

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 3—ASSEMBLYMEN GONZÁLEZ,
WATTS, YEAGER, COHEN; ANDERSON, BROWN-MAY,
FLORES, BRITTNEY MILLER, NGUYEN AND TORRES

FEBRUARY 18, 2021

JOINT SPONSOR: SENATOR DONATE

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Urges various actions relating to the protection and
conservation of land and water. (BDR R-775)

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.

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging various actions
relating to the protection and conservation of land and
water.

1 WHEREAS, The scientific community recommends protecting 50
2 percent of the world’s lands, oceans and waters by 2050 to prevent
3 ecosystem collapse and keep global warming under 1.5 degrees
4 Celsius and protecting 30 percent of the lands and waters in this
5 State by 2030 as a necessary intermittent step to protect natural
6 systems and mitigate climate impacts; and

7 WHEREAS, Recent polls found that 73 percent of voters in the
8 western United States support a national goal of protecting 30
9 percent of the nation’s lands and waters by 2030; and

10 WHEREAS, The State’s abundance of public lands provides an
11 opportunity to follow the scientific community’s recommendation to
12 protect 30 percent of the lands and waters in the State by 2030; and

13 WHEREAS, Land conservation and restoration increases natural
14 carbon sequestration and is one of the most cost-effective solutions
15 to combatting climate change; and



1 WHEREAS, The State's economic livelihood and communities
2 are threatened by the loss of natural lands due to industrial
3 development, wildfires and invasive species; and

4 WHEREAS, The State has lost more than 9 million acres of
5 wildlife habitat in the last 2 decades to wildfires and only a small
6 percentage of lands in the State are currently protected; and

7 WHEREAS, The 80th Session of the Nevada Legislature enacted
8 Senate Bill No. 254 to require the identification of policies to reduce
9 greenhouse gas emissions, relative to 2005 levels, by at least 28
10 percent by 2025, by at least 45 percent by 2030 and to zero or near-
11 zero emissions by 2050; and

12 WHEREAS, The conservation of land and water in the State may
13 be accomplished through a combination of federal and state action
14 including, without limitation, designating or establishing wilderness
15 areas, national parks, state parks and wildlife management areas;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Avi Kwa Ame, also known as Spirit Mountain,
18 located in southern Nevada is sacred to ten Yuman-speaking tribes
19 and contains some of the most visually stunning, biologically
20 diverse and culturally significant lands in the Mojave Desert; and

21 WHEREAS, Establishing Avi Kwa Ame as a national monument
22 is a crucial step in the preservation of Native American ancestral
23 lands which will help reach the recommendation to protect 30
24 percent of the lands and waters in the State by 2030; and

25 WHEREAS, The Desert National Wildlife Refuge is the largest
26 wildlife refuge in the lower 48 states and contains world-class
27 biological, cultural and recreational resources; and

28 WHEREAS, Permanent protection for the Desert National
29 Wildlife Refuge from the threat of military expansion will provide
30 sanctuary for 320 bird species, 53 mammal species, 39 reptile and
31 amphibian species and more than 500 plant species; and

32 WHEREAS, Protected public and private lands are the drivers of
33 the State's outdoor recreation industry, which generates \$12.6
34 billion in annual consumer spending, supporting 87,000 jobs and
35 providing more than \$1 billion in tax revenue; and

36 WHEREAS, The State has shown a commitment to outdoor
37 recreation, conservation and protection of land through the recent
38 creation of the Division of Outdoor Recreation of the State
39 Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the
40 establishment of state parks and recreation areas such as Walker
41 River State Recreation Area and Ice Age Fossils State Park; and

42 WHEREAS, During the COVID-19 pandemic, people have
43 greatly benefitted from the physical, mental and emotional health
44 benefits provided by various recreational activities on public lands;
45 and



1 WHEREAS, The State has approximately 70.2 million acres of
2 total land and roughly 80 percent of the State is administered by
3 various federal agencies that have multiple-use mandates, creating
4 unique management opportunities and challenges; and

5 WHEREAS, Indigenous methods of protecting and managing the
6 land are an essential and fundamental part of a concerted effort to
7 balance the climate and restore biodiversity; and

8 WHEREAS, Impactful solutions to the biodiversity crisis require
9 partnerships and collaboration between federal agencies, the State,
10 local governments, tribal governments, local communities, private
11 landowners, ranchers, farmers, hunters, anglers, outdoor
12 recreationists, conservationists and other land-use stakeholders;
13 now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF
15 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 81st Session of the
16 Nevada Legislature express support for the goal of protecting 30
17 percent of the lands and waters in the State by 2030 and protecting
18 30 percent of the lands and waters of the United States by 2030; and
19 be it further

20 RESOLVED, That President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., and the
21 Congress of the United States are urged to support a long-term goal
22 of protecting 50 percent of the planet, inland waters and oceans; and
23 be it further

24 RESOLVED, That state and local agencies are urged to work
25 cooperatively with federal agencies in order to protect 30 percent of
26 the lands and waters in the State by 2030; and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That state and local agencies engaged in efforts to
28 support and expand the protection of land and waters are urged to
29 honor tribal jurisdictions and the rights of indigenous tribes through
30 informed consultation with tribal governments; and be it further

31 RESOLVED, That state and local agencies are urged to provide
32 fair treatment and meaningful involvement to people of all races,
33 cultures, incomes and natural origins by soliciting, accounting for
34 and responding to the voices, needs and priorities of communities of
35 color, indigenous communities and economically disadvantaged
36 communities; and be it further

37 RESOLVED, That state and local agencies are urged to encourage
38 private land owners to participate in voluntary programs to protect
39 wildlife habitat and increase carbon sequestration; and be it further

40 RESOLVED, That federal, state and local agencies are urged to
41 work with the Nevada Congressional Delegation to identify
42 opportunities for federal legislation and regulatory action to expand
43 protection and conservation measures on public lands in the State;
44 and be it further



1 RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and
2 transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United
3 States, the Vice President of the United States as the presiding
4 officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
5 the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, each
6 member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation, Governor Steve
7 Sisolak and the Director of the State Department of Conservation
8 and Natural Resources; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon
10 passage.

