

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION TO
ESTABLISH A SEMI-PRIMITIVE ROADED AND ROADLESS BACKCOUNTRY
RECREATION DESIGNATION ON CERTAIN PUBLIC LANDS**

WHEREAS, a need exists to establish a legislative designation for public lands which more accurately identifies the public usages on such lands, which usages are not fully addressed by other designations such as Wilderness, Scenic Rivers, National Parks, National Monuments or similar designations; and

WHEREAS, many public lands are currently used for OHV touring, backpacking, snowmobiling, rock hounding, hunting, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, nature study and viewing the scenery; and

WHEREAS, existing roads and trails, within the boundaries of a legislated Semi-Primitive Roaded and Roadless Backcountry Recreation designation will continue to be accessible to the elderly and handicapped as identified in the American Disability Act; and

WHEREAS, many of these lands contain cultural resource sites, pre-historic and historic sites, which are protected by federal and state laws; and

WHEREAS, the current public uses on these lands have co-existed with other uses such as the extraction of natural resources, livestock grazing, wildlife management, resource conservation activities and private property rights; and

WHEREAS, the current public uses on these lands have also coincided with the important wildlife habitat, a variety of plant communities and many other significant resources; and

WHEREAS, the economic and recreational value of existing roads and trails are subject to elimination under more restrictive land use designations and in order to protect the existing uses a new designation is necessary and desirable; and

WHEREAS, use of existing designations would lead to confusion in that large areas of public lands would be carved up in order to maintain existing economic and recreational uses; and

WHEREAS, it is believed that the establishment of a legislated Semi-Primitive Roaded and Roadless Backcountry Recreation designation would insure that existing roaded and roadless recreation areas would have the same permanent identity equal to other designations; and

WHEREAS, a Semi-Primitive designation would establish large areas identified by clear boundaries to protect and provide for predominantly natural looking environment where evidence of human presence, restrictions and controls are present, but subtle; and

WHEREAS, a Semi-Primitive designation would maintain current recreational and economic uses on public lands, while providing protection for the cultural, historic and environmental concerns; and

WHEREAS, a Semi-Primitive designation would alleviate the need for existing wilderness study areas within the boundaries of Semi-Primitive areas and, therefore existing wilderness study areas located within the boundaries of a Semi-Primitive area would be released; and

WHEREAS, the extraction of natural resources, livestock grazing, wildlife management, resource conservation activities and private property rights would not be impacted by a Semi-Primitive designation as management of such activities would continue under existing federal, state and county regulations; and

Whereas, the OHV community has a long standing working relationship with the Forest Service and BLM management and field forces and a Semi-Primitive designation would strengthen that relationship.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Nevada Association of Counties does hereby support federal legislation to establish a Semi-Primitive Roaded and Roadless Backcountry Recreation designation on certain public lands.

Passed, Approved and Adopted this 23rd day of March, 2007, by the Board of Directors of the Nevada Association of Counties.

Attest:

Jeffrey Fontaine, Executive Director

John Ellison, President