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**Nevada Land Bills One Step Closer to Passage**

**(Washington, D.C.) –** The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources today moved forward with two pieces of legislation that focus on resolving issues in Nevada. Both bills, the Multispecies Habitat Conservation Plan Implementation Act, introduced by U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV), and the Pine Forest Range Recreation Enhancement Act, coauthored by Heller will provide for much-needed growth in the Silver State. Today’s actions were considered a critical step towards enactment of these bills.

“The federal government controls roughly 87% of Nevada’s land base. Lands bills, such as those we considered today, are a necessity for Nevada. The federal government has limited flexibility with public lands and we often need to step in to do what is right for the Silver State. These pieces of legislation are what I believe to be examples of balanced efforts to improve and protect precious habitat and provide opportunities for growth. I look forward to continue working through the collaborative process to balance the need for conservation and development in Nevada,” said Senator Dean Heller.

**The Multispecies Habitat Conservation Plan Implementation Act (S. 757)**

* Senator Heller introduced this bill to allow the city of Mesquite and Lincoln County to implement important habitat conservation measures using funds in specials accounts that were created over a decade ago. The bill also provides the City of Mesquite with additional time to purchase land around their airport.

**Pine Forest Range Recreation Enhancement Act**

* Senator Heller co-authored this legislation with Senator Reid in an effort to improve recreational access and appropriate permanent protection in the Pine Forest Range. This legislation is ‘wilderness done right’ and the result of a collaborative community process where all stakeholders were given a seat at the table.

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