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**Heller, Hardy Ease Restrictions on Eastern Nevada Land**

**(Washington, DC)** - Today, U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) and Congressman Cresent Hardy (NV-04) introduced the Eastern Nevada Land Implementation Improvement Act. The bicameral, bipartisan legislation jumpstarts economic development and allows for conservation efforts in Eastern Nevada. Following introduction, Heller and Hardy issued these statements:

“The legislation Congressman Hardy and I have introduced provides Lincoln County, White Pine County, and the City of Mesquite the flexibility for responsible long-term growth while at the same time strengthening conservation efforts in the area,” **said Senator Heller**.  “Lands bills, like the Eastern Nevada Land Implementation Improvement Act, are a necessity for the Silver State, and it is great to have support from the entire Congressional Delegation. This type of bicameral and bipartisan collaboration is a model for how public lands legislation should be handled.”

“Today, Senator Heller and I are making progress toward better stewardship of land in Nevada, and giving communities in Lincoln and White Pine Counties, as well as my hometown, Mesquite, better opportunities for economic growth,” **Congressman Hardy said**. “It’s good to partner with our entire Congressional Delegation in pursuing commonsense ways to make federal restrictions more compatible with local needs, while encouraging conservation of our beautiful lands in Eastern Nevada.”

**Background:**

The Eastern Nevada Land Implementation Improvement Act is cosponsored by U.S. Senator Harry Reid (D-NV), along with U.S. Representatives Joe Heck (NV-03), Mark Amodei (NV-02), and Dina Titus (NV-01). The [Lincoln County Board of Commissioners](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/72542a49-e123-4b3e-bad2-c816b4e6932c/Lincoln%20County%20Letter%204%2015%2015.pdf), the [White Pine County Board of Commissioners](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/e98dde45-688a-4966-8d34-550105d1dd48/White%20Pine%20County%20Letter%20of%20Support%20March%2016%2C%202015.pdf), and the [Mesquite City Council](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/b0e6a5ac-e254-476e-9ca1-61770e7e6e4c/City%20of%20Mesquite%20Letter%20of%20Support.pdf) have endorsed their portions of this legislation.

**Lincoln County**

* Section 2 amends the county’s two public lands acts (P.L. 106-298 and P.L. 108-424) to more effectively carry out their long-term conservation and land use goals.
* This technical correction will help prevent catastrophic wildfire, facilitate infrastructure development, improve sage grouse habitat, and expedite the development of solar energy zones.

**White Pine County**

* Section 3 fixes errors in Congressionally established wilderness areas located in White Pine County. Specifically it:
	+ Releases from the Arc Dome Wilderness Area land containing a small dam that is owned and maintained by the Yamba Tribe.
	+ Releases from the High Schells Wilderness area land where a frequently used Girl Scout camp is located and adjusts the designation of a road near McCoy Creek.
	+ Releases from the Mount Moriah Wilderness Area a section that will allow access to the main road and facilities at the Big Canyon Trailhead.

**City of Mesquite**

* Section 4 amends the Mesquite Lands Act of 1986 (P.L.99–548) to provide the City with greater opportunity for long-term economic development.

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