

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1–
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

(ON BEHALF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS)

FEBRUARY 10, 2011

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Expresses support for the Pine Forest Wilderness
Study Area Working Group. (BDR R-213)

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

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Expressing support for
the Pine Forest Wilderness Study Area Working Group.

1 WHEREAS, In 1977, the Bureau of Land Management began an
2 initial inventory of nearly 49 million acres of federal land within
3 Nevada; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1979, at the conclusion of the initial inventory, the
5 Bureau of Land Management determined that 34 million of those
6 acres did not warrant official designation as wilderness areas
7 pursuant to the Wilderness Act of 1964, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1131 et seq.;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The Bureau of Land Management divided the
10 remaining 15 million acres into intensive inventory units, resulting,
11 in 1980, in the designation of 110 wilderness study areas in Nevada
12 covering 5.1 million acres; and

13 WHEREAS, Between 1980 and 1991, each wilderness study area
14 was analyzed and studied through 17 environmental impact
15 statements prepared statewide to evaluate the level of impact on
16 wilderness values, mineral and energy resources, recreational off-
17 road vehicle use, maintenance and construction of livestock
18 developments, vegetative manipulation projects, woodland product
19 harvesting and wildlife concerns; and

20 WHEREAS, Furthermore, each wilderness study area was
21 evaluated with regard to its representative contribution to the
22 National Wilderness Preservation System, its proximity to
23 population centers, its manageability in terms of its capability of



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1 being effectively managed as wilderness, and its social and
2 economic impact; and

3 WHEREAS, Each wilderness study area was also subjected to
4 public scrutiny, with the public participating in the review of each
5 environmental impact statement through public meetings,
6 workshops, open houses, mailings, map reviews and written
7 comments; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1991, the Bureau of Land Management completed
9 a wilderness study report which contained recommendations for
10 each of the 110 wilderness study areas in Nevada, calling for the
11 designation as wilderness areas of 1.9 million acres in all or portions
12 of 52 wilderness study areas and the release of 3.2 million acres for
13 uses other than wilderness; and

14 WHEREAS, The report was sent to the United States Secretary of
15 the Interior in October 1991 and eventually to the President of the
16 United States and the Congress of the United States; and

17 WHEREAS, Congress, which has the sole authority to designate
18 wilderness areas and no set period within which it must designate
19 any of those areas, has yet to act on the recommendations of the
20 Bureau of Land Management; and

21 WHEREAS, Absent such action from Congress, wilderness study
22 areas are managed as if they are wilderness areas; and

23 WHEREAS, The Blue Lake and Alder Creek wilderness study
24 areas cover 20,508 and 5,142 acres, respectively, in the Pine Forest
25 area of Humboldt County; and

26 WHEREAS, In August 2009, the Board of County
27 Commissioners of Humboldt County commissioned a wilderness
28 study area review process, and the Pine Forest Wilderness Study
29 Area Working Group, comprising diverse interests and stakeholders,
30 was created to evaluate the Blue Lake and Alder Creek wilderness
31 study areas and to make findings and develop recommendations for
32 the Board of County Commissioners of Humboldt County to
33 forward to the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and

34 WHEREAS, The Pine Forest Wilderness Study Area Working
35 Group has held several work sessions and one formal field trip, with
36 additional work sessions and a final field trip scheduled before
37 making findings and developing recommendations for the Board of
38 County Commissioners of Humboldt County; now, therefore, be it

39 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE
40 ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the members of the Nevada
41 Legislature hereby express their support for the efforts of the Board
42 of County Commissioners of Humboldt County and the Pine Forest
43 Wilderness Study Area Working Group in their reexamination of
44 wilderness study areas located in the Pine Forest area of Humboldt
45 County; and be it further



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- 1 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and
- 2 transmit a copy of this resolution to each member of the Board of
- 3 County Commissioners of Humboldt County and each member of
- 4 the Pine Forest Wilderness Study Area Working Group.

