

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1—ASSEMBLYMAN AIZLEY

PREFILED JANUARY 31, 2013

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources,
Agriculture, and Mining

SUMMARY—Expresses the support of the Nevada Legislature for the designation of the Upper Las Vegas Wash as a national monument. (BDR R-487)

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.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION—Expressing the support of the Nevada Legislature for the designation of the Upper Las Vegas Wash as a national monument.

1 WHEREAS, The Upper Las Vegas Wash contains thousands of
2 Pleistocene mammal fossils of national importance, including
3 Columbian mammoth, ground sloth, American lion, camel and horse
4 fossils; and

5 WHEREAS, Since 1933, the Upper Las Vegas Wash has been
6 valued by scientists because of the significant paleontological fossils
7 demonstrative of the Pleistocene epoch, commonly referred to as the
8 Ice Age, that are located in the area; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2004, during the preparation of the Las Vegas
10 Valley Disposal Boundary Final Environmental Impact Statement,
11 the Bureau of Land Management identified sensitive biological,
12 cultural and paleontological resources determined to be worthy of
13 more evaluation with respect to the protective status of the
14 resources; and

15 WHEREAS, The harsh desert environment of the Upper Las
16 Vegas Wash supports unique and imperiled plants, including the Las
17 Vegas buckwheat, Merriam's bearpoppy, Las Vegas bearpoppy, the
18 halfring milkvetch, Joshua trees and several species of cacti; and



1 WHEREAS, The Upper Las Vegas Wash provides important
2 habitat for the threatened desert tortoise, endemic poppy bees, kit
3 foxes, burrowing owls and a variety of reptiles; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2010, a National Park Service reconnaissance
5 survey of the area determined that the area likely contains the largest
6 continuous section of Pleistocene strata in the desert southwest; and

7 WHEREAS, The Upper Las Vegas Wash is significant to the
8 culture and history of the native and indigenous people of the area,
9 including the Southern Paiute Tribe; and

10 WHEREAS, Despite the findings and recommendations of the
11 aforementioned Environmental Impact Statement and
12 reconnaissance survey, the Upper Las Vegas Wash remains
13 inadequately protected; and

14 WHEREAS, Many irreplaceable fossil specimens in the Upper
15 Las Vegas Wash have been lost to vandalism or theft; and

16 WHEREAS, Designation of the Upper Las Vegas Wash site as a
17 national monument would protect the unique resources of the area
18 for present and future generations while allowing for public
19 education and continued scientific research opportunities; now,
20 therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF
22 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 77th Session of the
23 Nevada Legislature hereby recognize that the Upper Las Vegas
24 Wash contains unique, nationally important biological, cultural and
25 paleontological resources; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That to conserve, protect, interpret and enhance for
27 the benefit of present and future generations these unique and
28 nationally important resources, the Nevada Legislature expresses its
29 support for the designation of the Upper Las Vegas Wash site as a
30 national monument; and be it further

31 RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and
32 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United
33 States as the presiding officer of the United States Senate, the
34 Speaker of the House of Representatives, each member of the
35 Nevada Congressional Delegation, the Governor and the Director of
36 the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and to
37 the Director of the Department of Wildlife for distribution to the
38 various conservation groups that have participated in the effort to
39 designate the Upper Las Vegas Wash site as a national monument;
40 and be it further

41 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon
42 passage.

