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| **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** Neal A. Patel/Michawn Rich |
| July 10, 2015 | 202-224-6244 |

**Heller Statement on Obama’s Basin and Range Monument Designation****(Washington, DC)**–Recently, President Obama bypassed Congress to designate a new 704,000 acre national monument in Southern Nevada. The Basin and Range National Monument is located in Nye and Lincoln Counties. U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) issued the following statement after the President’s announcement:“The Nevada Delegation has a strong tradition of working in a bipartisan manner on conservation and public lands issues through the legislative process. Today, with the stroke of a pen, President Obama has bypassed Congress and unilaterally restricted the use of over 700,000 acres of Nevada’s public land. I have always been forthright with my position that any federal action to change access on our public lands should be discussed in an open and transparent process incorporating the input and support from local communities,” said **Senator Dean Heller**. **Background:*** In January, Senator Heller teamed with Congressmen Mark Amodei (NV-02), Joe Heck (NV-03), and Cresent Hardy (NV-04) to introduce the [*Nevada Land Sovereignty Act of 2015*](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2015/1/members-of-nevada-delegation-team-to-protect-public-lands-from-executive-overreach). The legislation prevents the President from taking executive action designating or expanding national monuments without Congressional approval or local support.
* Late last year, Senator Dean Heller was instrumental in navigating [eight long-standing Nevada public land bills](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=a378fe74-481a-4592-83b2-0c6fab2e4344) into law, including the Las Vegas Valley Public Land and Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument Act. That legislation established Nevada’s first national monument and was the result of years of public engagement and work in Congress. Since first being elected to Congress, Heller has made public land legislation that benefits Nevada one of his top priorities.

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