

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE NEVADA DELEGATION TO ADVANCE FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS LEGISLATION IN THE 118TH CONGRESS TO SUPPORT CONSERVATION, RECREATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN WASHOE COUNTY

WHEREAS, the greater Truckee Meadows area has seen and continues to see substantial growth, which will require employment, housing, and recreational opportunities; and,

WHEREAS, Washoe County has millions of acres of public lands (83%) that provide important recreational opportunities including hiking, camping, horseback riding, off-highway vehicle use, dark sky viewing, hunting, and fishing; and,

WHEREAS, comprehensive public lands legislation will expand recreational opportunities in Washoe County by providing lands and funding for parks, trails and recreational facilities while preserving existing recreational uses; and,

WHEREAS, these public lands provide numerous jobs and important economic contributions to communities throughout the region and support our outdoor recreation economy through tourism, as well as grazing, energy development, mining and other economic activities which are vital to our quality of life and make our region a desirable place to live, work and recreate; and,

WHEREAS, comprehensive public lands legislation will support vital economic development now and into the future by making available public lands for sale and development to address development demands and housing affordability, while preserving open space, protecting cultural resources, improving access to recreational areas and providing locally-directed resources to preserve and enhance existing infrastructure; and,

WHEREAS, comprehensive public lands legislation will further conservation by appropriately designating wilderness areas to ensure that each area is qualified as appropriate, responsible and manageable pursuant to the 1964 Wilderness Act. Additional conservation designations will protect wildlife habitats, cultural resources, and recreational access, while ensuring continued multiple use. It will also provide locally-directed funding for conservation activities including habitat improvements for the protection of valued landscapes, the enhancement of wildlife resources and the maintenance and improvement of access for outdoor recreation; and,

WHEREAS, comprehensive public lands legislation addressing recreation, economic development, and conservation has provided important benefits to counties across Nevada, and can provide important benefits to Washoe County and the surrounding Region; and,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, as the Commissioners of Washoe County, support the Nevada Congressional Delegation and other diverse stakeholders in finalizing a well-balanced approach to comprehensive public land management legislation in the Truckee Meadows Public Land Management Act to support a growing community and promote sound policies to preserve the excellent quality of life in the Truckee Meadows.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washoe County Commission supports the enactment of the Truckee Meadows Public Land Management Act to promote conservation, recreation and economic development to achieve important conservation goals, facilitate job creation and enhance the Region's quality of life; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Washoe County respectfully requests Senators Cortez-Masto and Rosen and Congressman Amodei to secure the introduction and enactment of well-balanced, comprehensive public lands legislation for Washoe County that considers the needs of current and future residents.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2023.

Chair
Washoe County Commission