

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Seventy-third Session
March 30, 2005**

The Senate Committee on Natural Resources was called to order by Chair Dean A. Rhoads at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 30, 2005, in Room 2144 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. [Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file at the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Dean A. Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike McGinness, Vice Chair
Senator Mark E. Amodei
Senator Bob Beers
Senator Bob Coffin
Senator Michael Schneider
Senator Maggie Carlton

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Senator John Lee, Clark County Senatorial District No. 1
Assemblyman John Carpenter, Assembly District No. 33

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Linda Eissmann, Committee Policy Analyst
Michael J. Stewart, Committee Policy Analyst
Jonathan Sherwood, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Doug Busselman, Nevada Farm Bureau
Terry R. Crawforth, Director, Department of Wildlife
Larry Johnson, Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife

Chair Rhoads opened the hearing on Senate Bill (S.B.) 330.

SENATE BILL 330: Revises provisions governing issuance of special incentive elk tags. (BDR 45-424)

Michael J. Stewart, Committee Policy Analyst, provided an overview of S.B. 330 from a prepared statement ([Exhibit C](#)). Chair Rhoads asked if the bill would give an elk tag and also allow reimbursement for damages to property to the same individual. Mr. Stewart said he understood it to be an application process that an individual was required to go through in order to receive either the elk tag or the monetary compensation.

Chair Rhoads closed the hearing on S.B. 330 and requested a bill draft request (BDR) introduction.

BILL DRAFT REQUEST R-430: Commends participants in effort to prevent listing of sage grouse as threatened or endangered species and encourages continued conservation efforts. (Later introduced as [Senate Concurrent Resolution 15](#).)

SENATOR MCGINNESS MOVED TO INTRODUCE BDR R-430.

SENATOR AMODEI SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS SCHNEIDER AND BEERS WERE ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

Chair Rhoads reopened the hearing on S.B. 330.

Assemblyman John Carpenter, Assembly District No. 33, said the reason for S.B. 330 was to allow people who had damage done to their fences by elk to receive an elk tag rather than pursue compensation from the Department of Wildlife. He said the bill may need to be amended. Chair Rhoads asked if Assemblyman Carpenter's intent was for an individual to receive monetary compensation and an elk tag. Assemblyman Carpenter said no, receiving both was not his intention. He said the intent of the bill would allow an individual to receive an elk tag instead of compensation.

Doug Busselman, Nevada Farm Bureau, spoke from a prepared statement in opposition to S.B. 330 ([Exhibit D](#)). Chair Rhoads asked if the bill contained either compensation for damages by elk or an incentive tag, would the Nevada Farm Bureau support it. Mr. Busselman said the current status of the law was that a landowner could only receive either the incentive tag or compensation. He said a landowner could now apply for an incentive tag on one piece of property and apply for compensation on another. He said a landowner could not apply for both options on the same piece of property in the same year.

Terry R. Crawforth, Director, Department of Wildlife, provided the Committee with the 2005 status report on elk damage mitigation and elk incentive tag programs ([Exhibit E](#)). He also provided the Committee with information on elk management on private lands ([Exhibit F](#)). He said the current compensation for the damages program and the incentive tag program complimented each other. He said if the two programs were combined, as S.B. 330 proposed, they would work against each other. Chair Rhoads asked if S.B. 330 was necessary since the two programs were already available. Mr. Crawforth said no, the bill was not necessary.

Larry Johnson, Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife, said the current programs in place allowed a landowner to file for both compensation and the incentive tag. He said cultivated croplands went into one category and rangeland went into another. He said it would not be proper for a rancher who had a broken fence to receive an incentive tag, which is typically valued at nearly \$12,000. He said S.B. 330 would disrupt the quotas for the tags because more ranchers would receive them. Mr. Johnson said the bill would unfairly favor ranchers over sportsmen who are waiting to receive a tag.

Chair Rhoads closed the hearing on S.B. 330 and opened the hearing on Senate Joint Resolution (S.J.R.) 12.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 12: Urges President of United States to direct Secretary of the Interior to provide full funding for Clark County Sport Shooting Park. (BDR R-1358)

Senator John Lee, Clark County Senatorial District No. 1, spoke from a prepared statement in support of S.J.R. 12 ([Exhibit G](#)). He distributed a pamphlet detailing the proposed shooting park in S.J.R. 12 ([Exhibit H](#)). Chair Rhoads

asked if land was appropriated for the shooting park when the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) was passed. Senator Lee said it was not included and the land was deeded to Clark County. Chair Rhoads asked if the park was finished. Senator Lee said the pre-engineering stage had been completed, but other issues still needed to be completed. Chair Rhoads asked if money could be used from SNPLMA to finish the shooting park. Senator Lee said that option had been attempted, but the park had been denied by a combination of President George W. Bush's administration and the Bureau of Land Management. Chair Rhoads asked if this occurred when money had been transferred from Nevada to the federal budget. Senator Lee said that was the case. He said S.J.R. 12 would demonstrate to Washington, D.C., that Nevada wants the shooting park funded as promised. Chair Rhoads asked the total cost of the shooting park. Senator Lee said the cost, after all amenities, would be \$42 million. He said the shooting park would be open to the public as current shooting ranges are in areas near residential neighborhoods. He said this posed a danger to people near those ranges and the new shooting park would provide a safe alternative to those ranges.

Senator Carlton asked if the federal government would be inclined to use money from SNPLMA if the shooting park were to receive similar funding. Senator Lee said only local entities such as Las Vegas or Clark County were entitled to the money. Senator Carlton voiced concern over the federal government possibly using funds from SNPLMA in the future. She asked if S.J.R. 12 would help the park project at the county level. Senator Lee said S.J.R. 12 would include local, county and state levels in urging the federal government to follow through with the funding of the shooting park. Senator Carlton asked if this funding would change any funding to other provisions in SNPLMA. Senator Lee said the park was under the parks, trails and natural areas subgroup of SNPLMA, and no other subgroup would be affected.

Mr. Crawforth spoke in support of S.J.R. 12. He said there was a need for a new facility for shooters in the State. He said the Department of Wildlife was actively working to help complete the shooting park. Chair Rhoads asked if money in SNPLMA was appropriate for this project. Mr. Crawforth said the shooting park was appropriate under the parks, trails and natural areas subgroup and would not create a new subgroup.

Chair Rhoads closed the hearing on S.J.R. 12 and opened the hearing on S.B. 342.

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SENATE BILL 342: Revises provisions relating to issuance of game tags to residents and nonresidents of this State. (BDR 45-1030)

Senator Amodei requested S.B. 342 be withdrawn.

SENATOR CARLTON MOVED TO INDEFINITELY POSTPONE S.B. 342.

SENATOR MCGINNESS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Chair Rhoads adjourned the meeting of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources at 2:20 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Jonathan Sherwood,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Dean A. Rhoads, Chair

DATE: _____