



State Land Use Planning Advisory Council

MEETING PACKET

Friday October 15, 2021

Fallon, NV

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND AGENDA FOR THE

STATE LAND USE PLANNING ADVISORY COUNCIL

A public meeting will be held on:

Friday October 15, 2021 9:30 AM

At the following location:

**Churchill County Administrative Complex
Commissioner Chambers
155 North Taylor Street Fallon, NV**

or

via Zoom at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89145921230?pwd=UGJKWVVjNUdIbHJFaGg3Wmc4ZExRdz09>

Meeting ID: 891 4592 1230

Passcode: 198206

Phone: 669-900-6833

Attendance to this meeting will also be available virtually. For this meeting the State Land Use Planning Advisory Council will be using Zoom, a third-party app, and does not control its technical specifications or requirements. Your ability to participate in the public comment portions of a meeting may be impacted by factors including but not limited to the type of device you use, the strength of your internet or cellular signal, and the company that provides your internet or cellular

service. The State Land Use Planning Advisory Council is not responsible if you are not able to participate in a meeting through Zoom due to these or any other factors.

Public comment may be submitted via email prior to the meeting, please submit public comments to scarey@lands.nv.gov by 4 PM on October 13, 2021. For questions or additional information, you may contact Scott Carey, State Lands Planner at 775-684-2723 or at scarey@lands.nv.gov.

Please note that times listed are estimates

- 9:30 am 1) Call to Order**
Roll Call of the Council and Introductions of staff & guests.
- 9:40 am 2) Public Comment**
This is an opportunity for the public to provide public comment on any item included on the agenda or any other land use planning and any other related topic not included on the agenda. (Pursuant to NRS 241.020, no action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item until the matter has been specifically included on an agenda).
- 9:45 am 3) Review of Agenda (For Possible Action)**
(Agenda is reviewed for unforeseen circumstances such as the inability of a scheduled speaker to attend, to move an item to a different time during the meeting to accommodate a speaker, etc.)
- 9:50 am 4) Approval of Meeting Minutes (For possible action)**
- Approval of minutes from the March 1, 2021 SLUPAC meeting
- 10:00 am 5) County and Member Planning Updates (For Discussion Only)**
Updates from SLUPAC members on planning and land use related activities within their areas of representation. *Members – State Land Use Planning Advisory Council*
- 10:45 am 6) Churchill County Presentation (For Discussion Only)**
The Council will hear a presentation about the proposed Fallon Range Testing Complex Modernization & lands bill and planned economic development projects in Churchill County. *Members - State Land Use Planning Advisory Council*
- 11:05 am 7) Railroad Valley Proposed NASA Withdrawal and Possible Adoption of a Comment Letter (For Possible Action)**
The Council will receive an update on the proposed NASA withdrawal of public lands in Railroad Valley. Following the update, the Council will review and consider adoption of a letter from the Council outlining comments on the proposed withdrawal.
- 11:30 am 8) Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation and Dark Skies Program Presentation (For Discussion Only)**
The Council will hear a presentation from Colin Robertson, Administrator of the Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation, about the Division and the Dark Skies Program. *Members - State Land Use Planning Advisory Council*

- 11:50 am 9) State Land Use Planning Agency Update (For Discussion Only)**
Staff will provide the Council with an update on agency activities, SLUPAC projects, Federal public lands and other legislation, and other issues of interest to the Council.
- 12:05 pm 10) Future Agenda Items (For Possible Action)**
The Council will discuss and recommend items to be placed on a future SLUPAC agenda.
Members – State Land Use Planning Advisory Council
- 12:15 pm 11) Scheduling of Future SLUPAC Meeting Dates and Locations (For Possible Action)**
The Council will discuss and recommend dates and possible locations for future SLUPAC meetings. Traditionally, the Council has met four times in a year and has held its meetings in various geographic areas throughout the State. *Members – State Land Use Planning Advisory Council*
- 12:25 pm 12) Public Comment**
This is an opportunity for the public to provide public comment on any item included on the agenda or any other land use planning and any other related topic not included on the agenda. (Pursuant to NRS 241.020, no action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item until the matter has been specifically included on an agenda).
- 12:30 pm 13) Adjourn (For Possible Action)**
Members – State Land Use Planning Advisory Council

PLEASE NOTE:

(I) Times listed for all items are estimates.

(II) Items on the agenda may be taken out of order at the discretion of the Chair; the public body may combine two or more items for consideration; and the public body may remove an item or defer discussion of an item on the agenda at any time.

(III) Members of the public who are disabled and require special accommodations or assistance at the meeting are requested to notify Scott Carey in writing at the Nevada Division of State Lands, 901 S. Stewart Street, Suite 5003, Carson City, Nevada 89701 or by calling 775-684-2723 no later than October 13, 2021.

(IV) Documentation and supporting agenda items are available on the Nevada State Clearinghouse Website at <https://clearinghouse.nv.gov> and will be available at the SLUPAC meeting. For further information you may contact Scott Carey at 775-684-2723 or at scarey@lands.nv.gov.

Notice of this meeting was posted at the following locations:

Churchill Administrative Complex, 155 N. Taylor Street, Fallon, NV 89406

Division of State Lands, 901 S. Stewart Street, Suite 5003, Carson City, NV 89701

Nevada State Library and Archives, 100 N Stewart St, Carson City, NV 89701

Nevada State Clearinghouse website at:

<https://clearinghouse.nv.gov/HTMLtoPDF/ViewSavedForms.aspx?DocLoc=SITE&DocKey=2170&ViewKey=9065DIN4TQ>

Nevada Public Notice Website at www.notice.nv.gov.

STATE LAND USE PLANNING ADVISORY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

March 1, 2021

Virtual Meeting

This meeting was held virtually pursuant to NRS241.023 and State of Nevada Declaration of
Emergency Directives 006, 026, and 029.

Members Present

Jake Tibbitts, Eureka County (Chair)
Lorinda Wichman, Nye County (Vice Chair)
Hope Sullivan, Carson City
Sami Real, Clark County
James Barbee, Churchill County
Maureen Casey, Douglas County
Wilde Brough, Elko County
De Winsor, Esmeralda County
Jim French, Humboldt County
Wes Henderson, Lyon County
Curtis Schlepp, Mineral County
Roger Mancebo, Pershing County
Kathy Canfield, Storey County
Jeanne Herman, Washoe County
Bill Calderwood, White Pine County
Colby Prout, NACO

Members Absent

Kevin Phillips, Lincoln County
Art Clark, Lander County

Others Present

Meghan Brown, Nevada Department of Agriculture
Andrea Moe, Nevada Department of Agriculture
Jennifer Haley, NAS Fallon
David Pritchett, U.S. Bureau of Land Management
Marla McDade Williams, Strategies 360
Jordan Hosmer-Henner, Governor Steve Sisolak
Bill Thompson, NDOT
Brett Waggoner, Nye County
Shayna Steingard, Defenders of Wildlife
Ryan Shane, Nevada Division of Forestry
Jaina Moan, the Nature Conservancy
Shayna Steingard, Defenders of Wildlife
Rhiannon Scanlon, the Wilderness Society
Helen O'Shea, Natural Resources Defense Council
Rob Rule, NAS Fallon
Cheva Gabor, U.S. Forest Service
Lee Bonner, NDOT
Sondra Rosenberg, NDOT
Stacey Montooth, Nevada Indian Commission
Tori Sundheim, Office of Attorney General
Charlie Donohue, Nevada Division of State Lands
Ellery Stahler, Nevada Division of State Lands
Scott Carey, Nevada Division of State Lands

1) CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by **Jake Tibbitts** at 9:04 am. A roll call was held for members of Council and a quorum was established. Introductions were made by others who were present.

2) PUBLIC COMMENTS

Scott Carey with the Nevada Division of State Lands called for public comment. He stated that the meeting notice included instructions for how to submit a public comment before the meeting and as of the deadline of February 26, 2021 at 5:00 PM staff did not receive any public comments.

There was no additional public comment, and the public comment period was closed.

3) ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR 2021

Scott Carey with the Nevada Division of State Lands stated that the terms for **Jake Tibbitts** as Chair and **Lorinda Wichman** expired on January 17th and that the Council needs to elect a Chair and Vice Chair for the next year. Scott stated that NRS 321.740 and the Council's bylaws outline that the Chair and Vice Chair be elected at the first meeting of the year. Scott stated that the main roles of these positions are to run the meetings, assist staff with the development of meeting agendas, and sign letters of support or comments letter on behalf of the Council. Scott stated that the terms of the new Chair and Vice Chair would run through March 1, 2022 and that Jake Tibbitts and Lorinda Wichman are both eligible to be re-elected if the Council desires.

Sami Real made a motion to elect **Jake Tibbitts** as Chair and **Lorinda Wichman** as Vice Chair, the motion was seconded by **Roger Mancebo**. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by a voice vote of the Council. **Maureen Casey** abstained from the vote.

4) REVIEW OF THE AGENDA

Scott Carey with the Nevada Division of State Lands stated that there were no changes needed for the meeting agenda. **Jake Tibbitts** stated that since there we no changes to make, then the Council will proceed with the meeting agenda as submitted.

5) ELECTION OF ONE MEMBER TO SERVE ON THE SLUPAC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Jake Tibbitts provided an overview of the staff memo that was included as page 6 of the [meeting packet](#). Jake added that the Council needs to appoint a new member to the Executive Council to fill the remainder of the term left vacant by Lee Plemel. Jake provided an overview of the duties of the Executive Council and stated that NRS requires to the extent possible that the members of the Executive Council be geographically representative from throughout the State.

Scott Carey with the Nevada Division of State Lands stated that staff recommends that the Council appoint one member to the Executive Council that is from from northwestern Nevada (Washoe County, Storey County, Carson City, Douglas County, Lyon County and Churchill County).

Jake Tibbitts stated that there are a lot of new members to the Council representing counties in Northwestern Nevada. Jake stated that he feels given his experience on the Council that **James Barbee** would make a good representative of the region on the Executive Council.

James Barbee stated that he would be willing to serve on the Executive Council.

Lorinda Wichman made a motion to appoint **James Barbee** to serve on the Executive Council for the remainder of a term ending on May 28, 2022. The motion was seconded by **Jim French**. There was no discussion on the motion. There were no objections to the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by the Council.

6) UPDATE ON AB 52 AND DIRECTION ON POSSIBLE AMENDMENT TO BILL

Charlie Donohue with the Nevada Division of State Lands provided the Council with an update on its bill AB 52. Charlie stated that on February 1st, the bill was heard by the Assembly Government Affairs Committee and was well received by the Committee. Charlie stated that prior to the hearing, staff heard from Assemblywoman Anderson who had an interest in proposing an amendment to AB 52. During the hearing Assemblywoman Anderson suggesting making the proposed Nevada Indian Commission representative a voting member of the Council as opposed to a non-voting member. Charlie stated that staff recognized this amendment during the hearing but requested that the Committee provide the Council with an opportunity to weigh in on this proposed amendment. Charlie stated that staff is looking for the Council to weigh in the proposed amendment to AB 52 and provide direction to staff on how to proceed with adding the Nevada Indian Commission representative on the Council as a voting member.

Scott Carey with the Nevada Division of State Lands provided the Council with an overview of a conceptual amendment to AB 52 that was included as pages 12-14 of the [meeting packet](#). Scott stated that the conceptual mockup would make the Nevada Indian Commission representative on the Council a voting member. Scott stated that the proposed amendment would increase the number of voting members on the Council to 18 and the Nevada Indian Commission representative would be appointed to the Governor. Scott stated that staff felt that if the Nevada Indian Commission representative is to be voting member, then this representative should be appointed by the Governor like the other voting members on the Council.

Scott stated that during the Assembly Government Affairs Committee hearing, the Committee asked staff to investigate whether the existing Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) representative and proposed Nevada League of Cities & Municipalities representative should be voting members on the Council. Scott stated that he heard back from NACO, and they would prefer that its representative on the Council remain a non-voting member. Scott stated that has not heard back from the Nevada League of Cities & Municipalities staff after the Committee hearing. Scott added that in the past, the Nevada League of Cities & Municipalities have expressed their preference to have their representative to be a non-voting member on the Council.

Charlie Donohue with the Nevada Division of State Lands stated that the conceptual amendment to AB 52 is consistent with what staff had discussed with Assemblywoman Anderson before the Assembly Government Affairs Committee hearing.

Jake Tibbitts suggested that by increasing the voting members on the Council to 18 in section 1(a) of the conceptual mockup, there would not be a need to have section 1(d).

Lorinda Wichman stated that one potential issue with increasing the membership of the Council to 18 is that it would be even number and there could be a situation that arose in the future where a tie vote would need to be broken.

Jake Tibbitts stated that if there were an even split vote in the future, the split vote would represent a non-decision by the Council. Jake added that a non-decision does not preclude the Council from taking future decision, it just means that it would need to work together to render a decision by a majority vote. Jake stated that in his experience, the Council has always tried to work by consensus.

Colby Prout stated that the reason NACO prefers to remain a non-voting member is because as an organization they operate on consensus. Colby stated there could see a situation where there may a difference between two of their members and that they would have to abstain from a vote. Colby stated that NACO had some concern that adding three voting members would impact the quorum requirements for the Council to the conduct business. Colby stated that NACO supports adding a voting representative from the Nevada Indian Commission to the Council.

Charlie Donohue with the Nevada Division of State Lands stated that staff does recognize having an even number of voting members could pose an issue. Charlie stated that the Council has historically conducted its business in a collaborative fashion, and because of this it's likely not going to be an issue.

Jake Tibbitts stated that Eureka County did testify in support of AB 52 during the Assembly Government Affairs Committee meeting. Jake stated that Eureka County fully supports the proposed amendment and adding the Nevada Indian Commission as a voting member on the Council.

Stacey Montooth with the Nevada Indian Commission stated that the Commission is honored and excited to help the Council move forward and that they support AB 52 as written or with the proposed amendment to AB 52.

Wes Henderson made a motion to support the proposed amendment to AB 52 with the removal of section 1(d). The motion was seconded by **Jeanne Herman**. There was no discussion on the motion. There were no objections to the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by the Council.

7) STATE RAIL PLAN UPDATE AND CONSIDERATION OF A LETTER OF SUPPORT

Scott Carey with the Nevada Division of State Lands provided an overview of the proposed letter which is included on pages 19-20 of the [meeting packet](#). Scott stated that at its last meeting the Council had a good discussion about increasing local rail service and its impact on local government land use plans. The Council also expressed a desire to help make local government planning departments around the state aware of the plan and encourage them to consider the State Rail Plan when updating their master plans.

Scott stated that the Council's proposed letter of support on the draft State Rail Plan provides comments with respect to land use planning and the Council's involvement with Recommendation #14 "Enact effective freight transportation land-use strategies". The Council's letter outlines its general support for this recommendation and offers its support to providing outreach to local governments in implementing this recommendation.

Finally, Scott stated that the proposed letter states that new freight transportation development should be encouraged in areas that are compatible with local government master plans. The letter also recommends that the new freight transportation development and rail improvements should be concentrated in areas where adequate infrastructure exists or is planned. Staff is recommended that the Council review and discuss the proposed letter of support and offer any changes to the letter. If approved, the Chair will be authorized to sign the letter on behalf of the Council and staff will submit it as part of the public comments for the state rail plan.

Lee Bonner with the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) stated that they have worked well with the Council on the development of the State Rail Plan and look forward to the Council's comments on the draft plan.

Maureen Casey stated that in section 4 of the draft plan, Region 6 identifies only one active mine in Douglas County when there are two active mines. Maureen stated in addition to the Bing Mine there is another active mine off Johnson Lane that is located on Bureau of Indian Affairs allotment land.

Lee Bonner thanked Maureen Casey for that comment and suggested that she submit that comment directly to NDOT staff. Lee also provided an overview on how active mines were and were not included in the draft State Rail Plan.

Jake Tibbitts thanked NDOT for including both the Council and the State Land Use Planning Agency within the draft State Rail Plan.

Kathy Canfield stated that Storey County is going to abstain for voting on the draft letter as the county is going to provide its own comments to the draft State Rail Plan.

Roger Mancebo made a motion to approve the letter of support for the State Rail Plan and to authorize the Chairman to sign the letter on behalf of the Council. The motion was seconded by **James Barbee**. There was no discussion on the motion. There were no objections to the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by the Council. **Kathy Canfield** abstained from the vote.

8) SMART-FROM-THE-START PLANNING FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY & TRANSMISSION BUILDOUT PRESENTATION AND APPROVAL OF LETTER ENDORSING THE CONCEPT

Jaina Moan with the Nature Conservancy, Shayna Steingard with the Defenders of Wildlife, Rhiannon Scanlon with the Wilderness Society and Helen O'Shea with the Natural Resources Defense Council provided the Council with a [presentation](#) about the Smart from the Start renewable energy planning concept.

Jaina Moan with the Nature Conservancy provided an overview of the Council's proposed letter of endorsement of the Smart from the Start energy planning concept which was included as pages 25-27 of the [meeting packet](#).

Maureen Casey expressed a concern about the creation waste from new renewable energy facilities and asked about what happens when new solar photovoltaic facilities become obsolete.

Jaina Moan with the Nature Conservancy stated that a typical solar photovoltaic array will have a lifespan of about 20 and that they do expect to see more waste become produced in the future. Jaina stated that it will be important in the future to focus on the recycling of solar panels and minerals used in their creation. Jaina also highlighted that co-location of existing facilities can be a driver of future economic development.

Maureen Casey asked about raptor protection from the development of new wind farms.

Jaina Moan with the Nature Conservancy stated that they are working collaboratively as group towards the further development and advancement of the Smart from the Start energy planning concept. Jaina stated that in general they are looking at studies and other measures to mitigate the impacts on wildlife from the development of renewable energy facilities.

Shayna Steingard with the Defenders of Wildlife stated that its important to consider the entire life cycle of a renewable energy production facility. Shayna stated that the Defenders of Wildlife are actively engaged and are looking at all tools available to mitigate the impact on raptors from new wind farms.

Maureen Casey stated that one of her main concerns with pursuing additional nuclear energy is that there is not any consideration on the disposal of nuclear waste. Maureen stated that she would like to see more information on the Smart from the Start planning concept in the future. She further stated that if the endorses this concept that it's not out of the process in the future.

Jaina Moan with the Nature Conservancy stated that they consider the endorsement of the concept to be the first step in the overall implementation of Smart from the Start energy planning concept. Jaina welcomed any additional comments and changes to the proposed letter of endorsement.

Helen O'Shea with the Natural Resources Defense Council stated that there are ongoing discussions for the overall life cycle of solar panels and offered to provide the Council with additional information on this issue.

Jim French stated that baseline determination of what is necessary to remove carbon emissions in Northern Nevada is unknown at this point especially in light of a larger production of energy from the conversion of vehicles to electric motors. Jim stated that without having these numbers available, it is almost impossible for us to determine the footprint and impacts to footprint. Jim stated that in terms of baseload they are not just talking about generating power when the sun is out, or the wind is blowing but also the baseload requirement for industry and other uses when the sun is not out. Jim expressed doubt about the viability of storing energy from renewable energy sources with today's technology. Jim stated from a conservation standpoint, large scale solar panel arrays in the Great Basin have a tremendous impact on wildlife habitat, migration corridors, and

neotropical birds & migratory birds in general. Jim stated the presence of these arrays in these landscapes along with new roads and personnel has a tremendous impact. Jim expressed concern about the concept of reusing old mining sites for renewable energy and how it would impact the existing bonding requirements for mines to reclaim the land for habitat and wildlife. Jim stated that he feels that its important for green energy and in particular solar arrays & wind generation to remain part of the conversation, but nobody should have the impression that we can walk completely away from existing energy production sources.

Jaina Moan with the Nature Conservancy thanked Jim French for his comments and concerns. Jaina stated that may other states have taken measures to increase the production of energy from renewable energy sources along with calculating what the baseload requirements will be for these new sources. Jaina stated that they are asking the Council to support an approach to development that considers other land uses and considers land management as part of energy development.

Jim French stated that in the past he remembers Nevada's role with the Nevada Test Site and cautioned that there is a huge portion of the state is unavailable or able to be used. Jim stated that he does not want Nevada to become the next solution for the country's green energy revolution and does not want the state to become a giant solar array. Jim stated that Nevada has unique habitat, has huge wildlife values and that Nevada is not a wasteland.

David Pritchett with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) stated that last December a new Federal law was enacted to approve 25 gigawatts of new renewable energy generation nationwide by 2025. David stated that where these new projects will go is still to be decided but he feels that Federal public lands in Nevada will see a lot of new projects. David stated that there has been an influx of new projects coming in for permitting and review by the BLM in Southern and Central Nevada. He encouraged all members of the Council to keep an eye out for these projects and get involved in the review process with the BLM.

Sami Real stated that in Clark County they have been seeing an influx of renewable energy projects that are servicing adjacent states and not directly benefitting Nevada. Sami stated that in Clark County there are a lot of large transmission lines that go to other states and that new large solar projects being built in Clark County are sending their electricity to California. Sami stated that as part of the county's update of its comprehensive plan, they are adding a policy that encourages renewable energy built in Clark County to benefit Clark County and not have the electricity go to other states. Sami encouraged the Council to focus on getting renewable energy projects built in Nevada to benefit Nevada instead of using Nevada's public lands for the benefit of other states.

De Winsor stated that he agrees with Sami Real in that renewable energy projects built in Nevada should benefit Nevadans. De asked why geothermal energy has not been further developed in Nevada.

Jaina Moan with the Nature Conservancy stated that they do include geothermal energy development in their planning, and they support geothermal energy to meet the baseload needs of Nevada. Jaina stated that the intent of the Smart from the Start energy planning concept is to encourage new energy projects and transmission lines into areas that are already disturbed and to minimize the impacts of natural working lands.

Scott Carey with the Nevada Division of State Lands provided an overview of the proposed letter of endorsement and the intent behind the concept. Scott stated that from a land use planning perspective, staff believes that the concept of Smart-from-the-Start energy planning can be a beneficial tool for Nevada to use to avoid land use conflicts, reduce land consumption, and conserve natural resources.

Scott also stated that the proposed letter of endorsement is considered to be a statement of policy pursuant to NRS 321.7355 (1). In accordance with NRS 321.750 statements of policy regarding land use planning are to be submitted to the Administrator of the Division of State Lands and to the State Land Use Planning Agency. Scott stated that staff recommends that the Council discuss the proposed letter of endorsement of the concept for Smart-from-the-Start energy planning and authorize the Chair to sign the letter and submit it to the Administrator of the Division of State Lands and to the State Land Use Planning Agency.

Jake Tibbitts suggested on the first page of the letter under the fourth paragraph at the end of the second sentence to add the term "storage". Jake suggested on the second page of the letter under first full paragraph

starting with “Good planning policy” with the second sentence to add in the terms “reliably’ and “Nevada’s communities”. Jake suggested on the second page under the first bullet for mine lands under the last sentence to add in “implement favorable land use plans” before deploy. Jake suggested on the second page under the last paragraph in the last sentence to add the term “mitigate” before land use planning conflicts. In this same sentence Jake also suggested adding “wildlife conflicts” before reduce land consumption and add “address associated waste streams” before conserve natural resources. Jake also suggested in this same paragraph to add at the end of the second to last sentence after concept to add “when done in close coordination with local governments”.

Jim French stated that over 80% of land in the state is owned by the Federal government and that because of this there will be pressure to develop renewable energy projects in Nevada. Jim stated that regardless of whatever the Council says, there is a movement for Nevada to become one large solar panel. Jim stated that he understands the need to mitigate the impacts of this kind of development on wildlife, if possible, He further stated that there are many unanswered questions with regards to the Smart from the Start energy planning policy and its implementation.

Jake Tibbitts stated the intent of the letter and endorsing the Smart from the Start energy planning concept is to avoid land use conflicts and get a head of the planning that is needed to successfully develop new renewable energy projects throughout the state.

Hope Sullivan stated that she agrees with Sami Real in that given the regulatory environment in California they are seeing a lot of the solar industry from that state coming to Nevada. Hope asked in the Nature Conservancy would be open to modifying the letter to address the concerns expressed by the Council today and reconsider the letter at a future meeting.

Jaina Moan with the Nature Conservancy stated that they share the same concerns as the Council and that they feel taking Smart from the Start approach to energy planning will help address land use conflicts. Jaina thanked Jake Tibbitts for his suggested edits and stated that they would certainly be open to modifying the letter.

Wes Henderson asked why COVID-19 was referenced in the proposed letter.

Jaina Moan with the Nature Conservancy stated that COVID-19 was included in the letter because they believe that there will be Federal stimulus packages that will provide investment for energy and other infrastructure projects that that advance the Smart from the Start energy planning concept.

Scott Carey with the Nevada Division of State Lands stated that staff is happy to remove the references to COVID-19 if the Council desires. Scott stated that COVID-19 was included in the letter because the Governor’s Office of Economic Development recently updated the state’s economic development plan to promote economic resiliency in light of the pandemic. Scott stated that the economic development objectives of the Smart from the Start energy planning concept could help advance the state’s new economic development plan.

Jake Tibbitts stated that there are two references to COVID-19 in the letter and that he did not think that these references added much to the letter overall and that they could be taken out if the Council desires.

Jake Tibbitts stated that Council is reviewing whether or not to endorse the concept of Smart from the Start energy planning as a way to address the land use concerns brought up today by the Council. Jake stated that he hoped the revisions he proposed were helpful to address the concerns the Council expressed with the letter. Jake reminded the Council that implementation of this concept in the future is going to fall on the counties with their local land use planning authority.

Maureen Casey asked if the Nature Conservancy would be open to revising the letter to incorporate the comments from the Council and bring the letter back for consideration at a future meeting. Maureen stated that she still had questions with respect to the policy, liked the changes that were proposed at today’s meeting, and would like to see the letter come back for future consideration by the Council.

Jake Tibbitts stated that the proposed letter is only endorsing the concept of Smart from the Start Energy Planning and that approval of the letter is not endorsing any specific organization or presentation.

Jim French stated that he agrees with Maureen Casey and that he still has many questions regarding the proposed letter. Jim stated that if the Council is going to issue a policy statement that will be sent the Governor and the Legislature, that he would like to take a wholistic review of the concept.

Jim French made a motion to continue the proposed letter endorsing the Smart from the Start Energy planning concept to a future Council meeting.

Jake Tibbitts stated that under parliamentary procedure if an item is placed on the table, it can only be brought back for future consideration by the Council if the Council takes action to remove the item off of the table for future discussion. Jake cautioned the Council to not table the proposed letter but instead to take no action and bring back this item for future consideration.

Jim French stated that he would like to see more information on the overall concept before taking action on the proposed letter.

Jake Tibbitts stated that he believes that the intent of the proposed letter is to address the concerns expressed by the Council today and to avoid land use impacts through the Smart from the Start energy planning concept. Jake suggested that staff work with presenters to address the concerns expressed by the Council today and bring back the proposed letter for consideration by the Council at a future meeting.

There was no further discussion from the Council. No action was taken by the Council on this agenda item.

9) NEVADA DIVISION OF FORESTRY PRESENTATION ON ENDANGERED & THREATENED PLANTS

Ryan Shane with the Nevada Division of Forestry provided the council with a [presentation](#) about State's Endangered and Threatened Plants list and permitting process. Ryan also shared with the Council a copy of [additional helpful links](#) from the Nevada Division of Forestry.

Jake Tibbitts stated that there is a nexus between land use planning and the local government entitlement process that should consider the state's Endangered and Threatened Plants list and permitting process.

Jim French asked if the Nevada Division of Forestry has a GIS based map that shows critical habitat and threatened & endangered plants.

Ryan Shane with the Nevada Division of Forestry stated that the Division relies on the Nevada Division of Natural Heritage to maintain the GIS map that shows critical habitat and threatened & endangered plants. Ryan stated that interested parties and developers can submit a footprint of land to the Nevada Division of Natural Heritage and that the Division will issue an inventory of what they have in their database. Ryan stated that there is not a system available right now that will provide a positive or negative confirmation of the presence of an endangered or threatened plant in the state.

Jim French asked if the Nevada Division of Forestry is dovetailing most of the regulatory activity in this area to cooperating agencies or an inventory policy.

Ryan Shane with the Nevada Division of Forestry stated that its important to note that the list he provided in the presentation only covers State listed threatened & endangered plants and that the Federal government maintains its own list.

10) NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NOXIOUS WEED PROGRAM

Meghan Brown and Andrea Moe with the Nevada Department of Agriculture provided the Council with a presentation about the state's [Noxious Weed Program](#).

Jake Tibbitts stated the intent of this presentation today by the Department of Agriculture was to make the Council aware of the noxious weed program. Jake stated that it is good for the Council to be aware of the requirements in state law with respect to noxious weeds because they can have land use implications at the local government level.

Charlie Donohue with the Nevada Division of State Lands asked how often local governments may impose liens on private property owners who are not treating noxious weeds on their properties in accordance with state law.

Meghan Brown with the Nevada Department of Agriculture stated that she does not have a specific dollar amount available for the liens imposed around the state. Meghan stated that the amount of the liens and how often they are imposed really is a function of how active the local weed district is in that specific area. Meghan stated that some local weed districts may impose 12-25 liens per year while another weed district may only impose 1 lien a year on a property.

Lorinda Wichman thanked the Nevada Department of Agriculture for this presentation. Lorinda stated that she has been involved with the local weed district in northern Nye County since 2010. Lorinda stated that they have repeatedly worked with property owners on compliance and that they are reluctant to impose liens on property owners. Lorinda stated that she believes that they have been successful using this approach in northern Nye County and that they appreciate the support of the state's Noxious Weed Program.

11) STATE LAND USE PLANNING AGENCY UPDATE

Scott Carey with the Nevada Division of State Lands provided an overview of a mockup of conceptual changes to the SLUPAC statute that was included as pages 28-56 in the [meeting packet](#). Scott shared with the Council a copy of the State Land Use Planning Agency's list of bills that the agency is tracking during the 81st Session of Nevada Legislature.

12) COUNTY PLANNING UPDATES

Bill Calderwood, White Pine County

Bill provided the Council with an update on the [White Pine Storage Project](#).

Sami Real, Clark County

Sami stated that Clark County is moving forward with the implementation of its All in Clark County sustainability plan to combat the effects of climate change at the county level. Sami stated that the county is also in the process of updating its comprehensive plan and zoning code.

Maureen Casey, Douglas County

Maureen stated that in December the Board of County Commissioners approved the county's 2016 master plan update. Maureen stated that the updated master plan includes stronger language for open space and agricultural preservation. Maureen stated that the plan also includes a timeline for the creation of a funding mechanism for the acquisition of development rights. Maureen stated that the county's transfer of development rights program was given a 1-to-3-year timeline for a rewrite. Maureen stated that in January the Board of County Commissioners also approved a couple of proposals in cooperation with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) with regards to water resources in the Carson Valley and the quality of water in the alluvial aquifer.

Wilde Brough, Elko County

Wilde stated that marijuana sales are now permitted within West Wendover on the Utah border and in Jackpot on the Idaho border. Wilde stated that the City of West Wendover is in the process of obtaining 6,000 acres from the former bombing range. Wilde stated that the city expects to obtain the new land within the next 2 years and that the Air Force is spending \$9.5 million to clean up the site. Wilde stated that Jackpot seems to be

booming with the sales of marijuana, the opening of a new casino, and a new Subway restaurant. Wilde stated that Montello is getting high speed internet and that they are looking for someone to come in and build a greenhouse for a fish hatchery. Wilde stated that Wells has a new bike trail.

Jake Tibbitts, Eureka County

Jake stated that Eureka County has seen several solar developers begin to work with farmers in Diamond Valley to convert farmland to solar fields. Jake stated that the county is closely following land use planning and natural resource issues at the Nevada Legislature this session. Jake stated that the county continues to work on water quantity issues within the Diamond Valley basin. Jake stated that Eureka continues to experience a mini boom with the expansion of the Bald Mountain mine and mines in White Pine County which are putting a strain on housing in the community. Jake stated that the county recently met with a developer from Las Vegas who is looking to partner with the county to build affordable housing in Eureka.

Jim French, Humboldt County

Jim stated that the Humboldt County is finishing its revision of the county's master plan which includes a comprehensive water management plan. Jim stated that the county is in the beginning for permitting of the Western Lithium mine at Thacker Pass. Jim stated that the county has been told that that largest lithium deposit that has been discovered in North America is in a caldera located north of Winnemucca. Jim stated that the county is preparing for the construction phase and pre-planning for the West Coast Salmon production facility near Winnemucca. Jim stated that with these projects coming on board the county is looking at some critical infrastructure and housing shortages.

Wes Henderson, Lyon County

Wes stated that the County Commission has a standing item on its agenda for the review of its planning and zoning code Title 15. Wes stated that the county is currently undergoing a revision to its master plan.

Curtis Schlepp, Mineral County

Curtis stated that Mineral County is currently reviewing a large solar development that is located near the Lyon County border in the northern part of the county. Curtis stated that there is a lot of highway construction taking place along US 95 right now between Mineral and Churchill counties.

Lorinda Wichman, Nye County

Lorinda stated that roughly 9 years ago the county started working on a groundwater management plan through the county's water district. Lorinda stated that the water district did an excellent job putting together a groundwater management plan for the Pahrump basin that inspired the water district to take action. Lorinda stated that some of the actions by the water district were appealed to the courts and recently the Nevada Supreme Court ruled in favor of the water district and the Nevada Division of Water Resources. Lorinda stated that the court's ruling will allow for the groundwater management plan to be implemented and the Pahrump basin to come into balance.

Roger Mancebo, Pershing County

Roger stated that the county is also reviewing and planning for the construction of the West Coast Salmon production facility in Pershing County.

Jeanne Herman, Washoe County

Jeanne stated that Washoe County has two large scale geothermal projects planned in northern Washoe County.

Colby Prout, Nevada Association of Counties

Colby stated that NACO is busy with the ongoing legislative session tracking bills and keeping members updated on legislation.

13) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Jake Tibbitts stated that it would be good for the Council to hear a presentation from the USGS Nevada Water Science Center to present information on water quality across the State.

Hope Sullivan stated that it would be good for the State Engineer to provide the Council with an update on the progress of the Division of Water Resources statewide water planning efforts.

Wes Henderson asked for an update on the Federal land management agencies.

Scott Carey with the Nevada Division of State Lands stated that staff will take a look at adding a future agenda item for the Council to continue its discussion and consider a letter of endorsement of concept for the Smart from the Start energy planning. Scott stated that another item for the Council to consider at its next meeting would be recap of the 81st Session of the Nevada Legislature. Scott stated that another item for the Council to consider at its next meeting would be a presentation on the FHWA Federal Lands Access Study and pilot project.

14) SCHEDULING OF FUTURE SLUPAC MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS

Scott Carey with the Nevada Division of State Lands stated that the staff was hoping to finalize a date and location for the next Council meeting. Scott suggested that the Council set a date and location for its next meeting towards the middle to end of July or the early part of August.

Jake Tibbitts suggested Friday July 9, 2021 at 9:00 AM as the date for the next Council meeting. The consensus of the Council was that this date would work for its next meeting.

15) PUBLIC COMMENT

Jake Tibbitts called for public comment.

Jordan Hosmer-Henner with the Office of Governor Sisolak thanked the Council for its discussion today and its work on land use planning issues.

Jake Tibbitts called for any additional public comment. There was no public comment.

16) ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Carey

/s/

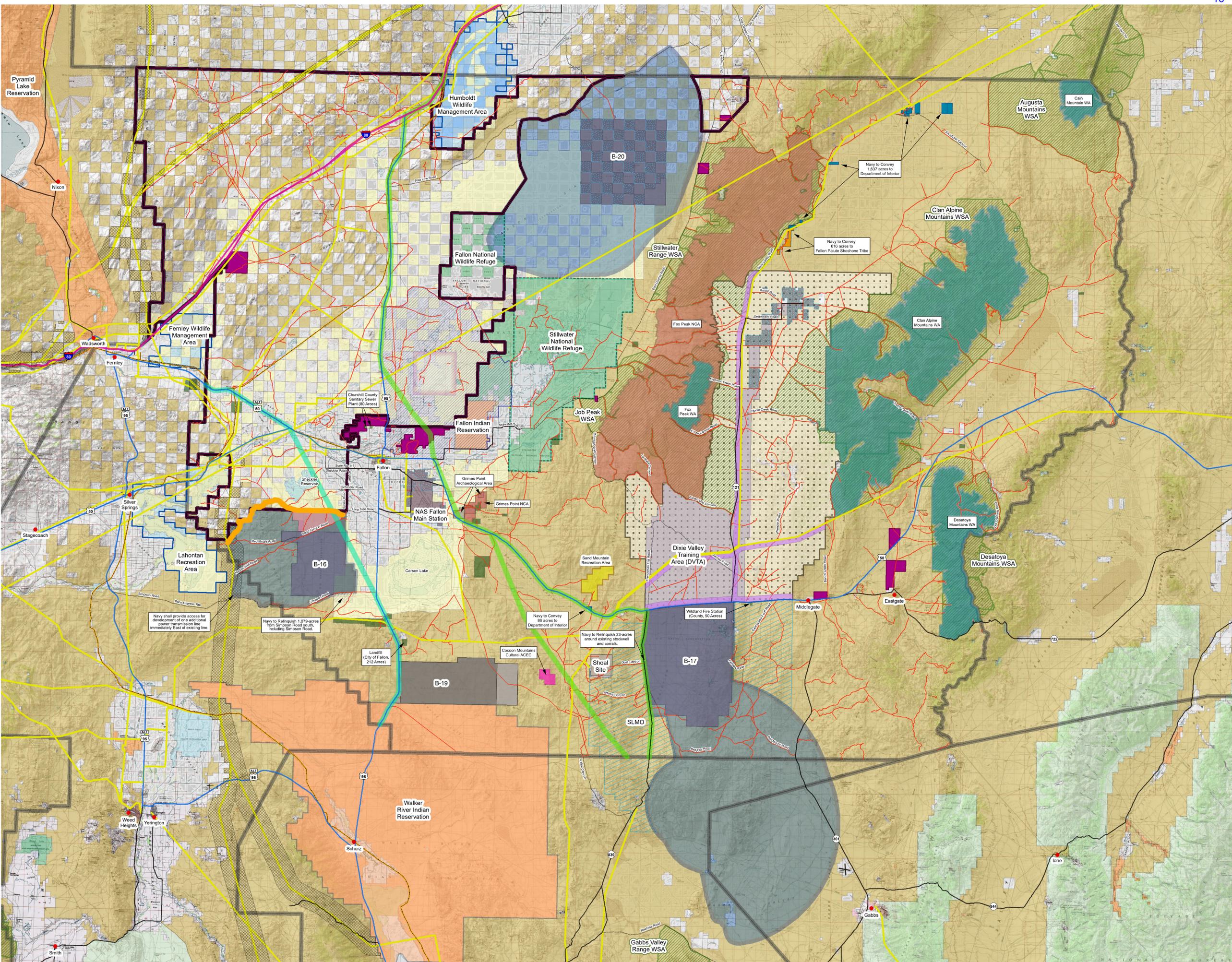
Meeting Recorder

Please note that minutes should be considered draft minutes pending their approval at a future meeting of the State Land Use Planning Advisory Council. Corrections and changes could be made before approval.

The meeting was digitally recorded. Anyone wishing to receive or review the recording may call (775) 684-2723. The recording will be retained for three years.

Legend

- Cities / Towns
- Railroad
- Existing Transmission Lines
- ▭ County Boundary
- Roads**
- Interstate
- Highways
- State Highways
- County Roads¹
- Existing Minor County Roads¹
- Existing Special Designations**
- ▭ National Wildlife Refuge
- ▭ State Wildlife Management Area (WMA) or Recreation Area
- ▭ Grimes Point Archeological Area
- ▭ Wilderness Study Areas (WSA)
- ▭ Economic Opportunity Zone
- ▭ Indian Lakes Area
- ▭ Sand Mountain Recreation Area
- Existing Land Surface Management²**
- ▭ Bureau of Reclamation
- ▭ Bureau of Land Management
- ▭ Bureau of Indian Affairs
- ▭ Department of Defense
- ▭ Fish and Wildlife Service
- ▭ Forest Service
- ▭ State of Nevada
- Existing Navy Withdrawal Areas³**
- ▭ Navy Owned Land
- ▭ Withdrawn from BLM (Closed)
- ▭ Withdrawn from BLM (Open)
- ▭ Withdrawn from BLM (Open, Proposed Closed)
- Proposed FRTC Modernization**
- ▭ Existing Withdrawn Lands to Be Relinquished (1,102 Acres)⁴
- ▭ B-16 (57,795 Acres)^{2, 4}
- ▭ B-17 (241,025 Acres)²
- ▭ B-20 (176,471 Acres)²
- ▭ Dixie Valley Special Management Area (269,572 Acres)³
- ▭ Special Land Management Overlay (88,229 Acres)³
- ▭ B-19 to Match Existing Withdrawal (29,012 Acres)¹
- ▭ Shoal Site to Match Existing Withdrawal (2,561 Acres)^{3, 4}
- Name**
- ▭ Grimes Point National Conservation Area (1,794 Acres)¹
- ▭ Fox Peak National Conservation Area (149,838 Acres)¹
- ▭ Fox Peak Wilderness Area (8,592 Acres)¹
- ▭ Clan Alpine Mountains Wilderness Area (126,362 Acres)¹
- ▭ Desatoya Mountains Wilderness Area (32,537 Acres)¹
- ▭ Cain Mountain Wilderness Area (7,664 Acres)¹
- ▭ Cocoon Mountains Cultural ACEC (1,090 Acres)
- Proposed Economic Development Designations**
- ▭ Checkerboard Resolution Area (713,314 Acres)²
- ▭ Public Purpose Conveyances (212 Acres to the City of Fallon; 7,045 Acres to Churchill County)
- ▭ FRTC Modernization Mitigation Conveyances to Churchill County (13,920 Acres)
- Critical Transportation and Utility Corridors**
- ▭ Sand Canyon/Red Mountain Road Realignment (14.1 Miles)
- ▭ County Preferred I-11 Corridor (Churchill County Portion)
- ▭ NDOT Preferred I-11 Corridor (Churchill County Portion)
- ▭ New Utility Corridors (2,600-foot wide, non-exclusive)
- ▭ Existing West-Wide Energy Corridor
- Proposed Conveyances of Navy-Owned Lands**
- ▭ Navy Conveyances to the Department of Interior (1,721 Acres)
- ▭ Navy Conveyances to the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe (616 Acres)



Note:
 1. Churchill County is requesting 300' (150' on either side) on all existing minor county roads and existing WSA cherry stems.
 2. Withdrawal from BLM (closed) or purchase private property as appropriate.
 3. Maintain BLM management and open public access.
 4. Acquire within Navy Report of Decision; however, Navy-provided design fees for the report shall be provided.
 5. A minimum of 50,000 acres of public lands may be conveyed out of federal management. Only lands located outside of DCO-identified Management Priority Areas may be conveyed.

**Churchill County Proposed
 Fallon Range Churchill County
 Modernization and Lands Bill as of February 2, 2021**



October 15, 2021

To: State Land Use Planning Advisory Council

From: Scott Carey AICP, State Lands Planner

RE: SLUPAC Comment Letter on NASA's Request to Withdrawal Public Lands in Railroad Valley

Background

In May, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) requested public comment on a proposed withdrawal of public lands in the Railroad Valley in central Nevada for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). NASA has submitted an application to withdrawal 22,995 acres of public lands for use on satellite calibration activities. The proposed action would withdraw these public lands from all forms of appropriation or other disposition under the public land laws, including the mining, mineral leasing, grazing, and geothermal leasing laws, except for lands with valid and existing rights.

For additional background, attached to this memo are copies of the notice for NASA's Request to Withdrawal Public Lands in Railroad Valley that was posted on the Nevada State Clearinghouse and a copy of correspondence from Nye County on this issue.

Analysis

Since the BLM's request for comments on NASA's proposal to withdrawal public lands in the Railroad Valley, Nye County has expressed its concerns with the proposal on its land use plan. Additionally, Nye County has had a difficult time accessing information related to this proposal and engaging with NASA on this issue.

One major concern with NASA's request to withdrawal of public lands in the Railroad Valley is the inconsistency of this proposal on local government comprehensive and land use plans in the area. The proposal by NASA would remove these public lands from multiple use activities which will have a negative impact on the land use plans and management activities in this area. The proposed comment letter requests that NASA and the BLM also identify acceptable alternative sites, or a land management plan that will accommodate multiple uses that will preserve the environment and quality of life in the Railroad Valley.

Over the past several years, the Council has stressed that cooperation between Federal, State, Tribal, Local Governments and other stakeholders is critical on the withdrawal of any public lands or change in land use. Additionally, the Council has advocated for local governments and Tribal Nations in Nevada to have active engagement in this process consistent with their local land use plans and policies. The proposed comment letter stresses further cooperation between the BLM,

NASA and Nye County & other interested stakeholders and requests that these parties continue to meet on this issue.

Staff believes that the proposed land withdrawal by NASA in the Railroad Valley could have potential impacts to adopted land use plans in Nye, White Pine and Lincoln counties. Staff feels that the proposed comment letter is consistent with policy adopted by the Council in the past with respect to local government coordination on land use planning activities. Additionally, staff believes that the proposed letter will help support Nye County to seek further information and resolution on this issue.

A copy of the Council's proposed comment letter on NASA's Request to Withdrawal Public Lands in Railroad Valley is attached to this memo. If approved, the Chair would be authorized to sign the letter on behalf of the Council and a copy of the letter would be sent to and Alicia Brown Director of the NASA Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs. Additional copies will also be provided to Governor Sisolak, Nevada State BLM Director Jon Raby, and Mark Garcia Project Manager for the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Council review and discuss the proposed comment letter for NASA's Request to Withdrawal Public Lands in Railroad Valley and consider approval of the letter. If approved, staff recommends that the Chair be authorized to sign the letter and transmit a copy to the individuals and agencies included in the letter and to others as directed by the Council.

BRADLEY CROWELL
Director
Department of Conservation
and Natural Resources

CHARLES DONOHUE
Administrator

STEVE SISOLAK
Governor



State Land Use Planning Advisory Council
State Land Use Planning Agency

Address Reply to

State Land Use Planning Agency
901 S. Stewart St. Suite 5003
Carson City, Nevada 89701-5246
Phone: (775) 684-2723
Fax: (775) 684-2721
Web: lands.nv.gov/land-use-planning

STATE OF NEVADA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
State Land Use Planning Advisory Council

October 15, 2021

Alicia Brown, Director
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs
Washington, DC 20546

Re: SLUPAC Comments on NASA Request to Withdrawal Public Lands in Railroad Valley, Nye County, Nevada

Dear Director Brown:

On behalf of the Nevada State Land Use Planning Advisory Council (SLUPAC) I am writing to comment on the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) request to withdraw public lands in Nevada's Railroad Valley. The proposed withdrawal is to support satellite calibration efforts related to the NASA Orbiting Climate Observatory mission. SLUPAC supports NASA's mission and is proud of Nevada's role over the past several decades to support the nation's satellite calibration efforts. However, SLUPAC believes the proposed withdrawal would conflict with existing approved county comprehensive and land use plans as well as remove public lands from multiple use

SLUPAC is the only Governor-appointed council that has a county representative from each of Nevada's seventeen counties as well as the Nevada Association of Counties (NACO), the Nevada League of Cities & Municipalities, and the Nevada Indian Commission. SLUPAC provides recommendations and expertise on land use planning and natural resources issues and advises the State Land Use Planning Agency regarding the development of plans and statements of policy.

As currently proposed, existing county comprehensive and land use plans in the Railroad Valley would be directly and adversely affected by NASA's withdrawal. These plans identify the public lands identified for withdrawal by NASA as multiple use areas. The withdrawal would remove lands from multiple use.

Reserving these public lands for multiple use is important to Nevada. They are managed under a Congressionally mandated policy of multiple use to allow for mining, oil and gas development, recreation, and a myriad of other activities. Multiple use activities under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act provide economic benefits to Nevada. These public lands are critical to

sustain long-term economic growth and security. The closure of public lands to multiple use activities would also eliminate current revenue sources that are important to local governments.

Cooperation between Federal, State, Tribal, Local Governments and other stakeholders is critical on the proposed withdrawal of any public lands or change in land use. Efforts must be made to coordinate with the agencies listed above to protect and preserve the natural resources of the State while providing for the future needs of its residents. SLUPAC advocates for Nevada's local governments and Tribal Nations to have active engagement in this process consistent with their local land use plans and policies.

To date SLUPAC believes that NASA's level of engagement with local governments and other stakeholders has been lacking with this proposal public land withdrawal. SLUPAC requests that NASA continue to meet with Nye County and other affected stakeholders to discuss the concerns of both parties regarding interests in Railroad Valley. SLUPAC also requests that NASA and the BLM also identify acceptable alternative sites, or a land management plan that will accommodate multiple uses that will preserve the environment and quality of life in the Railroad Valley.

SLUPAC appreciates the opportunity to review and comments on NASA's request to withdrawal public lands in the Railroad Valley. SLUPAC looks forward to continuing to work with NASA to implement sound land use planning policies and land management activities throughout Nevada.

If you have any questions or would like additional information concerning SLUPAC, please feel free to contact Scott Carey, State Lands Planner at 775-684-2723 or scarey@lands.nv.gov.

Sincerely,

Jake Tibbitts
Chair
State Land Use Planning Advisory Council

CC:
Governor Steve Sisolak
Jon Raby, BLM Nevada State Office
Mark Garcia, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
**BUREAU OF LAND
MANAGEMENT**

THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON NASA APPLICATION FOR WITHDRAWAL OF PUBLIC LAND IN RAILROAD VALLEY

BATTLE MOUNTAIN, Nev – The Bureau of Land Management is seeking comment on National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s application for withdrawal of 22,995 acres for use on satellite calibration activities, which would segregate the lands for up to two years while the withdrawal package is being processed. The segregation is also announced in a [Federal Register notice](#) published on April 29, 2021.

NASA has requested a 20-year withdrawal and reservation of land in Nye County approximately 80 miles northeast of the town of Tonopah. Railroad Valley is one of the Central Nevada Desert Basins in the Tonopah Basin and is approximately 80 miles long north-south and up to 20 miles wide, with some southern areas running southwest to northeast.

The requested withdrawal consists of thirty-six 640-acre sections aggregating 22,995.05 acres. Although NASA has requested the withdrawal of all these acres, the agency expects to select among alternatives, with the result that, should the Secretary of the Interior issue a Public Land Order, only a subset of these acres would eventually be withdrawn.

Publication of this notice segregates the lands for up to two years from all forms of appropriation or other disposition while the application is being processed.

All comments should be sent to the BLM Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Boulevard., Reno, NV 89502; faxed to 775-861-6606; or sent by email to blm_nv_so_nasafncomments@blm.gov. The BLM will not consider comments received via telephone calls. Comments must be received by July 28, 2021, and should include “NASA withdrawal” in the subject line.

Before including your address, phone number, email, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

This year, we invite everyone to reimagine your public lands as we celebrate 75 years of the BLM’s stewardship and service to the American people. The BLM manages approximately 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The agency’s mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America’s public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

MORE PRESS RELEASES

RELEASE DATE

Friday, April 30, 2021

ORGANIZATION

Bureau of Land Management

OFFICE

Tonopah Field Office

CONTACTS

Name: Rudy Evenson

Email: revenson@blm.gov

Phone: [775-861-6411](tel:775-861-6411)



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[LLNV933000.19200000-ET0000.LRORF2012100; TAS XXX; N-98605; MO# 4500146306]

Notice of Application for Withdrawal; and Notification of Public Meeting; Nye County, Nevada

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is providing notice of an application from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) requesting that the Secretary of the Interior withdraw and reserve lands necessary for NASA's satellite calibration activities within the Railroad Valley (RRV), Nye County, Nevada, area for a period of 20 years, subject to valid existing rights. Publication of this Notice segregates approximately 22,995.05 acres of public lands from all forms of appropriation or other disposition under the public land laws, including the mining, mineral leasing, and geothermal leasing laws, for up to two years, subject to valid existing rights. This notice also invites the public to comment on the withdrawal application by several methods, including a virtual public meeting.

DATES: Comments must be received by [INSERT DATE 90 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]. On Monday, July 19, 2021, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Eastern time, NASA will hold a virtual public meeting in connection with the proposed withdrawal. NASA will publish further instructions about how to access the online public meeting in the *Reno Gazette-Journal* (Reno), *Las Vegas Review-Journal* (Las Vegas), *The Ely Times* (Ely), and *Tonopah Times-Bonanza & Goldfield News* (Tonopah) newspapers a minimum of 30 days prior to the meeting.

ADDRESSES: All comments should be sent to the BLM Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Boulevard., Reno, NV 89502; faxed to 775-861-6606; or sent by email to blm_nv_so_nasafrncomments@blm.gov. The BLM will not consider comments received via telephone calls.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Edison Garcia, Land Law Examiner, BLM, by telephone at 775-861-6530; by email at edisongarcia@blm.gov. Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1-775-861-6511 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. The FRS is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NASA has filed an application requesting that the Secretary of the Interior withdraw the public lands described below from all forms of appropriation or other disposition under the public land laws, including the mining, mineral leasing, and the geothermal leasing laws, subject to valid existing rights, and reserve them for NASA's satellite calibration activities within the Railroad Valley, Nye County, Nevada area for a period of 20 years.

Publication of this Notice segregates approximately 22,995.05 acres of public lands, for up to two years from all forms of appropriation or other disposition under the public land laws, including the mining, mineral leasing, and geothermal leasing laws, subject to valid existing rights. This notice also invites the public to comment on the withdrawal application by several methods, including a virtual public meeting to be held Monday, July 19, 2021, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Eastern time.

The two-year segregation of 22,995.05 acres of public land will provide the BLM and NASA time to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) which will analyze the environmental effects of the requested withdrawal and any alternatives in order for the BLM to make a recommendation to the Secretary of the Interior. Further, NASA intends

to select from among the segregated lands a subset of those lands most suitable for its purposes; therefore, it is likely that if the Secretary does elect to withdraw any of the lands requested, far fewer of the segregated lands would eventually be withdrawn.

As required by section 204(b)(1) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), 43 U.S.C. 1714(b)(1), and the BLM regulations at 43 CFR Part 2300, the BLM is publishing Notice of NASA's application to withdraw the following described lands:

Mount Diablo Meridian, Nevada

T. 7 N., R. 56 E.,

secs. 2 thru 17;

secs. 20 thru 27.

T. 8 N., R. 56 E.,

secs. 19 thru 21;

secs. 27 thru 35.

The areas described aggregate 22,995.05 acres in Nye County.

According to the application, RRV is the only location in the U.S. with the appropriate characteristics to enable satellite calibration and has been used for these purposes since 1993. Alternative sites to RRV are less desirable, due to the effects of human activity, site inhomogeneity, topography, and excessive brightness - all of which negatively impact the accuracy of sensor readings for satellite calibration. The lands subject to the withdrawal application are the lands for which protection is sought from the impacts of exploration and development under the United States mineral and geothermal leasing laws.

The use of a right-of-way, interagency agreement, or cooperative agreement would not adequately constrain non-discretionary uses which could result in permanent

loss of significant values and Federal investment in the long-term satellite calibration program established for NASA.

No water will be needed to fulfill the purpose of the requested withdrawal.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment - including your personal identifying information - may be publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Notice is hereby given that a virtual (online) public meeting in connection with the application for withdrawal will be held on Monday, July 19, 2021, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Eastern time. NASA will publish a notice of the online venue in local newspapers a minimum of 30 days before the schedule date of the meeting.

Authority: 43 U.S.C. 1714(b)(1) and 43 CFR 2310.3-1

Jon K. Raby,

State Director, Nevada.

[FR Doc. 2021-08881 Filed: 4/28/2021 8:45 am; Publication Date: 4/29/2021]

Pahrump Office
 Nye County Government Center
 2100 E. Walt Williams Drive
 Suite 100
 Pahrump, NV 89048
 Phone (775) 751-7075
 Fax (775) 751-7093



**Board of County
 Commissioners
 Nye County, Nevada**

Tonopah Office
 Nye County Courthouse
 William P. Beko Justice Facility
 PO Box 153
 Tonopah, NV 89049
 Phone (775) 482-8191
 Fax (775) 482-8198

July 20, 2021

John Raby, State Director
 Bureau of Land Management
 Nevada State Office
 1340 Financial Boulevard
 Reno, NV 89502

Subject: Scoping Comments and Request for Cooperating Agency Status in the Participation of the National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA) Proposed Railroad Valley Land Withdrawal Environmental Assessment (EA); Federal Register / Vol 86, No. 81 / Thursday, April 29th, 2021

Dear State Director:

Nye County appreciates the opportunity to participate in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and is providing these preliminary scoping comments to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as it considers the NASA proposal to withdraw land in Railroad Valley, Nye County, Nevada. As the local government with jurisdiction and planning authority, Nye County requests Cooperating Agency status in the NEPA process. Nye believes that participation as a Cooperating Agency will promote communication with the affected communities and improve BLM and NASA's understanding of the local issues.

The proposed withdrawal's stated purpose is to support satellite calibration efforts related to the NASA Orbiting Climate Observatory mission. Nye's comments reflect the conflicts of NASA's proposed withdrawal with existing approved County comprehensive and land use plans, as well as closure to multiple use of these resource-rich lands. To that end, the Nye County Board of County Commissioners does not support the withdrawal of additional land for NASA's proposed purpose (Enclosure 1). The County's issues and concerns, which are within the scope of the proposed land withdrawal and associated EA, are summarized in the comments that follow.

General Comments

G-1 Nye County supports the many federal missions of the United States government; however, federal agency land withdrawals affect almost four million acres in Nye County. Loss of economic opportunities on withdrawn lands continue to adversely impact the County and its residents. Nearly 98% of Nye's lands are federally managed or State owned, leaving only 2% of County land in private ownership from which to derive ad valorem tax.

Public lands are managed under a Congressionally mandated policy of multiple use to allow for mining, oil and gas development, recreation, and a myriad of other uses, most of which provide economic benefits to local jurisdictions and nearby rural communities. Development and utilization of public lands is a critical component of rural life that sustain long-term economic growth and help ensure future economic security. The closure of public lands to multiple use eliminates some of the County's revenue sources. The losses that would result from the proposed land withdrawal must be quantified, evaluated, and disclosed in the EA. Additionally, necessary measures to minimize and mitigate these impacts must be an integral part of any alternative considered.

G-2 The proposed land withdrawal would both change and restrict established land use in Railroad Valley. The methods for establishing the baseline and range of impacts from federal agency land withdrawal were documented in the 1991 Special Nevada Report (SNR), prepared pursuant to the Military Lands Withdrawal Act of 1989. Methods used in the SNR are both relevant and appropriate and should be used to define and quantify the expected impacts that would occur if the NASA land withdrawal is authorized.

Specific Comments

S-1 NASA's proposed withdrawal would remove an additional 5,000+ acres of land in Nye County from multiple use. The direct cumulative impacts resulting from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable land withdrawal actions (Fallon Naval Air Station, Nevada Test and Training Range, and the Nevada National Security Site) on Nye County must include NASA's proposal and be considered, quantified, evaluated, disclosed, and mitigated. The EA must incorporate the enclosed table that summarizes the cumulative impacts resulting from existing and reasonably foreseeable federal withdrawal of lands from multiple use in Nye County (Enclosure 2).

S-2 NASA has several existing BLM authorizations outside of the proposed study area. The EA must disclose the expected dispositions of these rights-of-way if the land withdrawal were to be authorized.

S-3 FLPMA establishes multiple-use as the mandated policy for management of public land. The EA must consider an alternative that allows for multiple use of the Railroad Valley playa and accommodates existing and planned uses.

S-4 The EA must identify existing and pending water rights and applications in Railroad Valley (Basin 173B) and disclose NASA plans to avoid any federal takings that would result from the land withdrawal.

S-5 NASA's withdrawal of public lands would reduce payments in lieu of taxes (PILT). The EA must quantify the amount of PILT that would be lost as a result from the withdrawal and identify NASA's contribution to the cumulative PILT loss.

S-6 Executive Order 13817 (83 FR 70265) lists lithium, a vital mineral resource for technology and advancement of clean energy, as one of 35 critical minerals for National Security and economic prosperity. There is currently one active lithium operation in the United States. The Railroad Valley brine field could host one of the largest brine deposits in the United States. The proposed withdrawal would potentially limit access to development of this critical mineral in the foreseeable future. The EA should evaluate the

lithium resource potential and include an updated mineral and energy resource assessment of the segregated area.

S-7 The Federal Register Notice of Segregation states that NASA evaluated alternative sites for the proposed withdrawal, all of which were found to be unsuitable. The EA must include a discussion of NASA's calibration site requirements necessary to meet mission objectives, the analysis of the alternative sites considered, as well as the reasons for their disqualification.

The above comments do not fully encompass the County's concerns. Nye County has requested further details from NASA regarding playa characteristics that make it a desirable vicarious calibration target. The County may provide additional comments as appropriate, as detailed information is obtained.

Thank you for considering Nye County's comments. Please contact Lorinda Wichman, Nye County Natural Resource Director, at 775-277-0160 or lawichman@co.nye.nv.us to discuss the County's Cooperating Agency status.

Sincerely,



Chair Debra Strickland

Enclosures:

- 1: Nye County Resolution No. 2021-20
- 2: Cumulative Impacts of Federal Agency Land Withdrawal in Nye County, NV

cc w/ Encl:

Senator Jacky Rosen
Senator Catherine Cortez-Masto
Representative Dina Titus
Representative Mark Amodei
Representative Susie Lee
Representative Steven Horsford
Governor's Office of Economic Development
Leah Baker, Bureau of Land Management

1 **NYE COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2021-20**

2 A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE SEGREGATION OF PUBLIC LANDS IN RAILROAD VALLEY,
3 NYE COUNTY, BY THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA)

4 WHEREAS, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 mandates a policy of multiple
5 use of public land and establishes guidelines for use of land withdrawal; and

6 WHEREAS, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) made application to the
7 Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on April 29, 2021 to study the potential effects of a Congressional
8 land withdrawal of 23,000 acres in Railroad Valley from public use for 20 years; and

9 WHEREAS, the stated purpose is for NASA to calibrate satellite activities with ground-based light
10 reflection studies of land surfaces for climate change research; and

11 WHEREAS, there may be alternative sites for NASA to conduct surface-based reflection studies,
12 and several of which have already been withdrawn from public use and may be available to NASA; and

13 WHEREAS, segregation and withdrawal of 36 square miles would affect additional development
14 on eight existing active operating oil leases on or near Bacon Flat and would interfere with the Butterfield
15 Marsh Mining District, including ten active mining claims for various non-metallic resources; and

16 WHEREAS, lithium is a strategic mineral vital to the United States and its extraction has been a
17 national priority since 2017; and

18 WHEREAS, at least five-hundred and fifty-seven lithium mining claims for lithium extraction
19 have been staked in Southern Railroad Valley; and

20 WHEREAS, this land withdrawal would jeopardize the potential future development of
21 lithium, oil, and other natural resources in Nye County; and

22 WHEREAS, multiple land withdrawals and expansion on these historic withdrawals have been
23 previously authorized by Congress in Nye County and the impact of these lost economic opportunities is
24 increased with NASA's proposal; and
25

1 WHEREAS, the current and future development and expansion of natural resources extraction
2 provides economic benefits to Nye County that would be severely limited and could be eliminated by the
3 proposed land withdrawal; and

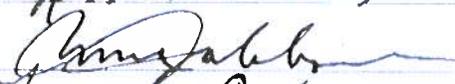
4 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners strongly
5 opposes the segregation and future withdrawal of lands in Railroad Valley by NASA; and urges the BLM
6 to seek multiple use guidelines established under the 1973 Land Policy Act; and further urges NASA to
7 investigate alternative sites that will not interfere with the current and future development of mineral and
8 energy resources in Railroad Valley.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners orders this resolution to
10 be forwarded in its entirety to the BLM and the NASA.

11 APPROVED this 20th day of July, 2021

12 AYES:

NAYS:

13 
14 
15 *Henna C. Cox*
16 
17 *Frank C.*

13 *φ*
14 _____
15 _____
16 _____
17 _____

19 Absent:

Abstention:

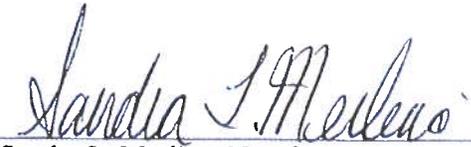
20 *φ*
21 _____

20 *φ*
21 _____

22 NYE COUNTY OF
23 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

ATTEST:

24 
25 Debra Strickland, Chair


Sandra L. Merlino, Nye County Clerk
and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Board

Pahrump Office
 Nye County Government Center
 2100 E. Walt Williams Drive
 Suite 100
 Pahrump, NV 89048
 Phone (775) 751-7075
 Fax (775) 751-7093



**Board of County
 Commissioners
 Nye County, Nevada**

Tonopah Office
 Nye County Courthouse
 William P. Beko Justice Facility
 PO Box 153
 Tonopah, NV 89049
 Phone (775) 482-8191
 Fax (775) 482-8198

July 20, 2021

Mark Garcia, Project Manager
 National Aeronautics and Space Administration
 Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology
 4800 Oak Grove Dr,
 Pasadena, CA 91109

**Subject: NASA Request for Congressional and/or Administrative Land
 Withdrawal in Railroad Valley, Nye County, Nevada**

Dear Ms. Brown:

The Nye County Board of County Commissioners is the local government with jurisdictional and planning authority in Railroad Valley, Nye County, Nevada. The Nye County Board of County Commissioners is aware of the Notice of Application for Withdrawal published in the Federal Register on April 29th, 2021 by the Bureau of Land Management. Nye understands the physical characteristics of the Railroad Valley Playa make it a valuable asset for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for the purpose of calibration of their Orbiting Climate Observatory. Nye County, the situs jurisdiction, would be directly and significantly adversely affected by NASA's proposed land withdrawal. For this reason, Nye County requests the opportunity to discuss this proposal and possible alternatives.

First, Nye County assures NASA there is no "Ongoing Battle" for Railroad Valley (Enclosure 1). Nye County's economic long-term growth has and continues to rely upon use of public lands in accordance with the Mining Act of 1872 and Federal Land Policy Management Act. The Departments of Defense and Energy land withdrawals, in combination with conservation segregations, have disproportionately restricted access to the economic opportunities to over seventeen million acres of public land in Nevada (Nevada Legislative Committee on Public Lands, Enclosure 2).

In Nye County, nearly four million acres have been segregated and withdrawn from mineral and land entry since 1926. The public land being considered for withdrawal is currently used for non-renewable energy extraction (oil), and it may host a significant economic lithium resource. Energy extraction and mineral production are two of the most important sectors in Nye County's economy. Proceeds from minerals production provide a significant source of tax revenue, which underscores the importance of the mining sector to Nye's economy. Existing leases for eight operating oil wells on the playa, and placer claims for other resource development would be eliminated or allowed to operate subject to extraordinary mitigation that would surely threaten their economic viability.

The socioeconomic and cultural impacts of the various federal agency's land withdrawals are cumulative; in Nye County the impacts include loss of mineral proceeds as well as loss of jobs, payroll taxes, map fees, and other local tax revenues associated with the Congressionally mandated policy of multiple use of public lands. The cumulative impacts threaten our economy and the quality of life of our citizens because the land withdrawals restrict opportunities to access important natural resources of economic value.

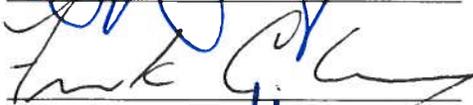
Nye County would like to support NASA's Orbiting Climate Observatory mission; however, the proposed land withdrawal would have significant adverse impacts on our economy, businesses, and residents. Nye County hopes that NASA will recognize these potential adverse impacts of its proposal and their significance and will work with Nye County to identify alternatives that eliminate these impacts.

To that end, Nye County requests the opportunity to meet with NASA at its earliest convenience to discuss the concerns of both parties regarding interests in Railroad Valley. We ask that NASA provide more detailed information regarding its concerns about changes to the playa's characteristics. As the affected local government, Nye County looks forward to being a participant in this discussion and hopes to assist in the identification of acceptable alternative sites, or a land management plan that will accommodate multiple land uses that preserve the environment and quality of life for our citizens, while assisting NASA in meeting its mission objectives and goal. Please contact Lorinda A. Wichman, Director of the Nye Natural Resources Office at your earliest at (775) 277-0160 or email lawichman@co.nye.nv.us at your earliest convenience to continue this conversation.

Sincerely,
Board of County Commissioners



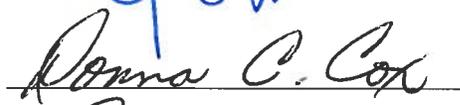
Chair Debra Strickland



Vice Chair Frank Carbone



Commissioner Leo Blundo



Commissioner Donna Cox



Commissioner Bruce Jabbour

cc:

Senator Jacky Rosen Senator Catherine Cortez-Masto

Representative Dina Titus

Representative Mark Amodei

Representative Susie Lee

Representative Steven Horsford

Governor's Office of Economic Development

Leah Baker, Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States

Pahrump Office
 Nye County Government Center
 2100 E. Walt Williams Drive
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 Phone (775) 751-7075
 Fax (775) 751-7093



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 Nye County, Nevada**

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July 20, 2021

Alicia Brown, Director
 National Aeronautics and Space Administration
 Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs
 Washington, DC 20546

**Subject: NASA Request for Congressional and/or Administrative Land
 Withdrawal in Railroad Valley, Nye County, Nevada**

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Sincerely,
Board of County Commissioners

 _____	Chair Debra Strickland
 _____	Vice Chair Frank Carbone
 _____	Commissioner Leo Blundo
 _____	Commissioner Donna Cox
 _____	Commissioner Bruce Jabbour

cc:
Senator Jacky Rosen
Senator Catherine Cortez-Masto
Representative Dina Titus
Representative Mark Amodei
Representative Susie Lee
Representative Steven Horsford
Governor's Office of Economic Development
Leah Baker, Bureau of Land Management, Eastern States



October 15, 2021

To: State Land Use Planning Advisory Council

From: Scott Carey AICP, State Lands Planner

RE: State Land Use Planning Agency Update

Since the July 9th meeting the Agency has been working on and tracking various activities, SLUPAC projects, Federal public lands and other legislation, and other issues of interest to the Council. The purpose of this memo and agenda item to provide the Council with an update on the agency and provide an opportunity to answer questions or provide additional information.

- 1) New Nevada State Clearinghouse Website: In June the agency was pleased to unveil the new Nevada State Clearinghouse [website](#). For the past several months the agency has been working with a website developer to design a new website and internal system to manage the Nevada State Clearinghouse program. Authorized by gubernatorial executive order in 1989, the Nevada State Clearinghouse, exists to inform Executive Branch agencies of significant federal projects and policy initiatives that affect our state. The new website includes the following new features; search functions, website comment form, JMAC information, email sign up, past notices archives, summary feature, email preferences management, and a NEPA glossary. The new website is intended to be easier for the state agencies, interested stakeholders and the public to access notices posted on the Clearinghouse and provide comments. For additional information or to check out the new Nevada State Clearinghouse website please visit <https://clearinghouse.nv.gov/>.
- 2) Nevada Habitat Conservation Framework: On August 23rd, Governor Sisolak signed Executive Order 2021-18 creating the Nevada Habitat Conservation Framework. This executive order directs the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) to develop a statewide framework to provide for habitat conservation, restoration, rehabilitation for wildlife. Part of this effort includes the development of the Nevada Wildlife Connectivity Plan which includes the designation of wildlife migration corridors, development of best management practices across all levels of government planning, and a migration corridor assessments. The Agency anticipates that this executive order and the corresponding provisions may have an impact on land use planning efforts across the state. The Agency will continue to monitor the progress of the 2) Nevada Habitat Conservation Framework and provide

updates to the Council as necessary. A copy of the Executive Order 2021-18 is attached to this memo and can also be found [here](#).

- 3) 30 by 30: On January 27, 2021, President Biden signed Executive Order 14008 which was aimed at tackling the nation's climate crisis at home and abroad. Section 216 of the executive order directs the Federal Government to achieve the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of the nation's lands and waters by the year 2030. In May, the Nevada Legislature adopted [Assembly Joint Resolution \(AJR\) 3](#) which expresses support for the goal of protecting 30 percent of the lands and waters of the State by 2030. A copy of Section 216 of Executive Order 14008 and AJR 3 is attached to this memo.

The Agency believes that policy of 30 by 30 could have an impact on land use planning and land management activities across Nevada. For the past several months the Agency has been looking into where Nevada is with respect to preserving and protecting 30 percent of its land and waters. The Agency has run some preliminary projections and depending upon how specific lands are classified Nevada could exceed or fall short of the 30 percent goal. The agency is awaiting further direction from the Federal government as to how specific lands will be classified as protected or preserved as part of the 30 by 30 policy. The Agency will continue to engage with the Federal Government and other stakeholders to review the land use implications of this policy and will provide updates to the Council as necessary.

- 4) Federal Public Lands Bills: The Agency continues to track the progress of several Nevada specific public lands and natural resource Federal bills. Below is a listing of the bills currently being tracked by the Agency. As the Biden Administration and the 117th Congress continue to work on new legislation, the Agency expects these Federal bills to continue moving through the process or resurface over the next year.

- Southern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act (S. 567) (H.R. 1597)
- Ruby Mountains Protection Act (S. 609)
- Carson City Public Land Correction Act (S. 1412)
- Lander County Land Management and Conservation Act (S. 1411)
- Lake Tahoe Restoration Reauthorization Act (H.R. 3132) (S. 1583)
- Maude Frazier Mountain (H.R. 216)

- Great Basin National Heritage Area and Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area Extension Act (S. 1004) (H.R. 2882)
- Elko National Cemetery Act (S. 726)
- Northern Nevada Economic Development, Conservation, and Military Modernization Act of 2021 (H.R. 5243)
- Truckee Meadows Lands Bill
- Nye County Lands Bill
- Fallon Range Training Complex modernization & withdrawal
- Nevada Test and Training Range modernization & withdrawal

[Skip to Main Content](#)



Nevada Governor Steve Sisolak



EXECUTIVE ORDER 2021-18

CREATING THE NEVADA HABITAT CONSERVATION FRAMEWORK

WHEREAS, the wildlife habitats of the State of Nevada provide recreational, economic, and quality of life values to all citizens; supporting more than 895 wildlife species despite threats such as climate change, development, wildfire and invasive species, fragmentation, and conversion; and

WHEREAS, Nevada has approximately 70.7 million acres of total land area and roughly 86 percent are public lands managed by various federal governmental agencies for multiple purposes, creating management opportunities and challenges; and

WHEREAS, outdoor recreation in Nevada generates \$12.5 billion of annual consumer spending, supporting over 87,000 jobs and over \$1 billion in tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, thriving functional ecosystems with intact habitats are culturally important to Tribal communities; and

WHEREAS, Nevada is the driest state in nation where wetland and riparian areas are critical yet only comprise approximately 1% of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, the State of Nevada is known as the Sagebrush State and sagebrush habitats alone cover over 50 percent of Nevada, supporting more than 367 species of wildlife, plants, and invertebrates; and healthy and intact sagebrush habitats support and maintain rural economies and traditional uses including livestock and agricultural production; and

WHEREAS, healthy sagebrush ecosystems are 90 percent more effective at sequestering carbon than invasive cheatgrass degraded rangelands; and

WHEREAS, range-wide, approximately 50 percent of all historic sagebrush habitats have been lost to threats such as wildfire, invasive species, agricultural conversion, and pinyon-juniper encroachment. These threats degrade, convert, and fragment sagebrush habitats, and the sagebrush ecosystem is now one of the most imperiled in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, wildlife populations are key indicators of ecosystem health and Nevada mule deer fawn recruitment has declined approximately 10% over the last 20 years; and Greater sage-grouse numbers have declined by approximately 78% in the Great Basin since 1960; and

WHEREAS, nearly one-quarter of the approximately 20 million acres of priority and general greater sage-grouse habitat in Nevada, has burned in the past 30 years; and

WHEREAS, Nevada's mule deer, pronghorn, and bighorn sheep, rely upon access to and through migration corridors extending over 100 miles and maintaining the integrity of these corridors is essential to the health of these populations; and

WHEREAS, wildlife that utilize and benefit from these corridors are highly valued for their aesthetic and recreational opportunities and contribute significantly to the economy and quality of life in Nevada; and

WHEREAS, the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the creation of the America the Beautiful initiative demonstrate broad bipartisan support for investing in Nevada's parks, refuges, forests, and other public lands; and

WHEREAS, many of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and United States Forest Service (USFS) resource, land use, and forest management plans are essential to resource management and warrant revision

or amendments to reflect and address continued threats to habitats, and conservation value of Nevada's wildlife habitat and migration corridors; and

WHEREAS, past recognition of these ongoing threats to the sagebrush habitats resulted in the creation of the Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Program (SEP) and a sixteen member Sagebrush Ecosystem Council (SEC), including nine members appointed by the Governor, to provide additional capacity as part of an integrated solution to establish strategies for the conservation of sage-grouse and sagebrush ecosystems in Nevada; and

WHEREAS, the SEC has adopted the 2014 Nevada Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan and developed the Nevada Conservation Credit System (CCS), an innovative, science-driven, market-based mitigation approach to provide compensatory mitigation of anthropogenic impacts to sage-grouse and sagebrush habitat through a consistent, quantitative process; and

WHEREAS, restoration, rehabilitation, and ensuring connectivity of our habitats are essential to Nevada's wildlife species, domestic livestock, watershed health, biodiversity, rangeland productivity, climate resilience, and economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS, Nevada has taken many steps to conserve, restore, and rehabilitate our habitats, and continued planning encompassing ecological threats, opportunities, and priorities are necessary to maximize our collective efforts to deliver effective conservation; and

WHEREAS, the abundance of federally administered public lands, high-value private lands, and diverse benefits that these lands provide to Nevada citizens necessitates collaborative partnerships to ensure more encompassing and equitable outcomes for all Nevadans; and

WHEREAS, the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) maintains state-wide responsibility for all 895 wildlife species occurring in Nevada and has relevant technical expertise in rangeland science, restoration, ecology, soil, and biology and, under federal law, accepts cooperating agency status for public land management activities and maintains strong relationships with federal, state, local, Tribal, private industry, and NGO communities, and can contribute resources at a 3 to 1 ratio for conservation projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, by the authority vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and laws of the State of Nevada and the United States, it is hereby ordered as follows:

- SECTION 1:** The Nevada Department of Wildlife shall collaboratively establish a Nevada Habitat Conservation Framework (Framework) to provide for habitat conservation, restoration, rehabilitation, and protection in a coordinated and inclusive manner across landownerships and in partnership with federal land management agencies, other relevant state and local agencies, stakeholders, and local entities. Prior to implementation, the Framework must be approved by the Wildlife Commission.
- SECTION 2:** NDOW shall work with the relevant executive branch agencies in Nevada to further the following Framework goals:
1. Conserving and propagating diverse and productive wildlife habitats;
 2. Addressing the priority threats to key habitats such as the wildfire and annual invasive grass cycle, and conifer encroachment; and
 3. Maintaining connectivity of habitats and corridors.
- SECTION 3:** As a foundational element of the of the Framework, NDOW shall develop a comprehensive Sagebrush Habitat Plan (SHP). The SHP shall be completed and available on NDOW's website by December 31, 2023, with review for updates on a bi-annual basis.
- SECTION 4:**
1. Be developed in collaboration with the Nevada Sagebrush Ecosystem Program (SEP) that has regulatory authority over greater sage-grouse mitigation in Nevada and has created sage-grouse conservation planning documents, tools, and guidance that can offer support in this effort; and
 2. Be developed collaboratively with counties, federal land management and state agencies, and other stakeholders. Stakeholders shall include, but are not limited to: organizations or individuals representing sportsmen's groups, conservation and environmental protection, farming and ranching, private landowners, rural communities, native tribal communities, outdoor recreation, real estate developers, transportation, mineral and renewable energy developers, and linear infrastructure entities;
 3. Include identification of the primary threats and challenges to protection, conservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of Nevada's sagebrush biome;
 4. Identify priority landscapes for action in consideration of associated resource values, site potentials and feasibility;
 5. Identify and prioritize strategies and actions to enhance, restore, or maintain priority habitats for all species dependent upon those habitats for their lifecycles;

6. Be informed by best available science and reference of relevant cooperators management plans that overlap within different priority habitats; and
7. Evaluate where policy, statutory and/ or regulatory changes are necessary to address identified threats and challenges, including modifying state policy to enable or encourage proactive and robust engagement in federal land management planning and other federal agency processes and providing management recommendations that promote habitat conservation.

SECTION 5:

As a key supporting strategy of Goal 3 in the Framework, NDOW shall develop a statewide Nevada Wildlife Connectivity Plan (Connectivity Plan) that seeks to identify and conserve migratory corridors of wild ungulates and other key species NDOW may determine relevant. The Connectivity Plan shall be completed by December 31, 2023 and shall be reviewed for updates on a bi-annual basis.

1. The Connectivity Plan shall include:
 1. The process for NDOW to identify and delineate migration corridors supported by existing and ongoing scientific research;
 2. Habitat definitions, conservation recommendations, and best management practices or measures that could be implemented at all levels of government planning and regulation for migratory habitats, based on best available science including but not limited to peer reviewed literature; and
 3. Migration corridor assessments that include a summary of knowledge regarding the migration, conservation threats, land tenure characteristics, and management recommendations that shall be provided to associated federal, state, county, and local land managers.
2. The Connectivity Plan shall be developed with input from counties, federal land management and state agencies, and other stakeholders. Stakeholder engagement should include, but not be limited to sportsmen's groups, conservation and environmental protection, farming and ranching, private landowners, rural communities, native tribal communities, outdoor recreation real estate developers, transportation, mineral and renewable energy developers, and linear infrastructure entities.
3. The Connectivity Plan shall be informed by public outreach and shall be publicly available on NDOW's website.
4. Upon signature of this Executive Order, I hereby establish the Nevada Wildlife Connectivity Plan as the State process by which migration corridors are identified, established, and authorized by NDOW as part of the bi-annual review process.

SECTION 6:

NDOW and Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) shall enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that formalizes and sets expectations for collaboration on the implementation of this Connectivity Plan within 12 months of its completion. Collaboration may include:

1. Identifying opportunities to protect or restore habitats and migratory corridors in new or existing NDOT policies, regulatory permitting processes, and planning processes to the greatest extent possible, including processes where such consideration is not currently formally required; and
2. Identifying points where:
 1. Key wildlife habitat, wildlife migration corridors, and highways intersect;
 2. Identifying and implementing strategies to avoid, minimize and mitigate wildlife-vehicle collisions; and
 3. Prioritizing areas for implementation of wildlife crossings or other highway features to improve permeability for wildlife while maintaining highway user safety.

SECTION 7:

Existing Western Governor Association Policy Resolutions including: WGA PR 2017-08 2017-11, 2018-01, 2018-02, 2018-04, 2018-12, 2019-03, 2019-06 and 2019-08); Secretarial Orders including: 3353, 3356, 3362, 3366, 3372, and 3374; and supporting agreements such as the Nevada Shared Stewardship agreement shall be used to support the Framework through coordinated planning, prioritization, and implementation across state and federal agencies to achieve the greatest efficiency and effectiveness.

SECTION 8:

NDOW, and other state agencies, as appropriate, shall incorporate relevant outcomes of the Framework and supporting strategies into comments on federal land use plans, programs, and projects as applicable.

SECTION 9:

NDOW shall engage with local governments and their representative bodies to assess the need to develop a template for possible incorporation into local land use and local public land policy plan updates as appropriate. Such recommended updates should be consistent with the Framework and support the strategies and collaborative efforts of the Framework. County Advisory Boards to Manage Wildlife should be utilized as a key asset in accomplishing this task.

SECTION 10:

This Executive Order does not authorize any prescriptive actions on private lands; however, private landowners are encouraged to seek guidance from relevant agencies to minimize impacts inside o corridors designated within the Connectivity Plan, and any work with private landowners shall be voluntary. Private landowners may incorporate and implement strategies and principles consistent with the Framework, SHP, and Connectivity Plan by working within State or Federal mechanisms to protect and enhance wildlife habitat.

SECTION 11:

This Executive Order is limited to the activities specifically described herein. This Executive Order, together with the Habitat Conservation Framework, Sagebrush Habitat Plan, Nevada Wildlife Connectivity Plan, and all other supporting strategies, including relevant documents and tools adopted by the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council, constitutes Nevada's greatest and most comprehensive effort to conserve, restore, and rehabilitate our key habitats and migration corrido

SECTION 12:

The above referenced plans are expressly adopted and incorporated by reference herein, and each shall have the full force and effect of this Executive Order. Amendment to any Plan may be made without requirement that the full Executive Order be amended.

SECTION 13:

This Order is effective upon signature and shall remain in force, unless amended, modified, terminated, or rescinded by the Governor.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nevada to be affixed at the State Capitol in Carson City, this 23rd day of August, in the year two thousand twenty-one.

[Signature]
Governor Steve Sisolak
[Signature]
Secretary of State
[Signature]
Deputy Secretary of State

Executive

- [Governor](#)

- [Lt. Governor](#)

- [Secretary of State](#)

- [Attorney General](#)

- [State Treasurer](#)

- [State Controller](#)

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- [Legislature Website](#)

- [NELIS](#)

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- [211- Service Information](#)

- [511 - Road Conditions](#)

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Select Language ▼

Has Met

Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad

JANUARY 27, 2021

Executive Order 14008

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/27/executive-order-on-tackling-the-climate-crisis-at-home-and-abroad/>

Sec. 216. Conserving Our Nation's Lands and Waters. (a) The Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, and the heads of other relevant agencies, shall submit a report to the Task Force within 90 days of the date of this order recommending steps that the United States should take, working with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, agricultural and forest landowners, fishermen, and other key stakeholders, to achieve the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030.

(i) The Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality shall, as appropriate, solicit input from State, local, Tribal, and territorial officials, agricultural and forest landowners, fishermen, and other key stakeholders in identifying strategies that will encourage broad participation in the goal of conserving 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030.

(ii) The report shall propose guidelines for determining whether lands and waters qualify for conservation, and it also shall establish mechanisms to measure progress toward the 30-percent goal. The Secretary of the Interior shall subsequently submit annual reports to the Task Force to monitor progress.

(b) The Secretary of Agriculture shall:

(i) initiate efforts in the first 60 days from the date of this order to collect input from Tribes, farmers, ranchers, forest owners, conservation groups, firefighters, and other stakeholders on how to best use Department of Agriculture programs, funding and financing capacities, and other authorities, and how to encourage the voluntary adoption of climate-smart agricultural and forestry practices that decrease wildfire risk fueled by climate change and result in additional, measurable, and verifiable carbon reductions and sequestration and that source sustainable bioproducts and fuels; and

(ii) submit to the Task Force within 90 days of the date of this order a report making recommendations for an agricultural and forestry climate strategy.

(c) The Secretary of Commerce, through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, shall initiate efforts in the first 60 days from the date of this order to collect input from fishermen, regional ocean councils, fishery management councils, scientists, and other stakeholders on how to make fisheries and protected resources more resilient to climate change, including changes in management and conservation measures, and improvements in science, monitoring, and cooperative research.

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 3—Assemblymen González, Watts, Yeager, Cohen; Anderson, Brown-May, Flores, Brittney Miller, Nguyen and Torres

Joint Sponsor: Senator Donate

FILE NUMBER.....

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging various actions relating to the protection and conservation of land and water.

WHEREAS, The scientific community recommends protecting 50 percent of the world’s lands, oceans and waters by 2050 to prevent ecosystem collapse and keep global warming under 1.5 degrees Celsius and protecting 30 percent of the lands and waters in this State by 2030 as a necessary intermittent step to protect natural systems and mitigate climate impacts; and

WHEREAS, Recent polls found that 73 percent of voters in the western United States support a national goal of protecting 30 percent of the nation’s lands and waters by 2030; and

WHEREAS, The State’s abundance of public lands provides an opportunity to follow the scientific community’s recommendation to protect 30 percent of the lands and waters in the State by 2030; and

WHEREAS, Land conservation and restoration increases natural carbon sequestration and is one of the most cost-effective solutions to combatting climate change; and

WHEREAS, The State’s economic livelihood and communities are threatened by the loss of natural lands due to industrial development, wildfires and invasive species; and

WHEREAS, The State has lost more than 9 million acres of wildlife habitat in the last 2 decades to wildfires and only a small percentage of lands in the State are currently protected; and

WHEREAS, The 80th Session of the Nevada Legislature enacted Senate Bill No. 254 to require the identification of policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, relative to 2005 levels, by at least 28 percent by 2025, by at least 45 percent by 2030 and to zero or near-zero emissions by 2050; and

WHEREAS, The conservation of land and water in the State may be accomplished through a combination of federal and state action including, without limitation, designating or establishing wilderness areas, national parks, state parks and wildlife management areas; and

WHEREAS, Avi Kwa Ame, also known as Spirit Mountain, located in southern Nevada is sacred to ten Yuman-speaking tribes

and contains some of the most visually stunning, biologically diverse and culturally significant lands in the Mojave Desert; and

WHEREAS, Establishing Avi Kwa Ame as a national monument is a crucial step in the preservation of Native American ancestral lands which will help reach the recommendation to protect 30 percent of the lands and waters in the State by 2030; and

WHEREAS, The Desert National Wildlife Refuge is the largest wildlife refuge in the lower 48 states and contains world-class biological, cultural and recreational resources; and

WHEREAS, Permanent protection for the Desert National Wildlife Refuge from the threat of military expansion will provide sanctuary for 320 bird species, 53 mammal species, 39 reptile and amphibian species and more than 500 plant species; and

WHEREAS, Protected public and private lands are the drivers of the State's outdoor recreation industry, which generates \$12.6 billion in annual consumer spending, supporting 87,000 jobs and providing more than \$1 billion in tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, The State has shown a commitment to outdoor recreation, conservation and protection of land through the recent creation of the Division of Outdoor Recreation of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the establishment of state parks and recreation areas such as Walker River State Recreation Area and Ice Age Fossils State Park; and

WHEREAS, During the COVID-19 pandemic, people have greatly benefitted from the physical, mental and emotional health benefits provided by various recreational activities on public lands; and

WHEREAS, The State has approximately 70.2 million acres of total land and roughly 80 percent of the State is administered by various federal agencies that have multiple-use mandates, creating unique management opportunities and challenges; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous methods of protecting and managing the land are an essential and fundamental part of a concerted effort to balance the climate and restore biodiversity; and

WHEREAS, Impactful solutions to the biodiversity crisis require partnerships and collaboration between federal agencies, the State, local governments, tribal governments, local communities, private landowners, ranchers, farmers, hunters, anglers, outdoor recreationists, conservationists and other land-use stakeholders; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 81st Session of the Nevada Legislature express support for the goal of protecting 30

percent of the lands and waters in the State by 2030 and protecting 30 percent of the lands and waters of the United States by 2030; and be it further

RESOLVED, That President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., and the Congress of the United States are urged to support a long-term goal of protecting 50 percent of the planet, inland waters and oceans; and be it further

RESOLVED, That state and local agencies are urged to work cooperatively with federal agencies in order to protect 30 percent of the lands and waters in the State by 2030; and be it further

RESOLVED, That state and local agencies engaged in efforts to support and expand the protection of land and waters are urged to honor tribal jurisdictions and the rights of indigenous tribes through informed consultation with tribal governments; and be it further

RESOLVED, That state and local agencies are urged to provide fair treatment and meaningful involvement to people of all races, cultures, incomes and natural origins by soliciting, accounting for and responding to the voices, needs and priorities of communities of color, indigenous communities and economically disadvantaged communities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That state and local agencies are urged to encourage private land owners to participate in voluntary programs to protect wildlife habitat and increase carbon sequestration; and be it further

RESOLVED, That federal, state and local agencies are urged to work with the Nevada Congressional Delegation to identify opportunities for federal legislation and regulatory action to expand protection and conservation measures on public lands in the State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation, Governor Steve Sisolak and the Director of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

STATE LAND USE PLANNING ADVISORY COUNCIL
Membership Roster

COUNTY	REPRESENTATIVE	TERM	PHONE
Carson City	Hope Sullivan Community Development Director 201 N Carson Street Carson City, NV 89701	12/31/24	775-283-7922 HSullivan@carson.org
Churchill	James Barbee County Manager 155 N Taylor Street, Suite 194 Fallon, NV 89406	12/31/22 5/28/22 Executive Council Term	775-423-5136 jbarbee@churchillcounty.org
Clark	Sami Real Planning Manager 500 S Grand Central Parkway Las Vegas, NV 89155	12/31/24 5/28/22 Executive Council Term	702-455-3129 Sami.Real@ClarkCountyNV.gov
Douglas	Maureen Casey Planning Commissioner 1594 Esmeralda Avenue. PO Box 218 Minden, NV 89423	12/31/24	775 309-5321 maureen.casey1@hush.com
Elko	Wilde Brough County Commissioner 540 Court Street, Suite 101 Elko, Nevada 89801	1/4/24	775-777-2590 wbrough@elkocountynv.net
Esmeralda	De Winsor County Commissioner PO Box 517 Goldfield, NV 89013	6/30/23	775-530-7443 commissionerdewinsor@gmail.com
Eureka	Jake Tibbitts (Chair) Natural Resources Manager 10 S Main Street. PO Box 694 Eureka, NV 89316	12/31/22 3/1/21 Chairman Term	775-237-6010 JTibbitts@EurekaCountyNV.gov
Humboldt	Jim French County Commissioner 5615 Patrician Way Winnemucca, NV 89445	12/31/22 5/28/22 Executive Council Term	775-843-8327 jlfrench6472@sbcglobal.net
Lander	Art Clark County Commissioner 50 State Route 305 Battle Mountain, NV 89820	2/28/23	775-761-6011 aclark@landercountynv.org
Lincoln	Kevin Phillips County Commissioner PO Box 90 Pioche, NV 89043	2/28/23	775-962-1463 kevin@lcturbonet.com

Lyon	Wes Henderson County Commissioner 117 Denio Drive Dayton, Nevada 89403	12/31/24	775-461-6296 whenderson@lyon-county.org
Mineral	Curtis Schlepp County Commissioner PO Box 1450 Hawthorne, NV 89415	12/31/2022	775-316-0758 ccb@mineralcountynv.org
Nye	Lorinda Wichman (Vice Chair) Natural Resources Director 101 Radar Road PO Box 153 Tonopah, NV 89049	12/31/24 1/17/21 Vice Chairman Term 5/28/22 Executive Council Term	775-761-1626 lawichman@co.nye.nv.us
Pershing	Roger Mancebo Former County Commissioner 590 14 th Street Lovelock, NV 89419	12/31/22	775-273-2351 rmancebo24@gmail.com
Storey	Kathy Canfield Senior Planner 1064 S C Street Virginia City, NV 89440	12/31/22	775-847-1144 kcanfield@storeycounty.org
Washoe	Jeanne Herman County Commissioner PO Box 11130 1001 E 9 th Street Reno, NV 89520	12/31/22	775-358-0555 jherman@washoecounty.us
White Pine	Bill Calderwood Public Works Director 953 Campton Street Ely, NV 89301	12/31/22	775-293-6552 bcalderwood@whitepinecountynv.gov
Nevada Indian Commission	Stacey Montooth Executive Director 5366 Snyder Ave Carson City, NV 89701	Interim Representative	775-687-7601 smontooth@nic.nv.gov
Nevada Association of Counties (Non-Voting)	Vinson Guthreau Executive Director 304 S Minnesota Street Carson City, NV 89703	N/A	775-883-7863 vguthreau@nvnaco.org
Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities (Non-Voting)	Charlene Bybee Councilmember City of Sparks, NV 431 Prater Way Sparks, NV 89431	N/A	(775) 353-2311 cbybee@cityofsparks.us