

# Resolution

of the Nevada Association of Counties

## RESOLUTION Proclaiming the Importance of Public Lands Grazing to Nevada's Counties

**Whereas**, grazing on public lands is an integral part of the history, culture and economies of the Counties of Nevada, and

**Whereas**, Nevada has the highest percentage of federally managed public lands of any state, and in some Nevada counties over ninety-five percent of the land is federally managed, and

**Whereas**, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) at 43 U.S.C. § 1701(a)(7) requires that public land management "be on the basis of multiple use and sustained yield unless otherwise specified by law", and

**Whereas**, the economies of Nevada's counties, particularly the rural counties, depend on the multiple use of these public lands including livestock grazing, and

**Whereas**, grazing on public lands is consistent with historical and traditional uses of public lands, and

**Whereas**, public land grazing permits are granted under the Taylor Grazing Act, and

**Whereas**, holders of grazing permits must meet specific requirements including the ownership of base lands and the ability to produce sufficient feed to support the entire amount of authorized livestock during periods when they are off the public lands, and

**Whereas**, grazing rights are a "property right" that can be bought and sold and are subject to taxation, and



**Whereas, grazing on public lands helps control the growth of grasses and vegetation which helps to deter and/or minimize the impact of fires on public lands while providing nutritious forage for livestock and habitat and forage for wildlife, and**

**Whereas, managed grazing is the first and best tool to enhance habitat to benefit livestock and wildlife, including endangered species, and**

**Whereas, reduction of grazing on public lands would be detrimental to the culture and economies of Nevada's Counties, and**

**Whereas, grazing can be reduced to protect habitat critical to the survival of endangered species, and**

**Whereas, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has the authority to declare critical habitat for endangered species which may lead to the reduction or elimination of other uses of the lands, now**

**Therefore be it Resolved that the Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) proclaims that public lands grazing is of the utmost importance to Nevada's Counties, and**

**Therefore be it Further Resolved, that NACO reiterates its support of the multiple use of the federally managed public lands within the state, and**

**Therefore be it Further Resolved, that NACO is opposed to any removal of grazing from the public lands by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in the absence of peer-reviewed scientific evidence that proves the elimination of grazing is essential to the protection the habitat of an endangered species, and**

**Therefore be it Further Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, the Chief of the United States Forest Service, the Director of the Pacific Southwest Region of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Nevada State Director of the Bureau of Land Management, the Supervisor of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, the Governor of Nevada, Nevada's Congressional delegation, the Majority Leader of the Nevada Senate, the Speaker of the Nevada Assembly, the Minority Leaders of the Nevada Senate**



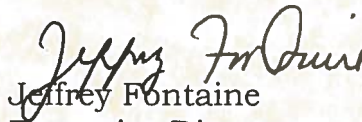
and Assembly, and the Chairs of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, the Assembly Natural Resources, Agriculture and Mining Committee and the Nevada Legislative Committee on Public Lands.

Passed, Approved and Adopted this 6<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2011 by the Board of Directors of the Nevada Association of Counties.

Attest:



Doug Johnson  
President



Jeffrey Fontaine  
Executive Director

### NACO Resolution 11-05

