

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1—
Committee on Natural Resources

FILE NUMBER.....

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Furthermore, each wilderness study area was evaluated with regard to its representative contribution to the National Wilderness Preservation System, its proximity to population centers, its manageability in terms of its capability of being effectively managed as wilderness, and its social and economic impact; and

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

