

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 3—Committee
on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Mining

FILE NUMBER.....

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Urging proactive
protection and restoration of the population and habitat of the
greater sage grouse in Nevada.

WHEREAS, The status of the population and habitat of the species of wild bird known as the greater sage grouse has been extensively considered in recent years throughout the natural range of the greater sage grouse, which includes the states of California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wyoming; and

WHEREAS, In the past, significant efforts have been made by numerous governmental agencies and conservation groups to address the issue of the possible listing of the greater sage grouse as an endangered or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1531 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, In 2005, the Nevada Legislature adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 15, File No. 48, Statutes of Nevada 2005, at page 3022, in which the efforts of those agencies and groups were recognized and all persons involved were encouraged to contribute their efforts to maintain their successful strategies to ensure that greater sage grouse populations and habitat could be restored and an ecological crisis averted; and

WHEREAS, On March 23, 2010, after extensive litigation, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service issued its findings concerning the status of the population and habitat of the greater sage grouse; and

WHEREAS, In those findings, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service indicated that both the rangewide population of the greater sage grouse and a distinct population segment of the greater sage grouse located in portions of California and Nevada warranted listing as an endangered or threatened species, but the listing was currently precluded because of the listing of other species having a higher priority; and

WHEREAS, Although the greater sage grouse has been designated as a candidate species, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has indicated it will continue to monitor the status of the greater sage grouse to determine whether that designation or level of priority should be changed; and

WHEREAS, The Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture maintains several programs



to provide limited federal assistance to owners of land who wish to join in efforts to conserve habitat for wildlife, including the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, which provides up to 75 percent cost-sharing assistance to improve fish and wildlife habitat, and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, which offers financial and technical assistance to eligible farmers, ranchers and landowners to install or carry out approved conservation practices on eligible agricultural land; and

WHEREAS, In 2004, the *Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan for Nevada and Eastern California* was published under the direction of former Governor Guinn, which contained an assessment of greater sage grouse populations in Nevada, the risks facing those populations, strategies to reduce those risks and methods to carry out and monitor the effectiveness of those strategies; and

WHEREAS, Acquiring and maintaining sufficient sources of money and other funding to carry out the *Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan for Nevada and Eastern California* and other federal, state and local programs to assist in conserving wildlife habitat and creating projects to ensure the health and habitat of the greater sage grouse throughout its natural range is absolutely essential to prevent the listing of the greater sage grouse as an endangered or threatened species; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the members of the 76th Session of the Nevada Legislature hereby urge each state and local governmental agency, each user of public lands, each member of a conservation group and any other person who is involved in activities to improve the population of the greater sage grouse and to prevent the greater sage grouse from being listed as an endangered or threatened species to engage in those activities in a positive and proactive manner to ensure the protection and restoration of the population and habitat of the greater sage grouse and to mitigate any future damage to that habitat and population in Nevada; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the members of the 76th Session of the Nevada Legislature hereby recognize the need for acquiring and maintaining sources of money and other funding to assist in the efforts to protect and restore the habitat and population of the greater sage grouse and encourage all persons involved to continue in their efforts to acquire and use those sources of money and other funding for that purpose; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Governor, the Director of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the



University of Nevada Cooperative Extension and the Director of the Department of Wildlife for distribution to the conservation groups which have participated in the effort to prevent the greater sage grouse from being listed as an endangered or threatened species.

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