

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—Requires the Division of State Parks of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to conduct a study to consider the feasibility of establishing a park for the protection of certain paleontologically sensitive sites. (BDR S-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 parks; requiring the Division of State Parks of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to conduct a study of the feasibility of establishing and developing a park in the Upper Las Vegas Wash; making an appropriation; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 **Section 2** of this bill requires the Division of State Parks of the State
2 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to work with the University of
3 Nevada, Las Vegas, to conduct a study of the feasibility of establishing and
4 developing a park in the Upper Las Vegas Wash. **Section 1** further requires the
5 study to include a consideration of the feasibility of developing a museum and a
6 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



1 WHEREAS, The Upper Las Vegas Wash is world-famous for its
2 abundant and well-preserved fossils of extinct animals dating to the
3 latter part of the ice age; and

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

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

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

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

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

23
24 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
25 SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:
26

27 **Section 1.** (Deleted by amendment.)

28 **Sec. 2.** 1. The Division of State Parks of the State
29 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, in cooperation
30 with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, shall conduct or cause to
31 be conducted, a study to consider the feasibility of establishing and
32 developing a park in the area of Clark County, Nevada, known as
33 the Upper Las Vegas Wash. The study must include, without
34 limitation, a consideration of the feasibility of developing a museum
35 and a live dig site that is available for the public to visit.

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

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

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



* A B 4 6 9 R 1 *

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.

