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**Economic Impact** to Surprise Valley the gateway for much of the recreation that occurs in Northern Washoe County, must be considered as the Wilderness designations will have a negative impact on the use of the area.

The largest private sector industry by far in the Surprise Valley, ranching, will be negatively impacted by Wilderness designations in Northern Washoe County. Surprise Valley is the home base for the majority of the family ranches that own BLM grazing permits in the subject areas. These multi-generational family ranches, have more than 100 years of history of living in Surprise Valley and grazing public lands directly to the east of their home ranches, even if there is a state-line in between. If grazing is impacted on the subject lands it will downsize these family ranches to the point that most will not be a viable economic unit, forcing the younger generation out of the community. Land values of these reduced economic ranches will decline further impacting Modoc County, which is already a Severely Disadvantaged Community.

**Wilderness Study Areas** BLM's own studies decades ago, most of the WSA's in Northern Washoe County lacked wilderness characteristics, and should NOT become wilderness areas. However, these WSA's have remained on the maps, even though they should have been erased. That said, whatever becomes of a Washoe Lands Bill, must include removal of WSA's that don't become wilderness areas, with these lands being returned to multiple use public lands.

**Specifics On Livestock Grazing:**

We need to have Congress clearly express their intention that livestock grazing to be continued on existing livestock grazing allotments.

- This continuation needs to provide for all historic maintenance practices to meet the obligations associated with proper management of livestock grazing.
- All maintenance practices should provide for the use of all equipment/vehicles containing an internal combustion engine, powered by fossil or bio fuels. Any equipment/vehicles containing an electrical power source that uses batteries, solar or wind to supply or charge the electrical power source should also be allowed to be used.
- All historical means of access shall be authorized to care for and maintain all livestock and infrastructure.

Livestock producers, who own livestock grazing allotments within Wilderness Study Areas, depend on these allotments as essential components in their annual production cycle. They live near, work and recreate on federally-managed lands in Washoe County and in adjacent counties (including in neighboring states). These producers urge that lands remain open to full access for sustained livestock and resource management.

### **Concepts Which Need To Be Incorporated Into the Language Of Proposed Legislation:**

- Because of the very poor quality of maps that have been provided for public review, any map which present possible roads for access, should not be a final determining factor in allowing access.
- Allow all access necessary for improvement and maintenance of all existing and proposed water sources, including, but not limited to use of heavy equipment, trenching, set up of solar and pumping systems and water storage development.
- Allow all road and trail access necessary for fence maintenance and improvement. Also allow all equipment access necessary for fence construction or re-construction.
- All means necessary for fire suppression, including use of heavy equipment – in addition to post-fire rehabilitation projects and on-going road and trail maintenance.
- Resource management needs to address Sage Grouse enhancement projects as well as essential pre-fire suppression and weed control activities cannot be limited by Wilderness designation.
- Allow full access for wild horse removal/management which use helicopters and motorized vehicles and to allow for temporary set-up of traps.
- Allow all means necessary for Juniper removal and treatment.
- Allow for rangeland improvements such as re-seeding, sagebrush removal and treatment, new water development and riparian corridor enhancements as well as noxious weed control.
- Allow full access for grazing management and rangeland science studies and research, implementing study sites/projects to improve knowledge of livestock and resource management.
- Allow for full implementation of livestock management and resource enhancement projects recommended by the Modoc-Washoe Experimental Stewardship Council (a federally-authorized and locally-led, multi-stakeholder collaborative group that has been functioning in the region for over 35 years.