

**Nevada Association of Counties (NACO)
Resolution 09-04**

**Resolution Opposing Congressional Enactment of the
National Landscape Conservation System**

WHEREAS, congressional leaders have indicated they plan to consider the Omnibus Public Land Management Act when the 111th Congress convenes;

WHEREAS, contained in the Omnibus Public Land Management Act are over 150 public lands bills, many of which have not been fully heard by the various committees of jurisdiction or approved by both House of Congress;

WHEREAS, the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) is part of the Omnibus package and was created through administrative action, not congressional enactment. NLCS administrative reach extends to more than 26 million acres of federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) including 15 national monuments, 13 national conservation areas, 177 wilderness areas, 608 wilderness study areas, 2052 miles of wild and scenic rivers, and over 5,350 miles of national scenic and historic trails;

WHEREAS, the vast majority of these lands are located in 12 western states including Nevada;

WHEREAS, NLCS imposes a whole new management protocol for managing these lands based on the vague and nebulous concept of "values". The management scheme for these lands will now become even more subjective by injecting into management plans undefined terms such as "viewsheds", "soundscapes" and even "smellscapes".

WHEREAS, multiple-use management of these public lands will be compromised by this new management priority, thus jeopardizing current and vital land uses such as recreation, grazing and mining to name a few—all industries vital to Nevada's economic viability,

WHEREAS, this vague and undefined management tool is currently available to be employed to shut down millions of public land acres and invalidate legal and legitimate oil and gas leases to exploration and subsequent production at a time when domestic energy development is vital, even critical to our national security interests.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Nevada Association of Counties expresses its strong opposition to any congressional action that would unnecessarily lock up and reduce public access to federal lands. We further

express our opposition to codifying through congressional action the National Landscape Conservation System as creating an undefined and vague management scheme for the public's lands that does not provide clarity, reasoned purpose or advance the national interest of energy independence and protect multiple-use, sustained yield management of the public lands.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and the members of Nevada's congressional delegation and to the Majority Leader of the Nevada Senate and the Speaker of the Nevada Assembly.

Attest:

Jeffrey Fontaine

Jeffrey Fontaine
Executive Director

Bonnie Weber

Bonnie Weber
President

