

# Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife

P. O. Box 70143  
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## Transfer of Public Lands to State Control

Sportsmen:

Senate Joint Resolution No. 1 (SJR-1) proposes to transfer ownership and control of lands presently administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the US Forest Service (USFS) to the State of Nevada. This is a bad idea for the following reasons:

- Many of us call Nevada home because of the present outdoor opportunities on public land. We have access to hunting and fishing just about anywhere we want to go. This is in stark contrast to states like Texas where it takes big dollars to lease hunting rights, something that we take for granted. We all complain about lack of access to the Ruby Mountains and East Humboldts; just think of the entire state being that way!
- Don't think for a moment that your favorite spot would remain public with free access upon being transferred to the State. Nevada received 2.7 million acres of land at statehood and sold it all to generate revenue. Does Nevada being short of revenue sound familiar?
- Nevada cannot generate the revenue to manage public lands. The BLM and USFS expend hundreds of millions of dollars managing their lands, losing tens of millions annually (generated by tax payers across the nation). This does not include the twenty-five million dollars spent in fighting wildfires, or the portion of the eighty-million dollars spent in Nevada managing wild horses. Just how would Nevada perform these tasks?
- Closing federal offices in rural counties would be a serious blow to small town economies where federal employees live and spend their paychecks.
- A checkerboard land ownership resulted from land grants associated with building the original transcontinental railroads. This checkerboard land ownership of alternate sections being owned by the railroads and the intervening sections remaining public land has given land managers and private interests problems from its inception. Rather than transferring all public lands to the state for disposal, as would happen under SJR-1, we feel a much better approach would be for county land bills to be presented and passed through Congress. Local involvement would identify blocks of land needed by towns for growth or logical for development (such as level ground adjacent to highways and railroads). These blocks of land would be consolidated and transferred to local municipalities for sale, with proceeds available to purchase private sections of land in other checkerboard areas important for outdoor recreation. Land exchanges are also possible to consolidate public holdings. Towns could grow and our important hunting and fishing grounds would be protected.

**NEVADA SPORTSMEN AND CONSERVATIONISTS WORKING FOR  
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- The attached position paper gives additional detail.

We need your help in defeating SJR-1. Please e-mail, write, or call the legislature and voice your opinion. You can voice your opinion on the following link:  
<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/Opinions/78th2015/A/>

by mail: Nevada Legislature  
Legislative Building  
401 South Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701  
Attn: the legislator of choice

or call: 684-6789 (from Reno/Carson area)  
486-2626 (from Las Vegas area)  
(800) 995-9080 or (800) 978-2878 or (800) 992-0973 (from other Nevada areas)

To contact an individual legislator: go to the legislative website - [www.leg.state.nv.us](http://www.leg.state.nv.us) . On the lower right column under **Contact Information**”, click **Senate** or **Assembly**

We need your assistance. Please get involved.

Thank you,

**The Coalition for Nevada’s Wildlife**

Larry Johnson, President

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### **The Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife**

Larry J. Johnson – President (also Director, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited – Reno)  
Tom Smith – Vice President (also Director, Truckee River Flyfishers)  
Mike Bertoldi – Treasurer (also Director, Nevada Bighorns Foundation)  
Stacey Trivitt – Director (also President, Carson Valley Chukar Club)  
Joel Blakeslee – Director (also President, Nevada Trapper's Association)  
Judi Caron – Director (also Member, Safari Club International, Northern Nevada Chapter)  
Jim Puryear – Director (also Member, Nevada Guides and Outfitters Association)  
Willie Molini – Director (also Director, Nevada Waterfowl Association)  
Mike Cassidy – Director (also President, Safari Club International, Northern Nevada)  
Les Smith – Director (also State Chairman, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation)  
Karen Boeger – Director (also Director, Back Country Hunters and Anglers)  
Bob Brunner – Director

### **The Southern Nevada Wildlife Coalition**

Mike Reese – President  
Kes Anderson – Vice President  
Rachel Anderson – Secretary  
John Sullivan – Director (also Vice President, Nevada Trappers Assoc.)  
Bill Halvorsen – Director (also Vice President, Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn)  
Robert Gaudet – Director (also President, Nevada Wildlife Federation)  
Bill DeJunker – Director (also President, WHIN)  
Ryan Werner – Director (also President, Nevada Sportsmen Unlimited)  
Richard Pabst – Director (also RMEF Las Vegas Chapter organizer)  
Neil Dille – Director (also Past Treasurer, Las Vegas Woods and Waters)  
Joe Luby – Director (also Treasurer, Nevada Firearms Coalition)  
Kensen Lee – Director  
Michael Guest – Director  
Tracy Truman – Director  
Paul Dixon – Director

### **ADDITIONAL SPORTSMEN ORGANIZATIONS**

Brian Patterson – Past President, Las Vegas Woods and Waters  
Brett Jefferson – Wild Sheep Foundation

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