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## EXPLANATION OF SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2

Assembly Committee on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining  
April 14, 2003

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- Senate Joint Resolution No. 2 is a measure requested by the Public Lands Committee (at Assemblyman John Carpenter's request) to address necessary improvements to existing public land.
- Approximately 61 million acres of Nevada, or 87 percent of our land, is federally controlled.
- Although Nevada has the most federal of any state in the lower 48 states, our federal land managers, such as the Bureau of Land Management, receive less funding for operations in Nevada than many other states and important projects go un-funded.
- In summary, S.J.R. 2 urges the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to expend revenue generated from two federal land disposal programs on various land and water improvements throughout Nevada.
- The two land disposal programs addressed in S.J.R. 2 are the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act, and the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (commonly referred to as the Bacca Bill). Each of these acts allow for the disposal of certain federal land in Nevada. While the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act provides for disposal of federal land in Clark County, the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act provides for disposal of land throughout Nevada.
- The revenue from these land sales is used for specific purposes, such as the acquisition of environmentally sensitive land and capital improvements to federal recreation areas. In addition, a percentage of the revenue generated from the sales is dedicated to education in Nevada.
- However, the proceeds are not specifically earmarked for land and water improvements on existing federal land, which are greatly needed in many areas.

- Responsible management of the federal land in Nevada is critical, and must include various range restoration initiatives, noxious weed abatement, and re-establishment of native ecosystems. These activities help to encourage range health, reduce the risk of wildland fires, and improve wildlife habitats. As a result, such improvements support our agriculture, mining, and recreation industries on which many of our rural communities rely for economic prosperity.
- Adequate water developments on the federally managed land are also essential. Without these appropriate water systems, livestock and wildlife concentrate near streams and springs, and jeopardize the ecological health and water quality of sensitive resources. Water developments are needed to better disperse the animals and better manage the land.
- Recently, the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act was amended to allow a portion of the proceeds from land sales to be used for conservation initiatives on federal land in Clark County. Senate Joint Resolution No. 2 urges the Secretary of the Interior to consider land and water restoration and development projects on existing public lands among the conservation initiatives to be funded.
- However, the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act does not include funding for conservation initiatives or improvements to existing federal land. Therefore, S.J.R. 2 urges Congress to amend the Act so that the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior can utilize some of the proceeds from land sales throughout Nevada for land and water restoration and development projects.