

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



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

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

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 80th Session of the Nevada Legislature hereby urge Congress to work with the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service to ensure that, in areas of cheatgrass monoculture, cheatgrass is included in the calculation for temporary non-renewable (TNR) use in the forage estimates that those agencies use in their management and control of livestock grazing on the public lands of this State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Congress is further urged to ensure that any forage estimates for an area of the public lands that have been increased by the inclusion of cheatgrass in the calculation for temporary non-renewable (TNR) use reflect the annual conditions of the area and consider perennial grasses located in the area and the proportional abundance of forage within the area; and be it further

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

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

