



2015 SUMMIT ON PUBLIC LANDS IN NEVADA

*A Discussion on Strengthening Nevada's Role in the
Management and Sustainability of our Public Lands*



**Hosted by Lieutenant Governor Mark Hutchison &
The Nevada Association of Counties
September 29, 2015**



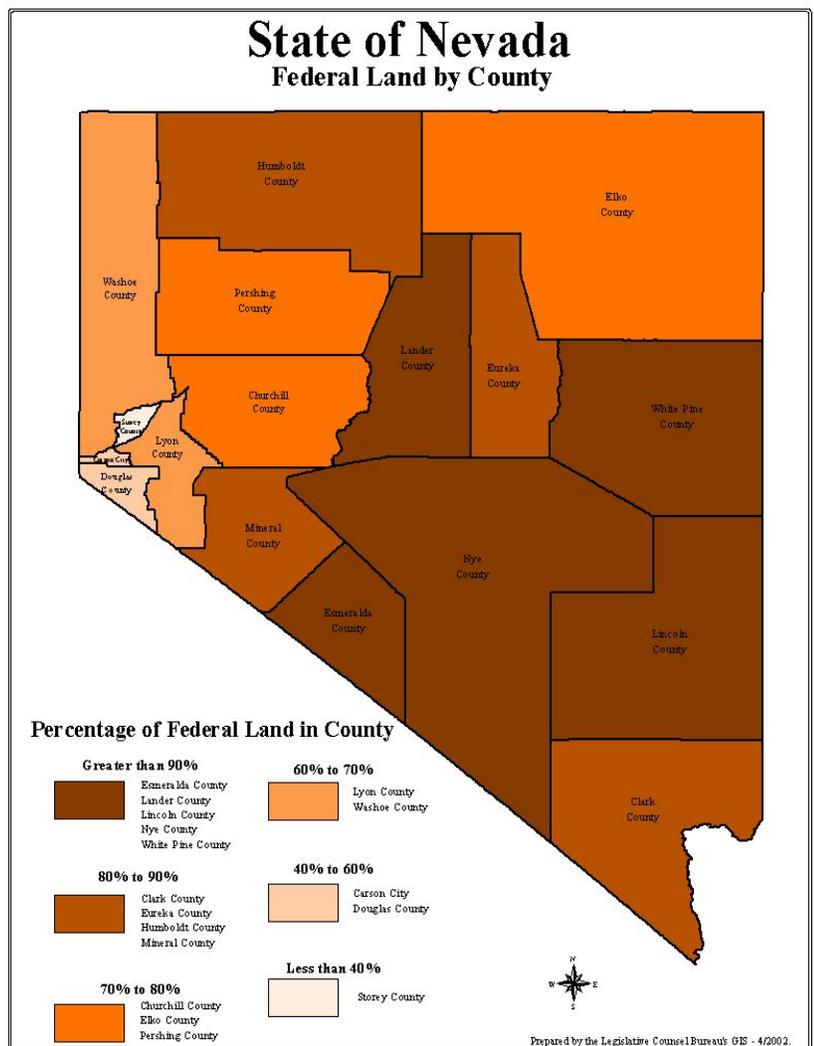
Preface As many know, Nevada's borders contain the highest percentage of land managed by the federal government of any state in the union. Because of this, Nevada's communities and economy are impacted profoundly by federal land management decisions. On September 29th, 2015 we joined to host the first ever statewide Summit on Public Lands in Nevada.

The purpose of this event was to conduct a detailed and open conversation to identify opportunities and recommendations for Nevada to strengthen its role in the health, sustainability and management of our public lands. To that end, we invited a broad range of stakeholders to hear from Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service officials; local and state leaders; and experts on rangeland science, land use, natural resources and economic development.

The presentations and conversations at the Summit told us what many already know: that public lands have a significant impact on economic development in our State, and that there are some profound challenges on our public lands including effective wildfire and habitat management, establishing more efficient processes for permitting and planning efforts and, in general, better communication and engagement between federal agencies and stakeholders. For each of these challenges, however, we also heard solutions and positive examples that can guide us on improving public lands management and engaging more meaningfully in the collaborative process.

The document that follows summarizes the issues, arranged by topic areas, that were presented to us at the Summit. It also includes highlights from the conversations that ensued and suggestions made by the closing roundtable of Nevada leaders. Please stay tuned for follow-up conversations and work to be done on this issue. My thanks to everyone who attended and participated.

~ Lieutenant Governor Mark Hutchison &
2015 Nevada Association of Counties President,
Commissioner Lorinda Wichman



“Nevada’s communities and economy are impacted profoundly by federal land management decisions.”

–Lieutenant Governor Mark Hutchison



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Many Thanks to Our Sponsor:



INTRODUCTION

“The future of Nevada will in large part be shaped by the future of public land management”

~ Bob Abbey (taken from Nevada BLM's vision statement, 1997)

Public lands are breathtaking in their scope and unmatched in their diversity. Just knowing that million of acres of public lands remain available for recreational pursuits like hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, boating, snowmobiling, and wildlife viewing is important to many. More than 57 million people now live within 25 miles of public land, and two-thirds of the lands managed by the BLM are within 50 miles of an urban area. Most of us have the common desire for clean water and air, and a healthy environment for plants, animals, and humans, and we want our public lands managed in a manner that will help sustain not only the environment but also communities and local economies. To reach any consensus regarding the future of public land management, we should recognize the fact that some public lands are of greater value to society when not developed. We also have to recognize though that the vast energy (including renewable resources) and minerals under the BLM's jurisdiction contribute significantly to the quality of life for all Americans, helping to ensure that our country has the adequate supply of energy necessary for the safety and security of our families, our communities, and our nation. Money generated from permitted uses on our nation's public land is also important and is shared with states and provide critical revenue for a host of state and local services.

The job of managing public lands has become much more complex. We are witnessing unprecedented social, economic, environmental, and cultural changes. Increasing populations,

In 2009 Bob Abbey was nominated by President Obama and confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve as the National Director for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Bob's retirement as the BLM Director in 2012 marked the culmination of a 34-year career of state and federal service.



Bob Abbey, former Director, Bureau of Land Management

His tenure as Director was highlighted by the renewable energy revolution and oil and gas reforms where he oversaw approval of 29 large-scale renewable energy projects on public lands. Bob previously served eight years as the NV State Director for the BLM. From 1999 to 2005, Abbey was the chairman of the Executive Committee of the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act and oversaw the allocation of more than \$1.5 billion in funds for resource management and environmental projects in Nevada. Bob rejoined Abbey, Stubbs, and Ford, LLC in June 2012.

polarization of political parties and special interests, and budget limitations challenge effective resource management. Of special concern here in Nevada and elsewhere in the great basin are wildfires, a changing water and land base, and the spread of invasive species.

What is most evident in the discussion of public land management is the need for land
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management agencies to become more efficient. It is within the agencies themselves where it seems self imposed administrative processes have become more important than on the ground outcomes. If agencies are to manage public assets consistent with their mission, then agency employees need to provide the services the public expects, demands, and deserves and do so in a more timely manner. For example, taking 5-7 years to complete a land use plan or reach a decision on a proposed mining plan of operation is too long and has no justifiable rationale.

Agencies have to take more initiative to eliminate the organizational barriers that stand in the way of effective public service.

There is also the question of whether the BLM should be managing almost 250 million acres of public lands with almost 48 million of those acres in Nevada? Probably not, but America's public lands are valued by many and suggestions of privatization or a wholesale transfer will surely fail in Congress, along with any strategy that suggests that public lands be transferred without fair market value compensation (excepting those public land parcels available for transfer under the Recreation and Public Purpose Act). The report of the Nevada Land Management Task Force (NLMTF) to the 2014 Nevada Interim Legislative Committee on Public Lands contains recommendations and rationale for transferring certain public lands to the state of Nevada. This report is not perfect and certain premises contained in the report are questionable; however, the Report does contain recommendations that have validity and should be explored in greater detail for

“Of utmost importance though in public lands management is routine communications and an on-going dialogue among those who are most affected by the management of public lands.” - Bob Abbey

implementation and for use in future discussions.

Also, we need to take stock of what has worked well in the past to solve land management issues in Nevada. The members of Nevada's congressional delegation have been at the forefront of all states when using legislation as a means of transferring appropriate parcels of public lands into state, tribal, and private

ownership. The passage of the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act continues to serve as the best example for what public land legislation could look like. Throughout Nevada, we have seen legislation passed making certain public lands available for disposal, and new legislation continues to be written.

Of utmost importance in public land management is communication. Routine, on-going dialog between agencies and those stakeholders who are most affected by management decisions is crucial, as is understanding that there are many types of public land stakeholders in addition to those whose daily lives are most directly affected by land use decisions. As we seek the type of management of our public lands, regardless of ownership, that reflects the values of the American people, both economically and environmentally, communication is central to success. Remember that rarely are there perfect decisions when addressing the complexities of managing land for multiple uses and there are inherent inconsistencies in doing so. The best decisions are usually the more prudent of the logical alternatives.

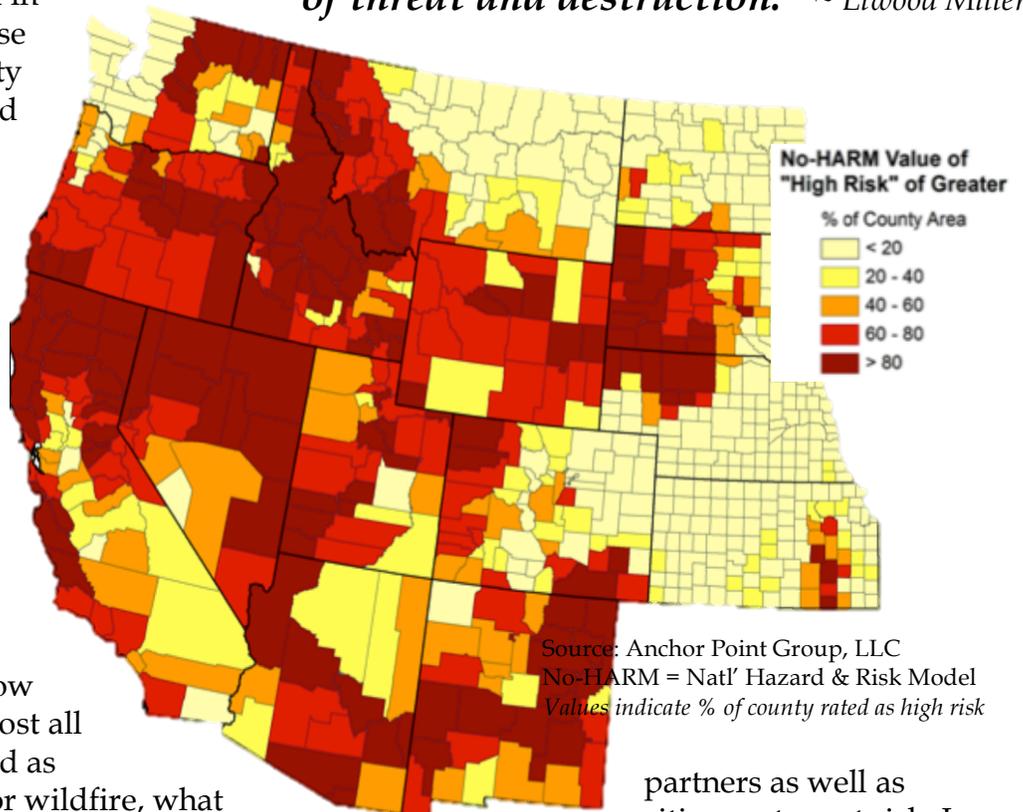
TOPICS ON LAND MANAGEMENT IN NEVADA

WILDFIRE

The specter of increasing mega-wildfires that wreak havoc with human life, human habitation, local economies, and valuable natural resources is both realistic and unsettling. Since record keeping began in the 1960's, 8 of the 10 worst fire seasons have occurred since 2000 reaching a record level in 2015 of 10.1 million total acres burned. This trend is particularly problematic for the Great Basin's sagebrush-steppe ecosystem rendering it one of the most imperiled in North America. The increase in number, size and intensity of wildfires has also resulted in the soaring cost of fire suppression. As one example, in 2015 one of every two dollars allocated to the US Forest Service will be used to control wildfire. This has not only siphoned off critically needed funds to support resource management activities, but has resulted in a fundamental shift in professional staffing with nearly 50% of employees now connected to fire. Since almost all counties in Nevada are rated as having an "extreme risk" for wildfire, what can we do to change a future that seems filled with undesirable consequences as a result of increasing mega-fire occurrence? One important policy solution is the National Wildfire Cohesive Strategy. Adopted in 2009, the strategy has three major components:

restore and maintain resilient landscapes; promote the wide-scale development of Fire Adapted Communities; and implement a safe, effective response to the ignition of wildfires. Implementing these strategic components will require the true collaboration of all affected parties including local, state, and federal

"The Wildfire Problem: Over the past century, wildfire suppression policies, decline in management activity, and residential development have combined to create the perfect storm of threat and destruction." ~ Elwood Miller



partners as well as citizens at great risk. In Nevada, there is also a role to be played by a non-governmental organization that can broker partnership agreements and organize community efforts to be better prepared for

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Restore and Maintain Resilient Landscapes

- Modify fuels on a landscape scale using all available management tools including mechanical treatment, grazing and prescribed or managed fire.
- Implement effective post-fire rehabilitation selecting sites and using practices that increase the probability of success.
- Increase collaboration with stakeholders and support partnerships including the use of stewardship contracts and all other available authorities.

Promote the Wide Scale Development of Fire Adapted Communities

- Complete a Community Wildfire Protection Plan
- Continuously expose residents to messages of vulnerability and applicable mitigation measures.
- Support an effective NGO to help create community self-reliance and working community/fire service partnership.
- Utilize the Severity of the wildfire threat to preemptively address residential development requirements and building codes.
- Promote the development of commercial uses for biomass.

Implement a Safe, Effective, Efficient, Risk-Based Response to Wildfire

- Develop rapid, safe, aggressive initial attack capability. Utilize local resources such as Rangeland Fire Protection Associations.
- Integrate private sector capabilities into all phases of wildfire management.
- Reintroduce fire as a management tool.
- Integrate fire prevention and education programs to prepare communities for wildfire including evacuation.
- Integrate local resources into regional and national efforts in the areas of training, qualifications mobilization and the sharing of resources.

the presence of fire. Success of the strategy will be grounded in a willingness to form collaborative partnerships, integrate both indigenous knowledge and the “best science” into prescriptive treatments, and utilize the influence of information and education produced by our Land Grant University’s Cooperative Extension program.

Wildfire is not just another natural disaster and should not be treated as such. Applying the Cohesive Strategy to, 1) adequately prepare people and the place they chose to live for the occurrence of fire, 2) reduce the threat from hazardous fuels, and 3) control fires while they are small holds promise to reverse the trends now seen as so ominous. Establishing a formal process to achieve true collaboration between local stakeholders, agencies, and Nevada’s leaders will be key to making this promise a reality.

Dr. Elwood L. Miller has been a professional forester for over fifty years. He has earned degrees from Northern Arizona University, Oregon State University and Michigan State University. His career spans timber management and fire suppression positions with the US Forest Service and thirty years as a forestry professor and administrator with the University of Nevada, Reno. His administrative assignments included Department Head of the Renewable Resources Department, Associate Dean of the College of Agriculture, and Associate Director of the University’s Cooperative Extension program. From January 2002 to July 2005 Dr. Miller served as the first official Executive Director of the Nevada Fire Safe Council. Dr. Miller is currently Cooperative Extension’s coordinator for Nevada’s Network of Fire Adapted Communities.



Dr. Elwood Miller

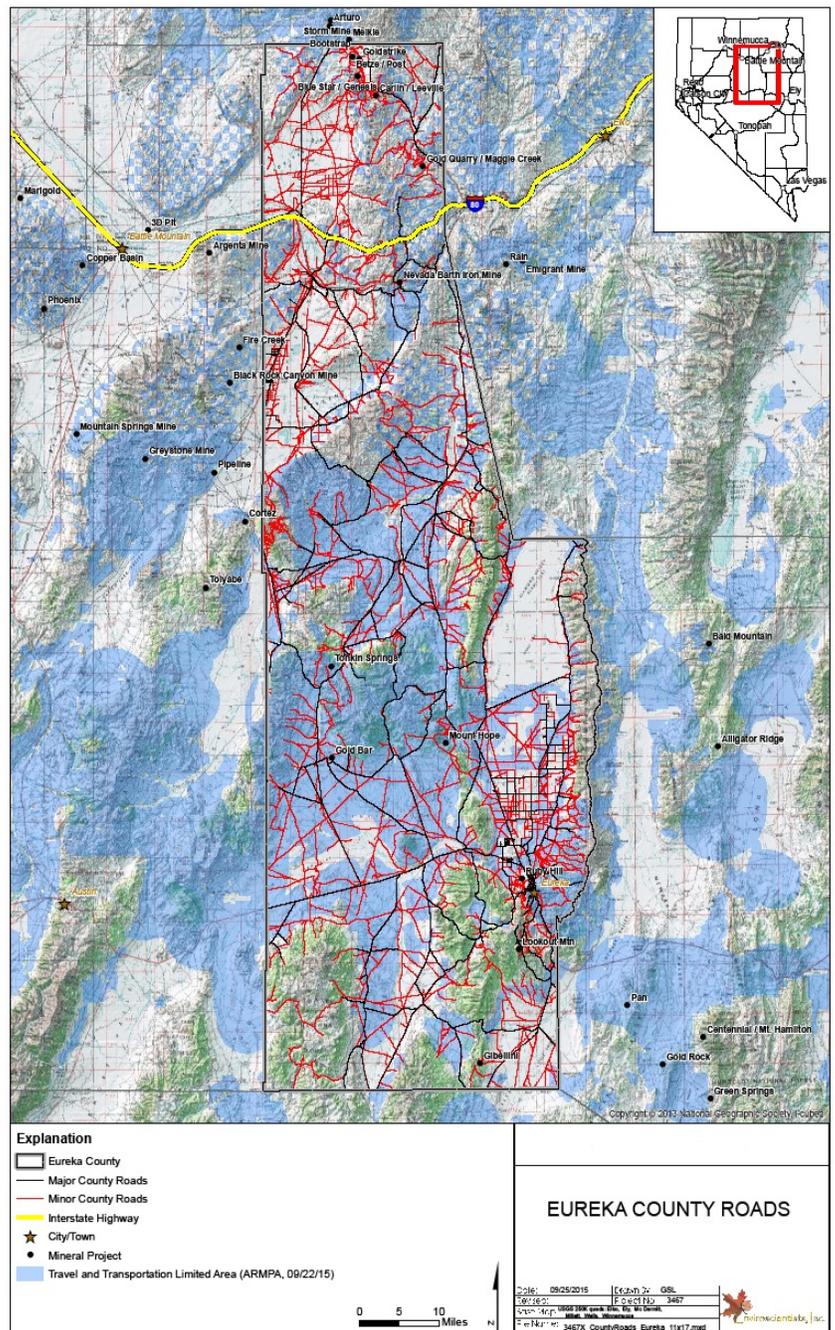
ACCESS & LAND USE

“The term ‘Multiple Use’ of Forest Service Lands was first defined by Congress in 1960 as ‘management of all the various renewable resources ... so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the needs of the American people.’” ~ J.J. Goicoechea and Jake Tibbits

67% of Nevada is managed by the BLM with a mandate for multiple use. Is this mandate still being honored? One important area over which there is conflict is the issue of RS2477 Roads - roads across public lands not otherwise reserved for public purposes that were in use prior to 1976. There are numerous roads in each county, many of which are still maintained at county expense, that fall under the RS2477 definition and yet are in dispute. These roads are important not only to industry in Nevada but also to maintaining the health and safety of county residents.

It is important for local governments to engage on the access and multiple use issues that affect them, but also, counties must update and work with their county land use plans so that their needs and land uses are codified. State and local governments should provide strong and specific land use policies, and actively assert those, in order to advocate for consistency between national, public and local needs. Local needs and practices matter, as, many times, it is the local user that knows the landscape, including its ecology and the habits of the species, the best. Those deriving their

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livelihoods from the land are often conservationists as well, not only because they depend on its health to sustain them, but also because they are connected to it and care for it. Local stakeholders, state leaders, and federal land managers must work together collaboratively. To develop those relationships and then find common ground is crucial to the long range sustainability and health of our public lands.



Commissioner J.J. Goicoechea is a native Nevadan, rancher, veterinarian and public official who has served as Chair of the Governor's Sagebrush Ecosystem Council since 2013 and is currently the Chair of the Eureka County Commission. He studied at the University of Nevada Reno, then received his doctorate in veterinary medicine from Colorado State University. In addition to being a practicing veterinarian, Dr. Goicoechea established the Eureka Veterinary Service in 2000 and is a fourth generation rancher in Newark and Huntington Valleys. Commissioner Goicoechea has served in leadership positions for many local, State, and national organizations including the Eureka County Fire Department, Nevada Cattlemen's Association, Nevada Land Action Association, Nevada Veterinary Medical Association and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association's Young Cattlemen Conference.



**Dr. J.J. Goicoechea,
DVM, Eureka County
Commission Chairman**



**Jake Tibbitts, Eureka
County Natural
Resources Manager**

Jake Tibbitts was born and raised in Blackfoot, Idaho on a family farm and ranch. He attended Idaho State University where he received a B.S. in Biology and M.S. in Geographic Information Science with a focus in geo-spatial rangeland science. He has been Natural Resources Manager with Eureka County since July 2008. He is the current chairman of the Nevada State Land Use Planning Advisory Council, commissioner on the Nevada State Conservation Commission, president of the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts, supervisor on the Eureka County Conservation District, Zone Councilman for the Nevada Section Society for Range Management, member of the Nevada Pinyon-Juniper Partnership Executive Committee, board member of the Nevada Weed Management Association, and member of the White Pine - Nye US Forest Service Resource Advisory Committee.

PERMITTING & FEDERAL LAND USE PLANS

Timely federal permit and land use authorizations are crucial to economic development in Nevada. These processes impact community development, expansion for schools and parks, renewable energy development and also traditional uses like hiking, hunting, mining and grazing. So much of the activities in Nevada, in both urban and rural areas, are based around and affected by the planning processes for our public lands. However, these processes, even for common recreation permits, have become overly burdensome and uncertain. There is also a failure to make distinctions in the land itself. Not every acre of public land deserves maximum protection, just like not every acre is appropriate for development – this understanding is what multiple use is.

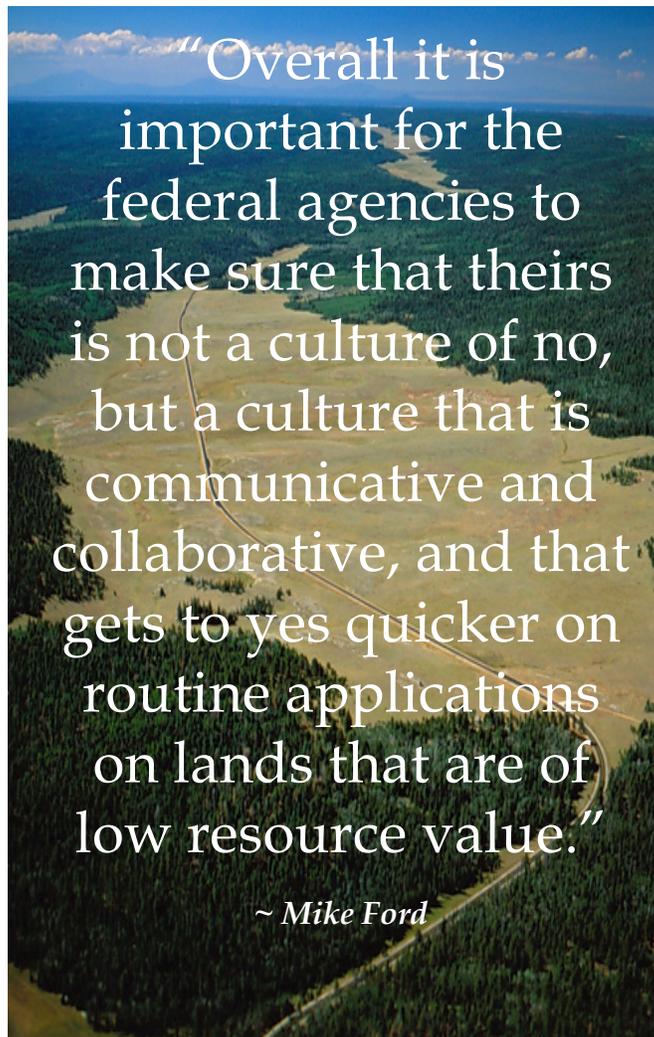
The planning process, including resource management plans and land use plans, are crucial and determine outcomes for years.

Land users must engage with these plans. Currently processes for disposal of areas that are of low resource value are just as rigorous, time consuming and expensive as trying to do something in a high resource value area. And that is and will be burdensome for economic development in Nevada.

The blueprint of the recommendations made by the Nevada Land Management Task Force in 2014 are worthy and attainable, and, though land transfers are controversial, there must be an easier way to do them, especially on those lands *not* deemed to be environmentally sensitive.

Overall it is important for the federal agencies to make sure that theirs is not a culture of no, but a culture that is communicative and collaborative, and that gets to yes quicker on routine applications on lands that are of low

resource value. Conversely, communities and stakeholders need to
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“Overall it is important for the federal agencies to make sure that theirs is not a culture of no, but a culture that is communicative and collaborative, and that gets to yes quicker on routine applications on lands that are of low resource value.”

~ Mike Ford

actively involve themselves with the agencies and the decision making process so that the decisions are balanced. Las Vegas is an example of an island of private land surrounded by an ocean of public land, and there is not a lot of room for expansion left, except along the I-15 corridor. Yet the Las Vegas Land Use Management Plan contains provisions that will create significant barriers to this corridor.

All stakeholders have got to work with the agencies to improve process – and do that collaboratively. Strong leadership at state, local and regional levels is also key and elected officials must be informed on the importance of public lands issues to all of Nevada’s communities.

Mike Ford has over forty years of experience working in the public and private sector focusing on complex public land, water, natural resource, planning, and management issues at the local, state, and federal level. During his twenty-five year career with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) he served as Deputy State Director for the BLM in Nevada and Chief of BLM's Land and Realty Branch in Washington, DC where he focused on land disposal and acquisition activities. Mr. Ford currently works as a private consultant (Abbey, Stubbs & Ford, LLC) helping a number of southern Nevada and western-based public and private sector entities formulate effective resource management strategies that balance economic development and conservation objectives. He also works in the private nonprofit sector doing acquisition work in the Southwest for The Conservation Fund, a national conservation organization headquartered in Arlington, VA.



Mike Ford
Abbey, Stubbs &
Ford, LLC

“These are not partisan issues. They are Nevada issues. No state in the country has a bigger stake in the outcome, though every state should be mindful of the consequences, of not being actively involved in public lands issues.” *–Mike Ford*

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development Issues

Federal Land Operation and Employment

Expansion of State Government

MAPPING THE STATE'S LAND OWNERS

Urban and Rural Interface

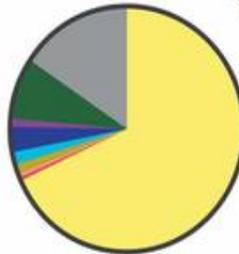
Lands Can Be Coordinated or Even a Trust

WHAT IS THE CHECKERBOARD?
A swath of land covering 4.2 million acres in the Central Pacific Railroad corridor along Interstate 80 is referred to as the "checkerboard" because it intermixes privately owned and BLM-managed parcels.

Potential Efficiency in Land Operations and Changes

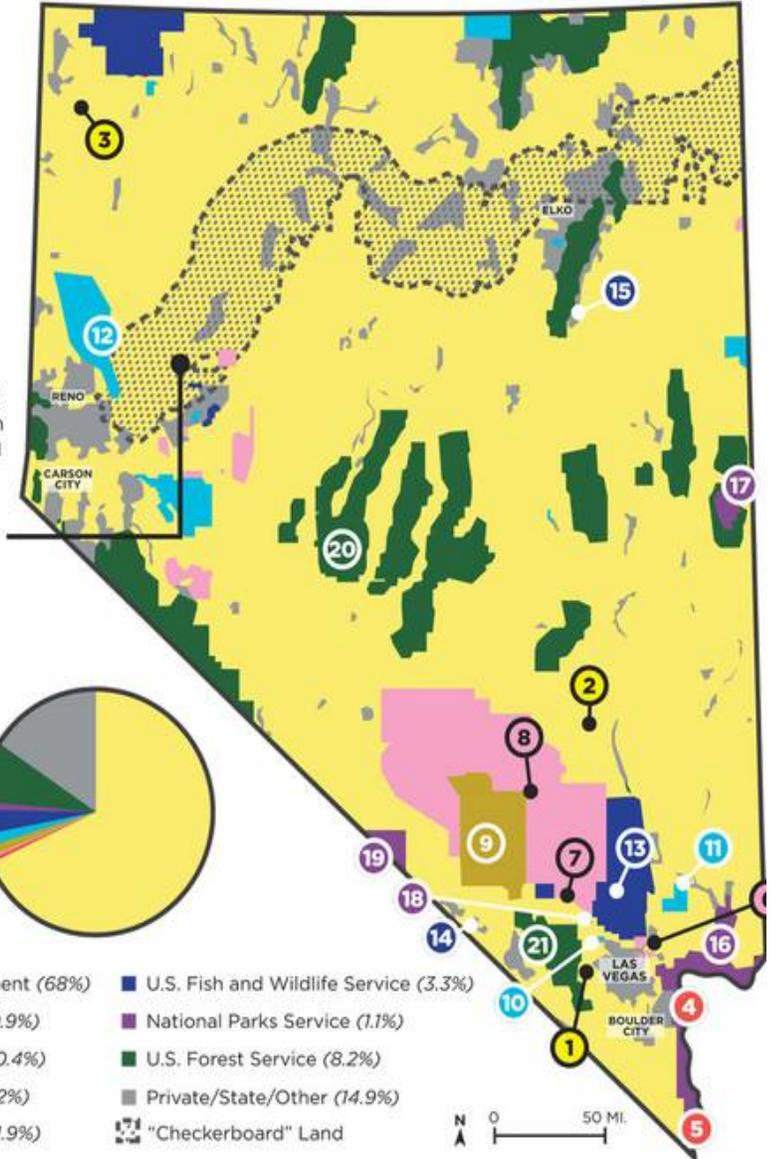
PILT Statewide

HOW MUCH OF NEVADA DOES THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OWN?



KEY

- Bureau of Land Management (68%)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (3.3%)
- Bureau of Reclamation (0.9%)
- National Parks Service (1.1%)
- Department of Defense (0.4%)
- U.S. Forest Service (8.2%)
- Department of Energy (1.2%)
- Private/State/Other (14.9%)
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (1.9%)
- "Checkerboard" Land



Federal Surface Water Allocations

By [Conor Shine](#) (contact)

"Nevada is the seventh largest state in the Nation by acreage; measured by private land, however, it is the tenth smallest. That private land in Nevada though is not contiguous. In contrast, the BLM manages 67.5% of Nevada's land acreage, at approximately 47.8 million acres." ~ Dr. Tom Harris

The presence of so much federal land in Nevada has an economic impact on the State in many ways. The following is a list of economic impacts of public lands that policy makers and public officials can use to understand how these lands and their management affect communities:

- The checkerboard land corridor, where there is a lack of ownership continuity between parcels, is not only hard for the BLM to manage, but the synergy for economic development is hampered.
- There is a total positive employment impact to the State from the federal agencies of 7,664 jobs; however, if those lands were managed by state or local entities there would also be employment for similar management activities.
- Researchers have found that public land as an amenity impacts economic growth, others found public land amenities may be important but that they are not sufficient to stimulate a sustaining economic growth impact.
- Infrastructure, highways, airports, internet, etc may be located on public lands near or around communities in Nevada, and the management or even ability to build that infrastructure may be impacted through slow and cumbersome land use processes.
- Local governments cannot tax public land, yet they provide services to it. Though Payment in Lieu of Taxes is meant to make up for that it is significantly lower than what other states get due to a very complex formula.
- Industries based on using public land

will generate tax revenue but are then impacted by federal land management decisions.

- For communities that need land for economic development, when the process for disposal is very onerous and communities cannot get the lands they need, over years these communities' economies are negatively impacted.
- Research has shown that in local economies where over 40% of the land is public, there is generally a drag on the economy.

Dr. Thomas R. Harris is a Foundation Professor in the Department of Economics in the University Nevada Reno College of Business; State Extension Specialists in Community and Economic Development in University of Nevada Cooperative Extension; and the Director of the University Center for Economic Development at the University of Nevada, Reno. Dr. Harris has worked extensively with rural communities and ranchers in estimating economic linkages of the ranching and farming sector as well as identifying potential economic development opportunities in agribusiness and other economic sectors. Dr. Harris' primary areas of teaching, research and extension are rural economic development, economic impact modeling, and feasibility studies.



Dr. Thomas R. Harris

LAND TRANSFERS

“The State of Nevada and local governments have demonstrated experience in permitting very large projects in a manner which minimizes and mitigates environmental impact” ~ Dr. Mike Baughman

In response to the lengthening processes for land use decisions and diminishing financial resources to manage federal lands properly, in 2013 the Nevada Legislature created and charged the Nevada Land Management Task Force (AB227) with studying the transfer of certain federal lands to the State of Nevada. The Task Force completed its work in 2014. Dr. Mike Baughman produced the analysis of the potential economic benefits to the State of Nevada from a limited transfer of acres including the checkerboard lands (the railroad corridor along I-80, which is made up of small, alternating public and private, parcels) lands already designated for disposal by the BLM, and lands leased to public agencies in Nevada under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act.

The study found that the transfer of approximately 7.2 million acres (Phase 1) could, based upon the experience of neighboring states, generate a sustainable revenue stream for the State of Nevada at a minimum of \$56 million. Also, these lands could be successfully and sustainably managed at a lower expense to taxpayers. Nevada’s state and local governments have shown, through record breaking projects like City Center and Tesla, that they can successfully permit large land use projects without significant environmental or natural resource impact. Nevadans could manage large areas of land - especially if those lands are understood to be of low resource value. The analysis of the report

also showed that, due to reduced bureaucracy and a much quicker decision making process, the State could manage some public lands more effectively and for profit, while also creating additional certainty for the business community.

Description	Estimated Acreage
BLM Checkerboard	4,230,600
Identified by BLM as Suitable for Disposal	1,000,000
Existing BLM R&PP Leases	200,000
Existing BLM ROW Grants	255,000
BLM Split Estate	300,000
BLM Designated Solar Energy Zones	60,395
Existing BLM Geothermal Leases	1,045,079
Approved and Proposed Congressional Transfers of BLM Land	250,000
Total Estimated Phase I Acreage	7,281,074

Table: Lands Identified for Transfer to Nevada Phase I of the Nevada Land Management Task Force Report

For nearly 30 years, Dr. Mike Baughman has been President of Intertech Services Corporation (ISC). ISC assists clients with project management, strategic planning, government relations, economic development, natural resource policy analysis and National Environmental Policy Act and Endangered Species Act compliance initiatives. Dr. Baughman holds a doctorate degree with an emphasis in Environmental Policy from Clark University in Worcester, Mass. He also holds degrees in resource economics from the University of Nevada, Reno.



Dr. Mike Baughman

MODELS FOR LEADERSHIP FROM THROUGHOUT THE WEST

UTAH PUBLIC LANDS: ADVOCATING FOR BALANCED MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS

Utah's Public Lands Policy Coordination Office (PLPCO) is a state-level office that was created to develop and coordinate the State's public lands policies, and act as a unified voice on behalf of Utah. PLPCO's Mission is to preserve and defend rights to access, use, and benefit of public lands. The Office is led by former BLM director Kathleen Clark.

PLPCO has been successful in the following areas: facilitating information and recommendations; educating the public and elected officials; defending public lands policies; and advocating balanced and sustainable stewardship of public lands. The PLPCO also works in partnerships in areas such as reseeded after wildfires, supporting watersheds, coordination of sage-grouse conservation efforts and is currently coordinating with counties on a statewide resource management plan. Also, in the 1990s, the Utah Legislature created the Resource Development Coordinating Committee (RDCC), which works together with PPLPCO to make sure that state agencies coordinate their efforts or comments on federal land use decisions.

PLPC also works with the Natural Resource Coordinating Council, a state-wide council with participation from senior managers from various state and federal natural resources agencies, and has a standing breakfast meeting that connects stakeholders and helps increase collaboration.

Utah Public Land Policy Coordination Office (PLPCO) Objectives

- **Facilitate** the exchange of information and recommendations among agencies, and act as the unified voice of the State for public lands policy
- **Educate** the public and elected officials regarding public lands issues.
- **Defend** the public lands policies of the State
- **Advocate** balanced and sustainable stewardship of Utah's public lands.

“In government, we often find ourselves beating a dead horse and get frustrated when we do not get the results we want.”

~ Kathleen Clarke

Kathleen Clarke is Director of the State of Utah's Public Lands Policy Coordination Office, which works to facilitate the exchange of information, comments and recommendations on public lands policies among state agencies and between the state and federal government. Ms. Clarke has extensive experience in natural resources policy, planning, management, and collaboration. In 2001 Ms. Clarke was nominated by President George W. Bush and unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve as the National Director of the Bureau of Land Management. She has also served as the Executive Director of the Utah Department of Natural Resources, and the Deputy Commissioner for the Utah Department of Agriculture.



Kathleen Clarke
Director
State of Utah
Public Lands Policy
Coordination Office

A UNIFIED VOICE FOR STATE PUBLIC LANDS POLICY

There are over 20 state agencies that participate in the Resource Development Coordinating Committee (RDCC) and database. The RDCC coordinates the review of many proposed public land planning and development projects, and the database is updated weekly. This facilitates information exchanges among agencies, networks, project managers within state government, and publishes unified comments.

DEFENDING PUBLIC LANDS POLICIES (R.S. 2477 Litigation in Utah)

- 11,425 Roads
- 22 Counties
- Over 120,000 pages (complaints and exhibits)



CLOSING CONVERSATION: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?



Lieutenant Governor Mark Hutchison, Commissioner Lorinda Wichman, and key invited guests, including Nevada State BLM Director Amy Leuders; Nan Christenson, Deputy Regional Director, USFS; Nevada State Senator Pete Goicoechea; Clark County Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpatrick; Elko County Commissioner Demar Dahl; and former BLM Director Bob Abbey, participated in a closing conversation on the public lands issues that were presented and discussed throughout the Summit. The conversation also incorporated questions from participants.

Participants in that conversation discussed ways to more effectively deal with public land management issues in Nevada. The following summary (page 18) was taken from the closing conversation. There was consensus that building better relationships between the federal land management agencies and Nevada at the local and state level is a priority. The Lieutenant Governor committed to host a quarterly meeting for federal, state, and county level leaders, staff and stakeholders as a mechanism to continue the conversation and to create opportunities to build better relationships.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Communication

- Collaborative relationship building is key
- Federal agencies must make an effort to listen and show that they have heard local concerns and issues
- Elevating issues to Washington D.C. is not as effective as local or regional problem-solving
- There needs to be cross-collaboration on rural and urban public lands issues
- The media can help create understanding about the opportunities that exist on public lands, not just the issues or restrictions

Land Planning

- County land use plans are important
- Need for more local involvement in the federal land use planning process
- Additional early and continued opportunities for local stakeholder participation

Terms of Art

- There is a need to find consensus on terms like "valid existing rights."

Resources Management

- Nevada's limited water resources should be a factor in public lands decisions
- There is a need for coordinated fuels management
- Some federal land transfers are necessary

Funding

- Money should be allocated more effectively, e.g. presuppression versus fire fighting
- The effect of cuts from the recession are still being felt, compromising the ability to carry out land management on a State and Federal level.

Other Models

- Utah's model for creating coordination was mentioned by many of the participants as a good model, specifically regular stakeholder meetings hosted by the State

ATTENDEES

FIRST	LAST	ORGANIZATION
Bob	Abbey	Abbey, Stubbs, & Ford LLC
Paul	Aizley	Retired
Nancy	Amundsen	Clark County
Stavros	Anthony	Councilmember, City of Las Vegas
Don	Alt	Commissioner, Lyon County
Mauricia	Baca	Outside Las Vegas Foundation
Aaron	Baker	City Liaison Officer, City of Mesquite
Jim	Barbee	Nevada Department of Agriculture
Michelle	Bates	Commissioner, Esmeralda County
Donna	Bath	Office of Senator Heller
Dennis	Bryan	Nevada Mineral Exploration Coalition
Frank	Carbone	Commissioner, Nye County
David	Cherry	City of Henderson
Nan	Christenson	US Forest Service Deputy Regional Director
Tom	Collins	Former Commissioner, Clark County
Mike	Coster	Commissioner, White Pine County
Demar	Dahl	Commissioner, Elko County
Kyle	Davis	Davis Strategies
Charles	Donohue	Nevada Division of State Lands
Jeremy	Drew	Resource Concepts, Inc
Carl	Erquiaga	Commissioner, Churchill County
Jeff	Fontaine	Nevada Association of Counties
Jim	French	Commissioner, Humboldt County
Robert	Gaudet	Nevada Wildlife Federation, Inc
Pete	Goicoechea	Nevada State Senator
Tom	Grady	AT&T
Laura	Granier	Davis, Graham & Stubbs, LLP
Don	Gustavson	Nevada State Senator
Marcie	Henson	Clark County
Jeanne	Herman	Commissioner, Washoe County
Varlin	Higbee	Commissioner, Lincoln County
Nat	Hodgson III	Southern Nevada Home Builders
Mark	Hutchison	Lieutenant Governor
Pat	Irwin	Commissioner, Pershing County
Marilyn	Kirkpatrick	Commissioner, Clark County
Jim	Lawrence	Department of Conservation & Nat. Resources
Scott	Leedom	Southern Nevada Water Authority
Amy	Leuders	BLM State Director
Betsy	Macfarlan	E. Nevada Landscape Coalition
Deb	MacNeill	Bureau of Land Management

FIRST	LAST	ORGANIZATION
Jim	Maniaci	Laughlin Economic Development
Paul	Matthews	Commissioner, Lincoln County
Jered	McDonald	Legislative Counsel Bureau
John	McLain	Resource Concepts, Inc
Pete	Olsen	Commissioner, Churchill County
Juan	Palma	HECHO
Barry	Penzel	Commissioner, Douglas County
Barry	Perryman	UNR, CABNR
Kevin	Phillips	Commissioner, Lincoln County
Shannon	Raborn	Office of Senator Harry Reid
Rita	Ransom	Protectors of Tule Springs
Jack	Robb	Nevada Department of Wildlife
Harry	Scharmann	Commissioner, Churchill County
Dan	Schinhofen	Commissioner, Nye County
Carol	Shank	Commissioner, Pershing County
John	Shank	Big Meadow Conservation District
Dylan	Shaver	Nevada Mining Association
Vickie	Simmons	Moapa Band of Paiutes
Jesy	Simons	Blue Ribbon Commission
Dagny	Stapleton	Nevada Association of Counties
Tamzen	Stringham	UNR, CABNR
Debra	Struhsacker	Pershing Gold Corporation
Tori	Sundheim	Nevada Association of Counties
Jerrie	Tipton	Commissioner, Mineral County
Tony	Tipton	Muletown Enterprizes
Matthew	Tuma	Governor's Office of Economic Development
Michael	Vannozzi	Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance
Claudia	Vecchio	Nevada Department of Tourism
Julie	vonTobel Gleason	RAC Member for BLM
Patsy	Waits	Commissioner, Lander County
Lorinda	Wichman	Commissioner, Nye County
Catrina	Williams	BLM Field Manager, Red Rock, Sloan Canyon
Jose	Witt	BRC

2015 Summit on Public Lands in Nevada



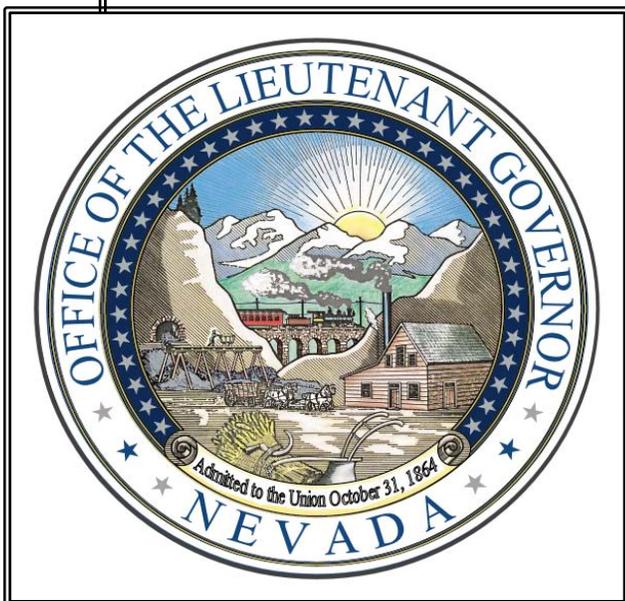
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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MARK HUTCHISON

Mark Hutchison was elected on November 4, 2014 to serve as Nevada's 34th Lieutenant Governor. The Lieutenant Governor is elected for a four-year term and can serve up to two terms. The Lieutenant Governor is the highest officer in the state after the governor and serves as acting governor when the governor is out of state or temporarily incapacitated.

The Lieutenant Governor is the only elected official with specific duties and powers in two branches of state government: the executive and legislative branches. The Lieutenant Governor's executive duties include serving as Chairman of the Commission on Tourism, Vice-Chairman of the State Board of Transportation, a member of the Board of the Governor's Office of Economic Development, and a member of the Executive Budget Audit Committee.

When the State Legislature convenes for its bi-annual sessions, the Lieutenant Governor serves as the President of the Senate. Although the Lieutenant Governor is the Senate's presiding officer, he is not a member and cannot vote on any question or legislative measure except to break tie. Additionally, the Lieutenant Governor can pursue up to three legislative initiatives during regular sessions.



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THE NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

The Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) was formed in Reno in 1924 under the name of Nevada County Commissioners' Association. NACO is comprised of representatives from all 17 of Nevada's counties, several statewide county associations called Affiliate Members, private industry representatives called Associate Members and Government Partners, statewide associations related to county government.

NACO's mission is to encourage county government to provide valuable services that will maximize efficiency and foster public trust in county government.

One of the Association's purposes is to enhance working relationships with county government; to strengthen the communication with federal, state and private organizations; to identify and solve common problems; to promote effective and efficient government; and to provide a forum for determining the long range goals for county government.

NACO has served Nevada's counties and citizens for the past 92 years and is continuing this commitment and service into the future.





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