

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3—COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND MINING

(ON BEHALF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
ON PUBLIC LANDS)

FEBRUARY 20, 2013

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources,
Agriculture, and Mining

SUMMARY—Expresses the intent of the Legislature to establish a
biomass industry to restore certain ecosystems on
public lands. (BDR R-210)

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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 intent of the
Legislature to establish a biomass industry to restore
certain ecosystems on public lands.

1 WHEREAS, The Nevada Pinyon-Juniper Partnership estimates
2 that currently one-quarter of Nevada's landscape is pinyon-juniper
3 woodlands, with over 100,000 acres of such forest each year
4 converting to the highest density of pinyon-juniper; and

5 WHEREAS, Such expanding, aging, overgrown pinyon-juniper
6 woodlands adversely affect forest health with increased disease and
7 insect infestations, negatively impact wildlife diversity by crowding
8 out shrubs such as sagebrush, and are highly susceptible to
9 catastrophic fire, which adversely affects watersheds and causes
10 erosion; and

11 WHEREAS, Proactive management of overgrown pinyon-juniper
12 stands may reduce fire suppression and restoration costs, reduce the
13 introduction of invasive species such as cheat grass that are
14 detrimental to the ecosystem, enhance the wildlife habitat for
15 sagebrush obligate species such as greater sage grouse and mule
16 deer, improve watershed health and reduce the risk of catastrophic
17 wildfire by reducing high fuel loads; and

18 WHEREAS, Biomass from pinyon-juniper management may be
19 used for commercial purposes, including the production of



1 renewable energy, and the promotion of that use may strengthen
2 communities by creating rural industries and jobs in counties whose
3 private sector economies are affected by the dominant presence of
4 public lands; and

5 WHEREAS, The Nevada Legislature recognizes the cultural
6 importance of pinyon-juniper woodlands to Native Americans and
7 the need for thorough consultation with tribal governments when
8 woodland management projects are planned; and

9 WHEREAS, The federal Stewardship End Result Contracting
10 program, most recently authorized by section 323 of Public Law No.
11 108-7 and set to expire on September 30, 2013, if extended by the
12 United States Congress, may provide a valuable resource by
13 facilitating agreements with private contractors for treatment and
14 management of pinyon-juniper woodlands that would benefit rural
15 communities and forest and rangeland health; and

16 WHEREAS, It is the policy of this State to encourage
17 participation with all levels of government and private enterprise in
18 cooperative state, regional and national programs to assure adequate
19 supplies of energy resources and markets for those energy sources;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, The Nevada Legislature encourages both
22 government and private enterprise to maximize the use of
23 indigenous energy resources to the extent competitively and
24 economically feasible; now, therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF
26 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the Nevada Legislature hereby expresses
27 its intent to establish and encourage the creation of a biomass
28 industry in Nevada to expand efforts to manage pinyon-juniper
29 woodlands and restore pinyon-juniper and sagebrush ecosystems at
30 a landscape scale on public lands for the benefit of economic
31 stability, energy production, hydrologic function, rangeland health
32 and wildlife habitat; and be it further

33 RESOLVED, That the Nevada Legislature hereby encourages the
34 Congress of the United States to extend the authority of the Bureau
35 of Land Management of the United States Department of the
36 Interior and the United States Forest Service under section 323 of
37 Public Law No. 108-7 to enter into stewardship contracts or
38 agreements for management and restoration projects on public lands
39 beyond the current expiration date, and to extend the maximum
40 length of those stewardship contracts or agreements to 20 years; and
41 be it further

42 RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and
43 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Governor, the President of
44 the United States, the Vice President of the United States as the
45 presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of



- 1 Representatives, each member of the Nevada Congressional
- 2 Delegation, the Director of the Bureau of Land Management and the
- 3 Chief of the United States Forest Service; and be it further
- 4 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon
- 5 passage.

