
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 1—SENATOR HANSEN

FEBRUARY 18, 2019

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Urges Congress to require the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service to include cheatgrass in certain forage estimates. (BDR R-257)

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.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging Congress to require the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service to include cheatgrass in certain forage estimates.

1 WHEREAS, The Federal Government manages and controls
2 approximately 86 percent of the land in the State of Nevada; and

3 WHEREAS, The health of those public lands is critical to a wide
4 variety of activities vital for this State’s economic success, such as
5 agriculture, ranching, mining and outdoor recreation, as well as for
6 the conservation of wildlife habitat and the preservation of our
7 unique historical and cultural resources; and

8 WHEREAS, In recent years, wildfires, although they have always
9 been a component of Nevada’s natural ecology, have dramatically
10 increased in both frequency and intensity, burning hundreds of
11 thousands of acres of public and private lands, including more than
12 1.2 million acres in 2017 alone, degrading the land, destroying
13 critical wildlife habitat, causing soil erosion and diminishing water
14 quality; and

15 WHEREAS, The most significant single contributor to the
16 increases of those wildfires and their harmful effects is the
17 aggressive territorial expansion of cheatgrass (*bromus tectorum*), a
18 nonnative, invasive species of annual grass, which is progressively
19 displacing native plant species, even becoming the dominant species
20 on public lands in some areas of this State; and



1 WHEREAS, Research conducted by the University of Nevada,
2 Reno, and elsewhere, has demonstrated that livestock grazing of
3 cheatgrass can disrupt the life cycle of the cheatgrass and decrease
4 the accumulation of cheatgrass on the rangelands as fuel, thus
5 causing reductions in both the frequency and intensity of wildfires
6 and contributing to the recovery of native plant species in the grazed
7 areas; and

8 WHEREAS, The management and control of livestock grazing on
9 the public lands of this State are primarily the responsibility of the
10 Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service;
11 now, therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
13 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 80th Session of the
14 Nevada Legislature hereby urge Congress to work with the Bureau
15 of Land Management and the United States Forest Service to ensure
16 that cheatgrass is included in the forage estimates that those
17 agencies use in their management and control of livestock grazing
18 on the public lands of this State; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and
20 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United
21 States, as the presiding officer of the United States Senate, the
22 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and each
23 member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon
25 passage.

