

**Second Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. R16-0847.01 Darren Thornberry x4143

SJR16-020

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Crowder,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Vigil,

Senate Committees

House Committees

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 16-020

101 **CONCERNING THE SPREAD OF NOXIOUS WEEDS ON FEDERAL LAND.**

1 WHEREAS, Invasive noxious weed species have overrun national
2 wildlife refuges (NWR) in Colorado, including the Baca National
3 Wildlife Refuge, the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge, and the Monte
4 Vista National Wildlife Refuge, because federal law is not being
5 enforced; and

6 WHEREAS, The Monte Vista NWR, established in 1952, contains
7 14,804 acres and the Alamosa NWR, established in 1962, contains 12,026
8 acres, and the two refuges were administratively combined in 1979; and

9 WHEREAS, The Baca NWR, established in 2003, contains 92,500
10 acres; and

11 WHEREAS, Since 1952, the Monte Vista NWR has continued to

*Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

1 purchase land without the tools, personnel, and funding to adequately
2 manage the noxious weeds on the acres obtained; and

3 WHEREAS, According to Section 15 of the "Federal Noxious
4 Weed Act", P.L. 93-629 (the Act), each federal agency has a duty to
5 designate an office or person adequately trained in the management of
6 undesirable plant species to establish, develop, coordinate, and adequately
7 fund an undesirable plants management program for control of
8 undesirable plants on federal lands under the agency's jurisdiction; and

9 WHEREAS, The Act describes the management process to control
10 undesirable plants, the "cooperative agreement" with state entities, and
11 "authorized appropriations" for budgeting; and

12 WHEREAS, Local farmers whose land is adjacent to the refuges
13 are seeing their properties harmed by invasive noxious weeds that have
14 spread from the refuge lands; and

15 WHEREAS, Local farmers must either pay for their own noxious
16 weed control or incur a charge when the local weed control districts treat
17 the noxious weeds on their lands; now, therefore,

18 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventieth General Assembly*
19 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

20 That we, the General Assembly:

21 (1) Desire to bring to the attention of the United States
22 Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Land Management, and the
23 United States Fish and Wildlife Service the problem of invasive noxious
24 weeds spreading throughout and beyond the aforementioned refuges;

25 (2) Request that the federal agencies allow a request-for-proposal
26 contract between the NWR and a licensed commercial applicator weed
27 control subcontractor in order to resolve the matter;

28 (3) Suggest that the federal government provide appropriate
29 funding to adequately control the current amount of noxious weeds; and

30 (4) Establish adequate funding for future noxious weed control.

31 *Be It Further Resolved*, That copies of this joint resolution be sent

1 to: The members of Colorado's congressional delegation; Ruth Welch,
2 director of the Colorado state office of the Bureau of Land Management;
3 Noreen Walsh, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's
4 Mountain-Prairie Region; Sally Jewell, secretary of the U.S. Department
5 of the Interior; and the managers of the Baca National Wildlife Refuge;
6 the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge; and the Monte Vista National
7 Wildlife Refuge.