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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **For Immediate Release:** | **Contacts:** | | February 16, 2017 | [Neal A. Patel](mailto:neal_patel@heller.senate.gov) (Heller) 202-224-6244 | |  |  |   [**Heller Re-Introduces the**](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=695D1A2F-97D0-4A41-84A4-63949524D254) **Pershing County Economic Development and Conservation Act**  **(Washington, DC)** – Recently, U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) and Congressman Mark Amodei (R-NV) re-introduced the Pershing County Economic Development and Conservation Act (S.414), public lands legislation providing new opportunities for economic development throughout the county while promoting conservation. This legislation is the result of an inclusive, grassroots-driven public process, including meetings, discussions, and visits with and between Pershing County officials and local residents.  “This proposal is truly driven by the community and will solve public land problems that have plagued Pershing County for decades. It brings a common-sense approach to land development and will move us away from a complicated checkerboard pattern that placed limits on economic innovation. This legislation protects Nevada’s landscape, preserves Nevada’s way of life by defending the freedom of our outdoorsmen, and creates good-paying Nevada jobs for years to come. I look forward to working with Congressman Amodei to have this legislation signed into law,” **said Senator Dean Heller**.  **Background:**  On February 1st, 2017, the Pershing County Commission passed a [resolution](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/39a3ac69-593b-4cbc-a940-a317013b56b0/02012017%20Pershing%20County%20Resolution.pdf) urging the Nevada Congressional Delegation to re-introduce and advance the Pershing County Economic Development and Conservation Act.  The legislation is comprised of three key components:   * An innovative solution to resolve the complicated land management issue of checkerboard lands, including the disposal and exchange of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands in the county for economic development and public purposes. * The conservation of certain areas already managed by the BLM land in the county. * The release of the selected wilderness study areas, currently managed as by the BLM as wilderness, back into multiple-use.   More details on the bill, including maps, can be found [here.](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=pershing-county-lands-bill)  ###  [cid:image005.png@01D15EA3.CEBDCB00](http://www.facebook.com/pages/US-Senator-Dean-Heller/325751330177)[cid:image006.png@01D15EA3.CEBDCB00](http://twitter.com/SenDeanHeller)[cid:image007.png@01D15EA3.CEBDCB00](http://www.youtube.com/user/SenDeanHeller) |