

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7—COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES

(ON BEHALF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
LANDS' SUBCOMMITTEE ON WILDERNESS AND
WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS)

FEBRUARY 11, 2003

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Directs Legislative Committee on Public Lands to
continue study of wilderness areas and wilderness
study areas in this state. (BDR R-717)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Directing the
Legislative Committee on Public Lands to continue the
study of wilderness areas and wilderness study areas in
this state.

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

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

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

12 WHEREAS, In conjunction with the provisions of the Wilderness
13 Act, the Bureau of Land Management of the Department of the
14 Interior manages approximately 3.86 million acres of federal public
15 lands in Nevada identified as wilderness study areas; and

16 WHEREAS, Until a wilderness study area is designated by
17 Congress as a wilderness area or released, the wilderness study area



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1 must be managed in a manner that does not impair its suitability for
2 preservation as a wilderness area; and

3 WHEREAS, Because a considerable amount of federal public
4 land in Nevada has been designated as wilderness areas and
5 approximately 8 percent of the federal public land in Nevada that is
6 managed by the Bureau of Land Management has been identified as
7 wilderness study areas and because such designation or
8 identification imposes significant restrictions concerning the
9 management and use of such land, including land used for mining,
10 ranching and recreation, the Legislative Commission appointed a
11 subcommittee in 2001 to conduct an interim study of wilderness
12 areas and wilderness study areas in this state; and

13 WHEREAS, During the 2001-2002 legislative interim, the
14 subcommittee met several times throughout this state and facilitated
15 important and wide-ranging discussions among many agencies,
16 organizations and persons with diverse interests, perspectives and
17 expertise concerning wilderness areas and wilderness study areas;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Although the subcommittee obtained valuable
20 information concerning the selection, management and use of
21 wilderness areas and wilderness study areas in this state, and
22 although Congress recently enacted the Clark County Conservation
23 of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002, Public Law 107-
24 282 (2002), which released approximately 224,000 acres in Clark
25 County from its current status as a wilderness study area, additional
26 study of these issues is still needed as a significant majority of the
27 federal public land in Nevada that had been previously designated as
28 a wilderness area or identified as a wilderness study area remains
29 designated or identified as such; now, therefore, be it

30 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE
31 ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the Legislative Committee on
32 Public Lands is hereby directed to continue the study of wilderness
33 areas and wilderness study areas in this state, and that the
34 Legislative Commission is hereby directed to appoint two additional
35 members of the Senate and two additional members of the
36 Assembly who are representative of various geographical areas of
37 this state to the Legislative Committee on Public Lands for the
38 purposes of this study; and be it further

39 RESOLVED, That the study must include, without limitation:

40 1. An examination of the manner in which wilderness areas
41 and wilderness study areas are selected, managed and used, and the
42 laws, regulations and policies of the Federal Government relating to
43 that selection, management and use;

44 2. Consideration of whether areas of this state are suitable for
45 possible designation by Congress as wilderness areas; and



1 3. A review of any other issues or subjects concerning the
2 establishment, management or use of a wilderness area or
3 wilderness study area in this state, as deemed necessary by the
4 subcommittee; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That in conducting the study, the Legislative
6 Committee on Public Lands shall seek input from various
7 governmental agencies, organizations and persons concerning
8 wilderness areas and wilderness study areas in this state; and be it
9 further

10 RESOLVED, That any recommendations that result from the
11 study relating to the manner in which Congress designates
12 wilderness areas or identifies wilderness study areas must be
13 submitted to each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation;
14 and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the Legislative Committee on Public Lands
16 shall submit a report of the results of the study and any
17 recommendations for legislation to the 73rd Session of the Nevada
18 Legislature.

