

Senate Bill No. 159—Senators Jones, Kihuen, Hutchison, Smith, Parks; Denis, Ford, Goicoechea, Hammond, Manendo, Segerblom, Spearman and Woodhouse

Joint Sponsors: Assemblymen Oscarson, Bobzien, Swank, Elliot Anderson; Dondero Loop, Flores, Healey, Martin, Ohrenschall and Pierce

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area; declaring the Legislature's support for a land exchange near the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation area; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

This bill declares the Legislature's support for efforts to achieve a land exchange of the Gypsum Mine, which is bounded in part by the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, property for federal land. This bill also urges the Nevada Congressional Delegation to support and facilitate efforts to achieve a land exchange. Finally, this bill declares the Legislature's support for the transfer of title for the Gypsum Mine property to the federal Bureau of Land Management to be managed as part of the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area.

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

WHEREAS, The Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area is a natural wonder within the State of Nevada and an area of unique beauty, scenery and recreational interest; and

WHEREAS, The Gypsum Mine property on Blue Diamond Hill consists of over 3,000 acres of land that is bounded on the north, west, south and portions of the east by the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area; and

WHEREAS, The elevation within the Gypsum Mine property reaches approximately 4,950 feet above sea level at its highest point and generally slopes toward the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area; and

WHEREAS, Portions of the Gypsum Mine property are visible from locations within the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area; and

WHEREAS, The Blue Diamond Cholla is found on undisturbed portions of the Gypsum Mine property; and

WHEREAS, The Gypsum Mine property contains a uniquely high concentration of biological diversity representing the entire Mojave Desert with at least 15 documented species of cacti and succulents; and



WHEREAS, The unincorporated town of Blue Diamond is located approximately 1 mile from the southernmost portion of the Gypsum Mine property; and

WHEREAS, There is strong and vocal opposition to commercial and suburban residential development of the Gypsum Mine property and contentions that such development of the Gypsum Mine property may adversely impact the beauty and serenity of the adjacent Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area and the quiet enjoyment of the nearby town of Blue Diamond; and

WHEREAS, Land exchanges are an essential tool to secure the objectives of resource management, enhancement and protection, to meet the needs of the communities and to fulfill other public needs; and

WHEREAS, The exploration of the full range of possibilities available to exchange the Gypsum Mine property for federal lands of equal value located away from the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area promotes the public interest; now, therefore,

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Sections 1-5. (Deleted by amendment.)

Sec. 5.3. The Legislature hereby finds and declares its support for efforts to evaluate and consider the full range of options available to achieve a land exchange of the Gypsum Mine property for federal land.

Sec. 5.6. The Legislature urges the Nevada Congressional Delegation to support and facilitate efforts to evaluate and achieve such a land exchange.

Sec. 5.9. If a land exchange is achieved, the Legislature supports the transfer of title for the Gypsum Mine property to the Bureau of Land Management to be managed as part of the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area.

Sec. 6. This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

