

REMARKS

- First of all, I would like to say how great it is to be back in the Natural Resources Committee, which I served on last Congress.
- I also want to thank you Chairman Neguse for your leadership as the Subcommittee Chairman of the National Parks, Forests, and Public Land.
- I come here today to discuss my bipartisan, bicameral legislation, the *Great Basin National Heritage Area and Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area Extension Act*.
- This is particularly important as this August is the 100th Anniversary of the designation of the Great Basin National Heritage Area.
- The Great Basin National Heritage Area (GBNHA) is a remote region spanning the border of Nevada and Utah with rich cultural roots, rugged landscape features, and home to many historical sites.
- The GBNHA covers nearly 16,000 square miles – an area as large as Connecticut and Massachusetts combined – but the region is sparsely populated with only 21,000 people calling these two counties home. What the area lacks in people it makes up for in historical sites, sweeping landscape formations, and cultural attractions.
- Since the initial designation, Great Basin and Mormon Pioneer have received a combined \$6 million in federal funds, which have produced projects and programs valued at over \$50 million.
- National Heritage Area's are critical for our rural communities that are vast beautiful landscapes that protect our lands and bring tourists from around the world to Nevada.
- The National Heritage Area designation does not result in any change in land use regulations or ownership. Reauthorization of the NHA distinction would not affect water rights, grazing, rights, or mineral rights.
- There are dozens of National Heritage Areas across the country that need to be reauthorized.
- My legislation is simple and that is why I ask the Subcommittee to pass my legislation so we can bring it to the floor for a vote that will benefit these vast Western landscapes.
- I appreciate your consideration.