



FRIENDS of NEVADA WILDERNESS

Media Advisory – Monday, March 4, 2019

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Resolutions Opposing Military Expansion in Desert National Wildlife Refuge to be Heard in Legislature Military's plan would threaten habitat, shut public out of more of the refuge

Reno, NV – Resolutions expressing the state legislature's strong opposition to the U.S. Air Force's plan to take over another quarter million acres of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge (DNWR) and close it off to the public will be heard by the Senate and Assembly Committees on Natural Resources March 5 and March 6 in Carson City.

The resolutions ask Congress to oppose the military's plan to increase the size of the Nevada Test and Training Range to over three million acres. The training range already includes 826,000 acres of the 1.3 million-acre refuge that was established in 1936, primarily to protect the desert bighorn sheep. The military now wants total control of those acres currently co-managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They also want to expand the area for dropping live and inert ordinance into portions of the Sheep Range, which the Nevada Department of Wildlife describes as the "heart" of the Refuge. More information can be found [here](#).

"The military's plan would eliminate wilderness protection from almost a million acres of the reserve," AJR2 sponsor Assemblywoman Lesley Cohen said. "It would threaten the survival of the desert bighorn sheep and the desert tortoise and cut off public access to areas of great cultural, spiritual and recreational value. My resolution sends the message that Nevadans won't stand for it."

"The Desert refuge was created more than 80 years ago to protect some of the most unique wildlife habitat in the country and allow generations of Americans to explore and appreciate this special place," added SJR3 sponsor Senator Melanie Scheible. "Expanding the military testing area into the refuge would decimate irreplaceable petroglyphs, sand dunes, and wild animal populations. My resolution has bipartisan support to make Nevada's stance clear– we oppose expansion into the Desert National Wildlife Refuge."

What: Public hearings before Senate and Assembly Committees on Natural Resources on Senate Joint Resolution 3 ([SJR3](#)) and Assembly Joint Resolution 2 ([AJR2](#))

When & Where:

Senate: 4 pm, Tuesday, March 5, Room 2144

Assembly: 4 pm, Wednesday, March 6, Room 3138

State Legislature Building, 401 S. Carson St., Carson City

Teleconferenced hearings: Grant Sawyer Building, 555 E. Washington Ave., Las Vegas

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