



# SENATOR HARRY REID, MAJORITY LEADER A CHAMPION FOR NEVADA'S GREAT OUTDOORS



*Nevada's dramatic landscapes – from the high alpine lakes of the Ruby Mountains to the stark open spaces of the Black Rock Desert to the incredible Joshua tree forests in Piute Valley – have provided inspiration to generations of Nevadans. But as our population grows, more demands are made of our state's natural resources and treasured public lands. Our challenge is to find a balance between growth and protection so that those who follow us will have the same opportunity to find and experience these incredible places as we have.*

**Senator Reid Authored and Passed Legislation Establishing Nevada's First National Park - Great Basin National Park.** In 1986, Senator Reid introduced and passed legislation creating Great Basin National Park. The park spans 76,000 acres of eastern Nevada and features dramatic mountain peaks, world-famous caves and thousand-year-old bristlecone pine forests. More recently, Senator Reid secured \$3.2 million to build the Great Basin National Park Visitor Learning Center, which he helped dedicate in July 2005. He has also delivered millions more in federal funding for park campgrounds and trail systems through the White Pine County public lands bill. Further, the White Pine County lands bill provided additional protections for the areas surrounding Great Basin National Park. Nearly 70,000 acres of land immediately south of the park was designated as wilderness and another 50,000 acres surrounding the park were given greater protections from development. These changes will help ensure that this beautiful area remains as it is today and that popular hunting areas remain open and accessible. [P.L. 99-565; P.L. 107-063; P.L. 108-107; P.L. 109-432; <http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/snplma.html>]

**Senator Reid Protected Over 3.3 Million Acres of Nevada's Most Important Wildlife Habitat and Wild Lands with the Highest Level of Protection Available.** Working with Nevadans from every corner of the state, Senator Reid has protected over 3.3 million acres of Nevada's most important wildlife habitat and critical public lands by designating them as wilderness. Senator Reid's efforts led to the passage of major legislation in 1989, 2000, 2002, 2004 and 2006 that gave strong protections to some of Nevada's most critical wild lands. [P.L. 101-195; P.L.106-554; P.L.107-063; P.L. 107-282; P.L. 108-424; P.L. 109-432]

## HIGHLIGHTS OF SENATOR REID'S OUTDOORS RECORD

- ★ Senator Reid Authored and Passed Legislation Establishing Nevada's First National Park - Great Basin National Park
- ★ Senator Reid Protected Over 3.3 Million Acres of Nevada's Most Important Wildlife Habitat and Wild Lands with the Highest Level of Protection Available
- ★ Senator Reid Has Been a Champion for the Reintroduction of Bighorn Sheep Throughout Nevada's Mountain Ranges
- ★ Senator Reid Designated Red Rock Canyon as a National Conservation Area to Halt Further Development
- ★ Senator Reid Passed County-Focused Public Land Laws That Carefully Balance Conservation with Key Economic Development Opportunities
- ★ Senator Reid Has Led the Fight to Protect and Restore Lake Tahoe
- ★ Senator Reid Worked to Protect Walker Lake, Pyramid Lake, and Summit Lake
- ★ Senator Reid Has Protected More Than One Million Acres of Nevada's Best Public Lands as National Conservation Areas
- ★ Senator Reid Authored and Passed a Law Restoring the Rights of States in Managing Hunting and Fishing
- ★ Senator Reid Regularly Secured Funding to Benefit Nevada's Native Wildlife and Fish Populations
- ★ Senator Reid is Working with Nevada's Anglers to Bring Chinook Salmon and Steelhead, Formerly a Native Fish, Back to Nevada's Northern Rivers and Streams

**Senator Reid Has Been a Champion for the Reintroduction of Bighorn Sheep Throughout Nevada's Mountain Ranges.** Thanks to the work of volunteers from around our great state, Nevada is now home to the second largest population of bighorn sheep in the country - only Alaska has more. Senator Reid has supported these reintroduction efforts by passing first-of-its-kind legislative language allowing guzzlers in wilderness areas and by providing federal appropriations to fund the installation of several new large-game guzzlers in Nevada. [P.L. 106-298; P.L. 107-282; P.L. 109-432; P.L. 111-088]

**Senator Reid Designated Red Rock Canyon as a National Conservation Area to Halt Further Development.** In 1990, Senator Reid wrote and passed legislation establishing the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area to protect southern Nevada's most treasured outdoor destination. This law brought an end to new private development in Red Rock Canyon and ensured that the incredible natural beauty of the area remains untouched for us and for our children. Just 17 miles from the Las Vegas Strip, the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area gets nearly 1,000,000 visitors every year and has become a major natural landmark for Nevadans, and for people all over the world. In recent years Red Rock Canyon has been celebrated as one of the top rock climbing locations in the world. [P.L. 101-621]

**Senator Reid Passed County-Focused Public Land Laws That Carefully Balance Conservation with Key Economic Development Opportunities.** In 2002, Senator Reid and Senator John Ensign worked together to craft and pass a comprehensive public lands bill for Clark County. That legislation protected 440,000 acres of sensitive lands in Clark County, made additional lands available for sale and development in the Las Vegas Valley, created the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area, and expanded the Red Rock National Conservation Area. Legislation followed in 2004 that protected 768,000 acres of important habitat in Lincoln County, including over 150,000 acres of the Mormon Mountains and a number of key archeological sites. That legislation also gave Lincoln County the ability to nominate, over time, 90,000 acres of public lands for sale, in an effort to increase the county's tax base and its economic development options. [P.L. 107-282]

**Building on their successes in Clark and Lincoln Counties, in 2006, Senators Reid and Senator Ensign worked with the people of White Pine County to pass key legislation that expanded state parks and wildlife areas, protected 569,000 acres of important wildlife habitat, and conveyed land to the City of Ely for an airport expansion and an industrial park.** The legislation also gives the county increased flexibility in determining future growth areas. The Carson City Vital Community Act followed in 2009. This recent law improved land management around Carson City by granting Carson City greater control over lands along the urban-wildland interface and giving high-quality forested lands to the Forest Service in the upland areas. The legislation also conveyed the Silver Saddle Ranch and Prison Hill areas to Carson City and created special funding opportunities to help meet the community's open space goals along the Carson River. [P.L. 108-424; P.L. 109-432; P.L. 111-011]

**Senator Reid Has Led the Fight to Protect and Restore Lake Tahoe.** In 1996, Senator Reid called on then-President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore to join him at Lake Tahoe the following summer to draw national attention to the lake's suffering health and diminished clarity. President Clinton, Vice President Gore and four cabinet secretaries answered the call and joined Senator Reid for what would become the first annual Lake Tahoe Summit. On July 26, 1997, President Clinton signed an executive order that made Lake Tahoe a national priority and focused the efforts of federal agencies on this critical natural landmark.

One of the primary outcomes of the first Tahoe Summit was the crafting and eventual passage of the *Lake Tahoe Restoration Act of 2000*. This bill authorized \$300 million over ten years for high priority environmental and infrastructure projects designed to restore water clarity and natural systems in the Lake Tahoe Basin. In 2003, Senator Reid and Senator Ensign amended the *Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act* to ensure that the \$300 million commitment made in the *Lake Tahoe Restoration Act of 2000* would be fulfilled on schedule. Their diligence and dedication to the Lake has reinvested nearly \$300 million in revenue from southern Nevada lands sales in key restoration projects for the Lake Tahoe Basin. Senator Reid's most recent legislation builds on ten years of success at Lake Tahoe, authorizing \$415 million over eight years to improve water clarity, reduce the threat of wildfire, restore watersheds ecosystems, and protect Lake Tahoe from invasive species such as quagga and zebra mussels. Provisions of this bill, the *Lake Tahoe Restoration Act of 201*, will also support priority projects such as Lahontan cutthroat trout reintroduction, storm water management, and hazardous fuels reduction. Senator Reid's legislation has broad support from businesses, local governments, and recreation and conservation organizations around Lake Tahoe and was recently passed by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Companion legislation still needs to move through the House of Representatives and Senator Reid is working to get a final vote on the Lake Tahoe bill in the U.S. Senate. [S. 1192, Introduced 06/09/99; S. 1925, Introduced 11/16/99; P.L. 106-506; P.L. 108-108; S. 2724, Introduced 11/03/09]

**Senator Reid Worked to Protect Walker Lake, Pyramid Lake, and Summit Lake.** Over the past century, Walker Lake's water level has fallen by 130 feet. As water flow to the lake has declined over a century, the lake's salinity has increased, threatening the survival of the Lahontan cutthroat trout and the tui-chub. In the mid-1990s and again in 2002, Senator Reid organized Walker Lake Summits to discuss the alarming changes to the Lake and possible solutions to restore it. As a result of the Summit, federal, state, local and tribal governmental officials have worked together to restore Walker River in-stream flows and to bolster Walker Lake and its wildlife, resulting in progress on joint efforts to increase the trout population at the Lake while protecting local agricultural interests.

**Since the Summit, Senator Reid has secured over \$375 million in the 2002 and 2008 Farm Bills to fund restoration and preservation at all of Nevada's desert terminal lakes – Pyramid, Summit and Walker Lakes.** This program has increased conservation efforts; increased water efficiencies; protected, restored and strengthened fish and wildlife habitats; and fostered research specific to Nevada's terminal lakes and their ecosystems. In the 110th Congress, he worked to reauthorize the Desert Terminal Lakes Program and will continue to secure additional funding for programs to stabilize the ecology around Walker Lake and combat invasive species, like tamarisk. Working together, we can and will preserve Walker Lake for future generations. [P.L. 107-171; P.L. 110-246]

**Senator Reid Has Protected More Than One Million Acres of Nevada's Best Public Lands as National Conservation Areas.** Through his work with Nevadans from around the state, Senator Reid has helped pass legislation to protect over 1 million acres as National Conservation Areas. These areas include the Red Rock Canyon, Sloan Canyon and the Black Rock Desert. [P.L. 101-621; P.L. 107-282; P.L. 106-554]

**Senator Reid Authored and Passed a Law Restoring the Rights of States in Managing Hunting and Fishing.** In 2005, Senator Reid worked closely with members from both parties to pass legislation that reaffirmed each state's right to regulate hunting and fishing. A recent court ruling had threatened to undermine the traditional role that states and local sportsmen play in regulating hunting and fishing in their own states. Reid's efforts helped ensure that Nevada's sportsmen will continue to enjoy the robust sporting opportunities that our state offers. [P.L. 109-052]

**Senator Reid Regularly Secured Funding to Benefit Nevada’s Native Wildlife and Fish Populations.**

Senator Reid continues to be a strong advocate working to bolster Nevada’s wildlife populations. He has secured millions of dollars to restore and enhance our native fisheries, including over \$3 million to bring Nevada’s Lahontan cutthroat trout back to their former prominence in Lake Tahoe, Walker Lake and Pyramid Lake. Reid has also provided funding to assist with the installation of large game guzzler, which benefit bighorn sheep and other animals, and provided backing for scientific efforts aimed at protecting habitat and keeping species off of the Endangered Species list. [P.L. 103-332; P.L. 104-134; P.L. 104-208; P.L. 105-083; P.L. 105-277; P.L. 105-240; P.L. 106-113; P.L. 106-291; P.L. 107-063; P.L. 108-007; P.L. 108-108; P.L. 108-447; P.L. 109-054; P.L.109-289; P.L. 109-369; P.L. 109-383; P.L. 110-005; P.L. 110-161; P.L. 111-008; P.L. 111-088]

**Senator Reid is Working with Nevada’s Anglers to Bring Chinook Salmon, and Steelhead, Formerly a Native Fish, Back to Nevada’s Northern Rivers and Streams.**

At the request of major wildlife organizations in Nevada, Senator Reid is working to bring salmon and steelhead back to our state’s most northern streams – the Owyhee, Jarbidge and Bruneau Rivers and Salmon Falls Creek. These tributaries to the Snake River were once spawning grounds for tens of thousands of Chinook salmon and steelhead each year. Senator Reid is working with sportsmen and local governments to bring these fish back to our state so that Nevada’s anglers can once again have the opportunity to enjoy catching these incredible fish. Similar programs are already in operation in Idaho and Oregon for streams, like the Boise River, that are upstream of the Hells Canyon Dam.

[<http://www.hcn.org/issues/363/17486>]

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