

**CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM**

Issue:	Public Hearing	Back-up:
Petitioner:	Virginia Valentine, County Manager	Clerk Ref. #
Recommendation: That the Board of County Commissioners conduct a public hearing; and approve, adopt, and authorize the Chairman to sign a resolution urging the United States Congress to designate a Gold Butte National Conservation Area with Multiple Use Areas and Wilderness in the northeast portion of Clark County.		

FISCAL IMPACT:

None by this action.

BACKGROUND:

The area known as Gold Butte in the northeast portion of Clark County is rich with diverse cultural, historic, and biological resources. The Gold Butte Complex of Area of Critical Environmental Concern is recognized for critical desert tortoise habitat. It has also become a destination for recreation, camping, hunting, and sightseeing opportunities.

This resolution urges Congress to designate the Gold Butte Area as a National Conservation Area (NCA) with Multiple Use Areas and Wilderness, the approximate size of the National Conservation area being 345,000 acres with up to 200,000 acres of Wilderness, and additionally, to mandate that an effective NCA management plan be developed and implemented that incorporates a road management plan with open and closed roads as depicted on the attached map, provides opportunities for dispersed camping and hunting, includes currently authorized legal livestock grazing permits or grazing legally authorized for the specific purpose of fuel control to prevent fires, and further, provides for a committee composed of one member each from the Moapa, Moapa Valley, and Bunkerville Town Advisory Boards, one Clark County Commissioner, and one Council member from North Las Vegas, Las Vegas, Mesquite, Boulder City, and Henderson to work with implementation of the NCA Plan.

Commissioner Collins has requested this item.

Respectfully submitted,

VIRGINIA VALENTINE, County Manager

Cleared for Agenda

5/4/2010

Agenda Item #

A RESOLUTION OF CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA, IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATIVE DESIGNATION OF GOLD BUTTE AS A NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA WITH MULTIPLE USES AND WILDERNESS

WHEREAS, the Gold Butte Complex of Area of Critical Environmental Concern is recognized for critical tortoise habitat, sensitive species, scenic and cultural resources, including historic mining, ranching and other western cultures, pioneer activities, prehistoric habitation and rock art; and

WHEREAS, the Gold Butte Complex has become a destination for numerous recreation opportunities including camping, hiking, hunting, motorized recreation and sightseeing; and

WHEREAS, the Gold Butte draws visitors from across the country, and provides important economic benefits to nearby communities, such as Mesquite; and

WHEREAS, the National Landscape Conservation System will provide increased opportunity for interpretation, education and community outreach; and

WHEREAS, working with local jurisdictions to develop an effective management plan would permanently protect the natural and cultural resources within the Gold Butte area.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Clark County Commission, Nevada, supports the designation of the Gold Butte Complex as a National Conservation Area with Wilderness and for multiple uses. Clark County also identifies these priorities for the national conservation area:

1. opportunities for dispersed camping and hunting;
2. the incorporation of the existing Bureau of Land Management road management plan;
3. that the national conservation area designation be approximately 345,000 acres in size;
4. that valid grazing rights be honored;

5. that the legislation establish an advisory board which guarantees representation for all communities near Gold Butte and other town/cities throughout Clark County, including local tribes, which may have an interest;
6. that approximately 130,000 acres of wilderness be designated within the national conservation area, in addition to following the National Park Service's wilderness recommendations for adjacent park lands; and
7. that the increased protections for the federal lands in question count positively towards Clark County's MSHCP obligations.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Clark County Commission,
Nevada, on this _____ DAY OF MAY, 2010.

RORY REID, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ATTEST:

DIANA ALBA, COUNTY CLERK

Gold Butte NCA Proposal

with Multiple Use and Wilderness

