

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5—
Committee on Natural Resources

FILE NUMBER.....

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Members of the Wildfire Support Group are often the first on the scene of a wildfire, providing invaluable assistance in improving the ability of the Bureau of Land Management to locate, reach and subdue wildfires in remote areas and saving valuable time and resources for local land management agencies and fire departments; and

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

WHEREAS, Constructed on a cost-share basis with the Bureau of Land Management, the Wildfire Support Group's grazing projects



simultaneously benefit ranchers' livestock operations and reduce hazardous fuel loads in the wildland-urban interface; now, therefore, be it

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

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

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Wildfire Support Group, the Board of County Commissioners of Humboldt County, the Winnemucca Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management and the State Director of the Bureau of Land Management in Nevada.

