

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 3—Assemblymen González, Watts,
Yeager, Cohen; Anderson, Brown-May, Flores, Brittney
Miller, Nguyen and Torres

Joint Sponsor: Senator Donate

FILE NUMBER.....

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging various actions
relating to the protection and conservation of land and water.

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 the lands and waters in this State by 2030 as a necessary intermittent step to protect natural systems and mitigate climate impacts; and

WHEREAS, Recent polls found that 73 percent of voters in the western United States support a national goal of protecting 30 percent of the nation’s lands and waters by 2030; and

WHEREAS, The State’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 combatting climate change; and

WHEREAS, The State’s economic livelihood and communities are threatened by the loss of natural lands due to industrial development, wildfires and invasive species; and

WHEREAS, The State has lost more than 9 million acres of wildlife habitat in the last 2 decades to wildfires and only a small percentage of lands in the State are currently protected; and

WHEREAS, The 80th Session of the Nevada Legislature enacted Senate Bill No. 254 to require the identification of policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, relative to 2005 levels, by at least 28 percent by 2025, by at least 45 percent by 2030 and to zero or near-zero emissions by 2050; and

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

WHEREAS, Avi Kwa Ame, also known as Spirit Mountain, located in southern Nevada is sacred to ten Yuman-speaking tribes



and contains some of the most visually stunning, biologically diverse and culturally significant lands in the Mojave Desert; and

WHEREAS, Establishing Avi Kwa Ame as a national monument is a crucial step in the preservation of Native American ancestral lands which will help reach the recommendation to protect 30 percent of the lands and waters in the State by 2030; and

WHEREAS, The Desert National Wildlife Refuge is the largest wildlife refuge in the lower 48 states and contains world-class biological, cultural and recreational resources; and

WHEREAS, Permanent protection for the Desert National Wildlife Refuge from the threat of military expansion will provide sanctuary for 320 bird species, 53 mammal species, 39 reptile and amphibian species and more than 500 plant species; and

WHEREAS, Protected public and private lands are the drivers of the State's outdoor recreation industry, which generates \$12.6 billion in annual consumer spending, supporting 87,000 jobs and providing more than \$1 billion in tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, The State has shown a commitment to outdoor recreation, conservation and protection of land through the recent creation of the Division of Outdoor Recreation of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the establishment of state parks and recreation areas such as Walker River State Recreation Area and Ice Age Fossils State Park; and

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

WHEREAS, The State has approximately 70.2 million acres of total land and roughly 80 percent of the State is administered by various federal agencies that have multiple-use mandates, creating unique management opportunities and challenges; and

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 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; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AND SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 81st Session of the Nevada Legislature express support for the goal of protecting 30



percent of the lands and waters in the State by 2030 and protecting 30 percent of the lands and waters of the United States by 2030; and be it further

RESOLVED, That 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; and be it further

RESOLVED, That state and local agencies are urged to work cooperatively with federal agencies in order to protect 30 percent of the lands and waters in the State by 2030; and be it further

RESOLVED, That 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 informed consultation with tribal governments; and be it further

RESOLVED, That 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; and be it further

RESOLVED, That state and local agencies are urged to encourage private land owners to participate in voluntary programs to protect wildlife habitat and increase carbon sequestration; and be it further

RESOLVED, That federal, state and local agencies are urged to work with the Nevada Congressional Delegation to identify opportunities for federal legislation and regulatory action to expand protection and conservation measures on public lands in the State; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation, Governor Steve Sisolak and the Director of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.



