

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 2–
Committee on Natural Resources

FILE NUMBER.....

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION—Recognizing that the health of forests, rangelands and soils are inextricably linked to the quantity and quality of water.

WHEREAS, Healthy forests, rangelands and soils work as filters to keep sediment and other contaminants out of water, leaves, branches and other residual vegetation reduce the erosive power of rainfall, roots secure soil against erosion, and plant debris improves soil structure and helps absorb nutrients and sediment; and

WHEREAS, Healthy forests, rangelands and soils operate as natural sponges by collecting snow and rainfall, filtering out sediment and other pollutants, and slowly releasing the filtered water into rivers, lakes and streams; and

WHEREAS, Healthy forests, rangelands and soils help to recharge depleted ground water; and

WHEREAS, The ability of forests, rangelands and soils to aid in the metered release and filtration of water provides enormous benefits to both public health and the overall health of an ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, Through this filtration process, forests, rangelands and soils reduce both sediment and turbidity in drinking water sources, which may result in a decrease in water treatment costs; and

WHEREAS, The loss or degradation of forests, rangelands and soils from catastrophic wildfires in watersheds diminishes water quality, and thereby may increase the cost of water treatment; and

WHEREAS, Climate change is exacerbating drought and increasing the size and intensity of wildfires in our forests and rangelands, presenting a direct threat to water resources from deforestation, soil erosion and post-fire runoff; and

WHEREAS, Fire suppression has resulted in the proliferation of closed-canopied forests, which have reduced snow accumulation on the forest floor and accelerated the timing of snowmelt in a manner that is incongruous with the needs of the ecosystem and humans; and

WHEREAS, Healthy forests, rangelands, soils, water quantity and water quality are important for economic development, the economy and the management of wildlife species; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the 81st Session of the Nevada Legislature



recognizes that the health of forests, rangelands and soils are inextricably linked to water quality and quantity; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the 81st Session of the Nevada Legislature expresses its support for the Federal Government, state agencies, conservation districts and local governments to work collaboratively with water purveyors, land managers, private landowners, land users and other stakeholders to identify watersheds that can be improved by better forest, rangeland and soil health measures and to identify or establish voluntary programs, within the limits of legislative appropriations and other available money, to address the health of forests, rangelands and soils; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

