

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-2804

February 13, 2013

THE HONORABLE DOC HASTINGS  
Committee on Natural Resources  
Chairman

THE HONORABLE EDWARD J. MARKEY  
Committee on Natural Resources  
Ranking Member

THE HONORABLE ROB BISHOP  
Subcommittee on Energy & Mineral Resources  
Chairman

THE HONORABLE RAUL M. GRIJALVA  
Subcommittee on Energy & Mineral Resources  
Ranking Member

Dear Chairman Hastings, Ranking Member Markey, Chairman Lamborn, and Ranking Member Holt:

I write to respectfully request the Committee schedule a legislative hearing on the Lyon County Conservation and Economic Development Act of 2013.

I intend on introducing this bill this week. It is my intent to secure the co-sponsorship of the entire Nevada delegation. My fellow Nevadan, Rep. Amodei, has already informed me of his intent to co-sponsor this legislation with me. The week of January 28<sup>th</sup> Nevada Senators Harry Reid and Dean Heller jointly re-introduced this bill. This bill was introduced in the last congress in both the House and Senate. This bi-partisan legislation is a collaborative effort that resulted from meetings, discussions and site visits between Lyon County officials and local residents.

The legislation will allow the City of Yerington to partner with Nevada Copper to develop roughly 12,500 acres of land surrounding the Pumpkin Hollow project site, which is already creating jobs in Nevada. The Pumpkin Hollow project is estimated to create 800 mining jobs and 500 construction jobs. The lands conveyed by this bill will also be used for industrial, recreation, and infrastructure purposes that will create sorely needed jobs and economic development for Yerington.

This bill will also designate an important wilderness area, known as the Wovoka Wilderness, while protecting the rights and interests of ranchers and miners who earn their living on the land in the area. Wovoka is named in honor of the Native American spiritual leader and father of the Ghostdance who was born and raised in the area.

The proposed Wovoka Wilderness is approximately 48,000 acres and withdraws from mining and development additional land with sensitive cultural resources. Wovoka has invaluable prehistoric cultural and natural resources that are worthy of protection so future generations can continue to enjoying them. Wovoka

contains landscapes and wildlife habitat that have been enjoyed by hunters, outdoors enthusiasts, and explorers since John C. Fremont camped along the nearby East Walker River in 1944.

I look forward to working with you and the leaders of the House Committee on Natural Resources to advance this bill through the legislation process. I ask that your Committee gives prompt consideration to this legislation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Rodney Emery of my staff at 225-9894.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

STEVEN HORSFORD  
Member of Congress  
Nevada's 4<sup>th</sup> District

.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To designate the Wovoka Wilderness and provide for certain land conveyances  
in Lyon County, Nevada, and for other purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HORSFORD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To designate the Wovoka Wilderness and provide for certain  
land conveyances in Lyon County, Nevada, and for other  
purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4       (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the  
5       “Lyon County Economic Development and Conservation  
6       Act”.

7       (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for  
8       this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Land conveyance to Yerington, Nevada.
- Sec. 3. Addition to National Wilderness Preservation System.
- Sec. 4. Withdrawal.
- Sec. 5. Native American cultural and religious uses.

1 **SEC. 2. LAND CONVEYANCE TO YERINGTON, NEVADA.**

2 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

3 (1) **CITY.**—The term “City” means the city of  
4 Yerington, Nevada.

5 (2) **FEDERAL LAND.**—The term “Federal land”  
6 means the land located in Lyon County and Mineral  
7 County, Nevada, that is identified on the map as  
8 “City of Yerington Sustainable Development Con-  
9 veyance Lands”.

10 (3) **MAP.**—The term “map” means the map en-  
11 titled “Yerington Land Conveyance” and dated De-  
12 cember 19, 2012.

13 (4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means  
14 the Secretary of the Interior.

15 (b) **CONVEYANCES OF LAND TO CITY OF YERINGTON,**  
16 **NEVADA.**—

17 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days  
18 after the date of enactment of this Act, subject to  
19 valid existing rights and notwithstanding the land  
20 use planning requirements of sections 202 and 203  
21 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of  
22 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712, 1713), the Secretary shall  
23 convey to the City, subject to the agreement of the

1 City, all right, title, and interest of the United  
2 States in and to the Federal land identified on the  
3 map.

4 (2) APPRAISAL TO DETERMINE FAIR MARKET  
5 VALUE.—The Secretary shall determine the fair  
6 market value of the Federal land to be conveyed—

7 (A) in accordance with the Federal Land  
8 Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C.  
9 1701 et seq.); and

10 (B) based on an appraisal that is con-  
11 ducted in accordance with—

12 (i) the Uniform Appraisal Standards  
13 for Federal Land Acquisition; and

14 (ii) the Uniform Standards of Profes-  
15 sional Appraisal Practice.

16 (3) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map shall be  
17 on file and available for public inspection in the ap-  
18 propriate offices of the Bureau of Land Manage-  
19 ment.

20 (4) APPLICABLE LAW.—Beginning on the date  
21 on which the Federal land is conveyed to the City,  
22 the development of and conduct of activities on the  
23 Federal land shall be subject to all applicable Fed-  
24 eral laws (including regulations).

1 (5) COSTS.—As a condition of the conveyance  
2 of the Federal land under paragraph (1), the City  
3 shall pay—

4 (A) an amount equal to the appraised  
5 value determined in accordance with paragraph  
6 (2); and

7 (B) all costs related to the conveyance, in-  
8 cluding all surveys, appraisals, and other ad-  
9 ministrative costs associated with the convey-  
10 ance of the Federal land to the City under  
11 paragraph (1).

12 **SEC. 3. ADDITION TO NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVA-**  
13 **TION SYSTEM.**

14 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

15 (1) the area designated as the Wovoka Wilder-  
16 ness by this section contains unique and spectacular  
17 natural resources, including—

18 (A) priceless habitat for numerous species  
19 of plants and wildlife;

20 (B) thousands of acres of land that remain  
21 in a natural state; and

22 (C) habitat important to the continued  
23 survival of the population of the greater sage  
24 grouse of western Nevada and eastern Cali-

1           fornia (referred to in this section as the “Bi-  
2           State population of greater sage-grouse”);

3           (2) continued preservation of those areas would  
4           benefit the County and all of the United States by—

5                   (A) ensuring the conservation of eco-  
6                   logically diverse habitat;

7                   (B) protecting prehistoric cultural re-  
8                   sources;

9                   (C) conserving primitive recreational re-  
10                  sources;

11                  (D) protecting air and water quality; and

12                  (E) protecting and strengthening the Bi-  
13                  State population of greater sage-grouse; and

14           (3) the Secretary of Agriculture should collabo-  
15           rate with the Lyon County Commission and the local  
16           community on wildfire and forest management plan-  
17           ning and implementation with the goal of preventing  
18           catastrophic wildfire and resource damage.

19           (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20                   (1) COUNTY.—The term “County” means Lyon  
21                   County, Nevada.

22                   (2) MAP.—The term “map” means the map en-  
23                   titled “Wovoka Wilderness Area” and dated Decem-  
24                   ber 18, 2012.

1           (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
2           the Secretary of Agriculture.

3           (4) STATE.—The term “State” means the State  
4           of Nevada.

5           (5) WILDERNESS.—The term “Wilderness”  
6           means the Wovoka Wilderness designated by sub-  
7           section (c)(1).

8           (c) ADDITIONS TO NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESER-  
9           VATION SYSTEM.—

10           (1) DESIGNATION.—In furtherance of the pur-  
11           poses of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et  
12           seq.), the Federal land managed by the Forest Serv-  
13           ice, as generally depicted on the Map, is designated  
14           as wilderness and as a component of the National  
15           Wilderness Preservation System, to be known as the  
16           “Wovoka Wilderness”.

17           (2) BOUNDARY.—The boundary of any portion  
18           of the Wilderness that is bordered by a road shall  
19           be 150 feet from the centerline of the road.

20           (3) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

21           (A) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable  
22           after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
23           retary shall prepare a map and legal description  
24           of the Wilderness.



1 (B) EFFECT.—The map and legal descrip-  
2 tion prepared under subparagraph (A) shall  
3 have the same force and effect as if included in  
4 this section, except that the Secretary may cor-  
5 rect any clerical and typographical errors in the  
6 map or legal description.

7 (C) AVAILABILITY.—Each map and legal  
8 description prepared under subparagraph (A)  
9 shall be on file and available for public inspec-  
10 tion in the appropriate offices of the Forest  
11 Service.

12 (4) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing  
13 rights, the Wilderness is withdrawn from—

14 (A) all forms of entry, appropriation, or  
15 disposal under the public land laws;

16 (B) location, entry, and patent under the  
17 mining laws; and

18 (C) disposition under all laws relating to  
19 mineral and geothermal leasing or mineral ma-  
20 terials.

21 (d) ADMINISTRATION.—

22 (1) MANAGEMENT.—Subject to valid existing  
23 rights, the Wilderness shall be administered by the  
24 Secretary in accordance with the Wilderness Act (16  
25 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), except that any reference in

1       that Act to the effective date shall be considered to  
2       be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act.

3           (2) LIVESTOCK.—The grazing of livestock in  
4       the Wilderness, if established before the date of en-  
5       actment of this Act, shall be allowed to continue,  
6       subject to such reasonable regulations, policies, and  
7       practices as the Secretary considers to be necessary,  
8       in accordance with—

9           (A) section 4(d)(4) of the Wilderness Act  
10       (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(4)); and

11          (B) the guidelines set forth in Appendix A  
12       of the report of the Committee on Interior and  
13       Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives  
14       accompanying H.R. 2570 of the 101st Congress  
15       (House Report 101–405).

16          (3) INCORPORATION OF ACQUIRED LAND AND  
17       INTERESTS.—Any land or interest in land within the  
18       boundary of the Wilderness that is acquired by the  
19       United States after the date of enactment of this  
20       Act shall be added to and administered as part of  
21       the Wilderness.

22          (4) ADJACENT MANAGEMENT.—

23           (A) IN GENERAL.—Congress does not in-  
24       tend for the designation of the Wilderness to

1 create a protective perimeter or buffer zone  
2 around the Wilderness.

3 (B) NONWILDERNESS ACTIVITIES.—The  
4 fact that nonwilderness activities or uses can be  
5 seen or heard from areas within the Wilderness  
6 shall not preclude the conduct of the activities  
7 or uses outside the boundary of the Wilderness.

8 (5) OVERFLIGHTS.—Nothing in this section re-  
9 stricts or precludes—

10 (A) low-level overflights of aircraft over the  
11 Wilderness, including military overflights that  
12 can be seen or heard within the Wilderness;

13 (B) flight testing and evaluation; or

14 (C) the designation or creation of new  
15 units of special use airspace, or the establish-  
16 ment of military flight training routes, over the  
17 Wilderness.

18 (6) WILDFIRE, INSECT, AND DISEASE MANAGE-  
19 MENT.—In accordance with section 4(d)(1) of the  
20 Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(1)), the Sec-  
21 retary may take any measures in the Wilderness  
22 that the Secretary determines to be necessary for  
23 the control of fire, insects, and diseases, including,  
24 as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, the

1 coordination of the activities with a State or local  
2 agency.

3 (7) WATER RIGHTS.—

4 (A) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

5 (i) the Wilderness is located—

6 (I) in the semiarid region of the  
7 Great Basin; and

8 (II) at the headwaters of the  
9 streams and rivers on land with re-  
10 spect to which there are few—

11 (aa) actual or proposed  
12 water resource facilities located  
13 upstream; and

14 (bb) opportunities for diver-  
15 sion, storage, or other uses of  
16 water occurring outside the land  
17 that would adversely affect the  
18 wilderness values of the land;

19 (ii) the Wilderness is generally not  
20 suitable for use or development of new  
21 water resource facilities; and

22 (iii) because of the unique nature of  
23 the Wilderness, it is possible to provide for  
24 proper management and protection of the

1 wilderness and other values of land in ways  
2 different from those used in other laws.

3 (B) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this para-  
4 graph is to protect the wilderness values of the  
5 Wilderness by means other than a federally re-  
6 served water right.

7 (C) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing  
8 in this paragraph—

9 (i) constitutes an express or implied  
10 reservation by the United States of any  
11 water or water rights with respect to the  
12 Wilderness;

13 (ii) affects any water rights in the  
14 State (including any water rights held by  
15 the United States) in existence on the date  
16 of enactment of this Act;

17 (iii) establishes a precedent with re-  
18 gard to any future wilderness designations;

19 (iv) affects the interpretation of, or  
20 any designation made under, any other  
21 Act; or

22 (v) limits, alters, modifies, or amends  
23 any interstate compact or equitable appor-  
24 tionment decree that apportions water

1                   among and between the State and other  
2                   States.

3                   (D) NEVADA WATER LAW.—The Secretary  
4                   shall follow the procedural and substantive re-  
5                   quirements of State law in order to obtain and  
6                   hold any water rights not in existence on the  
7                   date of enactment of this Act with respect to  
8                   the Wilderness.

9                   (E) NEW PROJECTS.—

10                   (i) DEFINITION OF WATER RESOURCE  
11                   FACILITY.—

12                   (I) IN GENERAL.—In this sub-  
13                   paragraph, the term “water resource  
14                   facility” means irrigation and pump-  
15                   ing facilities, reservoirs, water con-  
16                   servation works, aqueducts, canals,  
17                   ditches, pipelines, wells, hydropower  
18                   projects, transmission and other ancil-  
19                   lary facilities, and other water diver-  
20                   sion, storage, and carriage structures.

21                   (II) EXCLUSION.—In this sub-  
22                   paragraph, the term “water resource  
23                   facility” does not include wildlife guz-  
24                   zlers.

1 (ii) RESTRICTION ON NEW WATER RE-  
2 SOURCE FACILITIES.—

3 (I) IN GENERAL.—Except as oth-  
4 erwise provided in this section, on or  
5 after the date of enactment of this  
6 Act, no officer, employee, or agent of  
7 the United States shall fund, assist,  
8 authorize, or issue a license or permit  
9 for the development of any new water  
10 resource facility within the Wilder-  
11 ness, any portion of which is located  
12 in the County.

13 (II) EXCEPTION.—If a permittee  
14 within the Bald Mountain grazing al-  
15 lotment submits an application for the  
16 development of water resources for  
17 the purpose of livestock watering by  
18 the date that is 10 years after the  
19 date of enactment of this Act, the  
20 Secretary shall issue a water develop-  
21 ment permit within the non-wilderness  
22 boundaries of the Bald Mountain  
23 grazing allotment for the purposes of  
24 carrying out activities under para-  
25 graph (2).

1           (8) NONWILDERNESS ROADS.—Nothing in this  
2 Act prevents the Secretary from implementing or  
3 amending a final travel management plan.

4           (e) WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT.—

5           (1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with section  
6 4(d)(7) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.  
7 1133(d)(7)), nothing in this section affects or dimin-  
8 ishes the jurisdiction of the State with respect to  
9 fish and wildlife management, including the regula-  
10 tion of hunting, fishing, and trapping, in the Wilder-  
11 ness.

12           (2) MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.—In furtherance  
13 of the purposes and principles of the Wilderness Act  
14 (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), the Secretary may conduct  
15 any management activities in the Wilderness that  
16 are necessary to maintain or restore fish and wildlife  
17 populations and the habitats to support the popu-  
18 lations, if the activities are carried out—

19                   (A) consistent with relevant wilderness  
20 management plans; and

21                   (B) in accordance with—

22                           (i) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.  
23 1131 et seq.); and

24                           (ii) appropriate policies, such as those  
25 set forth in Appendix B of the report of



1 the Committee on Interior and Insular Af-  
2 fairs of the House of Representatives ac-  
3 companying H.R. 2570 of the 101st Con-  
4 gress (House Report 101-405)., including  
5 the occasional and temporary use of motor-  
6 ized vehicles and aircraft, if the use, as de-  
7 termined by the Secretary, would promote  
8 healthy, viable, and more naturally distrib-  
9 uted wildlife populations that would en-  
10 hance wilderness values with the minimal  
11 impact necessary to reasonably accomplish  
12 those tasks.

13 (3) EXISTING ACTIVITIES.—Consistent with  
14 section 4(d)(1) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C.  
15 1133(d)(1)) and in accordance with appropriate poli-  
16 cies such as those set forth in Appendix B of House  
17 Report 101-405, the State may continue to use air-  
18 craft, including helicopters, to survey, capture,  
19 transplant, monitor, and provide water for wildlife  
20 populations in the Wilderness.

21 (4) HUNTING, FISHING, AND TRAPPING.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may des-  
23 ignate areas in which, and establish periods  
24 during which, for reasons of public safety, ad-  
25 ministration, or compliance with applicable

1 laws, no hunting, fishing, or trapping will be  
2 permitted in the Wilderness.

3 (B) CONSULTATION.—Except in emer-  
4 gencies, the Secretary shall consult with the ap-  
5 propriate State agency and notify the public be-  
6 fore making any designation under paragraph  
7 (1).

8 (5) AGREEMENT.—The State, including a des-  
9 ignee of the State, may conduct wildlife management  
10 activities in the Wilderness—

11 (A) in accordance with the terms and con-  
12 ditions specified in the cooperative agreement  
13 between the Secretary and the State entitled  
14 **["Memorandum of Understanding: Inter-**  
15 **mountain Region USDA Forest Service and the**  
16 **Nevada Department of Wildlife State of Ne-**  
17 **vada"]** and signed **[by the designee of the**  
18 **State on February 6, 1984, and by the designee**  
19 **of the Secretary on January 24, 1984,]** includ-  
20 ing any amendments, appendices, or additions  
21 to the agreement agreed to by the Secretary  
22 and the State or a designee; and

23 (B) subject to all applicable laws (including  
24 regulations).

1 (f) WILDLIFE WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.—

2 Subject to subsection (d), the Secretary shall authorize  
3 structures and facilities, including existing structures and  
4 facilities, for wildlife water development projects (includ-  
5 ing guzzlers) in the Wilderness if—

6 (1) the structures and facilities will, as deter-  
7 mined by the Secretary, enhance wilderness values  
8 by promoting healthy, viable, and more naturally  
9 distributed wildlife populations; and

10 (2) the visual impacts of the structures and fa-  
11 cilities on the Wilderness can reasonably be mini-  
12 mized.

13 **SEC. 4. WITHDRAWAL.**

14 (a) DEFINITION OF WITHDRAWAL AREA.—In this  
15 section, the term “Withdrawal Area” means the land ad-  
16 ministered by the Forest Service and identified as “With-  
17 drawal Area” on the map described in section 3(b)(2).

18 (b) WITHDRAWAL.—Subject to valid existing rights,  
19 all Federal land within the Withdrawal Area is withdrawn  
20 from all forms of—

21 (1) entry, appropriation, or disposal under the  
22 public land laws;

23 (2) location, entry, and patent under the mining  
24 laws; and

1           (3) operation of the mineral laws, geothermal  
2 leasing laws, and mineral materials laws.

3           (c) **MOTORIZED AND MECHANICAL VEHICLES.**—

4           (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2),  
5 use of motorized and mechanical vehicles in the  
6 Withdrawal Area shall be permitted only on roads  
7 and trails designated for the use of those vehicles,  
8 unless the use of those vehicles is needed—

9                   (A) for administrative purposes; or

10                   (B) to respond to an emergency.

11           (2) **EXCEPTION.**—Paragraph (1) does not apply  
12 to aircraft (including helicopters).

13 **SEC. 5. NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS**  
14 **USES.**

15           Nothing in this Act alters or diminishes the treaty  
16 rights of any Indian tribe.