
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2—SENATOR HANSEN

FEBRUARY 14, 2023

Referred to Committee on Natural Resources

SUMMARY—Urges Congress to require the United States Board on Geographic Names to consider renaming the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge as the E. R. Sans National Wildlife Refuge. (BDR R-170)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging Congress to require the United States Board on Geographic Names to consider renaming the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge as the E. R. Sans National Wildlife Refuge.

1 WHEREAS, The Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge, also known
2 as the Charles Sheldon Antelope Range, was established on
3 January 26, 1931, by United States President Herbert Hoover; and

4 WHEREAS, The Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge encompasses
5 approximately 572,896 acres of land located in portions of Washoe
6 and Humboldt Counties, Nevada and Lake County, Oregon; and

7 WHEREAS, The Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge was
8 originally established as a refuge and breeding ground for wild
9 animals and birds; and

10 WHEREAS, The Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge currently
11 represents one of the last intact examples of a sagebrush-steppe
12 ecosystem in the Great Basin and provides a variety of critical
13 habitats for many endemic species, including, without limitation,
14 pronghorn antelope, mule deer, greater sage-grouse, pygmy rabbit,
15 migratory birds, desert fish and various rare plants and
16 invertebrates; and

17 WHEREAS, The Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge was named
18 after Charles Sheldon, who was a long-time member of the Boone
19 and Crockett Club; and



1 WHEREAS, The Boone and Crockett Club and the National
2 Audubon Society made the initial purchase of land that was
3 included in the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge; and

4 WHEREAS, E. R. Sans was employed as a biological assistant by
5 the Bureau of Biological Survey of the United States Department of
6 Agriculture in Reno, Nevada; and

7 WHEREAS, E. R. Sans was actively involved in the control of
8 coyotes and other predators for the Bureau during the early part of
9 the 20th century; and

10 WHEREAS, E. R. Sans often conducted a census of antelope and
11 made determinations of the amount of forage and water available for
12 antelope in various areas; and

13 WHEREAS, E. R. Sans also worked with hunters to reduce the
14 number of coyotes and other predators in those areas, thereby
15 increasing the population of antelope in Nevada; and

16 WHEREAS, A program for raising young antelope to replenish
17 depleted herds of antelope in Nevada and other areas of the West
18 was successfully conducted in 1924 under the leadership of E. R.
19 Sans; and

20 WHEREAS, E. R. Sans approached the Boone and Crockett Club
21 and the National Audubon Society about creating a wildlife refuge
22 for antelope; and

23 WHEREAS, The efforts of E. R. Sans in the reduction of
24 predators and the protection of antelope contributed significantly to
25 the establishment of the Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge; now,
26 therefore, be it

27 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
28 NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the 82nd Session of the
29 Nevada Legislature hereby urge Congress to require the United
30 States Board on Geographic Names to consider renaming the
31 Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge as the E. R. Sans National
32 Wildlife Refuge; and be it further

33 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and
34 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United
35 States as the presiding officer of the United States Senate, the
36 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the
37 Secretary of the Interior, the United States Board on Geographic
38 Names and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation;
39 and be it further

40 RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon
41 passage.

