

Policy Questions for Nevada Land Management Task Force

In order to determine what the specific scope and goals of the Task Force should be, please send us your thoughts on the following questions (7/31/13):

1. In the event of a request from the State of Nevada for a transfer of public lands, from the federal government to the state, what lands should be included in the request? Should Nevada follow the lead of Utah and not request the National Parks, Monuments, Federally Designated Wilderness Areas and other specially designated public lands? If so, which lands should be excluded from the request?

2. In the event that Nevada did receive the management and ownership of the federally managed lands within the state's geographical boundaries, are there lands that then should be sold or exchanged into the private sector, and in general terms, what lands would they be? How should the sales take place? Some suggestions on land sales have been: 1) To guarantee transparency, any land sales should be approved by the County Commission in the county in which the sales take place; 2) Only when there is broad consensus that it would benefit the state/county would land be sold; 3) The disposition of revenue from the sale would be approved by a public process prior to any sale.

3. If we are looking at the cost benefit of transferring all lands, as well as the needed infrastructure to support that, how do we quantify this – do we hire a consultant to do that? Do we do that parcel by parcel, and, what specific data about the land would be important?

4. Please provide specific examples of how the lack of private or locally controlled lands in your county has impacted your communities.

5. Give us a list of other stakeholders that you think the Task Force should engage with.

Some Questions to Think About on Existing Laws/Regulations

Presently, Nevada has promulgated NRS/NAC adequate to delegate Federal Authority over water quality, air quality, and hazardous waste and drinking water programs. Nevada has also promulgated land use planning laws requiring the establishment of land use goals and policy within each county.

- 1) Are existing state statutes and regulations sufficient to facilitate expanded state land ownership and administration or would additional laws and regulations be necessary?
- 2) What similar federal laws/regulations would Nevada need or should consider adopting to facilitate transferred land management?
- 3) In new laws/regulations may be needed, in what areas might administrative capacity be required?
- 4) What preexisting conditions and associated law/regulations would prevent the transfer of certain land.