

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 7—SENATOR RHOADS

MARCH 16, 2009

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Expresses opposition to congressional enactment of the National Landscape Conservation System. (BDR R-983)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Expressing opposition to congressional enactment of the National Landscape Conservation System.

1 WHEREAS, Congressional leaders have indicated that during the
2 111th Congress, they plan to consider the Omnibus Public Land
3 Management Act of 2009, which contains over 150 public lands
4 bills, many of which have not been fully heard by the various
5 committees of jurisdiction or been approved by both Houses of
6 Congress; and

7 WHEREAS, The National Landscape Conservation System
8 (NLCS) is part of the Omnibus package and was created through
9 administrative action, not congressional enactment, and the
10 administrative reach of NLCS extends to more than 27 million acres
11 of federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management,
12 the vast majority of which are located in 12 western states, including
13 Nevada, and include 15 national monuments, 13 national
14 conservation areas, 177 wilderness areas, 608 wilderness study
15 areas, 2,052 miles of wild and scenic rivers and over 5,350 miles of
16 national scenic and historic trails; and

17 WHEREAS, NLCS imposes a whole new management protocol
18 for managing these lands based on the vague and nebulous concept
19 of “values,” and the management scheme for these lands will now
20 become even more subjective by injecting into management plans



1 undefined terms such as “viewsheds,” “soundscapes” and even
2 “smellsapes”; and

3 WHEREAS, Multiple-use management of these public lands will
4 be compromised by this new management priority, thus jeopardizing
5 current and vital land uses such as recreation, grazing and mining, to
6 name a few, all of which are industries vital to Nevada’s economic
7 viability; and

8 WHEREAS, This vague and undefined management tool is
9 currently available to be employed to shut down millions of public
10 land acres and invalidate legal and legitimate oil and gas leases to
11 exploration and subsequent production at a time when domestic
12 energy development is vital, even critical, to our national security
13 interests; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
15 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 75th Session of the
16 Nevada Legislature join the Nevada Association of Counties in
17 expressing their strong opposition to any congressional action that
18 would unnecessarily lock up and reduce public access to federal
19 lands, and further express their opposition to codifying through
20 congressional action the National Landscape Conservation System
21 as creating an undefined and vague management scheme for the
22 public lands that does not provide clarity or reasoned purpose or
23 advance the national interest of energy independence and protect
24 multiple-use, sustained-yield management of the public lands; and
25 be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and
27 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United
28 States as the presiding officer of the United States Senate, the
29 Speaker of the House of Representatives and each member of the
30 Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

31 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon
32 passage.

