



DEPARTMENT OF
**CONSERVATION &
NATURAL RESOURCES**



DIVISIONS

- CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
- ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
- FORESTRY
- NATURAL HERITAGE
- STATE LANDS
- STATE PARKS
- WATER RESOURCES
- WILD HORSE PROGRAM



COMMISSIONS/BOARDS

- Advisory Board on Natural Resources
- Board For Financing Water Projects
- Board To Review Petroleum Claims
- Conservation Commission
- Environmental Commission
- Land Use Planning Advisory Council
- Well Drillers Advisory Board
- Wild Horse Commission

VALLEY OF FIRE STATE PARK • Overton, Nevada

(775) 684-2700
dcnr.nv.gov

2006 **Biennial Report**

**A REPORT ON THE
ACTIVITIES OF
2004-2005**



DEPARTMENT OF **CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES**

A REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF 2004–2005

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Introduction

Nevada is land of magnificent and unique natural resources. From the shores of the Colorado River in the south, to the high deserts of Elko County in the north; from the waters of Lake Tahoe in the west, to the limestone geology of the east, Nevada's natural diversity and abundance is second to none. Preserving, protecting, and enhancing these wonders is the responsibility of the more than 900 employees of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Through their dedication and professionalism, Nevada continues to be one of the wealthiest states in the nation in terms of natural resources.

I am pleased to provide this overview of the program highlights and accomplishments of the Department. While much has been achieved recently, the challenges in our growing state are many. The allocation of our precious water resources is of critical concern, the cycle of wildland fires and spread of invasive species continues, maintaining and enhancing recreational opportunities at our parks is needed in light of our ever-growing population, and ensuring proper land use planning and clean land, air and water is essential to maintaining our Nevada lifestyle. While these challenges are great, so is the talent and determination of our staff.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is committed to meeting these challenges head-on. I ask you to join us in our goal of preserving and protecting Nevada's unique natural resources for both citizens and visitors now and into the future.

—ALLEN BIAGGI, Director

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NEVADA CONTINUES TO BE ONE OF THE WEALTHIEST STATES IN THE NATION IN TERMS OF NATURAL RESOURCES.





▶ AT-A-GLANCE

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

Relevant Laws

NRS 232.010 - 232.110

Employees

911 Total / 710 FTE
201 Seasonal / 2006

Phone

(775) 684-2700

Web

www.dcnr.nv.gov

Address

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

DEPARTMENT OF **CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES**

ALLEN BIAGGI, *Director*

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 Wild Horse Program.

The department also provides staff support to the Nevada Tahoe Regional Planning Agency. The Department also has responsibility for numerous boards and commissions: Natural Resources Advisory Board, State Environmental Commission, State Conservation Commission, Board for Financing Water Projects, Well Driller's 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), California-Nevada Interstate Compact, Columbia Basin Interstate Compact, 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.
- Maintain a range of natural resource planning, inventory, and research activities that strive 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.
- Develop and implement educational 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’s administrative and regulatory activities.
- Promote excellence and professionalism by providing for and encouraging staff development, training, and a safe work environment within a framework of stable funding that allows for flexibility in the administration of natural resource and conservation programs.



▲ **CATHEDRAL GORGE STATE PARK** is known for its carved, dramatic cliffs and canyons, remnants of a Pliocene-era lakebed. More than 50,000 visitors each year enjoy hiking trails for exploring the cave-like formations and cathedral-like spires. Cathedral Gorge is 165 miles northeast of Las Vegas via Interstate 15 North and U.S. Highway 93. .



SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION OR EXECUTIVE ACTIONS AFFECTING THE DEPARTMENT

■ The Safe Drinking Water programs were moved from the Division of Health, Department of Human Resources, to the Division of Environmental Protection, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. This consolidation will serve to improve program efficiency and ensure consistent policies between clean water and safe water programs.

■ Water resource issues were the focus of 22 pieces of legislation in the 2005 session of the Nevada Legislature. Many of the ideas and concepts associated with these bills were consolidated into an interim study. The department is participating with the interim study committee as it prepares proposed water resources legislation for the 2007 session.

▶ AT-A-GLANCE

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.

Director

Allen Biaggi

Deputy Director

Kay Scherer

Relevant Laws

NRS 232.010 - 232.070

Employees

13 FTE / 2006

Phone

(775) 684-2700

Web

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Address

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

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

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.

The director appoints division administrators and approves divisional goals, objectives, and priorities. The office 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.

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.



SINCE 2002 VOTER APPROVAL AND 2003 LEGISLATIVE PASSAGE MORE THAN \$108 MILLION IN BONDS HAS BEEN SOLD AND \$95 MILLION HAS BEEN USED FOR CONSERVATION PROJECTS IN 14 NEVADA COUNTIES.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS

► **GOAL: Consolidate and/or upgrade central office accommodations for all department divisions.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- All divisions (except the Division of Forestry) took occupancy of the new Richard H. Bryan Building in Carson City in July 2005. The Division of Forestry joined the Department of Emergency Management in a new Carson City facility, located about one mile from the Bryan Building, in November 2006.

► **GOAL: Successfully establish and coordinate the \$200 million Conservation Bond Program under the direction of the Office of the Director.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- Since 2002 voter approval and 2003 legislative passage, more than \$108 million in bonds has been sold and \$95 million has been used for projects in 14 Nevada counties.

► **GOAL: Promote a cooperative approach among agencies in addressing common natural resources problems, issues and challenges; continue to assist the department's divisions in all aspects of program operations.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- The director and deputy director have focused on ensuring effective communication and coordination among all of the department's agencies for the handling of both external issues and internal initiatives, along with increased emphasis of a multi-agency/multi-disciplinary team approach among staff.

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THE RICHARD H. BRYAN BUILDING IN CARSON CITY, COMPLETED IN 2005, HOUSES MOST OF THE DEPARTMENT'S DIVISIONS AND OPERATIONS.



PUBLICATIONS

View department's publications, program descriptions, meeting agendas, public access databases, directories, plans, and reports at:
www.dcnr.nv.gov

LONG TERM GOALS

- Preserve Nevada's primacy and authority in all matters pertaining to natural resource management including air, water, land, flora/fauna, and waste-based issues.
- Provide continued assistance to agency administrators in attaining long-term programmatic, legislative, and fiscal goals.
- Regularly review department-wide policies and procedures and develop department-level policies as needed to maintain consistency and unburden divisions from separate, time-consuming efforts.
- Promote regular division reviews of statutes and regulations.
- Support, coordinate, and facilitate Governor's Office and administration initiatives and planning requirements that impact the department.
- Continue to develop and encourage new ways to use the Internet to expand and enhance agency operations and services and to improve public access to information within the department.
- Expand the department's capabilities in relation to electronic data sharing, communications, and networking, as well as in the coordination of Geographic Information System capabilities within the department and among other state agencies and partners.
- Increase the department's public information and outreach capabilities in order to improve dissemination of natural resources information and to expand public access to services and programs offered by the department
- Explore the establishment of public meetings in key regions across the state to provide natural resource information and gather public input on critical natural resource issues.
- Provide department-level training for staff to ensure knowledge of laws, policies, and procedures and to decrease risks.
- Develop department-level assessment tools, such as employee opinion surveys or department training needs assessments, to explore the necessity of enhancing or adding to the training programs offered.
- Provide ongoing opportunities for formal and informal communication between the Director's Office and the department's agencies in order to promote a work environment focused on continuous organizational improvement.



THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
IS RESPONSIBLE FOR EIGHT DIVISIONS AND 10 BOARDS AND
COMMISSIONS.



▲ **WASHOE LAKE STATE PARK** is home to more than 100 bird species. The park, located between Carson City and Reno, has 100,000 visitors a year.



THE DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR HAVE FOCUSED ON ENSURING EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION AMONG ALL OF THE DEPARTMENT'S AGENCIES.



DIVISION OF FORESTRY

PETE ANDERSON, *State Forester-Firewarden*

▶ AT-A-GLANCE

Purpose

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

Jennifer Kizer

Relevant Laws

NRS 232, 472, 473, 527, and 528

Employees

245 FTE and 61 Seasonal / 2006

Phone

(775) 684—2500

Web

www.forestry.nv.gov

Address

2478 Fairview Drive
Carson City, Nevada 89701

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. The Division of Forestry is under the direction of the State Forester, Deputy State Forester, Administrative Services Officer and program coordinators for Fire, Resource Management, and Conservation Camps.

LONG TERM GOALS

- Improve the health Nevada's watersheds and ecosystems through increased technical assistance to landowners and land managers; develop partnerships with federal, state, and local agencies, and the private sector; enforce state laws and regulations, promoting scientifically based conservation and best management practices; and educate the public on land stewardship ethics.
- Actively protect, enhance, and manage the natural resources of the state through education, technical transfer and revegetation of wildfire-damaged lands.
- Provide scientifically based conservation and environmental education programs using Nevada's natural resources and their management as educational opportunities.
- Improve the environment of our 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 Nevadans.



THE DIVISION USED THE FEMA FIRE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM TO OFFSET THE SUPPRESSION COSTS OF TEN WILDFIRES FOR AN ESTIMATED SAVINGS OF \$6.9 MILLION.



SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION OR EXECUTIVE ACTIONS AFFECTING THE AGENCY

■ The division has moved forward with a capital improvement project for the Las Vegas Nursery. The project is addressing health, life safety, and other concerns to ensure the continued production of native and adapted plants to meet the growing needs of the state.



▲ **THE FUELS FOR SCHOOLS** program is an innovative venture among public schools, the Nevada Division of Forestry, and the U.S. Forest Service. The program helps public schools retrofit fuel oil or natural gas heating systems to a biomass or wood chip heating system, which significantly reduces heating costs.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The natural resource management programs include Cooperative Forestry Management, Nursery and Seedbank, Forest Stewardship, Urban and Community Forestry, Conservation Education, Forestry Health Protection, and the Lake Tahoe Initiative Environmental Improvement Project. Services provided to landowners through the resource management programs include technical forestry assistance, native and adapted plant materials, disturbed site rehabilitation, invasive species control, tree planting cost share grants, and assistance to communities and rural landowners.

► **GOAL: Identify emerging issues and opportunities in natural resource management and provide leadership in finding and implementing solutions.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Fuels for Schools program continued to grow and support efforts for the establishment of biomass projects. A 1-kilowatt biomass co-generation plant was developed for the Department of Corrections' Northern Correctional Center in Carson City.
- The Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) sub-grant program awards cost-share sub-grants to communities and organizations to stimulate U&CF projects and involve volunteers. In 2004, \$114,212 was provided to eight communities, and in 2005 five communities received \$67,922 for U&CF projects.

► **GOAL: Promote partnerships with all federal, state, and local entities with respect to natural resource interests.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- The Las Vegas and Washoe nurseries continued to partner with federal, state, and local cooperators. Plant materials and seeds have been provided for projects in the Lake Tahoe basin, Las Vegas Valley, the Sierra Front, Overton Wildlife Refuge, Henderson Bird Sanctuary, U.S. Forest Service, BLM, and local governments.

► **GOAL: Develop educational programs and public information services that focus on conservation and management of Nevada's natural resources.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- During 2004 and 2005, 172 northern Nevada Latinos attended training for Spanish-speaking tree care workers, a program that provides Hispanics in the green industry with training in proper tree care.
- The Conservation Education program provided workshops for 74 Nevada teachers to learn about natural resources. The division helped to provide opportunities for 870 students to learn more about the environment and science.



FIRE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Fire Management Program exists to protect the citizens, visitors, and natural resources from human-caused and natural catastrophes through public education, natural resource enhancement, and emergency service delivery. Delivery of the fire management program is divided into two categories: 1) statewide fire protection, and 2) Division of Forestry Fire Protection Districts. The fire management program consists of fire administration, fire business management, prevention, community protection, preparedness, and fire suppression resources, which require the support of the Nevada Division of Forestry and Nevada's Volunteer Fire Fighters.

► **GOAL: Protect Nevada's air, water, land forests, open space and sensitive and threatened species and their habitats through hazardous fuel mitigation and fire prevention programs.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The division reduced hazardous fuels where the negative impact of wildfire was greatest. Twenty five fuels reduction projects were completed having treated 1,630 acres in 2004 and 2005.
- The division has continued to restore ecosystems through rehabilitation, which is necessary to prevent invasive species from taking over and to restore watershed function and biological communities.

► **GOAL: Provide for an effective emergency services program to protect public safety and welfare.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- *Communication and education:* The division enhanced knowledge and understanding of wildland fire management policies and practices through communication and education programs.
- *Prevention:* The division worked with partners, other affected groups, and individuals to prevent unauthorized ignition of wildland fires.
- *Standardization:* the division utilized training and qualification requirements, operational procedures, and public education programs for fire management activities in order to be consistent with other emergency response agencies.
- *Preparedness:* The division prepared and enhanced its capability to provide a safe, cost-effective fire management through appropriate planning, staffing, training, equipment, and management oversight.
- *Suppression:* The division attacks all unwanted wildland fires relative to values threatened and control difficulty, with the intent to control all unwanted wildland fires within the first burning period.
- *Cost recovery:* The division successfully utilized the FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant program to offset suppression costs to state and local governments on a total of ten wildfires for an estimated savings of \$6.9 million.
- The division contracted "all risk" responsibilities back in two of eight Fire Protection Districts to local government. This allows the division to focus on comprehensive wildland fire management and reducing liabilities to the state.

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**TWENTY FIVE FUELS
REDUCTION PROJECTS
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TREATING 1,630 ACRES.**



▼ ▼ ▼

IN 2004–2005, 172
NORTHERN NEVADA
LATINOS ATTENDED
TRAINING FOR
SPANISH-SPEAKING
TREE CARE WORKERS,
A PROGRAM THAT
PROVIDES HISPANICS
IN THE GREEN
INDUSTRY WITH
TRAINING IN PROPER
TREE CARE.

LONG TERM GOALS

- Continue discussions to allow contracting responsibilities for fire protection activities back to Nevada counties capable of providing equivalent services.
- Continue to utilize a strategy that emphasizes measures to reduce the risk to communities and the environment and provide an effective framework for collaboration to accomplish wildfire prevention activities.
- Continue programmatic development for a more efficient and effective mobilization of local government resources for the purpose of wildland fire protection.
- Continue to foster the effective use of the Federal Emergency Management Agency Fire Management Assistance Grant program.



▲ A NEVADA DIVISION OF FORESTRY CONSERVATION CREW builds an elk fence north of Dunphy. The project is funded by the Nevada Division of Wildlife to protect TS Ranch fields and haystacks from elk and antelope in northern Nevada.



CONSERVATION CAMP PROGRAM

The Forestry Conservation Camp Program coordinates and supervises forestry, conservation, and other projects performed by inmates from the Department of Corrections who reside in Forestry Conservation Camps located around the state. The program provides manpower for labor-intensive environmental projects, wildland fire suppression activities, and emergency response activities. Inmates are provided training in both natural resources and wildland fire suppression. There are 79 twelve-person inmate crews in ten Conservation Camps under the supervision of the Division of Forestry.

► **GOAL: Maintain lean but appropriate staffing levels.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The division reorganized the Conservation Camp Program, which has maximized staffing efficiency, achieved the highest revenue production to date, and enhanced our ability to meet the increasing natural resource and emergency response needs of cooperating agencies and private landowners.

► **GOAL: Protect Nevada's air, water, land, forests, open space, and sensitive and threatened species and their habitats.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Conservation Camp Crews provided 375,000 work days in support of Nevada's natural resources, completing projects ranging from timber stand improvement at Lake Tahoe to fencing threatened and endangered species habitat and helping control noxious weeds. Conservation Camp Crews have also completed mine reclamation and wildlife habitat projects for the U.S. Forest Service.
- Conservation Camp Crews worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and private landowners to revegetate a riparian corridor, enhance and maintain the stream channel, and seed upland habitat. This directly helped the Preston-White River spring fish, White River spine dace, Desert sucker fish, and Sage grouse. A project in the Muddy River continued with the removal of tamarisk, an invasive species found in many Nevada water ways.

► **GOAL: Give prison inmates job and life skills through the Conservation Camp program.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The division provided training for 9,600 inmates, which included basic fire suppression, horticulture, construction trades, and mechanics. The program also provided work projects for inmates to develop and practice skills in a work environment, learn teamwork, and acquire structured work habits.

LONG TERM GOALS

- Implement the Conservation Camp reorganization in 2006–2007.
- Enhance the division's employees' ability to respond to wildland fires and other emergencies through an active health and wellness program, physical fitness program, and coordinated training of inmates.

PUBLICATIONS

- The second edition of the *Nevada Big Tree Register* lists more than 160 trees from urban and rural locations around the state. Published in 2004, a copy can be viewed on the division Web site. 
- The division coauthored and funded the development and printing of 5,000 copies of an educational booklet *Pinyon Pine—Management Guidelines for Common Pests*.
- The division assisted with the development and printing of an *Invasive Weed Identification for Nevada* booklet.



DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

DAVID MORROW, *Administrator*

► AT-A-GLANCE

Purpose

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

Relevant Laws

NRS 232.135, 384, and 407

Employees

105 FTE, 138 seasonal / 2006

Phone

Carson City: (775) 684-2770

Web

www.parks.nv.gov

Address

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

The DIVISION OF STATE PARKS acquires, protects, develops, and interprets areas with outstanding scenic, recreational, scientific, and historical importance for Nevada's citizens and visitors so that these areas are held in trust as irreplaceable portions of Nevada's natural and historical heritage.

The division has four sections: Administration, Accounting and Personnel, Park Operations and Maintenance, and Planning and Development. Administration helps provide overall direction and leadership to the entire organization, sets goals, establishes policies, and assures the division meets its performance indicators. Accounting and Personnel provides services to field staff in accounting and personnel issues as well as monitoring budgets and contracts.

Operations and Maintenance provides field services to manage and maintain 26 parks in four regions: Carson, Fallon, Panaca, and Las Vegas. Planning and Development provides acquisition, planning, grants administration, design and engineering, construction management, and technical support services for the state park system.



LONG TERM GOALS

- Maintain visitor-to-staff ratios consistent with visitor needs and expectations.
- Analyze any 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 addition of park cabins, agency operated sales outlets, grants, and partnerships.
- Periodically review park-user fees, special-use and other fees to ensure parks can be effectively developed, maintained, and operated at the lowest cost to tax payers.
- Improve resource management. Plans exist to upgrade the basic inventory of natural resources, identify major natural resource issues, and reduce and eliminate noxious weeds.
- Partner with the Divisions of Forestry and State Lands to create an environmental improvement program similar to the one that was established at Lake Tahoe.
- Continue to work towards establishing sustainable development criteria in all state parks and add sustainable development levels to the updating of park master plans.
- Develop a prioritized list of park acquisitions, as well as a list of criteria that can be used to prioritize potential additions.
- 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 continue efforts to hire interpretive professionals and to provide more education and training to all division personnel.



SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION OR EXECUTIVE ACTIONS AFFECTING THE AGENCY

- Revisions were made to the Nevada Administrative Code, which revised the state park fee schedule.
- During the 2005 Legislative Session, the transfer of Floyd Lamb State Park to the City of Las Vegas was approved, which will allow for the transfer of the park on June 30, 2007.
- The Legislature approved SB 318, which created a funding account for repair and maintenance of state park facilities and grounds. Under the provisions of SB 318, at the request of the Bureau of Land Management, the State of Nevada will sell an 80-acre inholding in the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation area in southern Nevada to the Department of the Interior. The Pine Creek tract is an 80-acre parcel of land located near Pine Creek Springs within Red Rock Canyon National Conservation area.

◀ **SPRING MOUNTAIN RANCH** located within the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, beneath the colorful cliffs of the magnificent Wilson Range.

► **LAKE TAHOE BACK COUNTRY:** The Division of State Parks worked with the state's Nevada Tahoe Resource Team to improve recreational trail opportunities, forest health, and the protection of endangered species in the back country of Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park.



► **GOAL:** Continue to manage, protect, operate, and maintain existing and future units of the state park system.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Completed construction of the Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort Visitor Center on schedule, within budget and in time to coincide with the June 11, 2005 Sesquicentennial Celebration. More than 3,700 visitors attended the celebration and toured the museum.
- Completed major renovation of the Cathedral Gorge campground, with individual campsite rehabilitation work that included new grills and picnic tables, road and parking improvements, an irrigation system, potable water distribution lines, water hydrants, and a new RV-dump station.
- Completed adobe stabilization of historic structures at Ft. Churchill.
- Installed a 250,000 gallon water tank at Lahontan's Churchill Beach.
- Completed a new park office / information center at the entrance to Lahontan State Recreational Area's Silver Springs Beach.
- Initiated the design and engineering for stabilization and seismic retrofit of Belmont Courthouse.
- Completed expansion of boat parking areas at both Rye Patch and Wild Horse State Recreational Areas.
- Initiated the master planning process for Dangberg Home Ranch. The process included the inventory and cataloging of more than 18,500 artifacts, developing an interpretive plan, and developing a site plan.
- Completed the construction of the new visitor center shell at Lake Tahoe, Nevada State Park, with public restrooms and multi-use outdoor decks. Interpretive exhibits and a park store/snack bar concession within the building shell are underway, with a grand opening scheduled for the spring of 2007.
- Completed major underground utility upgrades for Sand Harbor, including a fire suppression system, water, power, gas, and communications.
- Purchased and installed a prefabricated, fishing access bridge for Echo Reservoir.
- Initiated the planning process for a new full utility campground at Valley of Fire State Park and a new group and family camping area at Big Bend State Recreation Area.



► **GOAL: Acquire a well-balanced system of areas of outstanding scenic, recreational, scientific, and historical importance.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Acquired 276 acres at Rye Patch State Recreational Area on the west side of reservoir. A portion is used for expanded boat parking.
- Acquired a 1.4 acre addition to the Mormon Station State Historic Park. The parcel was acquired with the cooperation of Douglas County.
- Entered into the first year of an agreement between the State of Nevada, Division of State Parks and Douglas County for the development and operation of the Dangberg Home Ranch.
- Continued the master planning process for Van Sickle Bi-State Park (Nevada and California), and made progress toward completion of environmental studies required for development of proposed park facilities.
- Worked closely with Lincoln and White Pine Counties in the development of their county land bills. Identified several thousand acres of federal lands for possible transfer to the state park system.
- Initiated a land exchange with a private property owner adjacent to Spring Valley State Park.

► **GOAL: Continue to manage and interpret the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the state park system.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Continued to work with the Nevada State Parks Cooperative Association, a non-profit foundation established to provide enhanced support for interpretive and educational programs.
- Continued to work with the Nevada Tahoe Resource Team to improve management practices in the back country of Lake Tahoe, Nevada State Park, including additional recreational trail opportunities, forest health improvement, and protecting endangered species.
- Continued to provide interpretive programming at a number of state park areas and the use of docents for enhanced programming.
- Conducted 645 interpretive programs with 6,090 people in attendance. Some of the activities included: a joint effort with State Parks, Lincoln County, and Bureau of Land Management in celebrating National Trails and Public Lands Day in some of the parks, a Dutch Oven Cook-off at Cathedral Gorge, an annual Atlatl Competition at Valley of Fire, a Cowboy Christmas at Washoe Lake, and the 2005 Nevada Day Parade.



**NEVADA STATE
PARKS CONDUCTED
645 INTERPRETIVE
PROGRAMS WITH
6,090 PEOPLE IN
ATTENDANCE. SOME
ACTIVITIES INCLUDED
CELEBRATING
NATIONAL TRAILS
AND PUBLIC LANDS
DAY, A DUTCH
OVEN COOK-OFF AT
CATHEDRAL GORGE,
AND AN ANNUAL
ATLATL COMPETITION
AT VALLEY OF FIRE
STATE PARK.**



▲ SAND HARBOR VISITOR'S CENTER:

The Division of State Parks completed the construction of the new visitor center at Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park, which also has public restrooms and multi-use outdoor decks. A grand opening is scheduled for the spring of 2007.

► GOAL: Maintain a high level of customer service and adopt management practices that recognize individual park differences and assign decision-making authority appropriately. Continue to assess and improve the state park law enforcement public safety program to provide a safe visitor experience.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Maintained sales outlets to provide better customer service and increased the sales and distribution of park passes.
- Continued to support the division's law enforcement specialist in developing better training and education programs.
- Funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Nevada State Parks contracted with the Nevada Conservation Corp to conduct a yearlong, statewide survey of Nevada State Park users. This data will be used in part to update the 2003 Stateside Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, as well as provide guidance to Nevada State Parks in developing facilities and providing services and programs.
- More than \$461,000 in Recreational Trails Program funding was allocated to 10 statewide projects.
- New Federal Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users) legislation was enacted by Congress in August 2005. Nevada will receive \$931,676 funding for trail projects stateside in 2006.
- Nevada State Parks staff completed the Nevada 2005 State Recreational Trails Plan, funded in part by the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The goal of the plan is to increase and improve the quality of recreational trail activity opportunities in Nevada.
- Continued to collect input from park visitors and respond to their comments, concerns, and suggestions.
- Carefully evaluated park incident reports and made suggestions for improving public safety contacts.

► GOAL: Prioritize revenue generation and marketing in an effort to offset the cost of operating parks and programs.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Renegotiated concession contracts to standardize contract terms and increase revenue.
- Adjusted fees to increase revenue and resolve conflicts.
- Developed a new concession contract for Lake Tahoe, Nevada State Park.
- Added a very successful special event at Cave Lake State Park, "Fire and Ice." The event drew 1,000 participants over the Martin Luther Holiday weekend is now an annual event.



STATE PARKS HELD AN EVENT AT CAVE LAKE STATE PARK, "FIRE AND ICE," WHICH DREW 1,000 PARTICIPANTS AND IS NOW AN ANNUAL EVENT.



► **GOAL:** Develop a recruitment and retention program to address a decline in applicants for park ranger, maintenance, and interpretive positions.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Created an employee-recruitment brochure.
- Increased advertisement of vacant positions by adding several job recruitments sites: the National Association of State Park Directors, Western State Park Organizations, the National Recreation and Parks Association.
- Attended the University of Nevada, Reno Job Fair.
- Contacted colleges and universities that specialize in natural resource management, wildlife, or recreation management programs.



◀ **OLD LAS VEGAS MORMON FORT,** located in downtown Las Vegas, is dedicated to the first permanent non-native settlers in the Las Vegas Valley, a group of Mormon missionaries who built an adobe fort at Las Vegas Creek in 1855.



THE NEVADA WILD HORSE PROGRAM

THE COMMISSION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF WILD HORSES

CATHERINE BARCOMB, *Administrator*

▶ AT-A-GLANCE

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

Relevant Laws

NRS 504.430 to 504.490

Employees

1 FTE / 2006

Phone

(775) 849-3625

Web

www.wildhorse.nv.gov

Address

885 E. Lake Boulevard
Carson City, Nevada 89704

The WILD HORSE PROGRAM helps to preserve viable herds of wild horses on Nevada's public lands. The commission serves as an advocate for wild horses through participation with federal agencies to ensure that sufficient habitat is available for the wild horses and also with programs designed to encourage and promote the protection of wild horses. The commission serves as a clearinghouse for information to the public and the news media on all aspects of wild horses. 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, 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.





► **GOAL:** Achieve the goals projected in the statewide plan to carry out the provisions of NRS 504.430 to 504.490.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Continued to work with partners from the private sector, federal government, and state government to achieve the goals projected in the statewide plan.
- Reviewed approximately 185 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.

► LONG-TERM GOALS

- Serve as an advocate for the preservation of wild horses through intergovernmental review and evaluation of federal land management environmental and action documents.
- Encourage the public to participate in 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 through establishing and maintaining appropriate management levels to preserve rangeland health.
- Assist in maintaining open lines of communication between various interest groups, and state and federal agencies on matters related to wild horses.
- Through cooperative efforts, work with the National Wild Horse and Burro Show Association and the Western States Wild Horse and Burro Expo to enhance educational opportunities and the adoption program.
- Assist the National Wild Horse and Burro Foundation, which is supported by the Bureau of Land Management and the Heil Trust, in its enhancement of the Bureau's adoption program.
- Support enhancement of the adoption and holding program by encouraging the holding, care, and training of BLM's horses through an inmate assisted program. The center has been built at the Stewart Conservation Camp in Carson City and the commission assists by seeking ongoing partnerships for this program.
- Partner with the Nevada Department of Prisons to assist in the fund-raising efforts to build the Orphan Foal Rescue Center at the Silver Springs Correctional Center.
- Work with the BLM to determine feasibility of a Wild Horse and Burro Visitors Center in Nevada to promote tourism and the adoption program.
- Seek partnership options for the Oliver Ranch Project, co-sponsored by the BLM and Outside Las Vegas, to enhance environmental and wild horse educational programs.

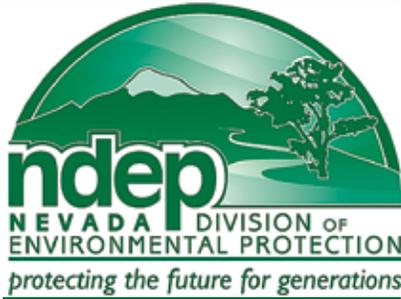
◀ **ALL AGES COMPETE** in the Western States Wild Horse and Burro Expo held each year in Reno. The Wild Horse Program collaborates on the event, which helps to raise awareness about wild horses and burros in the state.

PUBLICATIONS

📄 Various reports and plans available at www.wildhorse.nv.gov.



THE COMMISSION REVIEWED 185 LAND USE PLANNING DOCUMENTS, AN ACTIVITY NECESSARY FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE HABITAT FOR WILD HORSES, AS WELL AS WILDLIFE AND LIVESTOCK.



DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

LEO DROZDOFF, *Administrator*

▶ AT-A-GLANCE

Purpose

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

Relevant Laws

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

Employees

239 FTE / 2006

Phone

Carson City: (775) 687-4670
Las Vegas: (702) 486-2850

Web

www.ndep.nv.gov

Address

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

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

The DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION is responsible for 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. The division also provides staff support for the State Environmental Commission, the Board to Finance Water Projects, and the Board to Review Petroleum Claims.

LONG TERM GOALS

- Achieve and maintain levels of air quality that protects 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 waters from the discharge of pollutants of all kinds in order to preserve beneficial uses and maintain healthy aquatic habitat.
- Protect public health by assuring safe drinking water is supplied to all residents and visitors to Nevada through administration of certification and regulatory programs that adhere to federal standards established under the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- Ensure safe management of solid and hazardous waste and promote waste reduction, reuse, and recycling.
- Assess and, if necessary, clean up contaminated properties to levels appropriate for beneficial reuse.
- 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 DEVELOPED THE NEVADA STATE WATER QUALITY MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT STRATEGY THAT WILL GUIDE MONITORING ACTIVITIES THROUGH 2015. THE BUREAU OF WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT MAINTAINED THE STATEWIDE SURFACE WATER QUALITY MONITORING NETWORK AND COLLECTED QUARTERLY SAMPLES AT MORE THAN 100 SITES.



SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION OR EXECUTIVE ACTIONS AFFECTING THE AGENCY

- AB20 increased amount of bonds that State Board of Finance may issue to support program to provide grants for water conservation and capital improvements to certain water systems (BDR 30-753).
- SB16 authorized use of money in the Petroleum Fund for cleanup of discharges involving petroleum and other discharges (BDR 51-662).
- SB18 revised provisions providing grants for water conservation and capital improvements to certain water systems (BDR 30-707).
- SB62 created a Water Rights Protection Fund to be administered by the Board to Finance Water Projects.
- SB395 transferred responsibility for operation of safe drinking water programs from the Department of Human Resources to Division of Environmental Protection (BDR 40-660).
- SB396 revised provisions concerning sanitation, recycling programs, and grants (BDR 40-401).

THE VOLUNTARY
MERCURY REDUCTION
PROGRAM WILL
CONTROL MERCURY
EMISSIONS IN AN
ENFORCEABLE AIR
QUALITY OPERATING
PERMIT THAT
WILL FURTHER
REDUCE STATEWIDE
MERCURY EMISSIONS
ABOVE AND
BEYOND FEDERAL
REQUIREMENTS.

BUREAU OF AIR POLLUTION CONTROL

The bureau's purpose is to achieve and maintain levels of air quality, which protect human health and safety, prevent injury to plant and animal life, prevent damage to property, and preserve the scenic, historical, and aesthetic treasures of the state while promoting a robust economy. Staff evaluates potential air quality impacts and establishes appropriate pollution control requirements through the issuance and enforcement of permits for stationary and temporary sources of air pollution in all areas of the state except in Clark and Washoe counties. The bureau also has responsibility for regulating emissions from steam electric power plants.

► **GOAL: Coordinate with the state's agricultural community to develop agricultural fugitive dust "best management practices" to mitigate fugitive dust generated by agricultural businesses.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The bureau has created educational materials and formed working relationships with the Natural Resources Conservation District, the Southern Nye Conservation District, the Nevada Department of Agriculture, and other interested parties.

► **GOAL: Reform regulations to enable new projects that would generate air emissions, begin construction, and get into operations more quickly.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The bureau updated regulations to reform the State-Issued Operating Permit Program to include an Operating Permit to Construct component. By separating the construction component of a permit from the operating component, a facility may now begin construction sooner. This reform allowed the 14 unit, 125 MW Western 102 Power Plant project to be permitted in a record five months, then constructed and in operation in only 13 months after permit issuance.

► **GOAL: Address mercury emissions, particularly those derived from mining operations.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- Working closely with the Nevada mining industry, neighboring states, environmental groups, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the bureau re-evaluated the Voluntary Mercury Reduction Program and developed plans to convert it into a regulatory program. This program will control mercury emissions in an enforceable Air Quality Operating Permit that will further reduce statewide mercury emissions above and beyond federal requirements.

► **GOAL: Develop an approach that will enable careful reviews of proposed coal-fired power plant projects. The bureau is committed to thorough reviews that encourage the cleanest facilities and best use of air resources.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- Working closely with applicants, the EPA, and concerned environmental groups, the bureau formed a team of modeling and site assessment specialists to provide quick, detailed reviews of pre-construction designs.



BUREAU OF AIR QUALITY PLANNING

The bureau is responsible for developing statewide implementation plans and regulations to control air pollution, conducting ambient air monitoring, and developing an annual inventory of air emissions. The bureau is also responsible for implementing a program for the conversion of public fleets from fossil fuels to alternative fuels and for coordination with the Department of Motor Vehicles regarding vehicle emissions inspection programs in Clark and Washoe counties.

► **GOAL: Operate an ambient air quality monitoring network to identify areas that approach or exceed the established state and federal ambient air quality standards.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- The air monitoring program has showed that Nevada is in compliance with federal standards for particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter throughout the state; particulate matter less than 10 microns, except portions of Clark County; the eight-hour ozone standard, except for portions of Clark County; and the carbon monoxide standard throughout the state.

► **GOAL: Assist local and regional planning by identifying sources of air pollutants and maintaining an accurate inventory of air pollutant emissions from both stationary and area sources statewide.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- Staff has initiated modeling for several Nevada air basins and continues to update the modeling along the Truckee River corridor, all being necessary to plan future development that meets air quality standards. Staff has also continued to maintain the statewide emissions inventory database following strict EPA guidelines with real-time modeling and reporting capabilities.

► **GOAL: Work with local government and sources of air pollution to develop strategic partnerships and effectively control the emissions of air pollutants in areas that are not in attainment with state or federal standards.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- The bureau has expanded the number and content of public presentations and interactive meetings and has worked with Clark County on its particulate matter, carbon monoxide, and ozone implementation plans. Staff has further worked with Nye County on the implementation of its dust control ordinances and further preparation of the Clean Air Action Plan for particulate matter. The bureau also continued to work with Washoe County on a request to the EPA for redesignation of that area as being in attainment for carbon monoxide.

► **GOAL: Develop and implement an approvable regional haze state implementation plan.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- Staff is involved in state and federal workgroups for development of the state implementation plan for regional haze. Staff is also following the evolution in understanding of western regional effects related to EPA's regional haze rule.



▼ ▼ ▼

**CORRECTIVE
ACTIONS STAFF HAS
INVESTIGATED AND
CLEANED UP ABOUT
3,400 SITES TO
STATE AND FEDERAL
CLEANUP STANDARDS.**



▲ **A BROWNFIELDS SITE** in southern Nevada. “Brownfields” describes abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial or commercial properties taken out of production because of real or perceived risks from environmental contamination. Nevada initiated Brownfields, a land-recycling program, to provide an opportunity to redevelop these properties and revitalize communities.

BUREAU OF CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

The bureau oversees remediation and corrective actions related to the releases of chemical substances using a multimedia—air, water, soil, and ecological resources—approach. Staff administers the environmental assistance program, the superfund/Brownfields program, a reimbursement fund for petroleum tank cleanups, and the certification program for environmental consultants.

► **GOAL: Manage the investigation and cleanup of sites contaminated by pollutants to ensure protection of public health and the environment.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Staff has investigated and cleaned up about 3,400 sites to state and federal cleanup standards, including 143 in 2004 and 177 in 2005. Investigative efforts continue in Washoe County to evaluate and determine the extent of groundwater contamination by an organic solvent, perchloroethylene, in downtown Reno.
- The bureau continued to assist EPA Region 9 with the investigation of the former Anaconda Mine site in Lyon County. Investigation and analysis of remedial alternatives have also continued at the former Rio Tinto mine in Elko County.
- In Clark County, the Bureau has continued investigation and cleanup efforts at the Black Mountain Industrial complex. The cleanup effort is focused on remediation of contaminants so the site can eventually be suitable for redevelopment.

► **GOAL: Continue certification of environmental consultants by improving testing and establishing reciprocity with other states.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- The Bureau certified more than 700 people to provide environmental remediation services in Nevada, including 83 in 2004 and 36 in 2005.

► **GOAL: Develop and implement a program to receive, respond to, assess, and mitigate environmental emergencies.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- The bureau has continued to maintain duty officers on call 24 hours to receive reports of releases of regulated substances.

► **GOAL: Implement an effective Brownfields program to enable the restoration and beneficial reuse of contaminated properties.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- Staff manages the Brownfields Land Recycling Program to redevelop properties and revitalize communities. Grant funding for the program has been ongoing for five years. Funding expended to date totals about \$3 million. Of that, \$2.25 million has been committed to contracts for the performance of Brownfield assessment and cleanup projects and for technical outreach efforts. The Nevada Brownfield Program has undertaken approximately 20 projects.



BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND PLANNING

The bureau provides planning, policy analysis, public information, and information technology services to the division. The bureau coordinates activities associated with the National Environmental Information Exchange Network and the National Environmental Public Health Tracking System. The bureau also provides staff support to Natural Resource Damage cases.

► **GOAL: Develop and implement a comprehensive plan to upgrade agency database systems and streamline business processes.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- The bureau made significant progress implementing the Information Management Plan, which provides guidance for development of the division's information management systems. The progress included: modernization of several data systems serving the Bureaus of Air Quality Planning, Corrective Action, Mining Regulation, and Reclamation, Waste Management and Water Pollution Control; and establishment of a "node" on the national Exchange Network that enables automated data exchange among trading partners.

► **GOAL: Improve public and media relations. Develop and implement an annual communications plan to identify key issues and define communication goals and strategies.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- The division's public information officer and EPA Region 9 communications staff conducted communications training for division managers. A communications plan and specific strategies were also developed for significant issues. With the help of its Public Information Officer, the division has greatly expanded its public outreach efforts through press releases, fact sheets, and public events.

LONG TERM GOALS

- Maintain an effective and stable computing platform. Develop information systems that improve efficiency and better enable staff to perform analyses and solve environmental problems.
- Maintain the integrity and credibility of the division with honest, forthright, and responsive public information.
- Engage stakeholders in controversial environmental issues.



▼ ▼ ▼

THE DIVISION INCLUDES TEN BUREAUS AND PROVIDES STAFF SUPPORT FOR THE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION, THE BOARD TO FINANCE WATER PROJECTS AND THE BOARD TO REVIEW PETROLEUM CLAIMS.



▼ ▼ ▼
BUREAU OF FEDERAL FACILITIES STAFF HAS IDENTIFIED ABOUT 3,200 CONTAMINATED SITES FOR ASSESSMENT AND REMEDIATION. AS OF JANUARY 2005 STAFF APPROVED MORE THAN 1,370 OF THESE SITES FOR CLOSURE.

BUREAU OF FEDERAL FACILITIES

The bureau provides regulatory oversight of environmental remediation activities, hazardous waste management activities, low-level and mixed-low-level radioactive waste disposal activities, and other programs conducted by the U.S. Department of Energy at the Nevada Test Site, the Tonopah Test Range, the Central Nevada Test Area (CNTA), and the Shoal site near Fallon. As many as 900 underground nuclear tests were conducted at the Nevada Test Site, and one underground test was conducted at CNTA and the Shoal site. Activities focus on cleanup of industrial sites, groundwater monitoring, and the modeling of underground nuclear test areas, the cleanup of contaminated soils, and compliance with environmental regulatory requirements.

► **GOAL: Work with federal agencies to develop acceptable planning schedules for the remediation of contaminated sites and assure environmental compliance in all other activities.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- The bureau has continued to implement the terms of compliance agreements and permits with federal agencies for corrective action and waste management activities conducted on the Nevada Test Site and other sites in Nevada.

► **GOAL: Work with federal agencies doing business on the Nevada Test Site and the Tonopah Test Range to expedite cleanup of contaminated sites to allow potential re-use of sites and facilities for both defense and non-defense purposes.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- To date, staff has identified about 3,200 contaminated sites for assessment and remediation at the above-mentioned federal facilities. As of January 2005 staff approved more than 1,370 of these sites for closure.

► **GOAL: Conduct inspections to determine if federal facilities are in compliance with applicable state environmental laws and regulations.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- The bureau conducted about 354 compliance inspections during the biennium.

LONG TERM GOALS

- The long-term objective of the bureau is to maintain agency oversight funding and continue to assure that remediation activities are conducted in compliance with regulatory requirements. This will be accomplished by continuing to conduct oversight of Nevada Test Site and Tonopah Test Range to assure compliance with state regulatory requirements and by working closely with all federal agencies using these facilities to continue remediation of contaminated sites. The bureau will also maintain regulatory oversight of the disposal of low-level and mixed-low-level radioactive waste at the Nevada Test Site to assure that waste generators comply with applicable regulations and requirements.



BUREAU OF MINING REGULATION AND RECLAMATION

The bureau ensures Nevada's mining industry complies with state regulatory programs for the protection of surface and groundwater resources, general pollution control, and reclamation of disturbed lands. The bureau is responsible for ensuring the quality of Nevada's water resources are not adversely impacted by active mining operations. Staff issues permits to prevent degradation of Nevada's water, conducts inspections, and takes action to ensure compliance with permit conditions. The bureau also ensures that land disturbed by mining and exploration activities is returned to a productive post-mining land-use.

► **GOAL: Provide a well-established regulatory framework whereby environmentally responsible mining is encouraged.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- The bureau issued 197 permits, compared to 107 in the previous reporting period. Staff conducted 1,218 inspections, compared to 1,145 inspections in the last biennium. Few enforcement actions were required to maintain compliance. Because of rising gold prices and the corresponding expansion in prospecting and mining, the bureau has experienced increased workloads over the biennium.

► **GOAL: Work closely with the regulated community, governmental agencies, and stakeholder groups to improve mine closure techniques and overall mine closure direction.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- The bureau investigated mine closure strategies and agencies and operators are now aggressively pursuing technologies to make zero discharge of long-term drain down solutions a standard mining practice.

► **GOAL: Establish and sustain a system of surety that is durable and fiscally secure.**

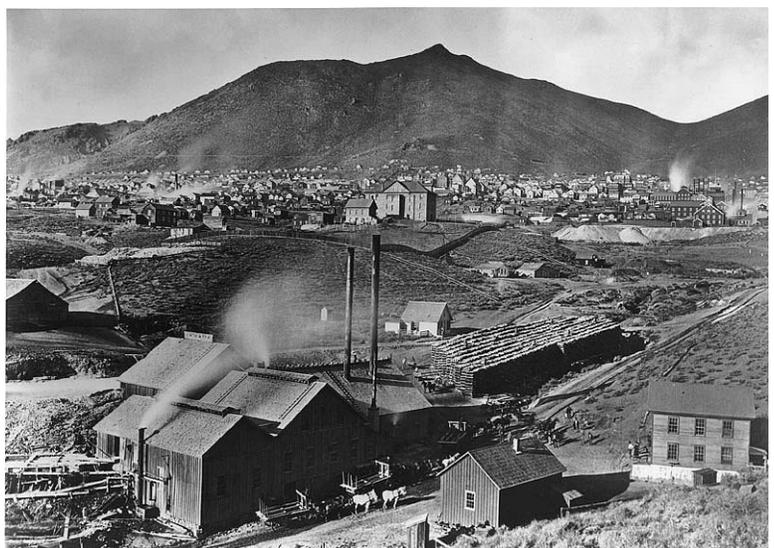
ACCOMPLISHMENT

- The total statewide financial assurance for reclamation reported by the bureau continues to increase and is more than \$769 million. The amount that is pledged by secure instruments is more than \$581 million, which is 75 percent of the total. The portion pledged by corporate guarantee has declined and is less than \$200 million.

LONG TERM GOALS

- Prevent the degradation of state waters and ensure proper reclamation of affected lands in order to ensure a productive post-mining use of the land and provide for public safety.

▼ **HISTORIC MILL** in Virginia City.





▲ **GERLACH'S DRINKING WATER sources include two springs on the western slope of the Granite Mountains. These springs produce a high quality water, with the exception of uranium. The Division of Environmental Protection helped the community, with grant money, to build a facility that treats the water for uranium.**

BUREAU OF SAFE DRINKING WATER

Safe drinking water is vital to the public health, welfare, and the economy of Nevada. Unlike many other day-to-day government activities, drinking water has a direct and immediate effect on the well-being of every citizen. Regulatory and certification programs operated by the bureau are designed to reduce outbreaks of waterborne disease from infectious agents and chemical poisoning, while increasing the proportion of people who receive a supply of drinking water that meets standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency and the state.

The bureau protects public health by maintaining and implementing the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act. The bureau also assures public water systems are designed, constructed, and operated consistent with regulatory requirements.

► **GOAL: Conduct annual sanitary surveys of all public water systems that have a surface water intake and complete sanitary surveys at least once every three years for systems that use only ground water.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- The bureau continues to conduct sanitary surveys of all public water systems that have a surface water intake—52 surveys were completed during the biennium. For ground water systems, staff completed surveys for 377 systems during the same period.

► **GOAL: Review water quality monitoring data to assure public water systems meet all applicable drinking water standards.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- The bureau has reviewed water quality monitoring reports, and systems with violations have been required to take corrective actions.

LONG TERM GOALS

- Continue to maintain primacy for the Safe Drinking Water Act. Submit packages for all newly regulated compounds.
- Educate and assist public water systems operators to ensure they comply with new standards so that the residents of Nevada continue to receive clean water.
- Continue to ensure clean and safe drinking water for Nevada's residents and visitors.



BUREAU OF WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

The bureau's purpose is to preserve and protect Nevada's water resources by implementing state and federal water pollution control laws. The bureau is charged with issuing wastewater discharge permits, conducting compliance inspections, and enforcing water pollution control permit requirements. Staff evaluates subdivision plans to ensure water pollution control measures and adequate sewage disposal systems are in place for new developments. The bureau also conducts training and certification programs for wastewater treatment plant operators and operates a variety of low-cost financing programs for the construction or improvement of water and wastewater facilities.

► **GOAL: Implement an effective and proactive water pollution control permitting, inspection, and compliance program.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- The bureau continued to issue National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permits and state groundwater discharge permits along with inspecting facilities holding those permits. The bureau's groundwater protection branch continued to address potential groundwater pollution from septic tanks, oil/water separators, and injection wells. In all cases, the bureau provided assistance to permittees to ensure permit compliance. Staff initiated enforcement actions when appropriate.

► **GOAL: Streamline the permitting process and the compliance evaluation process.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- The bureau initiated development of an interactive permitting and compliance database that will create a more efficient and accurate means for issuing discharge permits. This database will ensure timely compliance reviews and assist the division in planning and management efforts with respect to surface and groundwater quality.

► **GOAL: Assist communities by issuing low-cost loans for the construction of water and wastewater facilities.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The bureau processed more than \$280 million in loans from the Clean Water State Revolving Loan program for the construction of wastewater treatment facilities. Facilities receiving funding in the last biennium include the City of Reno, the City of Sparks, the Incline Village General Improvement District, Lyon County, and Washoe County.
- The bureau also processed \$81 million in loans from the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Loan program for the construction of drinking water facilities in Nevada. Those receiving funding in the last biennium include the City of Henderson, Big Bend (Laughlin), Washoe County, and the Truckee Meadows Water Authority.

LONG TERM GOALS

- The bureau is committed to expanding and improving business practices with respect to the wastewater and drinking water subdivision review process. The bureau is also focused on efforts to improve monitoring of groundwater quality programs.

▼ ▼ ▼

THE BUREAU OF WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PROCESSED \$81 MILLION IN LOANS FROM THE SAFE DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF DRINKING WATER FACILITIES AND MORE THAN \$280 MILLION FOR CLEAN WATER ACTIVITIES.

THE BUREAU OF WATER QUALITY PLANNING WORKED WITH AGENCIES TO INITIATE THE PATHWAY 2007 PROCESS TO OVERSEE UPDATES OF THE LAKE TAHOE BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANS.

BUREAU OF WATER QUALITY PLANNING

The bureau plans, develops, and implements programs to protect and improve the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of Nevada's waters. Staff conducts monitoring and develops water quality control regulations and water quality protection and improvement plans. Staff also conducts programs designed to mitigate the adverse effects from pollution through the implementation of water-quality improvement and public-education projects. Other bureau activities include the promotion of intra- and inter-agency program coordination and technical assistance to ensure the quality of water, soil, and waste samples collected to meet state and federal requirements.

► **GOAL: Evaluate the chemical, physical, and biological health of watersheds throughout Nevada.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- The bureau developed the Nevada State Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Strategy that will guide monitoring activities through 2015. In support of the Assessment Strategy, the bureau maintained the statewide surface water quality monitoring network and collected quarterly samples at more than 100 sites.

► **GOAL: Develop local, regional, and statewide plans to ensure water quality standards are maintained and impaired surface waters are restored where possible.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The bureau worked with several jurisdictions on regional water quality plans. Bureau staff also worked with agencies to initiate the Pathway 2007 process to oversee updates of the Lake Tahoe Basin management plans.

► **GOAL: Increase agency and public awareness of water quality issues.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- Bureau staff conducted 11 Project Water Education for Teachers workshops for more than 170 educators and conducted Water Science for Schools presentations at thirteen schools for about 1,300 students.

► **GOAL: Administer the State Laboratory Certification Program to ensure laboratories performing analyses to meet federal requirements prescribe to established methods and procedures.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- In 2004 the state program received approval to certify laboratories for the analysis of samples to meet requirements of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. The program was certified by EPA to perform on-site assessments of laboratories, and during the biennium the program certified more than 90 laboratories statewide.

LONG TERM GOALS

- The bureau will implement the Long Range Plan and Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Strategy as well as continue to negotiate with EPA on a Total Maximum Daily Load development strategy that emphasizes the need for a thorough review of the water quality standards.





BUREAU OF WASTE MANAGEMENT

The bureau's purpose is to plan, regulate, and permit activities to ensure environmentally sound management of solid and hazardous waste to protect public health and the environment. The bureau is authorized to implement Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act which stipulates a regulatory process for "cradle-to-grave" management of hazardous wastes. In the past biennium, the bureau also enforced regulations governing the State's Chemical Accident Prevention program. The CAPP program implements programs to minimize the risk of accidental releases of highly hazardous chemicals by chemical manufacturing facilities in Nevada.

► **GOAL: Reduce generation of solid and hazardous waste in Nevada by encouraging waste reduction, recycling, and product substitution.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- Nevada currently diverts about 21 percent of the roughly three million tons of waste disposed in landfills each year. To address the continued reduction of solid and hazardous waste, the bureau established a recycling coordinator position in the division's Las Vegas office.

► **GOAL: Prevent uncontrolled releases of hazardous wastes to the environment through effective permitting controls, compliance monitoring, and enforcement.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 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 95 percent.
- The division supported legislation (SB 396) in the 2005 session that was enacted and now requires the construction or modification of hazardous waste disposal facilities to include at least one liner and a leachate collection and removal system.

► **GOAL: Prevent release of pollutants or contaminants from solid waste disposal facilities through effective permitting controls, compliance monitoring, and enforcement.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- To resolve legal disputes and to address environmental and public health concerns over the dumping of construction waste, the bureau instituted a disposal site permitting process which requires all new engineered landfills to meet certain design and operating standards. To improve reporting of groundwater monitoring data at disposal sites the bureau issued a technical guidance document and reporting process.





DIVISION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PAMELA B. WILCOX, *Acting Administrator*

▶ AT-A-GLANCE

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 individual landowners and land users, often working 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 resources.

Acting Administrator

Pamela Wilcox

Relevant Laws

NRS 548

Employees

3 FTE/ 2006

Phone

(775) 684-2763

Web

www.state.nv.us/cnr/conv01

Address

Richard H. Bryan Building
901 South Stewart Street
Suite 5004
Carson City, Nevada 89701

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 individual landowners and land users. Conservation districts work in cooperation with counties, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other public and private agencies for the conservation of soil, water, and related resources. The division's chief executive officer is its acting administrator and also serves as executive secretary to the State Conservation Commission.





► **GOAL: Increase the visibility and effectiveness of the state's 28 locally led conservation districts.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Assisted the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts in implementing a \$100,000 grant program through funding from USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. Conservation districts may use the grant funds for invasive species management, enhancing water quality, and water conservation.
- Encouraged each district to improve outreach to local newspapers, elected officials, and the public to inform them about their programs and invite them to attend tours of projects.

► **GOAL: Strengthen partnerships with districts and with private and public entities. Help conservation districts strengthen partnerships with private and public entities.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Coordinated efforts with the U. S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to enhance sage grouse habitat/sagebrush management, forest fuels reductions, and noxious weed treatment. Nearly a dozen conservation districts entered into agreements with BLM to perform integrated pest management.
- Delivered reports of district activities and needs at annual meetings of the National Association of Conservation Districts, the National Association of State Conservation Agencies, and the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts. Met with congressional staff in Washington, D.C. to discuss resource conservation issues and the funding needed to address those concerns.

► **GOAL: Coordinate with and support the Nevada State Conservation Commission.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Implemented commission decisions including scheduling meetings with other agencies, distributing letters and memos on actions taken by the commission, and coordinating commission appointments with the Governor's office.
- Requested, compiled, and reviewed all required reports from the 28 conservation districts for submittal to the commission for action to determine good standing.

► **GOAL: Assist the Nevada Tahoe Conservation District and the Division of State Lands in the implementation of the Tahoe Bond Act.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- Attended Nevada Tahoe Conservation District meetings and offered input at those meetings on district programs and Tahoe Environmental Improvement Projects.

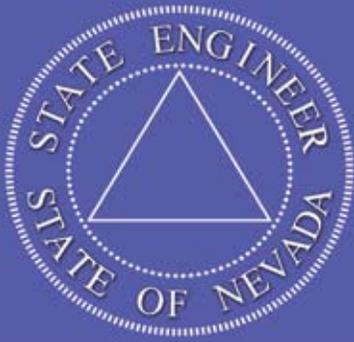
LONG TERM GOALS

- 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 expanding current and ongoing conservation projects.
- Update and distribute handbooks (i.e. Open Meeting Manual, Board and Commission Manual, Ethics Manual, Conservation District Supervisor Handbook, etc.) to Districts. Dedicate more time to district training, capacity building and review of policies and procedures.



SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION OR EXECUTIVE ACTIONS AFFECTING THE AGENCY

- The 2005 Legislative Session adopted legislation to allow the division the authority to receive funding from sources other than the State of Nevada.
- The 2005 Legislative Session enacted legislation to exclude volunteer district supervisors from the requirement of having to file a statement of financial disclosure.



▶ AT-A-GLANCE

Purpose

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

Relevant Laws

Title 48

Employees

73.5 FTE / 2006

Phone

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DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

TRACY TAYLOR, *Administrator/State Engineer*

HUGH RICCI, *Administrator/State Engineer (retired)*

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.

Other responsibilities include adjudicating claims of vested water rights; distributing of water in accordance with court decrees; reviewing water availability for new subdivisions; reviewing the construction and operation of dams; appropriating geothermal resources; licensing well drillers and water right surveyors; reviewing flood control projects; maintaining water resource data and records; providing technical assistance to government boards, offices, and agencies; and water planning activities such as flood and drought planning, emergency preparation and response.

The State Engineer is responsible for statewide administration of the division. The division consists of eight sections: Engineering, Water Rights, Titles, Hearings, Surface Water and Adjudications, Water Planning and Floodplain Management, Hydrology and Information Technology. The division has branch offices in Las Vegas and Elko.



ENGINEERING SECTION

The Engineering Section ensures the safety of dams in Nevada through the enforcement of statutes and regulations pertaining to dam safety in order to protect lives and property. The section also protects the state’s water resources by ensuring that regulatory compliance of the statutes and well drilling regulations are enforced.

► **GOAL: Provide policy and programmatic support to administer Regulations and Permitting Guidelines Pertaining to Safety of Dams. This is to ensure that dams in the state are built safe and remain safe for the design life of the dam.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Received and approved Emergency Action Plans for 74 of the 126 dams that are rated as high hazard.
- Protected the safety of Nevada’s citizens and visitors by inspecting 291 dams statewide.

► **GOAL: Provide policy and programmatic support to administer Regulations for Water Well and Related Drilling.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Re-licensed 892 well drillers
- Issued 49 new well drillers licenses
- Conducted one disciplinary hearing
- Issued 795 waivers of well drilling regulations
- Reviewed and added 2,837 well logs into well log database
- Processed 421 proofs of completion



SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION OR EXECUTIVE ACTIONS AFFECTING THE AGENCY

During the 2005 Legislative Session:

- SCR 26 formed an interim committee to study the use, allocation, and management of water resources in Nevada was created.
- SB35 was passed redesignating the term “tax” to that of a “fee” that a county of origin may impose for intercounty and interstate transfers of groundwater as a fee and increasing the amount of the fee.
- SB62 was passed clarifying provisions governing the duties of the State Engineer.
- SB466 was passed requiring certain public bodies to make written determinations before selling or leasing their water rights.
- AB80 was passed providing a procedure by which the State Engineer may approve a waiver from the requirement of plugging an abandoned well and requiring the State Engineer to adopt regulations relating to continuing education for well drillers.

PUBLICATIONS

- Carson Valley Groundwater Pumpage Inventory
- Churchill Valley Groundwater Pumpage Inventory
- Dayton Valley Groundwater Pumpage Inventory
- Lake Tahoe Basin Water Use Inventory
- Las Vegas Valley Water Usage Reports
Mason Valley Groundwater Pumpage Inventory
Nevada Water Law – An Overview
- Recharge Storage Accounts, Las Vegas Valley Water Basin
Smith Valley Groundwater Pumpage Inventory
- Warm Springs Valley Groundwater Pumpage Inventory

WATER RIGHTS SECTION

The Water Rights Section allocates the state's water resources for the benefit of Nevada's citizens and economy.

► **GOAL: Review and act on applications to change and applications to appropriate the state's waters and to reduce the backlog of pending applications.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- More than 3,150 applications were received and reviewed for processing (an increase of 25 percent from the previous biennium). Issued 2,000 permits (up 14 percent) and took action on nearly 2,650 applications (up 6 percent) resulting in a reduction in backlog of 150 applications.
- Issued 343 water right certificates.

► **GOAL: Review proposals for new subdivisions with respect to water availability in a timely manner.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Carson City office reviewed 350 tentative and final maps for new subdivisions covering 40,000 tentative lots.
- The Las Vegas office reviewed 2,452 tentative and final maps for new subdivisions covering 131,646 tentative lots.

► **GOAL: Review and comment on acceptability of water sales proposals as requested by the Carson Water Subconservancy District. The Newlands Project Water Rights Fund was created and a related program established for the acquisition of certain surface water rights.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Reviewed and commented on more than 300 proposed sales transactions covering more than 350 different parcels, and totaling more than 1,140 acres of water rights.





TITLES SECTION

The purpose of the Titles Section is to confirm or reject ownership of water rights in the state.

► **GOAL: Reduce the backlog and process incoming Reports of Conveyance in a timely manner.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- During the biennium, 4,115 Reports of Conveyance, representing 19,352 individual deeds, were processed.
- The processing of the reports of conveyance for Truckee River Claims resulted in the processing of nearly 500 permits and 20,000 acre-feet of water changing use from irrigation to municipal.
- The Title Section is compiling a parcel database for all Truckee River Claims as they are processed. In addition, all but three of the 127 Truckee River Maps to be signed by the State Engineer and Federal Water Master have been completed.



HEARINGS SECTION

The Hearings Section considers contested water rights disputes, conducts well driller disciplinary hearings, administrative hearings on cancelled permits, administrative hearings on proposed orders, and renders decisions in accordance with state law.

► **GOAL: Ensure administrative hearings are conducted in compliance with the Nevada Revised Statutes and Nevada Administrative Code with the goal of obtaining substantial testimony and evidence to assist the State Engineer in his decision making process.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Held 98 administrative hearings
- Issued 220 rulings
- Issued four orders
- Past decisions of the State Engineer, to include rulings and orders, were scanned and made available to the public via the Internet.
- Provided documents and technical assistance to Attorney General's office in appeals of rulings, orders, and permits.



MORE THAN 3,150 APPLICATIONS WERE RECEIVED AND REVIEWED FOR PROCESSING BY THE WATER RIGHTS SECTION—AN INCREASE OF 25 PERCENT.

► **THE WALKER RIVER'S TERMINUS**
is Walker Lake near Hawthorne.



SURFACE WATER AND ADJUDICATIONS SECTION

The Surface Water and Adjudications Section is responsible for the formal adjudication of pre-statutory claims of vested water rights and the regulation and distribution of water in accordance with state decrees. The section conducts field investigations when necessary on surface water sources to resolve conflicts over water usage and protest issues, and determines the amount of water available for additional appropriation.

► **GOAL: Process pending surface water applications, including those requesting changes of non-adjudicated claims; finalize existing adjudications; and inventory non-decreed surface water sources.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Processed about 400 applications on decreed and non-decreed surface water sources.
- Completed the determination of the place of use of the vested claims for the East Fork Owyhee Adjudication.
- Completed about one third of the field work in verifying claims of vested water rights in the Ruby and Clover Valleys adjudications.
- Inventoried approximately half of the non-decreed surface water rights in the Walker River Hydrographic Region.
- Continued to prepare the Abstract of Claims and Preliminary Order for the Jarbidge and Bruneau River Adjudications.
- Prepared a draft Preliminary Order of Determination for the eastern slope streams of the Carson Range.
- Distributed water under all state decrees.
- Operated the state owned South Fork Dam.



WATER PLANNING & FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT SECTION

The Water Planning and Floodplain Management Section provides and supports water planning activities to ensure proper and efficient utilization of Nevada's water resources. This must recognize Nevada's unique climate and allow for flood and drought cycles. The section also administers the statewide program for floodplains management.

► **GOAL: Provide support for all water planning activities at the state and local levels. Assist in the development and review of planning documents and promoting water conservation.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Reviewed water conservation plans by Golconda General Improvement District and Lyon County Utilities for compliance with Nevada laws, provided comments, and approved the revised plans.
- Provided classes on Nevada water rights and the water rights permitting process at the 2004 and 2005 annual meeting of the Nevada Rural Water Association.
- Provided assistance to the public and government agencies in obtaining water planning related data including assistance to White Pine County in updating estimates of water resource commitments for use in a revised water resource plan.
- Collected data on water consumption and power generation and cooling processes for existing power plants in Nevada.

► **GOAL: Reduce flood losses and encourage floodplain management in Nevada through compliance with the FEMA National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and administer the FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance Program.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Conducted six workshops for community officials, consulting engineers, and surveyors on NFIP program technical requirements.
- Published quarterly Flood Management Newsletters for distribution to a mailing list of over 1,000 recipients.
- Participated in State Preliminary Damage Assessment Team including deployment for severe winter storm disaster declaration.
- Awarded Flood Mitigation Assistance Planning subgrant to Carson Water Subconservancy District for development of a Floodplain and Flood Mitigation Plan for the Carson River Watershed.
- Awarded Map Modernization Management Support subgrant to USGS, Water Resources Division for development of a web-based Nevada Flood History Database.
- More than 800 hours of technical assistance on NFIP and floodplain management was provided to direct e-mail, phone, and mail requests from community officials, consulting engineers, surveyors, insurance agents, realtors, mortgage lenders, and the public.

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MORE THAN 800 HOURS OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM AND FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT WAS PROVIDED TO COMMUNITY OFFICIALS, CONSULTING ENGINEERS, SURVEYORS, INSURANCE AGENTS, REALTORS, MORTGAGE LENDERS, AND THE PUBLIC.

▼ ▼ ▼

THE HYDROLOGY SECTION IS INCORPORATING THE DIVISION'S GROUND WATER MEASUREMENTS INTO A DATABASE THAT WILL ENABLE RAPID AND ACCURATE ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE'S GROUND-WATER RESOURCES.

HYDROLOGY SECTION

The Hydrology Section was established in 2005 to provide hydrological expertise to the division in response to increasingly complex and contentious water rights filings. The purpose of the section is to conduct and review hydrologic studies and ground and surface water models used to quantify potential impacts to prior appropriators, domestic wells, and the state's water resources due to new appropriations and interbasin water transfers.

► **GOAL: Assist the division as needed in the evaluation of the hydrologic aspects of new filings.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- Completed approximately 40 hydrologic studies and/or groundwater flow models to predict the effects of new applications for appropriation on existing water rights holders and the water resources of the subject area.

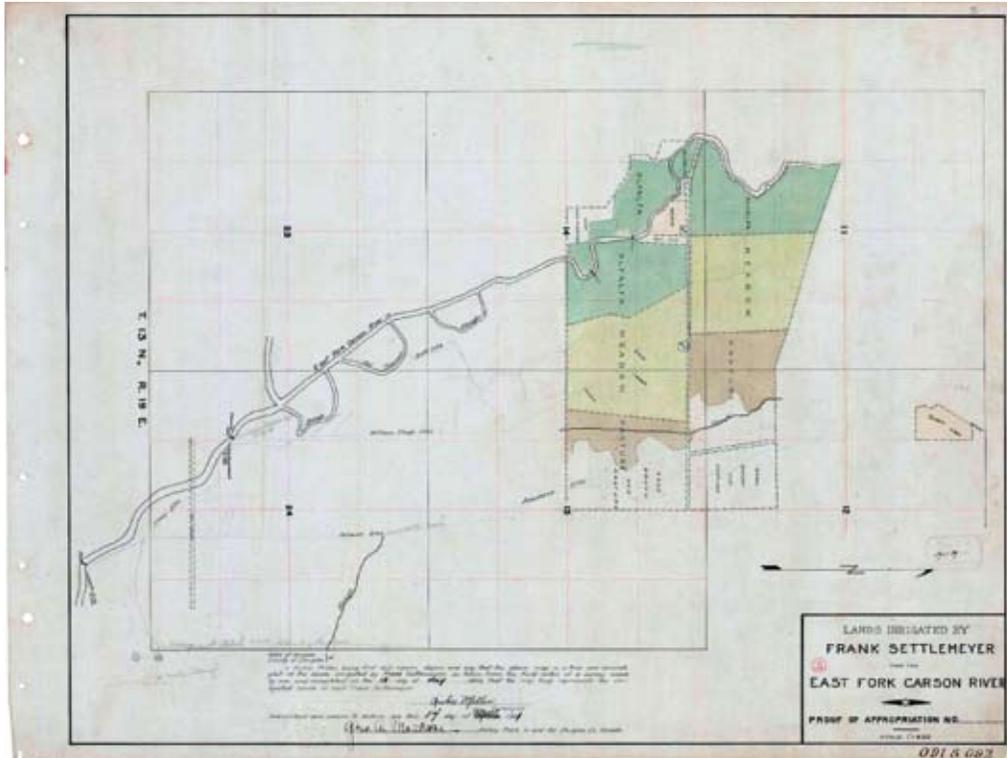
► **GOAL: Compile data on ground water levels into a digital format to facilitate future research and studies.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- Incorporating the division's many years of ground-water measurements, along with other third party ground-water monitoring programs, into a single database that will enable rapid and accurate assessment of the state's ground-water resources and changes to the resource over time.



▲ **THE NORTH FORK OF THE HUMBOLDT RIVER** at Devil's Gate near Halleck, Nevada. Photograph courtesy of the USGS.



◀ **HISTORIC WATER DIVERSION**
map from 1921.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECTION

Provide information technology services to division staff, and improve public access to Division of Water Resource data for the management of Nevada's water resources.

▶ **GOAL: Complete entry of existing data into the division's many databases and scan all pertinent documents for staff and public consumption.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- Scanned 5,516 rulings, 45,200 book records and more than 20,000 support maps and created links from the permit database to those images.

▶ **GOAL: Develop a procedure for keeping well log data current and improve access to well data for the public.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- Completed entry of all well logs into the well log database. Scanned and indexed more than 90,000 well logs. Made vast improvements to the online well log database and made scanned logs available to the public.



► AT-A-GLANCE

Purpose

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

Glenn Clemmer

Relevant Laws

NRS 232.090

Employees

8 FTE, two seasonal / 2006

Phone

(775) 684-2900

Web

www.heritage.nv.gov

Address

Richard H. Bryan Building
901 South Stewart Street
Suite 5002
Carson City, Nevada 89701

NEVADA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

GLENN CLEMMER, *Administrator*

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, 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 conservation and planning needs.

The program maintains an office in Carson City, with an administrator/zoologist, one botanist, three biologists, one vegetation ecologist, a wetlands planner, and one staff member.

LONG TERM GOALS

- Continue to serve as a statewide clearinghouse for data on at-risk species, vegetation and wetland communities.
- Continue to convert our databases into the international network of NatureServe that will better incorporate GIS spatial coverages with our expanding data system.
- Expand our work using landsat satellite imagery analysis in mapping invasive plants and modeling rare plant habitats in the Great Basin.
- Explore options for serving as a clearinghouse for data on invasive weeds and for expanding our work with the Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan.



THE HERITAGE PROGRAM SET "SCORECARD" PRIORITIES FOR ADDRESSING CONSERVATION NEEDS FOR AT-RISK SPECIES AND THEIR HABITATS.



► **GOAL:** The program serves the state as its clearinghouse for data pertaining to vulnerable species and vegetation communities, including wetlands, in a variety of formats for the purpose of avoiding potential resource conflicts with development projects and for setting priorities for conservation efforts.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The program continually expanded and updated 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. These data, integrated with similar heritage information throughout North America through the NatureServe network, confirm that Nevada is third among all 50 states having the most imperiled species and sixth with the most endemic species. Through an evaluation process involving biologists across the state, the program set “scorecard” priorities for addressing conservation needs for at-risk species and their habitats.
- Heritage data and ranks are widely used by state and federal agencies, and by a variety of local and regional planning teams; for example, the Nevada Biodiversity Initiative, the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation planning efforts in Clark County, the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, BLM offices, the Forest Service, the Department of Defense, and the departments of Conservation and Natural Resources, Transportation, and Wildlife.
- Program staff coordinated two annual rare plant workshops, completed the Nevada Bat Conservation Plan, prepared a draft of the Nevada Wetlands Priority Conservation Plan, and did field vegetation surveys (805 plots) for estimating coverage of cheatgrass across Nevada.



▲ **AT-RISK:** The Amargosa toad, *Bufo nelsoni*, is a species of concern in Nevada.

PUBLICATIONS

Nevada Wetlands Priority Conservation Plan

Nevada Bat Conservation Plan

“Estimating cover of an invasive grass (*Bromus tectorum*) using tobit regression and phenology derived from two dates of Landsat ETM + data.” *International Journal of Remote Sensing*. 26 (2): 2491-2507.

Additional titles and program updates are available on our Web site www.heritage.nv.gov.



DIVISION OF STATE LANDS

PAMELA B. WILCOX, *Administrator/State Land Registrar*

▶ AT-A-GLANCE

Purpose

The Division of State Lands serves 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. 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

Pamela Wilcox

Deputy

Jim Lawrence

Relevant Laws

NRS 321–324, 445A.170

Employees

22.6 FTE / 2006

Phone

(775) 684–2720

Web

www.lands.nv.gov

Address

Richard H. Bryan Building
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Suite 5003
Carson City, Nevada 89701

The DIVISION OF STATE LANDS serves 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. The division also 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. It has five program areas:

1. Holding title to the state's land and providing land services to state agencies and the public
2. Providing land-use planning training and assistance to local governments
3. Representing the state on federal land issues and developing state policies and plans for federal lands
4. Coordinating implementation of Nevada's portion of the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program, and
5. Implementing of the conservation and resource protection grant program—Question 1.

The division has six sections: the State Land Office; the State Land Use Planning Agency; the Nevada Tahoe Resource Team; technical services; clerical and fiscal services; and the Question 1 team. The division is assisted by the State Land Use Planning Advisory Council, which is comprised of one representative from each of the 17 counties.



LONG TERM GOALS

- Provide land service to state agencies and the public and process all requests for services as efficiently as possible. Continue to protect historic land records and maintain an accurate database of current land transactions and data.
- Assure state and local government participation in federal land management actions and provide technical planning assistance to local governments.
- Protect and enhance the state's natural resources through the coordination and implementation of the Environmental Improvement Program at Lake Tahoe and through administration of conservation and resource protection grants statewide.



▲ **WILDLIFE VIEWING IN NORTH RENO:** The Division of State Lands conducted three grant-funding rounds in 2004–2005, awarding more than \$21 million for 67 resource and conservation projects in 14 counties. The “Question 1” conservation grant program helped to construct this bridge trail system for bird watching.



SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION OR EXECUTIVE ACTIONS AFFECTING THE AGENCY

- AB458 was passed authorizing the future sale of general obligation bonds in the amount of 16.8 million dollars for continuing the implementation of the Environmental Improvement Program at Lake Tahoe.
- AB312 was passed which requires the division to adopt regulations to establish procedures for creating or amending a list of appraisers qualified to conduct appraisals of land offered for sale or lease by the State Land Registrar.



▲ **BELMONT COURTHOUSE:** The Division of State Lands “Question 1” conservation grant program helped provide funding to stabilize the historic building in Belmont.

► **GOAL: Process requests for land services from the public and state agencies as efficiently as possible.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- About 570 land transactions on state lands were processed. Significant transactions included negotiations for the construction of a road and new interchange on state land to improve public safety along U.S. Highway 50 in Carson City, acquisition of a new facility in Elko for the Department of Agriculture, and acquisition of in-holdings for a new National Guard center in Clark County.

► **GOAL: Maintain accurate and complete records for all state lands, protect historic land records and maps, as well as make information about state lands and state land records available to the public and other agencies.**

ACCOMPLISHMENT

- The division protected more than 5,700 historic documents by filing them in acid free folders and file boxes in a special climate-controlled vault.

► **GOAL: Establish and maintain positive working relationships with all federal land management agencies to assure state and local government participation in federal land management actions.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Initiated the update of public land policy plans for Elko, White Pine, Humboldt and Esmeralda counties.
- Helped coordinate and facilitate the 2004 Land Use Summit.
- Continued state representation on the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act partners working group for expenditure of the act’s funds.
- Provided state representation on the Mojave Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Committee.
- Provided an active facilitation role in Congressional land act processes.
- Coordinated the 2005 Nevada Rural Planning and Natural Resources Conference in Tonopah.

► **GOAL: Administer the \$65.5 million grant program (Question 1) so that the maximum benefit to Nevada’s natural environment will be achieved.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- The division developed administrative regulations to guide the Question 1 grant program. These regulations were reviewed and approved by the Legislative Counsel Bureau and adopted by the division.
- The division has conducted three grant funding rounds and has awarded more than \$21 million for 67 resource and conservation projects in 14 counties.

► **GOAL: Provide technical planning assistance to local governments.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Technical planning assistance was provided to Lincoln, Lyon, Humboldt and Pershing counties, the City of Carlin, and various citizen advisory boards.



- The division continued to provide planning commissioner training workshops to local governments, with a planning commissioner training workshop held in Pahrump.
- The division produced and distributed the 2004 editions of *Laws Relating to Planning* and the *Directory of Local Planning Organizations*.

► **GOAL: Coordinate state implementation of the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency’s Environmental Improvement Program. Promote forest health on state-owned parcels within the Tahoe basin.**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Using state bond money, the Tahoe Resource Team completed nine Environmental Improvement Program projects and continues to work on another 23 EIP projects.
- The team completed work on approximately 137 parcels in the Tahoe basin for forest health.
- Using revenues from the Lake Tahoe License Plate program, 13 projects were completed and another nine are underway that contribute to the restoration and preservation of the Lake Tahoe basin.
- The division completed a land transaction that facilitated the restoration of 72,920 square feet of land.

NEVADA TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

NEVADA TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY GOVERNING BOARD

The Nevada Tahoe Regional Planning Agency implements provisions of the Tahoe Regional Planning Compact relating to “structures housing gaming” (casinos) in the Lake Tahoe basin. The agency establishes and maintains base data plans for all such structures, maintains chronological files of changes made, and reviews plans for changes in order to ensure compliance with the compact provisions. The Division of State Lands provides services to the agency, and the administrator of the division serves as executive officer to the board.

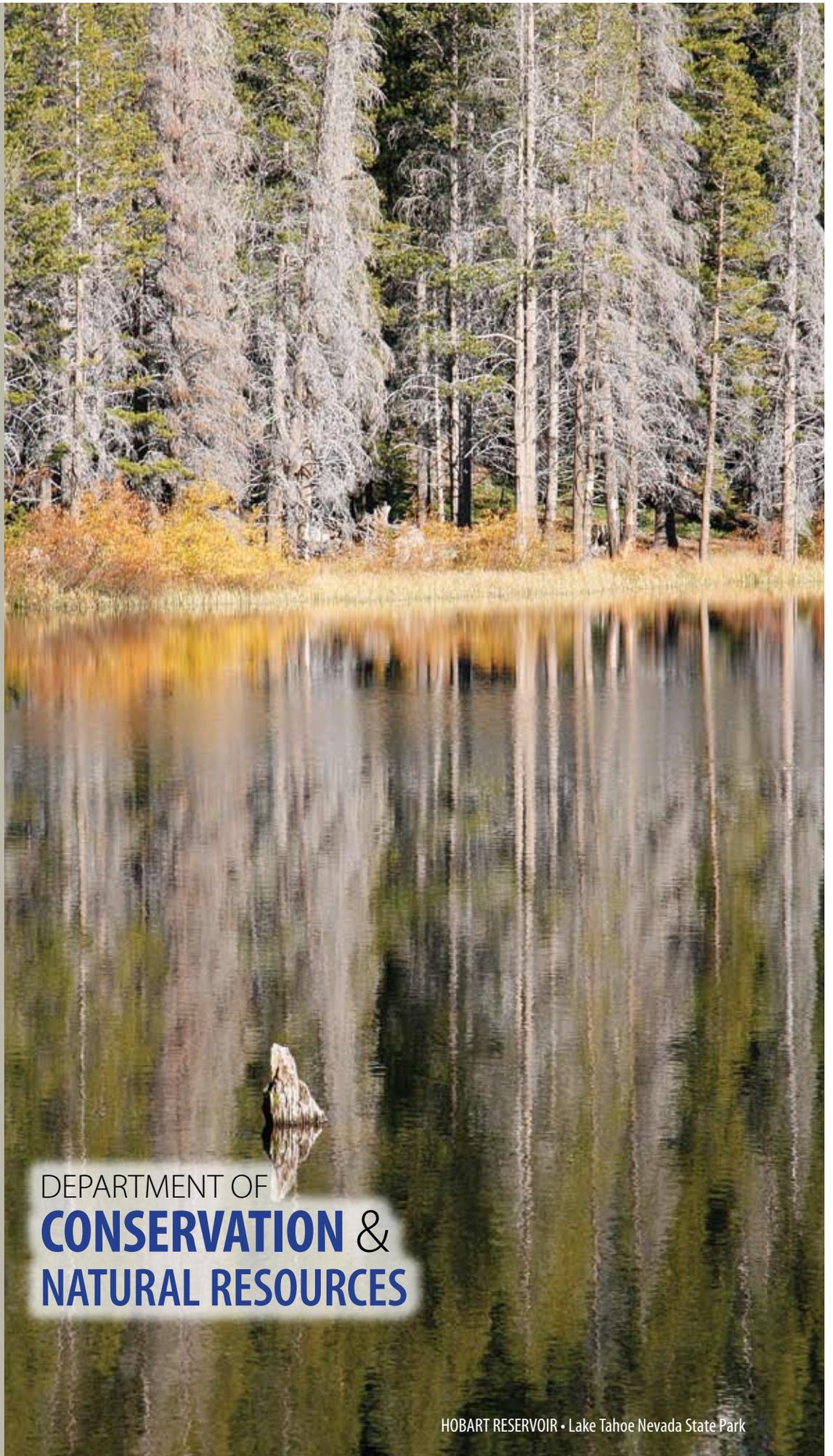
► **GOAL: Assist the TRPA governing board to implement the provisions of the Tahoe Compact relating to “structures housing gaming.”**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The division continued to provide support governing board and reviewed plans relating to gaming structures to ensure compliance with the compact.
- The agency assisted the board in an update of their ordinance, which will allow greater flexibility in determining certain uses as non-gaming related.

PUBLICATIONS

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



DEPARTMENT OF
**CONSERVATION &
NATURAL RESOURCES**

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HOBART RESERVOIR • Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park