

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the Nevada System of Higher Education certain Federal land located in Clark and Nye counties, Nevada, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. ENSIGN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the Nevada System of Higher Education certain Federal land located in Clark and Nye counties, Nevada, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Southern Nevada  
5 Higher Education Land Act of 2008”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

1           (1) southern Nevada is 1 of the fastest growing  
2 regions in the United States, with 750,000 new resi-  
3 dents added since 2000 and 250,000 residents ex-  
4 pected to be added by 2010;

5           (2) the Nevada System of Higher Education  
6 serves more than 70,000 undergraduate and grad-  
7 uate students in southern Nevada, with enrollment  
8 in the System expected to grow by 21 percent during  
9 the next 10 years, which would bring enrollment to  
10 a total of 85,000 students in the System;

11           (3) the Nevada System of Higher Education  
12 campuses in southern Nevada comprise 1,200 acres,  
13 1 of the smallest land bases of any major higher  
14 education system in the western United States;

15           (4) the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, with  
16 28,500 students and 3,300 faculty and staff, is the  
17 fourth fastest-growing research university in the  
18 United States;

19           (5) the College of Southern Nevada—

20                   (A) serves 39,000 students each semester;

21                   and

22                   (B) is near capacity at each of the 3 urban  
23 campuses of the College;

24           (6) Pahrump, located in rural Nye County, Ne-  
25 vada—

1                   (A) has grown by 20 percent since 2000;  
2                   and

3                   (B) has a small satellite campus of Great  
4                   Basin College to serve the 40,500 residents of  
5                   Pahrump, Nevada; and

6                   (7) the Nevada System of Higher Education  
7                   needs additional land to provide for the future  
8                   growth of the System, particularly for the University  
9                   of Nevada, Las Vegas, the College of Southern Ne-  
10                  vada, and the Pahrump campus of Great Basin Col-  
11                  lege.

12                  (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

13                   (1) to provide additional land for a thriving  
14                   higher education system that serves the residents of  
15                   fast-growing southern Nevada;

16                   (2) to provide residents of the State with great-  
17                   er opportunities to pursue higher education and the  
18                   resulting benefits, which include increased earnings,  
19                   more employment opportunities, and better health;  
20                   and

21                   (3) to provide communities in southern Nevada  
22                   the economic and societal values of higher education,  
23                   including economic growth, lower crime rates, great-  
24                   er civic participation, and less reliance on social  
25                   services.

1 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) BOARD OF REGENTS.—The term “Board of  
4 Regents” means the Board of Regents of the Ne-  
5 vada System of Higher Education.

6 (2) CAMPUSES.—The term “Campuses” means  
7 the Great Basin College, College of Southern Ne-  
8 vada, and University of Las Vegas, Nevada, cam-  
9 puses.

10 (3) FEDERAL LAND.—The term “Federal land”  
11 means each of the 3 parcels of Bureau of Land  
12 Management land identified on the maps as “Parcel  
13 to be Conveyed”, of which—

14 (A) approximately 40 acres is to be con-  
15 veyed for the College of Southern Nevada;

16 (B) approximately 2,085 acres is to be  
17 conveyed for the University of Nevada, Las  
18 Vegas; and

19 (C) approximately 285 acres is to be con-  
20 veyed for the Great Basin College.

21 (4) MAP.—The term “Map” means each of the  
22 3 maps entitled “Southern Nevada Higher Edu-  
23 cation Land Act”, dated July 11, 2008, and on file  
24 and available for public inspection in the appropriate  
25 offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

1           (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
2           the Secretary of the Interior.

3           (6) STATE.—The term “State” means the State  
4           of Nevada.

5           (7) SYSTEM.—The term “System” means the  
6           Nevada System of Higher Education.

7   **SEC. 4. CONVEYANCES OF FEDERAL LAND TO THE SYSTEM.**

8           (a) CONVEYANCES.—

9           (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 202  
10          of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of  
11          1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712) and section 1(c) of the Act  
12          of June 14, 1926 (commonly known as the “Recre-  
13          ation and Public Purposes Act”) (43 U.S.C. 869(c))  
14          and subject to all valid existing rights, the Secretary  
15          shall—

16                 (A) not later than 180 days after the date  
17                 of enactment of this Act, convey to the System,  
18                 without consideration, all right, title, and inter-  
19                 est of the United States in and to the Federal  
20                 land for the Great Basin College and the Col-  
21                 lege of Southern Nevada; and

22                 (B) not later than 180 days after the re-  
23                 ceipt of certification of acceptable remediation  
24                 of environmental conditions existing on the par-  
25                 cel to be conveyed for the University of Nevada,

1 Las Vegas, convey to the System, without con-  
2 sideration, all right, title, and interest of the  
3 United States in and to the Federal land for  
4 the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

5 (2) PHASES.—The Secretary may phase the  
6 conveyance of the Federal land under paragraph  
7 (1)(B) as remediation is completed.

8 (b) CONDITIONS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of the con-  
10 veyance under subsection (a)(1), the Board of Re-  
11 gents shall agree in writing—

12 (A) to pay any administrative costs associ-  
13 ated with the conveyance, including the costs of  
14 any environmental, wildlife, cultural, or histor-  
15 ical resources studies;

16 (B) to use the Federal land conveyed for  
17 educational and recreational purposes;

18 (C) to release and indemnify the United  
19 States from any claims or liabilities that may  
20 arise from uses carried out on the Federal land  
21 on or before the date of enactment of this Act  
22 by the United States or any person;

23 (D) as soon as practicable after the date of  
24 the conveyance under subsection (a)(1), to erect  
25 at each of the Campuses an appropriate and

1 centrally located monument that acknowledges  
2 the conveyance of the Federal land by the  
3 United States for the purpose of furthering the  
4 higher education of the citizens in the State;  
5 and

6 (E) to assist the Bureau of Land Manage-  
7 ment in providing information to the students  
8 of the System and the citizens of the State  
9 on—

10 (i) public land (including the manage-  
11 ment of public land) in the Nation; and

12 (ii) the role of the Bureau of Land  
13 Management in managing, preserving, and  
14 protecting the public land in the State.

15 (2) AGREEMENT WITH NELLIS AIR FORCE  
16 BASE.—As a condition of the conveyance of the Fed-  
17 eral land for the University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
18 under subsection (a)(1)(B), the Board of Regents  
19 shall enter into a cooperative interlocal agreement  
20 with Nellis Air Force Base that is consistent with  
21 the missions of the System and the United States  
22 Air Force.

23 (c) USE OF FEDERAL LAND.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The System may use the  
25 Federal land conveyed under subsection (a)(1) for—

1           (A) any purpose relating to the establish-  
2           ment, operation, growth, and maintenance of  
3           the System; and

4           (B) any uses relating to the purposes, in-  
5           cluding residential and commercial development  
6           that would generally be associated with an insti-  
7           tution of higher education.

8           (2) OTHER ENTITIES.—The System may—

9           (A) consistent with Federal and State law,  
10          lease, or otherwise provide property or space at,  
11          the Campuses, with or without consideration, to  
12          religious, public interest, community, or other  
13          groups for services and events that are of inter-  
14          est to the System or to any community located  
15          in southern Nevada;

16          (B) allow any other communities in south-  
17          ern Nevada to use facilities of the Campuses for  
18          educational and recreational programs of the  
19          community; and

20          (C) in conjunction with the city of Las  
21          Vegas, North Las Vegas, or Pahrump or Clark  
22          or Nye County plan, finance (including through  
23          the provision of cost-share assistance), con-  
24          struct, and operate facilities for the city of Las  
25          Vegas, North Las Vegas, or Pahrump or Clark

1           or Nye County on the Federal land conveyed  
2           for educational or recreational purposes con-  
3           sistent with this section.

4           (d) REVERSION.—

5           (1) IN GENERAL.—If the Federal land or any  
6           portion of the Federal land conveyed under sub-  
7           section (a)(1) ceases to be used for the System, the  
8           Federal land, or any portion of the Federal land  
9           shall, at the discretion of the Secretary, revert to the  
10          United States.

11          (2) UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS.—If  
12          the System fails to complete the first building or  
13          show progression toward development of the Univer-  
14          sity of Nevada, Las Vegas campus on the applicable  
15          parcels of Federal land by the date that is 50 years  
16          after the date of receipt of certification of acceptable  
17          remediation of environmental conditions, the parcels  
18          of the Federal land described in section 3(3)(B)  
19          shall, at the discretion of the Secretary, revert to the  
20          United States.