which manage federal public lands to be the minimum tools necessary;

13 3. Accept the recommendation of the Bureau of Land Management to
14 designate 1.9 million acres of certain wilderness study areas in Nevada as
15 wilderness areas while also incorporating in the designation process
16 flexibility to consider relevant information such as growth to ensure the
17 establishment of appropriate boundaries for those areas and recognizing
18 that such consideration may result in a reasonable adjustment of those
19 boundaries;

20 4. Oppose any efforts to conduct another state-wide or agency-wide
21 inventory of the federal public lands in Nevada for purposes of creating
22 wilderness areas or wilderness study areas without first releasing areas
23 determined as unsuitable for wilderness designation;

24 5. Ensure that more current information is considered before acting
25 on the recommendations of the Bureau of Land Management concerning
26 the designation of wilderness areas in Nevada as the surveys of the Bureau
27 were performed with limited time, resources and technology; and

28 6. Avoid any unnecessary delays in releasing wilderness study areas
29 for multiple use by establishing a plan for addressing the release of
30 wilderness study areas in a timely manner that includes a schedule or plan
31 for the timely consideration of important issues concerning wilderness
32 study areas; and be it further

33 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a
34 copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States as the
35 presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
36 Representatives and each member of the Nevada Congressional
37 Delegation; and be it further

38 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

This language encourages the release of unsuitable Wilderness Study Areas before any further WSAs are considered or created.

H