

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5—
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

FEBRUARY 9, 2009

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Commends the Wildfire Support Group.
(BDR R-605)

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

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Commending the
Wildfire Support Group in Humboldt County and
encouraging the expansion of the model to other areas of
this State.

1 WHEREAS, The State of Nevada continues to rank as one of the
2 states most affected by wildfire in this country, and as this cycle
3 continues to be repeated year after year, it becomes clear that
4 relying solely on rapid response and the ability of firefighters to
5 suppress these fires cannot adequately address the threat, especially
6 in the rural areas of this State; and

7 WHEREAS, Wildlife habitats, grazing lands, watersheds and
8 scenic resources are vulnerable, and according to a recent
9 assessment, almost a quarter of the communities evaluated in
10 Nevada were ranked as having a high or extreme hazard of wildfire;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Local ranchers in Humboldt County proposed the
13 idea of assisting the Winnemucca Field Office of the Bureau of
14 Land Management in response to a particularly destructive fire
15 season in 1999, which had caused sizeable resource damage and
16 exceedingly high losses to the area's ranching industry; and

17 WHEREAS, The initial concept eventually became the Wildfire
18 Support Group, composed of ranchers in Humboldt County who
19 have been trained in basic wildland fire suppression, in cooperation
20 with the Bureau of Land Management, to provide additional
21 resources for initial attack on wildfires; and

22 WHEREAS, Members of the Wildfire Support Group are often
23 the first on the scene of a wildfire, providing invaluable assistance



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1 in improving the ability of the Bureau of Land Management to
2 locate, reach and subdue wildfires in remote areas and saving
3 valuable time and resources for local land management agencies and
4 fire departments; and

5 WHEREAS, In addition to assisting local governments in using
6 their personnel and resources more effectively in response to
7 wildfires, the Wildfire Support Group assists in efforts to
8 preemptively reduce the risk of such hazards by reducing the
9 amount of fuels present on public lands by means of fuels
10 management grazing plans; and

11 WHEREAS, Constructed on a cost-share basis with the Bureau of
12 Land Management, the Wildlife Support Group's grazing projects
13 simultaneously benefit ranchers' livestock operations and reduce
14 hazardous fuel loads in the wildland-urban interface; now, therefore,
15 be it

16 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE
17 ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That members of the 75th Nevada
18 Legislature hereby commend the actions of the Wildfire Support
19 Group and recognize that the Wildlife Support Group serves as an
20 exemplary model of local residents cooperating with governmental
21 entities and working to improve their community; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the Legislature hereby encourages residents
23 and governmental entities in other areas of this State to adopt similar
24 models; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and
26 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Wildfire Support Group, the
27 Winnemucca Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management and
28 the State Director of the Bureau of Land Management in Nevada.

