

**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF CLARK IN SUPPORT OF PROTECTION
OF 30 PERCENT OF NEVADA'S AND THE UNITED STATES' LANDS
AND WATERS BY 2030**

WHEREAS, the scientific community recommends protecting 50 percent of the world's lands, oceans, and waters by 2050 to prevent ecosystem collapse and keep global warming under 1.5 degrees Celsius, and protecting 30 percent of Nevada's lands and waters by 2030 is a necessary intermittent step to protect natural systems and mitigate climate impacts; and

WHEREAS, recent polls found that 82 percent of Nevadans support a national goal of protecting 30 percent of the nation's lands and waters by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the State and County's abundance of public lands provides an opportunity to follow the scientific community's recommendation to protect 30 percent of the lands and waters in the State by 2030; and

WHEREAS, land conservation and restoration increases natural carbon sequestration and is one of the most cost-effective solutions to combating climate change; and

WHEREAS, the State and County's economy, livelihood, and communities are threatened by the loss of natural lands due to industrial development, wildfires and the expansion of invasive species; and

WHEREAS, the conservation of land and water in the State and County may be accomplished through a combination of federal and state action including, without limitation, designating or establishing wilderness areas, national parks, conservation areas and recreation areas, state parks, county and municipal parks, wildlife and special management areas; and

WHEREAS, protected public and private lands are the drivers of the State and County's outdoor recreation industry, which generates \$12.6 billion of annual consumer spending, supports over 87,000 jobs and provides more than \$1 billion in tax revenue to the State; and

WHEREAS, During the COVID-19 pandemic, Nevadans have greatly benefited from the physical, mental, and emotional health benefits provided by various recreational activities on public lands; and

WHEREAS, Nevada has approximately 70.2 million acres of total land area and roughly 80 percent of the State is administered by various federal governmental agencies that have multiple-use mandates, creating unique management opportunities and challenges that require coordination with local governments; and

WHEREAS, Clark County has approximately 5.15 million acres of total land area and roughly 86% of the County is administered by various federal governmental agencies; and

WHEREAS, a large portion of Clark County is already prioritized for conservation efforts, including several wilderness areas, two National Conservation Areas, two National Recreation

Areas, two National Monuments, four State Parks, dozens of County and city parks, and many areas of critical environmental concern providing habitat for sensitive and endangered species;

WHEREAS, indigenous methods of protecting and managing the land are an essential and fundamental part of a concerted effort to balance the climate and restore biodiversity; and

WHEREAS, impactful solutions to the biodiversity crisis require partnerships and true collaboration between federal agencies, the State, local governments, tribal governments, local communities, private landowners, ranchers, farmers, hunters, anglers, outdoor recreationists, conservationists, and other land-use stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, Clark County has and will continue to advocate for further protection of lands in Southern Nevada, including most recently through the Southern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act, which includes permanent protection for the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, significant expansion of the Red Rock National Conservation Area, designation of additional wilderness areas, and expansion of tribal lands;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners for Clark County, through the passage of this Resolution, that:

1. Clark County expresses support for the goal of protecting 30 percent of lands and waters in the State of Nevada by 2030 and protecting 30 percent of the lands and waters of the United States by 2030;
2. President Joseph R. Biden Jr., and the Congress of the United States are urged to support a long-term goal of protecting 50 percent of the planet, inland waters and oceans;
3. State and local agencies are encouraged to work cooperatively with federal agencies in order to protect 30 percent of lands and waters in the State by 2030, and federal and state agencies are likewise encouraged to work cooperatively and in coordination with local governments in identifying lands for conservation, taking into consideration local interests and concerns;
4. Federal, state and local agencies engaged in efforts to support and expand the protection of land and waters are urged to honor tribal jurisdictions and the rights of indigenous tribes through consultation with tribal governments;
5. That federal, state and local agencies are urged to provide fair treatment and meaningful involvement to people of all races, cultures, incomes, and natural origins by soliciting, accounting for and responding to the voices, needs, and priorities of communities of color, indigenous communities, and economically disadvantaged communities;
6. That federal, state and local agencies are urged to encourage private landowners to participate in voluntary programs to protect wildlife habitat and increase carbon sequestration; and,

7. That federal, state, and local agencies are urged to work with the Nevada congressional delegation to identify opportunities for federal legislation and regulatory actions to expand protection and conservation measures on public lands in the State.

PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED this ____th day of April 2021.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

BY: _____
MARILYN KIRKPATRICK, Chair

ATTEST: _____
LYNN GOYA, County Clerk