

Habitat Conservation Group Supports SWIP Transmission Project

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The Nevada Wilderness Project expressed strong support for the transmission project announced today by NV Energy, Great Basin Transmission, the Western Area Power Administration, and US Senator Harry Reid. The agreement provides for the joint development by NV Energy and Great Basin, a subsidiary of LS Power, of a 235-mile-long, 500 kilovolt transmission line that will connect northern and southern Nevada.

This agreement is real progress toward reducing emissions and saving ratepayers money," said John Wallin, Director of the Nevada Wilderness Project. "It is also a keystone for smart renewable energy development in Nevada. Senator Reid is to be commended for his commitment to saving ratepayers money and moving Nevada to the head of the class for smart renewables development and a clean energy economy."

The Nevada Wilderness Project supports renewable energy projects that are **smart from the start**: they protect habitat, reduce emissions and aid the transition to an energy economy that is based on clean renewable energy and not dirty fossil fuels. The Southwest Intertie Project (SWIP) has tremendous promise to strike the right balance between these issues.

"We can strike the right balance in Nevada between renewable energy development and conserving the public lands and wildlife," Wallin said. "This is precisely the kind of project that can be a win for all parties involved."

Wallin also praised NV Energy, LS Power, and the Western Area Power Administration for their work to emphasize renewables and move forward with the transmission line in a way that benefits wildlife habitat as well as renewable energy. He said businesses that creatively partner with government and nonprofit organizations are the ones that will get their projects built quickly and most cost effectively.

"We're actively looking for industry, agency, and local partners to get smart projects built quickly, while safeguarding Nevada's wildlife habitat and public lands," Wallin noted. "This project, and these partners, hold great promise for the future. We particularly appreciate that these developers have chosen to build one right-sized line together rather than force competing projects that would compound negative consequences of the line."

For more information on the Nevada Wilderness Project and their "**Smart from the Start**" work, go to <http://www.wildnevada.org>.