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Solar and National Conservation Areas Discussed [SWIP]

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Solar and National Conservation Areas Discussed

By Dave Maxwell

Lincoln County Commission Chairman Paul Mathews and Commissioner Ronda Hornbeck led discussions during a public meeting about the proposed National Conservation Area in Garden and Coal Valley's and areas for solar development in Lincoln County. It appears to be separate, Hornbeck said, both matters really are related as both come from the office of Senator Harry Reid.

The public meeting was the first of at least two planned meetings seeking verbal public comment for the draft proposal. A date and time has not been selected yet. County Commissioners have not made any decisions yet, because of the proposals in late February. Some of the concepts in the draft legislation proposal for potential Lincoln County parcels

The BLM would, within 60 days of passage of the bill, lease two areas for commercial solar energy development in Lincoln County.

The two potential areas for lease are:

Delamar Valley – approximately 2,850 acres

Dry Lake Valley – approximately 19,980 acres

The BLM would attach a requirement to the lease that holders diligently develop the leased parcels.

The BLM would establish a reasonable royalty, to be applied to the sale of electricity from the leased site that would

encourage production and generation of solar energy and
ensure a fair return to taxpayers.

* The BLM would have the ability to lower or suspend the royalty for up to five years, from the start of production, in order to help get operations up and running.

The revenues from royalties, leases, or other payments would be distributed as follows:

25% to Lincoln County

25% to the state of Nevada