

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)

~

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 9 million acres of Nevada's landscape is pinyon-
3 juniper woodlands, with over 100,000 acres each year converting to
4 the highest density of pinyon-juniper; and

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

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



* A J R 3 R 1 *

1 WHEREAS, Biomass from pinyon-juniper management may be
2 used for commercial purposes, including the production of
3 renewable energy and wood products, and the promotion of those
4 uses may strengthen communities by creating rural industries and
5 jobs in counties whose private sector economies are affected by the
6 dominant presence of public lands; and

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

11 WHEREAS, The Nevada Legislature recognizes that pinyon-
12 juniper treatments on public land may be subject to the National
13 Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.,
14 thereby requiring public input and participation; and

15 WHEREAS, The federal Stewardship End Result Contracting
16 program, most recently authorized by section 323 of Public Law No.
17 108-7 and set to expire on September 30, 2013, if extended by the
18 United States Congress, may provide a valuable resource by
19 facilitating agreements with private contractors for treatment and
20 management of pinyon-juniper woodlands that would benefit rural
21 communities, ecosystem resilience and rangeland health; and

22 WHEREAS, It is the policy of this State to encourage
23 participation with all levels of government and private enterprise in
24 cooperative state, regional and national programs to assure adequate
25 supplies of energy resources and wood products and markets for
26 those energy sources and wood products; and

27 WHEREAS, The Nevada Legislature encourages both
28 government and private enterprise to maximize the use of
29 indigenous energy resources and wood products to the extent such
30 use is environmentally sound and competitively and economically
31 feasible; now, therefore, be it

32 RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF
33 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the Nevada Legislature hereby expresses
34 its intent to establish and encourage the creation of a biomass
35 industry in Nevada to expand efforts to manage pinyon-juniper
36 woodlands and restore pinyon-juniper and sagebrush ecosystems at
37 a landscape scale on public lands based on sound scientific
38 principles for the benefit of ecosystem resiliency, economic
39 stability, production of biomass energy and wood products,
40 hydrologic function, rangeland health, wildlife habitat and reduction
41 of hazardous fuels; and be it further

42 RESOLVED, That the Nevada Legislature hereby encourages the
43 Congress of the United States to extend the authority of the Bureau
44 of Land Management of the United States Department of the
45 Interior and the United States Forest Service under section 323 of



* A J R 3 R 1 *

1 Public Law No. 108-7 to enter into stewardship contracts or
2 agreements for management and restoration projects on public lands
3 beyond the current expiration date, and to extend the maximum
4 length of those stewardship contracts or agreements to 20 years; and
5 be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and
7 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Governor, the President of
8 the United States, the Vice President of the United States as the
9 presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
10 Representatives, each member of the Nevada Congressional
11 Delegation, the Director of the Bureau of Land Management and the
12 Chief of the United States Forest Service; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon
14 passage.

