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**Following Support from Douglas County, Washoe Tribe Leaders, Heller Introduces Bill to Improve Land Management in Douglas County**

**WASHINGTON –** U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) introduced the Douglas County Economic Development and Conservation Act, legislation that is the result of collaboration among Douglas County, the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, state agencies, local towns and general improvement districts, and numerous stakeholder groups. In 2015, [Heller worked with former Senator Harry Reid (D-NV) and Congressman Mark Amodei (NV-02) to introduce this legislation](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/2015/2/heller-reid-amodei-introduce-douglas-county-lands-bill).

Unanimously endorsed by the Douglas County Board of County Commissioners, the Douglas County Economic Development and Conservation Act is a joint effort that seeks to improve public land management and promote economic development in the state of Nevada, where the federal government manages approximately 85 percent of our lands. The bill’s development process also included extensive outreach to Nevadans who live in the communities impacted by the bill.

“The Douglas County Economic Development and Conservation Act is the result of a thorough, public process that spans several years and included local input, public meetings, and support from Douglas County officials and residents,” **said Heller.** “Since approximately 85 percent of Nevada’s lands are managed by the federal government, it’s critical that we collaborate at all levels of government to provide Nevada with the tools it needs to encourage economic opportunities while keeping the character of the Carson Valley intact.”

Letters of support from the Douglas County Board of Commissioners and the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California can be found [HERE](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/2f3f7800-b0f1-43fb-884b-464714701e16/Douglas%20County%20Board%20of%20Commissioners%20Letter%20of%20Support%20for%20Douglas%20County%20Lands%20Bill.pdf) and [HERE](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/21bbdace-ca50-4791-bdbb-5578274ca1e9/Washoe%20Tribe%20Letter%20of%20Support%20for%20Douglas%20County%20Lands%20Bill.pdf).

Specifically, the Douglas County Conservation Act:

1)         Transfers important federally owned cultural sites to the Washoe Tribe;

2)         Transfers federally owned flood control management areas and important water resource infrastructure parcels to Douglas County;

3)         Improves the management of certain federally owned public recreation parcels;

4)         Resolves the Burbank Canyons Wilderness Area; and

5)         Allows for the disposal of certain excess and difficult to manage federal lands, ensuring that the sales proceeds are used to benefit conservation efforts in Douglas County.

The full text of the bill can be found [HERE](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/4defc181-5fd0-4913-afc0-d9872e03fe5e/Douglas%20County%20Lands%20Bill.pdf).

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