

74th Legislative Session

Senate Joint Resolution No. 10—Committee on Natural Resources FILE NUMBER 94

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Expressing support for the designation of trails for off-highway vehicles by certain federal agencies.

WHEREAS, Approximately 86 percent of Nevada's land is federally owned, with the Bureau of Land Management managing 68 percent and the United States Forest Service managing 8 percent; and

WHEREAS, Recreation is the fastest growing use of public lands, and as the population of Nevada and our nation continues to grow, the demand for recreational use of and access to public lands also grows; and

WHEREAS, Nevada lacks a comprehensive designated route system for the estimated 400,000 off-highway vehicles in this State which are part of the lifestyle for many Nevadans; and

WHEREAS, The explosion of off-highway vehicle use across the nation and conflicts with other land uses have often led to undesirable results, such as serious physical injuries, the spread of noxious and invasive weeds, environmental damage and litigation or the closing of federal lands to off-highway vehicles; and

WHEREAS, The Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service recognize the need to improve the management of off-highway vehicle use, to reduce conflicts and resource impacts, and to minimize the soil, watershed, wildlife and habitat impacts from off-highway vehicles to protect our public lands while continuing to provide for a wide variety of recreational opportunities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the Nevada Legislature hereby supports the actions and policies of the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service which designate specific roads, trails and limited-use areas for use by off-highway vehicles and hereby urges the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service to carry out those actions and policies in cooperation with other groups, including local law enforcement, hunting, hiking, biking, ranching and conservation groups and others who work on issues involving Nevada's backcountry; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Nevada Legislature urges the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service to require that off-highway vehicles stay on existing roads and trails and not pioneer unauthorized roads and trails; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service are encouraged to enter into interagency agreements with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to use resources efficiently and to ensure sufficient enforcement of policies and regulations; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior, the Chief of the United States Forest Service, the Director of the Bureau of Land Management and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.