



Surprise Valley Chamber of Commerce

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February 11, 2020

Jamie Rodriguez
Government Affairs Manager
Washoe County Manager's Office
1001 E 9th Street
Reno, NV 89512

Re: Truckee Meadows Public Lands Management Act (Washoe County Lands Bill), comments from Surprise Valley Chamber of Commerce

Dear Ms. Rodriguez:

Many of us associated with Surprise Valley Chamber of Commerce are intimately familiar with the terrain and wildlife of Washoe County and hold it dear to our hearts. A number of Valley families have for generations been faithful stewards of this land, which remains largely unchanged from what it was a century ago.

Because of our close relationship with desert and watersheds on our eastern horizon, we take a keen interest in government oversight and regulations concerning it. Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on the "Lands Bill" currently under consideration by Washoe County.

The fragile economy of Surprise Valley relies principally on cattle ranching and on visitation to the area by hunters and recreationalists. The California Farm Bureau Federation's letter to you spells out the concerns of ranchers very clearly.

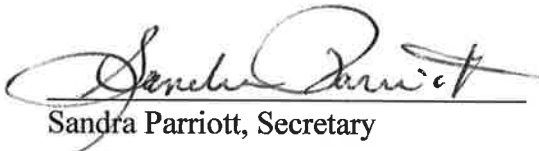
In terms of recreational activities, our Valley offers the nearest services (groceries, gas, restaurants, lodging and medical) for visitors to northern Washoe County. Reduction of ranching and visitation to the area would result in significant economic hardship, including business closures and all the ill effects cascading from loss of goods, services, jobs and revenue. The result would be a devastation of life here as we've long known it. It is our position to do away with the WSA's and turn our public lands back to multiple use management.

Given the current political climate in the Nation's capitol, we urge you to seek a creative solution with the federal government, which now seems favorably inclined to ease, rather than further restrict, use of public lands. Public lands were intended for all to use, rather than a select few.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Respectfully,


Wynarda Erquiaga, President


Sandra Parriott, Secretary

cc: Congressman Doug LaMalfa (CA-01)