

NEVADA

A LAND OF MAGNIFICENT NATURAL RESOURCES



DEPARTMENT OF
**CONSERVATION &
NATURAL RESOURCES**

2008 BIENNIAL REPORT
A REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF 2006–2007



DEPARTMENT OF **CONSERVATION &** **NATURAL RESOURCES**

Allen Biaggi, Director

Mission

To conserve, protect, manage and enhance the state's natural resources in order to provide the highest quality of life for Nevada's citizens and visitors.

Director

Allen Biaggi

Deputy Director

Kay Scherer

Statutory Authority

NRS 232.010 - 232.110

Employees

833 Total / 676 FTE
157 Seasonal / 2007

Address

Richard H. Bryan Building
901 South Stewart Street
Suite 5001
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Phone

(775) 684-2700

Web

www.dcnr.nv.gov

The Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources conserves, protects, manages, and enhances the state's natural resources in order to provide the highest quality of life for the state's citizens and visitors.

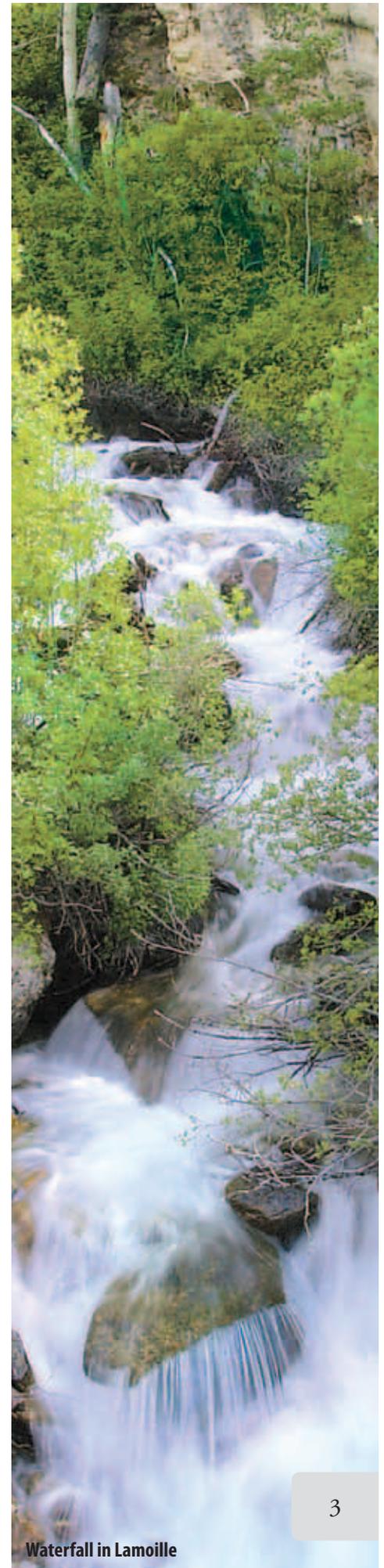
The Department includes eight divisions:

- Environmental Protection
- Forestry
- State Parks
- State Lands
- Water Resources
- Conservation Districts
- The Natural Heritage Program
- The Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses.

The Department also provides staff support to the Nevada Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and has responsibility for numerous boards and commissions: Advisory Board on Natural Resources, State Environmental Commission, State Conservation Commission, Board for Financing Water Projects, Well Drillers Advisory Board, Board to Review Petroleum Claims, State Land Use Planning Advisory Council, Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses, Board of Review (State Lands) and the Water Resources Planning and Development Advisory Board.

DEPARTMENT GOALS

- Protect and manage—in an ecologically, socially and economically responsible manner—Nevada’s air, water, land, forests and biodiversity by effectively administering equitable laws, regulations, policies, programs and standards.
- Engage in partnerships with federal, regional, state, tribal, local and private entities to provide scientifically based natural resource management, conservation and restoration.
- Strive to maintain a range of natural resource planning, inventory and research activities in an effort to keep pace with the demands created by growth and development.
- Encourage the development, promotion, management and maintenance of Nevada’s outdoor recreation and cultural resources in harmony with the goal of resource protection.
- Development and implement education programs and public information services that increase knowledge of the importance of Nevada’s natural resources—and the management and conservation activities related to these resources—as well as encourage the public to access policies, reports, data, forms, events and other information related to the department and its divisions administrative and regulatory activities.
- Promote excellence and professionalism by encouraging staff development and training, and by striving to provide a safe work environment within a framework of stable funding that allows for flexibility in the administration of natural resource and conservation programs.





The Office of the Director provides leadership, direction and administrative support to the department's agencies in order to assist them in offering the best possible service to the public.

Director

Allen Biaggi

Deputy Director

Kay Scherer

Statutory Authority

NRS 232.010-232.070

Employees

13 FTE/December 2007

Address

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901 South Stewart Street
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www.dcnr.nv.gov

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

PURPOSE

The Office of the Director provides leadership, direction and administrative support to the department's agencies in order to assist them in offering the best possible service to the public. The office directs state policy on natural resource issues in fulfillment of the departmental mission and establishes department goals, objectives and priorities. Due to the highly technical issues surrounding the management of the state's natural resources, the office helps oversee the resolution of competing interest claims originating from private stakeholders, as well as entities at all levels of government. The director appoints division administrators and approves divisional goals, objectives and priorities. The office also coordinates departmental projects, programs and planning, provides functional guidance and support in human resources matters, and offers general budgetary guidance to all agencies and full fiscal management for select divisions.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Office of the Director has a management section, a public information section and a fiscal section.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- A greater emphasis on public outreach and information has resulted in a new department Web site featuring a department-wide calendar of regulatory hearings, events and other activities, along with a user friendly approach and more access to news, photos and video that tell the story of the Department. In addition, award-winning single-use Web sites for water resources hearings have increased the public's ability to follow these issues. The Department also launched a monthly e-newsletter for all employees, department board members and key administration officials, and continued to work with its divisions to support or improve public information capabilities and, in the case of Nevada State Parks, its marketing efforts.
- The department has been recognized for its focus on safety and risk management. The department safety program is active and a high priority, and the emphasis on safety is carried down successfully through the divisions and their related plans, requirements and activities.
- Development of a well-coordinated, strategic and professional approach to preparing the department's multi-division budget and programmatic presentations—for both the executive and legislative branches—resulted in consistent, understandable and effective products.

The Director's Office's successful and responsible handling of the \$200 million Conservation Bond Question 1 (Q1) program has resulted in more than \$135 million in bonds sold and \$130 million encumbered for projects.

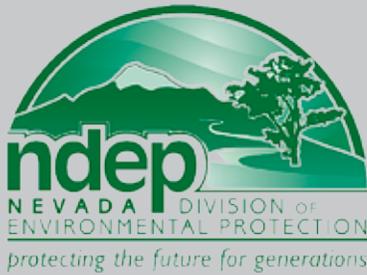
- By the end of 2007, the director and office fiscal staffs' successful and responsible handling of the \$200 million Conservation Bond Question 1 (Q1) program has resulted in more than \$135 million in bonds sold and \$130 million encumbered for projects since 2002 voter approval and 2003 legislative passage of the bond question.

KEY LONG TERM GOALS

- Preserve Nevada's primacy and authority in all matters pertaining to natural resource management including, but not limited to, air, water, land, flora/fauna and waste-based issues.
- Provide continued assistance to agency administrators in attaining their division's long term goals and objectives whether programmatic, legislative or fiscal.
- Support, coordinate and facilitate Governor's Office and administration initiatives and requirements that impact the department.
- Review department-wide policies and procedures and develop department-level policies as needed to maintain consistency and to promote regular division reviews of statutes and regulations.
- Continue to develop and encourage new ways to use the Internet to expand enhance agency services and to improve public access to department program information.
- Further increase the department's public information and outreach capabilities to best disseminate natural resources information and expand public access to services and programs offered by the department.
- Expand the department's capabilities in relation to electronic data sharing, communications and networking, as well as in the coordination and sharing of Geographic Information System data.
- Provide training or other opportunities for staff members to ensure knowledge of current laws, policies and procedures, and to decrease risk and emphasize safety.
- Provide ongoing opportunities for formal and informal communication between the Office of the Director and all department agencies in order to promote a work environment focused on continual organizational improvement.



**Big Bend of the Colorado
State Recreation Area**



DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Division of Environmental Protection is responsible for the implementation of environmental regulatory programs designed to protect public health and the environment.

The Office of the Administrator provides policy and programmatic support to ten Bureaus and the Office of Fiscal and Personnel Management as well as the division's offices in Las Vegas and Pahrump.

Administrator

Leo Drozdoff

Deputies

Tom Porta

Colleen Cripps

Statutory Authority

NRS 232.136, 444, 444A, 445A, 445B, 445C, 459, 486A, 519A, 590 and 704

Employees

250 FTE / December 2007

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Carson City, Nevada 89701

Phone

Carson City: (775) 687-4670

Las Vegas: (702) 486-2850

Web

www.ndep.nv.gov

PURPOSE

The Division of Environmental Protection preserves and enhances the environment of the state to protect public health, sustain healthy ecosystems and contribute to a vibrant economy. The division accomplishes its mission by implementing a range of environmental monitoring, regulatory and compliance assistance programs.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The division includes ten bureaus: Air Quality Planning, Air Pollution Control, Water Pollution Control, Water Quality Planning, Safe Drinking Water, Mining Regulation and Reclamation, Corrective Actions, Waste Management, Federal Facilities and the Bureau of Administrative Services. The division also provides staff support for the State Environmental Commission, the Board to Finance Water Projects and the Board to Review Petroleum Claims.

SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION OR EXECUTIVE ACTIONS

The following bills were passed during the 2007 legislative session:

Mercury

- AB67: Established authority for the division to receive revenue from the mercury cap and trade program and increases authority for administrative fines to \$2,000.
- AB115: Required the division to establish two positions to inspect mines for compliance with mercury regulations.

Greenhouse Gases

- SB422: Required the State Environmental Commission to adopt regulations requiring certain electric utilities to report greenhouse gases for inclusion in a registry. The division must develop an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions every four years.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Clean Air

- In April 2007, a \$90 million joint settlement with Nevada Power Company was negotiated that resolves allegations of air pollution

control violations at its Reid Gardner plant 50 miles northeast of Las Vegas.

- The bureaus are implementing a comprehensive mercury management program, that includes the:
 - Control emissions of mercury from precious metal mines on each unit that emits mercury.
 - Regulation of mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants.
 - Addition of mercury to the division's list of regulated substances.
 - Oversight of the handling and storage of the Department of Defense mercury stockpile.
 - Support of research on mercury deposition.
- The Bureau of Air Quality Planning began developing regulations which will mandate the reporting of greenhouse gases (GHG) emitted by certain generators of electricity for inclusion in a registry of GHG emissions. The bureau also began to develop the first statewide inventory of GHGs released in Nevada.

Clean Water

- Clean Water Act 319(h) Nonpoint Source Program funding was provided to Elko for the design and retrofit of the City Hall parking lot using low impact development techniques. The improved parking lot now retains storm water runoff on-site, preventing pollution from entering the nearby Humboldt River.
- The bureau developed a tracking and management system for the data submitted by the regulated community. In addition to the tracking system, the Bureau has increased public outreach efforts. Both of these efforts have resulted in a significant increase in regulatory compliance.
- The total amount of financial assurance for mine reclamation in Nevada has passed \$1 billion. This ensures that funding is available to properly reclaim mines in case the operator is unable or unwilling to do so, which provides a valuable safeguard to human health and the environment.
- Snapshot Monitoring Days were organized on the Truckee and Carson River to raise awareness of local water quality issues and promote environmental stewardship. Hundreds of volunteers participated in collecting water quality samples and assessing riparian habitat conditions at more than 25 sites throughout the watersheds.

Safe Drinking Water

Through effective management of the Safe Drinking Water program, Nevada routinely exceeds national Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) targets such as “the percent of the population served by community water systems that receive drinking water that meets all applicable health-based drinking water standards through effective treatment and source water protection.” The 2007 Federal Fiscal Year national target was 90 percent, the Nevada measurement was 98 percent for that period.

The total amount of financial assurance for mine reclamation in Nevada has passed \$1 billion. This ensures that funding is available to properly reclaim mines in case the operator is unable or unwilling to do so, which provides a valuable safeguard to human health and the environment.

Responsible Management of Chemicals and Waste

- In 2007, Nevada recycled approximately 22 percent of the 3.2 million tons of municipal solid waste generated in the state and disposed of in Nevada landfills.
- The division has developed the educational Solid Waste & Recycling Curriculum to promote a sense of environmental stewardship and responsibility among school-aged children. The program has an interdisciplinary focus, meeting Nevada Department of Education academic standards in science, language arts, geography and math.
- There are approximately 1,840 active generators of hazardous waste in Nevada, about 50 transporters and six permitted facilities that treat, store or dispose of hazardous waste. During the biennium, the compliance rate for generators inspected was 97 percent.

Restoration of Contaminated Sites

- The division provided the Reno Sparks Indian Colony with a low-interest loan and contractor services to cleanup a property. The site in Reno is owned by the Colony and was remediated to accommodate subsequent development and lease to Wal-Mart. Construction of the store was subject to completion of the cleanup of releases of lead solder and waste oil to soil. The cleanup at the site received no further action letters from Washoe County District Health Department, NDEP and the trust portion of the land received a no further action letter from EPA Region 9.

Public Information and Assistance

The division consolidated its two state revolving fund loan programs and the AB198 water infrastructure grants program into a single organizational unit. This change has improved efficiency and strengthened fiscal oversight of these programs, which have approximately \$500 million in obligations.

KEY LONG-TERM GOALS

- Achieve and maintain levels of air quality that will protect human health and safety, prevent injury to plant and animal life, minimize the risk of chemical accidents, prevent damage to property and preserve the scenic, historical and aesthetic treasures of the state.
- Protect the waters of the state from the discharge of pollutants and contaminants to preserve beneficial uses of water and maintain healthy aquatic habitat.
- Protect public health of the citizens and visitors of Nevada by assuring that public water systems provide safe and reliable drinking water.
- Ensure the safe management of solid and hazardous waste; promote waste reduction, reuse and recycling.



Aerial view of a Nevada mine

- Assess and, if necessary, clean up contaminated properties to levels appropriate for their beneficial reuse.
- Continue to provide financial and technical assistance to businesses and municipalities to enable compliance with environmental laws; inform the public about the quality of the environment and issues of concern; and involve citizens in decision-making processes.

The division has developed the educational Solid Waste & Recycling Curriculum to promote a sense of environmental stewardship and responsibility among school-aged children.



The Division of Forestry provides professional natural resource and fire services to Nevada citizens to enhance and protect forest, rangeland, and watershed values; conserve endangered plants and other native flora; and provide effective statewide fire protection and emergency management.

State Forester—Firewarden

Pete Anderson
Deputies
Bob Ashworth
Scott Sisco

Statutory Authority

NRS 232, 120, 472, 473, 527 and 528

Employees

192 FTE, 18 Seasonal / December 2007

Address

2478 Fairview Drive
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Phone

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Web

www.forestry.nv.gov

DIVISION OF FORESTRY

PURPOSE

The Division of Forestry provides professional natural resource and wildland fire management services to Nevada citizens and visitors to enhance, conserve and protect forest, rangeland and watershed values, endangered plants and other native flora.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Division of Forestry is organized into two functional areas: administration and operations under the direction of the State Forester-Firewarden.

SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION

OR EXECUTIVE ACTIONS

- NRS 474—Revisions were made to the NRS 474 provisions that provide mechanisms for a county to form a county fire protection district.
- NRS 473—Revisions were made to the NRS 473 provisions that provide mechanisms to form a county fire protection district in partnership with the State of Nevada, Division of Forestry.
- SB 288 & 289—Revised NRS 473 and 474 to clean up antiquated language and added options for counties to dissolve NRS 473 Fire Protection Districts or to merge NRS Fire Protection Districts with other forms of county fire protection districts by resolution.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Provided more than 265 technical, natural resource consultations to private landowners and developed 42 Land Management Plans for private landowners.
- Treated just over 1,000 acres of forest and woodland areas for insect and disease related problems; in addition to the several thousand acres treated for wildfire hazard reduction and the restoration and rehabilitation of lands damaged by wildfires.
- Assisted in development of a biomass cogeneration plant for the Department of Corrections; other biomass efforts are being worked on in the Spring Mountains of Southern Nevada and in the Lake Tahoe Basin.
- Awarded cost share sub-grants to communities and organizations to stimulate Urban and Community Forestry.
- Provided more than 150,000 seedlings and 108,000 pounds of seed to conservation, restoration and rehabilitation projects.

- Initiated the state mobilization plan for emergency response of local government.
- Awarded sub-grants to train Spanish-speaking Tree Care Workers.
- Provided Conservation Education Workshops for 96 Nevada teachers to learn about natural resources.
- Conservation crews provided a total of 290,000 natural resource project workdays, and crews and firefighters together put in more than one million hours on the fire lines in Nevada.
- Maximized staffing utilization, achieved the highest camp revenue production to date and enhanced our ability to meet the increasing natural resource and emergency response needs of cooperating agencies and private landowners.
- Trained 14,600 inmates as conservation and fire crews.

Conservation crews provided a total of 290,000 natural resource project workdays, and crews and firefighters together put in more than one million hours on the fire lines in Nevada.

KEY LONG-TERM GOALS

- Provide professional fire and natural resource management training and education to agency staff and public and private landowners, to promote sustainable forestry and enhance the quality of life and the natural environment.
- Develop partnerships with federal, state and local governments, organizations and the public to improve coordination, maximize resources and provide the most effective and efficient forest management and emergency response services for Nevada.
- Improve and protect the health and vigor of Nevada's watersheds and diverse ecosystems through increased technical assistance to landowners and land managers; develop partnerships with the private sector and federal, state and local agencies; enforce state laws and regulations; promote scientifically based conservation and best management practices; and educate the public on land stewardship ethics.
- Improve the environment of our cities and communities by increasing the planting of trees and improving the care and maintenance of existing trees. Promote public awareness about the important role community forests play in the quality of life for all Nevadans.
- Align agency regulations, policies, procedures and processes to statutory obligations and legal and fiscal authorities, revise as needed and establish agency priorities to meet current needs and conditions.
- Utilize technology, such as Geographic Information Systems and Web sites, to make more informed decisions, operate more efficiently and communicate our programs and missions.
- Seek new, diverse and enhanced funding sources to meet the challenges of diminishing federal grants and state revenues in order to provide stability and to build capacity for functional needs into the future.
- Expand communication and marketing programs to foster increased public recognition and support of the agency.



Controlled burn in Storey County



The Division of State Parks acquires, protects, develops, and interprets a well-balanced system of areas with outstanding scenic, recreational, scientific, and historical importance for the inspiration, use and enjoyment of Nevada's citizens and visitors in order that such areas shall be held in trust as irreplaceable portions of Nevada's natural and historical heritage.

Administrator

David Morrow

Deputies

Allen Newberry

Steve Weaver

Statutory Authority

NRS 232.135, 384 and 407

Employees

111 FTE, 138 seasonal / December 2007

Address

Richard H. Bryan Building
901 South Stewart Street
Suite 4001
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Phone

Carson City: (775) 684-2770

Web

www.parks.nv.gov

DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

PURPOSE

The Division of State Parks acquires, protects, develops and interprets a system of areas with scenic, recreational, scientific and historical importance for the use and enjoyment of citizens and visitors so that such areas shall be held in trust as irreplaceable portions of Nevada's natural and historical heritage.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The division is comprised of four sections: administration, accounting and personnel, operations and maintenance, and planning and development. Administration provides direction and leadership to the entire organization, sets goals, establishes policies and ensures the division meets its performance indicators. Accounting and personnel provide services to the agency for accounting and personnel support as well as monitoring budgets and contracts. The operations and maintenance section provides field services to manage and maintain 25 parks in four regions: Carson, Fallon, Panaca and Las Vegas. The planning and development section provides acquisition, planning, grants administration, design and engineering, construction management and technical support services for the state park system.

SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION OR EXECUTIVE ACTIONS

- SB 226: Received a \$150,000 legislative appropriation for ongoing fuels reduction programs in the backcountry of Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park
- SB 287: Commissioned state park rangers were included in the police/ fire retirement system. Commissioned park rangers and park supervisors received a law-enforcement pay adjustment.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed construction of a new visitor center at Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park-Sand Harbor, with public restrooms and multi-use outdoor decks. Interpretive exhibits and a park store/gourmet-food concession within the building were completed and dedicated.
- Offered 2,000 interpretive programs and special events that were attended by approximately 60,000 people.
- Completed 78 deferred maintenance projects at a cost of \$1,407,879. The projects included upgrades to the historic Spring Mountain Ranch House, new stockade posts at Mormon Station, exterior siding on the

restrooms at Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park-Sand Harbor, several new vault toilets at Lahontan, beach stabilization at Big Bend, roofs at Valley of Fire and bank stabilization at Echo Canyon.

- Accepted the transfer of about 2,900 acres of U.S. Forest Service land adjacent to Cave Lake State Park and the transfer of approximately 650 acres of Bureau of Land Management property adjacent to Ward Charcoal State Park
- Completed the transfer of Floyd Lamb State Park to the City of Las Vegas.
- Completed Buckland Station first-floor restoration.
- Proposed and received approval to establish a statewide invasive weed control program that includes the use of goat herds, herbicides and the replanting of native seeds to control the spread of invasive weeds.

KEY LONG-TERM GOALS

- Increase the division's operating budget in an attempt to address significant budget shortages caused by the increased cost of fuel, supplies and utilities.
- Analyze potential park acquisitions to ensure there is a clear benefit to the state or local community, and that appropriate measures are taken to reduce or eliminate the impact to the state general fund.
- Continue to explore additional revenue-generating sources including the use of enterprise accounts, agency operated sales outlets, property sale or lease, grants, partnerships, automated fee collection systems, increased staffing at entrance stations, cabin rentals and more special events and activities.
- Periodically revise park-user fees, special use and other fees, and evaluate other potential funding sources. Evaluate the senior citizen permit price.
- Work toward developing an environmental improvement program, similar to Lake Tahoe's environmental improvement program, for all state lands and parks.
- Improve resource management throughout the state park system. Plans exist to upgrade the basic inventory of natural resources, identify major natural resource issues and reduce or eliminate noxious and invasive weeds.
- Develop a cultural resource management program to better care for historic sites and cultural artifacts. Establish guidelines for cataloging collections, standards for proper storage and guidelines for all historic stabilization and improvement projects.
- Develop interpretive plans for each state park and increase integration of interpretive services within its normal operations and management. Continue to expand efforts to hire interpretive professionals and to provide more education and training to all division personnel.
- Develop state park specific programs that correlate with the national "Last Child in the Woods" program, which aims to get more children involved with outdoor activities and environmental education.

During the last biennium State Parks offered 2,000 interpretive programs and special events that were attended by approximately 60,000 people.





The Division of State Lands serves as the land office for the state, with the exception of land owned by the Legislature, university system and the Department of Transportation.

The division assists local governments with technical planning, primarily those governments that do not have a professional land-use planning staff, and represents state interests regarding the use and planning of federal lands. The division implements resource protection programs for the benefit of all Nevadans.

Administrator

Jim Lawrence

Statutory Authority

NRS 321–324, 445A.170

Employees

22.6 FTE, 1 Seasonal / December 2007

Address

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Suite 5003
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(775) 684–2720

Web

www.lands.nv.gov

DIVISION OF STATE LANDS

PURPOSE

The purpose of the division is to serve as the land office for the state's lands, with the exception of land owned by the Legislature, University System and the Department of Transportation; assist local governments with technical planning, primarily those governments that do not have a professional land use planning staff; represent the state interests regarding the use and planning of federal lands; and to implement resource protection programs for the benefit of all Nevadans.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The division is organized into six sections: the State Land Office; the State Land Use Planning Agency; the Nevada Tahoe Resource Team (NTRT); technical services; clerical and fiscal services; and the Question One (Q1) conservation bond team. The division is assisted by the State Land Use Planning Advisory Council, which has one representative from all 17 counties.

SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION OR EXECUTIVE ACTIONS

In the 2007 legislative session bills were passed that:

- Authorized the future sale of general obligation bonds of approximately \$9 million dollars for continuing the implementation of the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) at Lake Tahoe and fulfilling Nevada's 1997 commitment to EIP for Lake Tahoe
- Extended the deadline for issuing the sale of general obligation bonds for the Q1 Conservation and Resource Protection grant program to December 31, 2011.
- Appropriated funds to update the agency's lands database and make it a Web-based format capable of interfacing with geographic information system (GIS) applications.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Processed more than 480 land transactions involving leases, easements, permits and other authorizations on state lands.
- Completed a document preservation project which included the "steaming" of 7,200 documents and preserving them in archive folders. The project also included scanning of historic general land office plat maps.
- Technical planning assistance was provided to the City of Caliente, City of Carlin, Lyon, Humboldt and Pershing counties, Town of Beatty,

Town of Tonopah and the Town of Amargosa Valley. White Pine and Elko County were assisted with Public Lands Policy Plans.

- At Lake Tahoe, the Nevada Tahoe Resource Team completed 10 water quality and erosion control projects, fuels reduction work on about 100 urban parcels and continued work on hundreds of acres to improve forest health and wildlife habitat at Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park.
- Through the Q1 Resource and Conservation Grant Program, more than 2,600 acres of land was acquired for conservation purposes (3.65 acres preserved per day for the biennium).

KEY LONG-TERM GOALS

- Conduct four rounds of grant funding under the Q1 Conservation and Resource Protection grant program. Objectives of the grant program include having a grant in place to all 17 counties and the acquisition and preservation of 3,000 acres of land.
- Protect and enhance the state's natural resources through the implementation of the EIP at Lake Tahoe and administration of the Lake Tahoe Nevada License Plate Program.
- Continue to provide land services to state agencies and the public and process all requests for services as efficiently as possible.
- Complete update of existing land-management database system to incorporate Web and GIS capabilities. This project includes the conversion of all existing property files, as well as the electronic scanning of deed and easement documents.
- Ensure state and local government participation in federal land management actions, and continue to provide technical planning assistance to local governments.

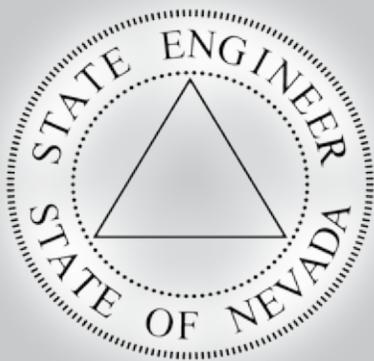
PUBLICATIONS

The division produces and distributes “Laws Relating to Planning” and the “Directory of Local Planning Organizations.”

The Nevada Tahoe Resource Team completed 10 water quality and erosion control projects, fuels reduction work on about 100 urban parcels and continued work on hundreds of acres to improve forest health and wildlife habitat at Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park.



Swan Lake in Lemmon Valley



The Division of Water Resources works to protect the health and safety of Nevada's citizens and visitors through the appropriation and adjudication of public water.

Administrator/State Engineer

Tracy Taylor

Deputies

Jason King

Kelvin Hickenbottom

Bob Coache

Statutory Authority

NRS 533 and 534

Employees

73.5 FTE / December 2007

Phone

(775) 684-2800

Web

www.water.nv.gov

Address

Richard H. Bryan Building

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Suite 2002

Carson City, Nevada 89701

DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

PURPOSE

The mission of the Nevada Division of Water Resources is to conserve, protect, manage and enhance the state's water resources for Nevada's citizens through the appropriation and reallocation of the public waters.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

There are eight sections within the division that provide regulatory oversight and customer service to Nevada's citizens. They are engineering, water rights, titles, hearings, surface water and adjudication, water planning and flood plain management, hydrology and information technology. Branch offices are located in Las Vegas, Elko and Winnemucca. In addition to the state engineer, there are three deputy state engineers, two in Carson City and one in Las Vegas.

SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION OR EXECUTIVE ACTIONS

During the last biennium, the division held several water right hearings on proposed inter-basin transfers of water from a rural basin to an urbanized basin.

In addition, during the 2007 legislative session, the following bills were passed:

- SB 275—Assigned priorities to domestic wells and allowed an auxiliary dwelling and a single family dwelling to both be hooked up to a domestic well without the benefit of a water rights permit.
- SB 274—Provided the authority to the division to create regulations, assess fines and penalties for violations of its statutes and regulations, and
 - o Allowed a successor in interest to a water right, or a lot owner with a domestic well, to continue a protest of his predecessor if a protest was filed by the predecessor.
 - o Allowed for the reopening of a protest period to a water right if the application meets certain criteria

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The division streamlined the water-right hearing process in order for more expeditious handling of protested applications.
- Approximately 3,200 applications were received and reviewed for processing. The division issued 2,900 permits (increase of 45 percent over the previous two years) and took action on more than 4,500 applications (increase of 70 percent) resulting in a nearly 20 percent

reduction in the backlog of pending applications. During this biennium, protested applications increased by more than 40 percent.

- About 6,700 Reports of Conveyance, representing 28,462 individual deeds, were processed. During this same time period, 5600 new Reports of Conveyances, representing 25,300 deeds, were received.
- The processing of Reports of Conveyance for Truckee River Claims helped make possible the issuance of 889 permits for 28,460 acre-feet of water rights.
- Held 131 administrative hearings, issued 214 rulings and four orders.

KEY LONG-TERM GOALS

- Manage each of the 256 hydrographic groundwater basins and sub-areas such that the consumptive use of the rights being pumped does not exceed the amount of water recharging the basins on an annual basis.
- Quantify and determine water rights put to beneficial use prior to enactment of various statutes ("vested rights"), thereby ensuring that those water rights are recognized through the adjudication process set out in NRS 533.
- Eliminate the backlog of water right applications.
- Protect the safety and health of Nevada citizens through the review of dam applications, dam inspections and strict enforcement of channel clearance and flood control statutes.
- Find additional ways to improve the processes and procedures of the Division to continue to provide the best possible customer service to Nevada's citizens.
- Update water availability estimates for all hydrographic basins within the state.
- Continue to develop the division's Web site such that more of the state's water resource data are easily accessible by the public.

The division issued 2,900 permits (an 45-percent increase over the previous two years) and took action on more than 4,500 applications (a 70-percent increase) resulting in a nearly 20-percent reduction in the backlog of pending applications.





DIVISION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS & STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Division of Conservation Districts and the State Conservation Commission assist and regulate the activities of Nevada's 28 locally elected conservation districts.

Conservation districts work for the conservation and proper development of the state's renewable natural resources.

Acting Administrator

Jim Lawrence

Statutory Authority

NRS 548

Employees

3 FTE / December 2007

Address

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901 South Stewart Street
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Carson City, Nevada 89701

Phone

(775) 684-2763

Web

www.dcd.nv.gov

PURPOSE

The Division of Conservation Districts and the State Conservation Commission assist and regulate the activities of Nevada's 28 locally elected conservation districts. Conservation districts work for the conservation and proper development of the state's renewable natural resources by taking available technical, financial and educational resources and coordinating them to meet the needs of landowners and land users. The districts often work in cooperation with counties, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, as well as other public and private agencies for the conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The division's acting administrator (who is designated as "acting" because this individual is also the administrator of the Division of State Lands and is not an authorized/funded FTE in the Division of Conservation Districts) also serves as executive secretary to the State Conservation Commission.

SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION OR EXECUTIVE ACTIONS

- In the 2007 legislative session, AB629 provided one-time funding for conservation districts of \$250,000 to be administered through the conservation commission. The bill provided \$8,928 per district over a two year period. Required budget cuts the following year reduced the amount to \$8,482 per district.
- The State Conservation Commission held public hearings to amend NAC Chapter 548. Amendments were approved in October 2007 that clarified the requirements for good standing, election of supervisors, the equal distribution of grants and the authority to distribute grants provided by other sources under certain circumstances.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- In FY 2006, conservation districts generated \$27 for every \$1 of state 'grants to districts' funding received. In FY 2007, conservation districts generated \$19 for every \$1 of state 'grants to districts' funding received.
- Responded to more than 400 requests for assistance from conservation districts. Staff attended nearly 100 district meetings at which they offered training, strategic planning, grant writing and technical assistance with their programs.
- Maintained, at least monthly, a log of required conservation district reports and posted the reports on the division's Web site for the districts' use and verification to ensure their continued good standing.
- Provided technical assistance by participating in the Walker River steering committee meetings. This effort directly generated an additional \$50,000 of watershed restoration activity in the Walker Lake basin.
- Delivered reports of district activities and needs at annual meetings of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), the National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA) and the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts (NvACD).
- Met with congressional staff in Washington, D.C. to discuss resource conservation issues, the funding needed to address those concerns and to discuss increasing federal funds for renewable natural resource conservation projects, including fire rehabilitation.
- Through a partnership with NASCA, staff participated in NASCA's nationwide effort to collect information from producers on Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Farm Bill delivery system. NASCA provided Nevada a scholarship for two producers to attend hearing sessions in Utah with staff attending as well.
- Staff led an effort to review and regenerate participants in a memorandum of understanding that was signed in 1994 by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, U.S. EPA, NRCS and the State Conservation Commission. The memorandum was revised in 2006 with the addition of the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts and the Nevada Inter-Tribal Council as signees. The group's goal is to use conservation districts as the local sponsor to implement conservation projects.

KEY LONG TERM GOALS

- Continue to seek additional funding that would allow each district to have at least one full-time employee to assist the districts in implementing conservation programs and expand current and ongoing conservation projects.
- Annually hold conferences in each of the state's three regions to conduct district operations training, capacity building and the review of district policies, authorities, responsibilities and procedures.

In FY 2006, conservation districts generated \$27 for every \$1 of state 'grants to districts' funding received. In FY 2007, conservation districts generated \$19 for every \$1 of state 'grants to districts' funding received.





The Nevada Natural Heritage Program maintains comprehensive information on the locations, biology, and conservation status of all endangered, threatened, sensitive and at-risk species in the state

Administrator

Jennifer Newmark

Statutory Authority

NRS 232.090

Employees

10 FTE / December 2007

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NEVADA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

PURPOSE

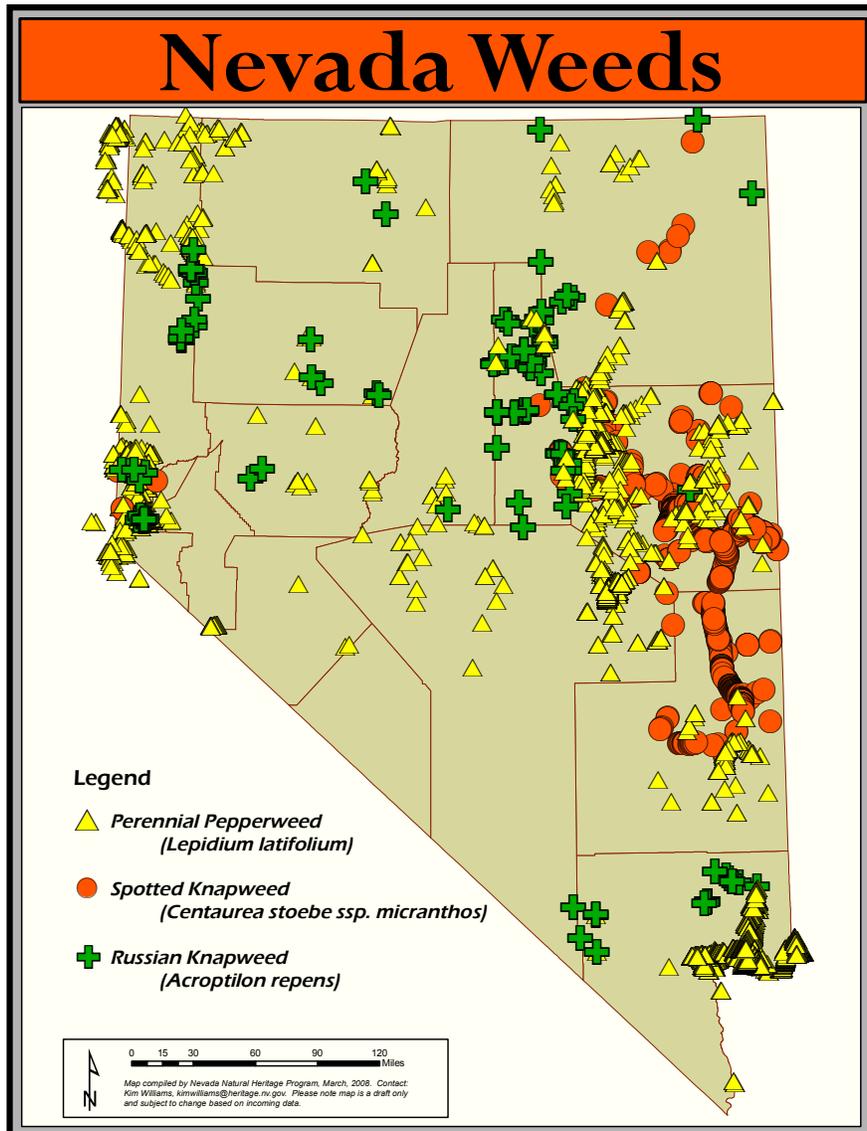
The Natural Heritage Program maintains comprehensive information on the locations, biology and conservation status of all endangered, threatened, sensitive and at-risk species in the state, as well as vegetation and wetland community databases. The program evaluates conservation priorities for species and their habitats and supplies information, maps and technical advice to meet diverse conservation and planning needs.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The NNHP hired a statewide weeds mapper in April 2007. More than 300 occurrences of noxious weeds throughout the state have been incorporated into databases. An automated update process is being programmed which will greatly facilitate mapping occurrences. A draft map of weed species was presented to the Nevada Weed Management Association in October of 2007, and multiple planning and update meetings were attended.
- In 2006, the division published Scorecard 2006: Highest Priority Conservation Sites. 53 of the 69 sites are springs. These sites have become the focus of a new, important project for the Nevada Natural Heritage Program. In fall of 2007, the division started a springs conservation project funded by a Question 1 grant and an EPA Wetland Program Development Grant, in partnership with Desert Research Institute and The Nature Conservancy. This project will contribute to the implementation of the State Wildlife Action Plan and will support informed decision-making regarding the conservation of isolated spring wetlands.
- The division's ecologist has completed an initial draft of the "Living Nevada Vegetation Map." This map is a compilation of Geographic Information System vegetation layers.
- The program continually expands and updates its species-at-risk databases and now has 8,245 records for 698 at-risk species throughout the state, supported with 18,819 literature sources.
- Heritage data are widely used by state and federal agencies, and by a variety of teams and agencies, including the Nevada Biodiversity Initiative, the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation planning efforts in Clark County, the Wildlife Action Plan, BLM offices, the Forest Service, the Department of Defense and the Departments of Conservation and Natural Resources, Transportation and Wildlife.

KEY LONG-TERM GOALS

The program will continue to serve as a statewide clearinghouse for data on at-risk species, vegetation and wetland communities, as well as continue to map the occurrences of noxious weeds. The spring assessment will provide valuable data for our databases, including mapping sites in GIS that can then be used in future conservation work. In addition, the spring surveys will provide new vegetation alliances associated with wetlands for the database.



Natural Heritage hired a statewide weeds mapper in April 2007 and a draft map of weed species was presented to the Nevada Weed Management Association in October of 2007.



COMMISSION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF WILD HORSES

Purpose

The Wild Horse Program helps preserve viable herds of wild horses on public lands in Nevada. The commission serves as an advocate for wild horses with federal agencies to ensure that sufficient habitat is available for the wild horses and also with participation in programs designed to encourage and promote the protection and adoption of wild horses. The commission serves as a clearinghouse for information to the general public and the news media on all aspects of wild horses.

Administrator

Catherine Barcomb

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1 FTE / December 2007

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PURPOSE

The duties of the commission are to preserve viable herds of wild horses on public lands in Nevada. The commission serves as an advocate for wild horses through participation with federal agencies to ensure that sufficient habitat is available for wild horses and in participation in programs designed to encourage and promote the protection of wild horses. The commission serves as a clearinghouse for information to the general public and the news media on all aspects of wild horse management in Nevada.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The commission consists of five members appointed by the Governor. One member is a representative of an organization whose purpose is to protect wild horses and whose headquarters are in Nevada, one member is an owner or manager of property used for ranching and three members are representatives of the general public who are not engaged in ranching or farming and who have not previously been engaged in efforts to protect wild horses.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

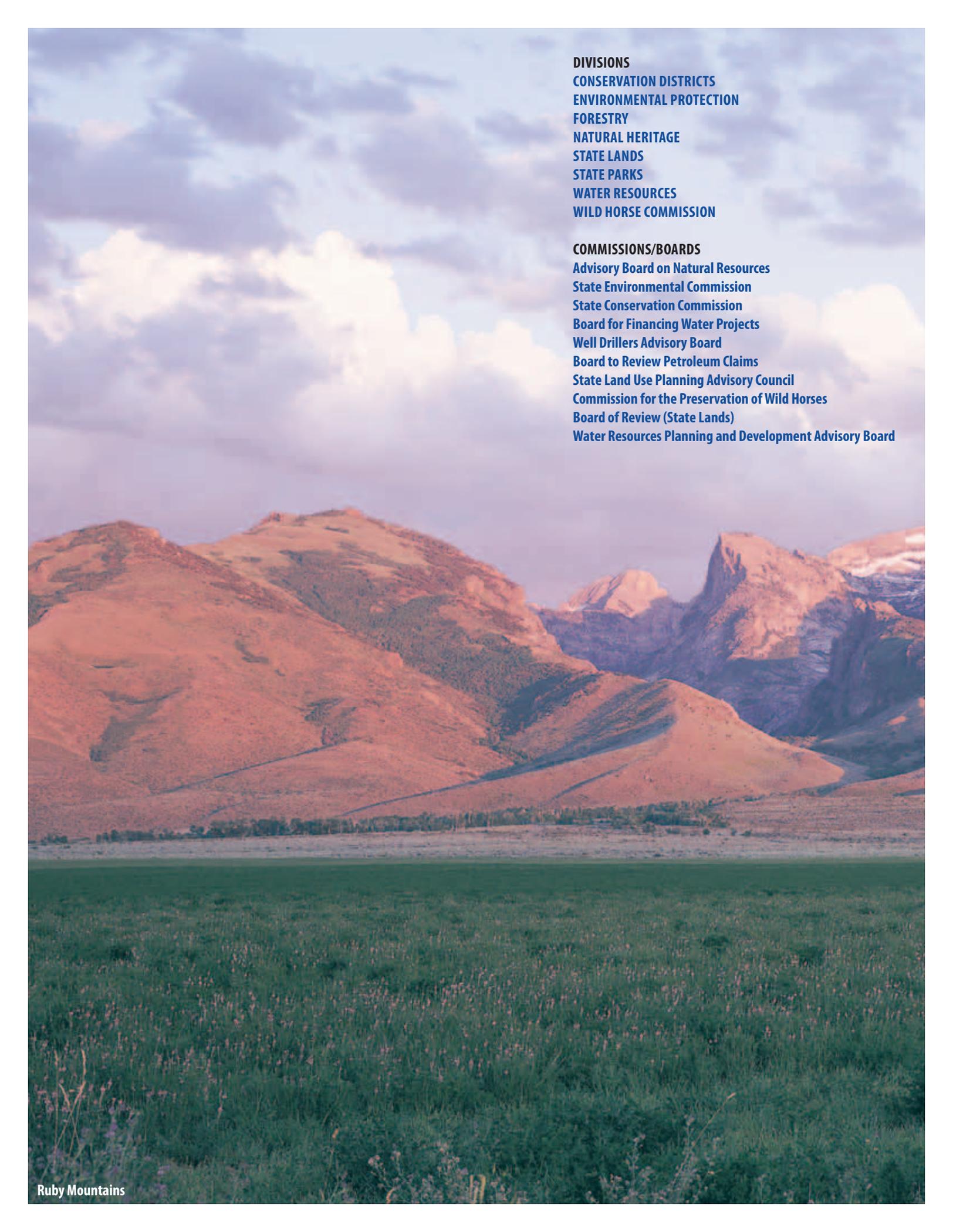
- Administrator reviewed approximately 289 land use planning documents, an activity necessary for the protection of the habitat for wild horses, as well as wildlife and livestock, in a multiple use management framework for public lands in Nevada
- Continued to work with partners from the private sector, federal government and state government to achieve the goals projected in the statewide plan.
- The administrator participated in numerous efforts designed to promote and encourage the adoption of wild horses, including the Mustang Heritage Foundation's "Extreme Mustang Makeover."
- The commission and the Bureau of Land Management continued to provide support to the Mustang Heritage Foundation, which is dedicated to facilitating successful adoptions for America's excess mustangs and burros.

KEY LONG-TERM GOALS

- Serve as an advocate for the preservation of wild horses through the review and evaluation of federal land management environmental and action documents.
- Encourage the public to participate in all aspects of the wild horse program and protection of their habitat—and encourage the public adoption of wild horses and burros.
- Work for the protection and enhancement of wild horse habitat by establishing and maintaining appropriate management levels to preserve rangeland health.
- Assist in maintaining open lines of communication between the various interest groups, and state and federal agencies on matters related to wild horses.
- Assist the National Wild Horse and Burro Foundation—a joint partnership with the Bureau of Land Management—in its enhancement of the BLM’s adoption program.
- Support enhancement of the adoption program by encouraging the holding, care and training of BLM’s horses through an inmate-assisted program at the Stewart Conservation Camp in Carson City.
- Work with the BLM to determine feasibility of a Wild Horse and Burro Visitors Center in Nevada to promote tourism and the adoption program.

The administrator participated in numerous efforts designed to promote and encourage the adoption of wild horses, including the Mustang Heritage Foundation’s “Extreme Mustang Makeover.”





DIVISIONS
CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
FORESTRY
NATURAL HERITAGE
STATE LANDS
STATE PARKS
WATER RESOURCES
WILD HORSE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONS/BOARDS

Advisory Board on Natural Resources
State Environmental Commission
State Conservation Commission
Board for Financing Water Projects
Well Drillers Advisory Board
Board to Review Petroleum Claims
State Land Use Planning Advisory Council
Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses
Board of Review (State Lands)
Water Resources Planning and Development Advisory Board