
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2—COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES

(ON BEHALF OF LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC LANDS (NRS 218.5363))

FEBRUARY 11, 2003

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Urges Secretary of Interior, Secretary of Agriculture and Congress to take certain actions concerning expenditures of money for restoration of and water developments on public lands in Nevada. (BDR R-675)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

~

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

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture and Congress to take certain actions concerning expenditures of money for restoration of and water developments on the public lands in Nevada.

- 1 WHEREAS, In recent years, wildfires have caused extensive
2 damage to the public lands of this state by destroying thousands of
3 acres of public lands used for economic, wildlife and recreational
4 purposes, and have increased the threat of infestation of exotic
5 annual grasses and noxious weeds which may, if not controlled,
6 cause further degradation of the lands, deterioration of wildlife
7 habitat, erosion, and diminished water quality; and
8 WHEREAS, Responsible management and preservation of the
9 public lands of this state require restoration of the public lands
10 through various means, including, without limitation, reseedling,
11 planting indigenous grasses and shrubs, combating exotic annual
12 grasses and noxious weeds and reducing the encroachment or
13 density of certain plants for purposes of fire suppression; and



1 WHEREAS, Because of a lack of adequate water developments
2 on the public lands of this state, wildlife and livestock on those
3 public lands have been forced to concentrate near the limited
4 number of water developments thus jeopardizing the ecological
5 health of the public lands; and

6 WHEREAS, Responsible management and preservation of the
7 public lands of this state require increasing the number of water
8 developments on the public lands of this state so that the wildlife
9 and livestock on those public lands will be properly dispersed; and

10 WHEREAS, Proper management and preservation of the public
11 lands and waters of this state are critical as these lands support a
12 wide variety of vital activities that are integral to the economic
13 success and enjoyment of the natural resources of this state,
14 including ranching, mining and recreation, and are a unique and
15 important historical, cultural and environmental resource that must
16 be maintained and preserved for the use and appreciation of current
17 and future Nevadans; and

18 WHEREAS, The continued economic success of this state,
19 existence of wildlife diversity in this state and enjoyment derived
20 from the natural resources of this state depend on the maintenance
21 of healthy ecosystems within the public lands and waters of this
22 state; and

23 WHEREAS, The Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act
24 of 1998, Pub. L. 105-263, 112 Stat. 2343, authorizes the Secretary
25 of the Interior to expend a portion of the proceeds of the sale or
26 exchange of certain public lands in Clark County for conservation
27 initiatives on certain public lands in Clark County; and

28 WHEREAS, It would greatly benefit and protect the ecosystems
29 on the public lands in Clark County if the Secretary of the Interior
30 expended the money authorized for such conservation initiatives to
31 pay for restoration of and water developments on certain public
32 lands in Clark County; and

33 WHEREAS, The Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act, 43
34 U.S.C. §§ 2301 et seq., which addresses the sale or exchange of
35 public lands in areas other than certain public lands in Clark County,
36 requires the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of
37 Agriculture to use the proceeds of such sales or exchanges for
38 certain purposes, but the Act does not specifically designate any
39 money for restoration of and water developments on the public
40 lands in the areas in which the sales or exchanges occurred; and

41 WHEREAS, It would greatly benefit and protect the ecosystems
42 on the public lands in the areas of this state where public lands are
43 sold or exchanged pursuant to the Federal Land Transaction
44 Facilitation Act, 43 U.S.C. §§ 2301 et seq., if the Act authorized the
45 Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to expend



1 a portion of the proceeds obtained from such sales or exchanges for
2 restoration of and water developments on the public lands in those
3 areas; now, therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
5 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the Nevada Legislature
6 hereby urge the Secretary of the Interior to expend the money
7 authorized pursuant to the Southern Nevada Public Land
8 Management Act of 1998, Pub. L. 105-263, 112 Stat. 2343, for
9 conservation initiatives on certain public lands in Clark County to
10 pay for restoration of and water developments on such public lands
11 in Clark County; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the members of the Nevada Legislature hereby
13 urge Congress to amend the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation
14 Act, 43 U.S.C. §§ 2301 et seq., to authorize the Secretary of the
15 Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to expend money obtained
16 pursuant to the Act to pay for restoration of and water developments
17 on the public lands in the areas of Nevada where public lands are
18 sold or exchanged pursuant to the Act; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and
20 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United
21 States as the presiding officer of the United States Senate, the
22 Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of the
23 Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Director of the Bureau of
24 Land Management and each member of the Nevada Congressional
25 Delegation; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon
27 passage.

