

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 469—ASSEMBLYMEN MORTENSON,
ANDERSON, BUCKLEY, KOIVISTO, MCCLAIN, PIERCE AND
WOMACK

MARCH 19, 2007

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources,
Agriculture, and Mining

SUMMARY—Provides for the creation of a state park for the
protection of certain paleontologically sensitive sites.
(BDR 35-717)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Contains Appropriation not included
in Executive Budget.

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

AN ACT relating to state parks; creating a state park in the Upper
Las Vegas Wash; requiring the Division of State Parks of
the State Department of Conservation and Natural
Resources to conduct a study of the feasibility of
developing the park; making an appropriation; and
providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 **Section 1** of this bill creates a state park on approximately 315 acres of land
2 owned by the State in the Upper Las Vegas Wash. **Section 2** of this bill requires the
3 Division of State Parks of the State Department of Conservation and Natural
4 Resources to work with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, to conduct a study of
5 the feasibility of developing the park created in **section 1** to contain a museum and
6 a live dig site that the public may visit. **Section 3** of this bill contains an
7 appropriation for the costs of the study.

1 WHEREAS, The portion of the Upper Las Vegas Wash known as
2 the Tule Springs Archaeological Site was the site of significant
3 archaeological and paleontological digs in the 1960s; and
4 WHEREAS, The Upper Las Vegas Wash is world-famous for its
5 abundant and well-preserved fossils of extinct animals dating to the
6 latter part of the ice age; and



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1 WHEREAS, The fossils found in the Upper Las Vegas Wash
2 range in age from more than 40,000 years old to 11,000 years old
3 and include remains of extinct mammoths, ground sloths, giant
4 lions, camels and llamas, giant bison and large and small horses, as
5 well as abundant small mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and
6 fish; and

7 WHEREAS, Study of these fossils could provide significant
8 educational resources to the people of the State of Nevada; and

9 WHEREAS, The Upper Las Vegas Wash is one of the last
10 remnants of untouched desert immediately adjacent to the City of
11 Las Vegas, and thus is an important natural resource for the State of
12 Nevada; and

13 WHEREAS, The Upper Las Vegas Wash should be preserved to
14 ensure the resource is not lost; and

15 WHEREAS, A state park created in the Upper Las Vegas Wash
16 could become a major attraction for the people of Nevada, bringing
17 national and international tourists to the State in the same way that
18 the La Brea Tar Pits of Los Angeles attract visitors to California;
19 now, therefore,

20
21 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
22 SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:
23

24 **Section 1.** Chapter 407 of NRS is hereby amended by adding
25 thereto a new section to read as follows:

26 *Lot 7, SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4, S 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of section 6;*
27 *and lot 1, the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4, the N 1/2 of the NE 1/4 of*
28 *section 7; all in T. 19 S., R. 61 E., M.D.B. & M., containing 315*
29 *acres, more or less, are hereby reserved from sale and are set apart*
30 *for all time for state park and recreational purposes.*

31 **Sec. 2.** 1. The Division of State Parks of the State
32 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, in cooperation
33 with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, shall conduct or cause to
34 be conducted, a study to consider the feasibility of developing the
35 park created by section 1 of this act to contain a museum and a live
36 dig site that is available for the public to visit.

37 2. The Division may receive and expend money from any
38 public or private institution or person to carry out the provisions of
39 this act.

40 3. The Administrator of the Division of State Parks may
41 appoint an advisory board consisting of recognized paleontologists
42 from within or without the State of Nevada to assist him in carrying
43 out the study required by subsection 1.

44 **Sec. 3.** 1. There is hereby appropriated from the State
45 General Fund to the Division of State Parks of the State Department



1 of Conservation and Natural Resources the sum of \$50,000 to be
2 used for the study required by section 2 of this act.

3 2. Any remaining balance of the appropriation made by
4 subsection 1 must not be committed for expenditure after June 30,
5 2009, by the entity to which the appropriation is made or any entity
6 to which money from the appropriation is granted or otherwise
7 transferred in any manner, and any portion of the appropriated
8 money remaining must not be spent for any purpose after
9 September 18, 2009, by either the entity to which the money was
10 appropriated or the entity to which the money was subsequently
11 granted or transferred, and must be reverted to the State General
12 Fund on or before September 18, 2009.

13 **Sec. 4.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2007.

