



Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority  
 1500 College Pkwy, McMullen Hall #103, Elko, NV 89801  
 775-738-2100 --- www.NNRDA.com

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-01

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RELEASE OF BLM WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS IN HUMBOLDT, LANDER, EUREKA, ELKO, & WHITE PINE COUNTIES, NEVADA**

**WHEREAS**, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) designated 4 Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) in Humboldt County (95,799 acres), 2 WSAs in Lander County (51,646 acres\*), 2 WSAs in Eureka County (39,925 acres), 10 WSAs in Elko County (272,422 acres), and 1 WSA in White Pine County (362 acres), Nevada totaling 484,990 acres. The BLM designated these WSAs without appropriate public input or reasonable federal guidelines; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal government has routinely been restricting access to much of Nevada through designations of national monuments, wilderness areas, WSAs, national parks, etc. The government has been withdrawing multiple use access at the rate of 182,000 acres per year since 1930 and, currently, nearly 16 million acres of Nevada’s public lands, a full 23% of our state, bears some level of restriction for access; and

**WHEREAS**, the BLM, to a large degree, has managed these WSAs as de facto wilderness areas without congressional designations for almost 30 years ignoring local Nevadans needs; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal government has made no effort to address these WSAs since their 1992 designation and has no plans in the future to address them.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority (NNRDA) Board does hereby support U.S. Senator Dean Heller’s congressional efforts to release BLM WSAs in Humboldt, Lander, Eureka, Elko, and White Pine Counties and thereby protect access for all Americans. The Northeastern Nevada Regional Development Authority also encourages Sen. Heller and Congress to release the other WSAs throughout the West, including Northeastern Nevada. The BLM has designated 541 wilderness study areas (WSAs) throughout 12 western states totaling 12,679,399 acres. That includes 63 WSAs in Nevada totaling 2,552,457 acres.

**PROPOSED** by Board Member Marlene Brissenden.

**SECONDED** by Board Member Delmo Andreozzi.

**VOTE:**  
 AYES – 7  
 NAYS - 0  
 ABSENT – 0

SHIRLEY ALEN-KELLERMAN, CHAIR  
 NORTHEASTERN NEVADA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
 AUTHORITY BOARD

ATTEST:

SHELDON MUDD, NNRDA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

\* Acreage for Lander County based on 30% total of Augusta Mountains WSA as it shares area with Churchill and Pershing County.