

Resolution

of the Nevada Association of Counties

RESOLUTION in Opposition to the Public Lands Management Practices as Articulated in Interior Secretarial Order 3310 and the Authority Contained Therein Directing the Bureau of Land Management to Designate "Wild Lands" Without Congressional Approval

Whereas, Nevada has the highest percentage of public lands under federal management of the fifty states, and in some Nevada counties the total of federally managed lands exceeds ninety-five percent of the land mass, and

Whereas, the economies of Nevada's counties rely on the multiple use of public lands for mining, livestock grazing and recreation, and

Whereas, the public lands hosted by Nevada's counties have vast potential for the production of green energy from renewable resources that are needed to help reduce this nation's dependence on foreign energy, and

Whereas, the public lands within Nevada provide unique training facilities for the Armed Forces of the United States that cannot be located elsewhere or duplicated and are vital to the security of this country and our allies, and

Whereas, the Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar issued Secretarial Order 3310 directing the Bureau of Land Management to designate appropriate areas with "wilderness characteristics" as "Wild Lands" and to manage them to protect their wilderness values, and

Whereas, Secretarial Order 3310 further directs the BLM to inventory lands that have "wilderness characteristics" and subsequently eliminate multiple uses of these lands until Congress decides whether or not to designate them as wilderness, and

Whereas, sixty-seven percent of the land in Nevada is managed by the BLM and therefore subject to being declared "Wild Lands" by the Director and removed from multiple use and prohibiting other uses of the land including mineral exploration and harvesting, ranching, agriculture, energy generation from renewable resources, military training and most types of recreational activities, and

Whereas, this authority grants the Director of the BLM powers similar to that of the President of the United States to create monuments without Congressional approval through the Antiquities Act, and

Whereas, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) mandates that the Bureau of Land Management coordinate its "land use inventory, planning, and management actions" with local governments by requiring BLM to keep apprised of local land use plans, to assure consideration is given to local plans when federal plans are being developed, to attempt to resolve inconsistencies between federal and state local plans, to provide meaningful involvement of local government in the development and revision of plans, guidelines and regulations, and to compare local and federal plans and make sure they are consistent "to the maximum extent" consistent with federal law, now

Therefore be it Resolved that the Nevada Association of Counties urges Secretary Salazar to rescind Secretarial Order 3310, and

Therefore be it Further Resolved that NACO urges Congress to enact legislation stating unequivocally that Congressional approval is required prior to any special designation of federally managed public lands, and

Therefore be it Further Resolved that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Nevada's Congressional delegation, the Secretary of Interior, the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, the Nevada State Director of the Bureau of Land Management, the Governor of Nevada, the Majority Leader of the Nevada Senate, the Speaker of the Nevada Assembly, the Minority Leaders of the Nevada Senate and Assembly, and the Chairman of the Nevada Legislative Committee on Public Lands.

Passed, Approved and Adopted this 10h day of January, 2011 by the Board of Directors of the Nevada Association of Counties.

Attest:



Doug Johnson
President



Jeffrey Fontaine
Executive Director

NACO Resolution 11-01

