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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 12, 2003
TO: Chair, Members, and Staff, Senate Committee on Government Affairs
FROM: Michael J. Stewart, Committee Policy Analyst
Research Division *MJS*
SUBJECT: **Enforcing Local Ordinances on Public Lands**

At the Committee's meeting on Friday, February 7, Senator Care inquired about the ability of local law enforcement to enforce local ordinances on public land. Specific reference was made to the annual "Burning Man Festival," which takes place in Pershing County on the Labor Day weekend in early September.

In researching this question, I spoke with Jo Simpson (775/861-6586), Deputy State Director for External Affairs, at the Nevada State Office of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Ms. Simpson explained that local law enforcement can enforce local ordinances, regulations, and codes on federal land. She added that counties may also "cross-delegate" this enforcement authority to federal law enforcement officials (to implement joint enforcement). She concluded that no county in Nevada has delegated this enforcement authority to federal law enforcement personnel within the BLM.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

I trust this memorandum is responsive to Friday's inquiry. As always, please do not hesitate to call me at 684-6825 if I may be of any assistance to you.

MJS/k:M05.SGA
Enc.

EXHIBIT D Senate Committee on Gov't Affairs

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