

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 1—Assemblyman Aizley

FILE NUMBER.....

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION—Expressing the support of the Nevada Legislature for the designation of the Upper Las Vegas Wash as a national monument.

WHEREAS, The Upper Las Vegas Wash contains thousands of Pleistocene mammal fossils of national importance, including Columbian mammoth, ground sloth, American lion, camel and horse fossils; and

WHEREAS, Since 1933, the Upper Las Vegas Wash has been valued by scientists because of the significant paleontological fossils demonstrative of the Pleistocene epoch, commonly referred to as the Ice Age, that are located in the area; and

WHEREAS, In 2004, during the preparation of the Las Vegas Valley Disposal Boundary Final Environmental Impact Statement, the Bureau of Land Management identified sensitive biological, cultural and paleontological resources determined to be worthy of more evaluation with respect to the protective status of the resources; and

WHEREAS, The harsh desert environment of the Upper Las Vegas Wash supports unique and imperiled plants, including the Las Vegas buckwheat, Merriam's bearpoppy, Las Vegas bearpoppy, the halfring milkvetch, Joshua trees and several species of cacti; and

WHEREAS, The Upper Las Vegas Wash provides important habitat for the threatened desert tortoise, endemic poppy bees, kit foxes, burrowing owls and a variety of reptiles; and

WHEREAS, In 2010, a National Park Service reconnaissance survey of the area determined that the area likely contains the largest continuous section of Pleistocene strata in the desert southwest; and

WHEREAS, The Upper Las Vegas Wash is significant to the culture and history of the native and indigenous people of the area, including the Southern Paiute Tribe; and

WHEREAS, Despite the findings and recommendations of the aforementioned Environmental Impact Statement and reconnaissance survey, the Upper Las Vegas Wash remains inadequately protected; and

WHEREAS, Many irreplaceable fossil specimens in the Upper Las Vegas Wash have been lost to vandalism or theft; and

WHEREAS, Designation of the Upper Las Vegas Wash site as a national monument would protect the unique resources of the area for present and future generations while allowing for public



education and continued scientific research opportunities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 77th Session of the Nevada Legislature hereby recognize that the Upper Las Vegas Wash contains unique, nationally important biological, cultural and paleontological resources; and be it further

RESOLVED, That to conserve, protect, interpret and enhance for the benefit of present and future generations these unique and nationally important resources, the Nevada Legislature expresses its support for the designation of the Upper Las Vegas Wash site as a national monument; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation, the Governor and the Director of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and to the Director of the Department of Wildlife for distribution to the various conservation groups that have participated in the effort to designate the Upper Las Vegas Wash site as a national monument; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.

