



The Douglas County Economic and Conservation Act

Continuing more than two decades of land conservation

Douglas County's Master Plan envisions retaining the rural character of our community through the use of conservation easements to protect its cultural heritage, historic agricultural operations, floodplain functions and natural resources. This bill, introduced in both the House and Senate, is the culmination of many years of County effort, and it further implements the most important goals and policies embodied in the Master Plan and Open Space and Agricultural Lands Preservation Implementation Plan. Thus far various conservation programs in the county have permanently protected about 30,000 acres of valuable and resource-rich land. This success has been achieved by a partnership including Federal, Nevada and local agencies. This bill is a logical continuation of our county's land conservation effort.

Goals

The Douglas County Economic Development and Conservation Act will: (1) transfer important federally owned cultural sites to the Washoe Tribe; (2) transfer federally owned flood control management areas and water resource infrastructure parcels to Douglas County; (3) improve the management of federally owned recreation parcels; (4) designate the proposed Burbank Canyons Wilderness Area; (5) dispose of difficult to manage federal lands, ensuring that the sale proceeds are used within the county for conservation and enhanced recreation. Conservation of ranch and other open space land has been a high-priority goal in the county for decades.

Process

The Douglas County Economic Development Act has been the product of an all-inclusive effort between Douglas County, the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, numerous federal, state and local agencies, towns, general improvement districts, and more than 100 stakeholder

groups. Douglas County has held 5 community open houses to share information and take public comment. The Douglas County Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the concepts and framework that was forwarded to our Congressional representatives. The Douglas County Economic Development and Conservation Act was introduced in both the Senate and House of Representatives in early September, 2018.

Questions and/or Additional Information Desired

For more information, questions, comments, please contact
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