



DEPARTMENT OF
**CONSERVATION &
NATURAL RESOURCES**

**THE CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH THE
CHANGING FACE OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN NEVADA**

**AWMA
MARCH 18, 2010
ALLEN BIAGGI
DIRECTOR**



Director
Allen Biaggi

Deputy Director
Kay Scherer

DCNR Mission

To conserve, protect, manage,
and enhance the state's
natural resources
for Nevada's citizens and visitors.

Divisions



Conservation Districts



Environmental Protection



Forestry



Natural Heritage



State Lands



State Parks



Water Resources



Wild Horse Program

Nine Statutory Boards and Commissions



NEVADA DIVISION OF FORESTRY

State Forester
Pete Anderson

Deputies
Scott Sisco
Rich Harvey

Nevada Division of Forestry
State Office
2478 Fairview Drive
Carson City



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State Forester
Pete Anderson

Deputies
Scott Sisco
Rich Harvey



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NDF Facilities

- ▶ 3 Regional Offices
 - HQ/Western, Northern, Southern
- ▶ 2 Dispatch Centers
 - Interagency: Minden and Elko
- ▶ 2 Nurseries
 - Washoe Valley and Las Vegas
- ▶ 3 Career Fire Stations
- ▶ 24 Volunteer Fire Stations
- ▶ Air Operations Center
 - Minden, three helicopters
- ▶ Conservation Camps
 - Silver Springs closed 7/1/2008
 - 8 conservation camps





State Forester
Pete Anderson

Deputies
Scott Sisco
Rich Harvey

NDF Staffing

FY	FTEs	SEASONAL
08-09	214	47
10-11	195	38

Governor Recommended Budget

FY09	FY10	FY11
\$26,296,450	\$26,194,901	\$26,109,315

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State Forester
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FY10-11 Key Budget Reductions

- ▶ **BA 4195 (Forestry)**
 - Eliminates Southern Regional Forester
 - Reduces funding for VFD physicals
 - Eliminates Elko Mechanic
 - Eliminates Statewide Mutual Aid Coordinator
 - Reduces vehicle fleet by 69 vehicles
 - Loss of deferred maintenance funds
 - Increased emergency response times
 - Loss of funding for physicals for volunteers, coordination capabilities, fire prevention efforts

- ▶ **BA 4198 (Camps)**
 - Reduces Conservation Camp vehicle fleet by 20 vehicles



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NDF Program Issues

- ▶ Stimulus Funds
- ▶ NDF Nursery Program
 - critical for land rehabilitation; is experiencing revenue shortfalls due to the economy and CIP payback requirements.
- ▶ Climate change/continued drought
 - negatively impact the health of Nevada's forests and rangelands thereby increasing the potential for large catastrophic wildfires.
- ▶ Program Focus:
 - Fundamental evaluation of the function and mission of NDF in the face of urbanization and the desire of local governments to operate their own fire suppression programs. Perhaps a transition into resource management verses fire protection?



NDF nursery in Las Vegas



Number of Wildland Fires & Acres Burned

State Forester
Pete Anderson

Deputies
Scott Sisco
Rich Harvey

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NUMBER OF WILDLAND FIRES</u>	<u>NUMBER OF ACRES BURNED</u>
1999	1,185	1,871,956
2000	1,171	699,210
2001	1,277	654,253
2002	771	77,551
2003	811	17,546
2004	950	40,950
2005	794	1,032,104
2006	1,274	1,348,871
2007	784	900,498
2008	443	71,909
2009	687	33,365

**10 Year
Average**

946

671,485

- ▶ **2010 Season Outlook**
- ▶ **FIRES!!!!!!?????**



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Administrator
David Morrow

Deputy
Steve Weaver

Division of State Parks

MISSION

The Division of State Parks plans, develops and maintains a system of parks and recreation areas for the use and enjoyment of residents and visitors. The division also preserves areas of scenic, historic and scientific significance in Nevada.

Statutory Authority

NRS 232.135 and 407

Permanent Employees

FY09 **111** FY10/11 **98**



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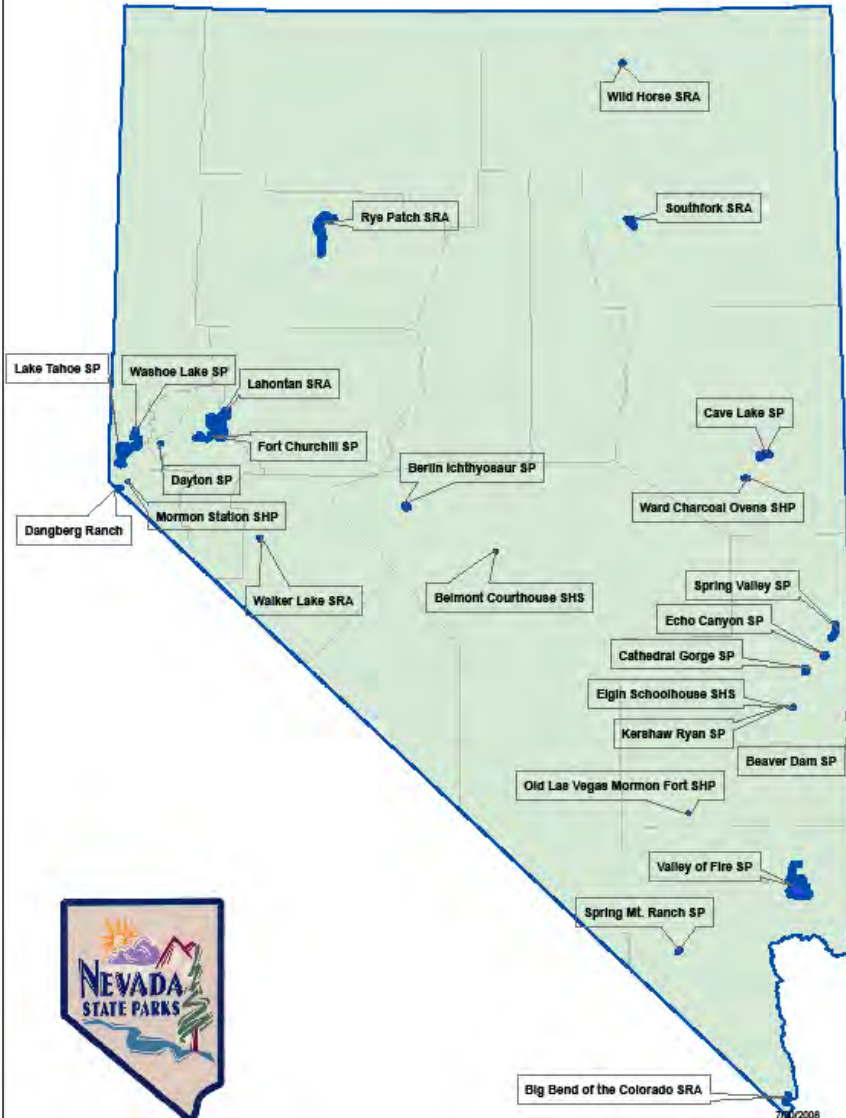
Administrator
David Morrow

Deputy
Steve Weaver



DEPARTMENT OF
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NATURAL RESOURCES**

State Parks



- ❑ 25 State Park administered sites
- ❑ 146,196 acres
- ❑ Nearly 400 structures (many are historical)

7/15/2008



Value & Benefit of State Parks

Administrator
David Morrow

Deputy
Steve Weaver

❑ Economic

- ▶ The impact of state parks on state and local economies is significant. Every recreation dollar expended changes hands several times before leaving the local communities in which it is spent.
- ▶ State Parks operating expenditures and park visitor expenditures contribute a significant amount to state and local economies.

❑ Social

- ▶ Improves the quality of life for residents and visitors
- ▶ Provides affordable family recreational opportunities
- ▶ Promotes better health through physical activity
- ▶ Provides public access to unique historic, natural and recreational areas
- ▶ Provides opportunities for community and statewide activities
- ▶ Enhances various educational programs by adding field study opportunities



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FY08-09



7/30/2008

FY10-11



7/30/2008



Administrator
David Morrow

Deputy
Steve Weaver

Program Impacts

- Loss of 12 FTEs statewide
- Budget reduction of 45% since FY08/09 \$750,000 reduction in deferred maintenance.
- Reduction of regional management units from 4 to 2
- Full closure of all parks was contemplated
- Fee increase in the works.



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Administrator
David Morrow

Deputy
Steve Weaver

Major Issues

- ❑ Uncertainty of continued funding from the Land & Water Conservation Fund.
- ❑ The age and condition of the majority of State Parks' equipment is making it difficult, and in a number of cases unsafe, to continue to maintain park facilities and protect park visitors.
- ❑ Many key division employees are eligible to retire within five years (20).
- ❑ Not having adequate funding and personnel to maintain State Park's IT equipment (191 computers located statewide).



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Mission

“To preserve and enhance the environment of the state to protect public health, sustain healthy ecosystems and contribute to a vibrant economy”

(Division established by NRS 232.136)

Administrator
Leo Drozdoff

Deputies
Tom Porta
Colleen Cripps



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Administrator
Leo Drozdoff

Deputies
Tom Porta
Colleen Cripps

Approach

- ▶ Traditional regulatory tools
 - Set regulatory standards
 - Issue permits, conduct inspections, take enforcement action when necessary
- ▶ Assistance programs
 - Grants and loans
 - Technical and compliance assistance
- ▶ Voluntary programs



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Boards and Commissions

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Leo Drozdoff

Deputies
Tom Porta
Colleen Cripps

- ▶ **State Environmental Commission**
 - Adopts regulations
 - Holds contested case hearings
 - Ratifies certain admin penalties

- ▶ **Board to Review Petroleum Claims**

- ▶ **Board to Finance Water Projects**



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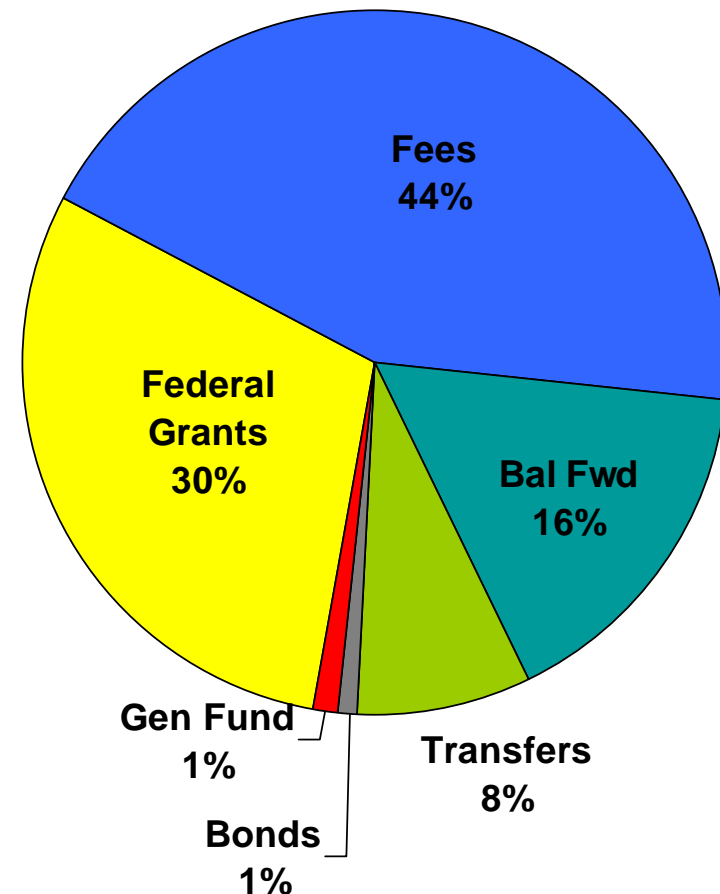
Staffing and Budget

Administrator
Leo Drozdoff

Deputies
Tom Porta
Colleen Cripps

- ▶ 252 FTEs
- ▶ Offices in Carson City and Las Vegas
- ▶ Federally delegated and State designed programs
- ▶ Primarily funded by fees and federal grants
- ▶ 22 Budget Accounts
 - 9 Executive
 - 13 Non-Executive

Revenue \$44 million



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Environmental Programs

Administrator
Leo Drozdoff

Deputies
Tom Porta
Colleen Cripps

- ▶ Air
- ▶ Water
- ▶ Safe Drinking Water
- ▶ Financial Assistance
- ▶ Mining
- ▶ Waste
- ▶ Corrective Actions
- ▶ Federal Facilities



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Bureau of Air Quality Planning

Administrator

Leo Drozdoff

Deputies

Tom Porta

Colleen Cripps

- ▶ Ambient air monitoring
- ▶ Alternative fuels program
- ▶ Climate change
- ▶ Mercury control programs
- ▶ Chemical Accident Prevention program
- ▶ ARRA Funds - \$1.2 million, 17 cleaner emission school buses for 15 counties.



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Bureau of Air Pollution Control

Administrator
Leo Drozdoff

Deputies
Tom Porta
Colleen Cripps

- ▶ Regulation of stationary sources of pollutants (633 permitted sources)
 - Class I permitting
 - Class II and III permitting
 - Compliance and enforcement
 - Emissions auditing program

Air quality fund interest captured for budget relief.



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Bureau of Water Quality

Administrator
Leo Drozdoff

Deputies
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Colleen Cripps

- ▶ Water quality standards development
- ▶ Voluntary non-point source pollutant control program with funding
- ▶ Monitor ambient water quality
 - More than 200 sites statewide
- ▶ Laboratory certification program
 - Certification of 104 labs nationwide
- ▶ Public education and outreach
- ▶ Significant general fund budget reduction



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Bureau of Water Pollution Control

Administrator
Leo Drozdoff

Deputies
Tom Porta
Colleen Cripps

- ▶ Regulation of point source discharges
 - 384 active permits
- ▶ Underground injection control
 - 280 active permits
- ▶ Regulation of stormwater discharges
 - 854 permits issued in 2008 (34% decrease from 2006)
- ▶ Subdivision reviews in 2008
 - 238 tentative maps (75% decrease from 2006)
 - 344 final maps (79% decrease from 2006)



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Bureau of Safe Drinking Water

Administrator
Leo Drozdoff

Deputies
Tom Porta
Colleen Cripps

- ▶ Regulation of 565 public water systems (PWS)
 - 346 Non Community PWS
 - 219 Community (residential) PWS
- ▶ Population served in excess of 2 million people
- ▶ ARRA Funding \$19 million
- ▶ Arsenic program biggest challenge
- ▶ Significant general fund budget reduction



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Bureau of Admin Services

Office of Financial Assistance

Administrator
Leo Drozdoff

Deputies
Tom Porta
Colleen Cripps

- ▶ Clean Water State Revolving Fund
 - \$20 million yearly average
- ▶ Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
 - \$8 million yearly average
- ▶ Public water systems and water conservation grants
 - \$8 million yearly average
- ▶ Stimulus Bill – Manages CWA and SDWA grants and loans



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Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation

Administrator
Leo Drozdoff

Deputies
Tom Porta
Colleen Cripps

- ▶ Permitting and regulation of fluid management systems
 - 307 active permits
- ▶ Financial assurance for reclamation
 - \$1.1 billion in sureties held
 - Regulation of closure activities

Price of gold means more exploration and mining activities in Nevada.

New claims fees unrelated to NDEP activities.
Mining fund interest captured for budget relief.



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Bureau of Waste Management

- ▶ Hazardous waste management
 - Regulation of 3,630 generators and transporters statewide
 - Regulation of 19 treatment, storage, disposal and recycling facilities
 - Compliance assistance program
 - Reduction of the HWMF for budget
- Solid waste management
 - Regulation of 180 landfills, transfer stations
 - Recycling information and education program
 - Jungo Landfill



Administrator
Leo Drozdoff

Deputies
Tom Porta
Colleen Cripps

Bureau of Corrective Actions

- ▶ Leaking Underground Storage Tank program
 - Petroleum fund (\$155 million disbursed to date)
 - Special Session – excess funds to Transportation
- ▶ Underground Storage Tank preventative program
- ▶ Remedial action and voluntary clean-ups
- ▶ Brownfields restoration
- ▶ Certification of environmental consultants
 - 691 consultants certified
- ▶ Department of Defense (DOD) facilities
- ▶ ARRA funding \$1.2 million for USTs



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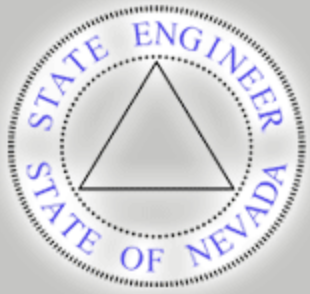
Deputies
Tom Porta
Colleen Cripps

Bureau of Federal Facilities

- ▶ Department of Energy Facilities (DOE)
 - Regulation of activities at the Nevada Test Site (NTS)
 - Restoration of contaminated areas at NTS
 - Long term stewardship
- ▶ No involvement with Yucca Mountain



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DIVISION OF
WATER RESOURCES

Administrator

Tracy Taylor

Deputies

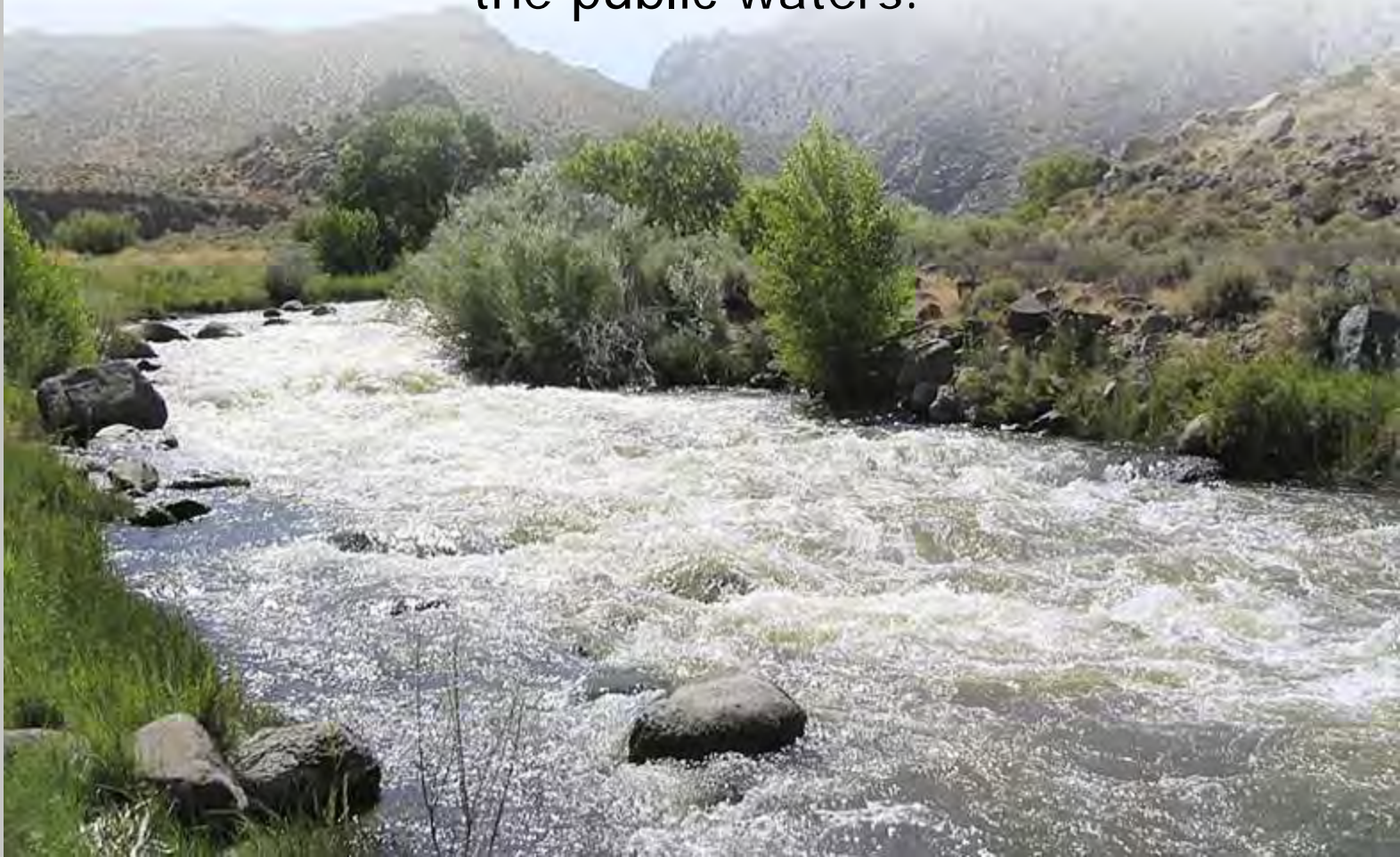
Jason King

Kelvin Hickenbottom

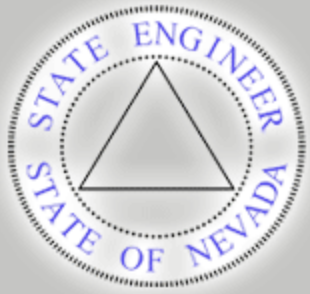
Bob Coache

Water Resources Mission

To conserve, protect, manage and enhance the State's water resources for Nevada's citizens through the appropriation and reallocation of the public waters.



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DIVISION OF
WATER RESOURCES

Administrator
Tracy Taylor

Deputies
Jason King
Kelvin Hickenbottom
Bob Coache

Water Resources Facilities

▶ Main Office

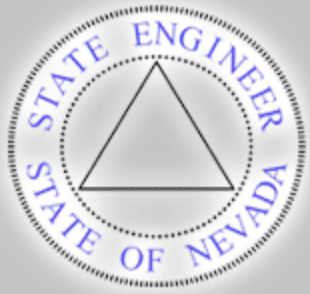
- Carson City

▶ Branch Offices

- Las Vegas
- Elko
- Winnemucca



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Jason King

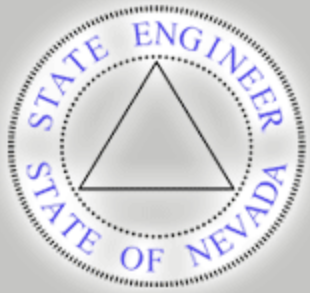
Kelvin Hickenbottom
Bob Coache

DUTIES OF THE STATE ENGINEER

- ▶ Appropriation
- ▶ Adjudication
- ▶ Distribution & Regulation
- ▶ Dam Safety
- ▶ Water Planning
- ▶ Flood Plain Management
- ▶ Subdivision Approval



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DIVISION OF
WATER RESOURCES

Administrator
Tracy Taylor

Deputies

Jason King

Kelvin Hickenbottom

Bob Coache

Water Resources General Fund Staffing

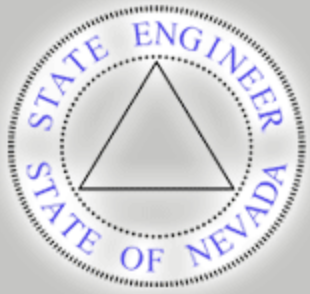
FY	FTEs	SEASONAL
08-09	73.5	4 (all non-exec)
10-11	66.1	4 (all non-exec)

Governor Recommended Budget

FY09	FY10	FY11
\$7,374,882	\$5,862,237	\$5,775,241



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DIVISION OF
WATER RESOURCES

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Kelvin Hickenbottom

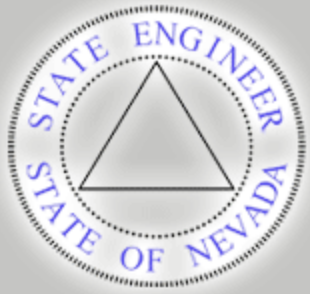
Bob Coache

FY10-11 Key Budget Reductions

- ▶ Elimination of 7.1 positions, reducing the number of FTE general fund positions from 73.5 to 66.1*, a 10% reduction.
 - ▶ The staff reduction:
 - Eliminates 2 engineering technicians from the Deeds section in Carson City.
 - Eliminates 1 engineering position in Carson City.
 - Eliminates 3 clerical staff in Carson City.
 - Eliminates 1 engineering technician from Las Vegas\
- \$20,000 reduction to USGS for computer programming and data base maintenance.
- Reductions to all travel.
 - Reduction to training.



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DIVISION OF
WATER RESOURCES

Administrator
Tracy Taylor

Deputies

Jason King

Kelvin Hickenbottom

Bob Coache

Water Resources Program Issues

- ▶ As directed in SB274, DWR adopted regulations providing for fines & penalties for violations of Nevada's water law. No new staff to enforce these regulations. Coupled with proposed staff reductions, enforcement of the regulations will be difficult.
- ▶ During the past 5 years, strides have been made to reduce the backlog of applications and title work. With proposed reductions, the backlog will likely increase.
- ▶ The division is conducting more and more hearings to resolve protested water-right applications.
- ▶ Continuing to expand website by linking permits, certificates, well logs, maps, etc., to their scanned images. The loss of one IT staff member in FY10-11 budget will slow this work.
- ▶ Spring Valley Supreme Court decision



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Administrator
Jim Lawrence

Deputy
Charlie Donohue

State Lands Mission

To uphold the conservation and land resource values of Nevadans through responsible land-use planning, resource programs that protect and enhance the natural environment and land stewardship worthy of the lands entrusted to us.



DEPARTMENT OF
**CONSERVATION &
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The Division of State Lands, based in Carson City with statewide responsibility, includes:

- ▶ State Land Office
- ▶ Nevada Tahoe Resource Team
- ▶ State Land Use Planning
- ▶ Conservation Bond/Q1 Team

Administrator
Jim Lawrence

Deputy
Charlie Donohue

Staffing

FY	FTEs	SEASONAL
08-09	22	1
10-11	19	1



Governor Recommended Budget

FY09	FY10	FY11
\$2,217,397	\$1,663,047	\$1,663,047



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Administrator
Jim Lawrence

Deputy
Charlie Donohue

State Land Office

Agency Lands

Serve as the State's "real estate agency" for all agencies except the Legislature, University system, and NDOT

- Acquires land and water rights needed by the state
- Disposes of excess land and water rights

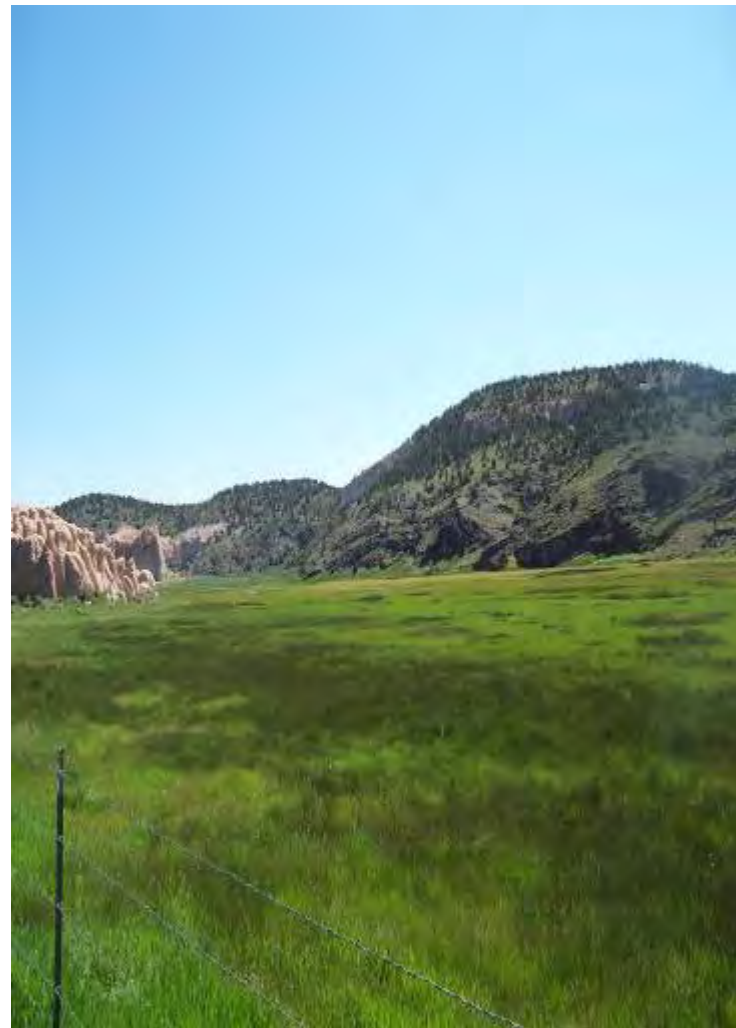
Authorizes use of State land

- Issues easements and leases

Land Records

Holds title to land used by most agencies

Maintains state land records since statehood



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Administrator
Jim Lawrence

Deputy
Charlie Donohue



State Land Office

Navigable Waters

Upon statehood, Nevada received title to all submerged lands beneath navigable bodies of water.

Permit structures in navigable waters

- Lake Tahoe
- Washoe Lake
- Walker Lake
- Truckee River
- Carson River
- Virgin River
- Colorado River

School Trust Lands

NDSL holds title to approximately 2,500 acres of original school trust lands

Managed or disposed to generate revenue for the Permanent School Fund





State Lands Question 1 Program

Administrator
Jim Lawrence

Deputy
Charlie Donohue

In 2002, voters approved conservation bonds.

State Lands administers \$65.5 million grant program.

Funds can be used for:

- Recreational Trails
- Acquisition of land for open space, conservation, urban parks and greenbelts
- Planning for habitat restoration and open space
- Carson River projects
- Tahoe path system



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Conservation Districts Mission

To serve the State Conservation Commission in assisting, guiding and regulating Nevada's 28 locally elected conservation districts to meet the goals of Nevada landowners and land users in conserving renewable natural resources.



DIVISION OF
CONSERVATION
DISTRICTS

Acting
Administrator
Jim Lawrence



DEPARTMENT OF
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DIVISION OF
CONSERVATION
DISTRICTS

Acting
Administrator
Jim Lawrence

In FY08, state grants of \$4,000 (down from \$5,000) for each district were leveraged by matching dollars exceeding \$17 for every state dollar (a total of about \$2.5 million).

Staffing

FY	FTEs
08-09	3
10-11	2.5



Governor Recommended Budget

FY 09	FY 10	FY 11
\$449,340	\$346,467	\$346,467



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Administrator
Jennifer Newmark

Natural Heritage Mission

To maintain comprehensive information on the locations, biology and conservation status of all endangered, threatened, sensitive and at-risk species in Nevada.



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NATURAL RESOURCES

Headwaters of Meadow Valley Wash
Photo by Eric Miskow



Administrator
Jennifer Newmark

Heritage Species' Ranks:

1. Imperiled
2. At risk
3. Rare or vulnerable
4. Secure with long term concern
5. Secure; widespread & abundant



Factors Used to Rank Species:

- The number and conditions of populations
- The area or range occupied by the species
- Population trends
- Known threats



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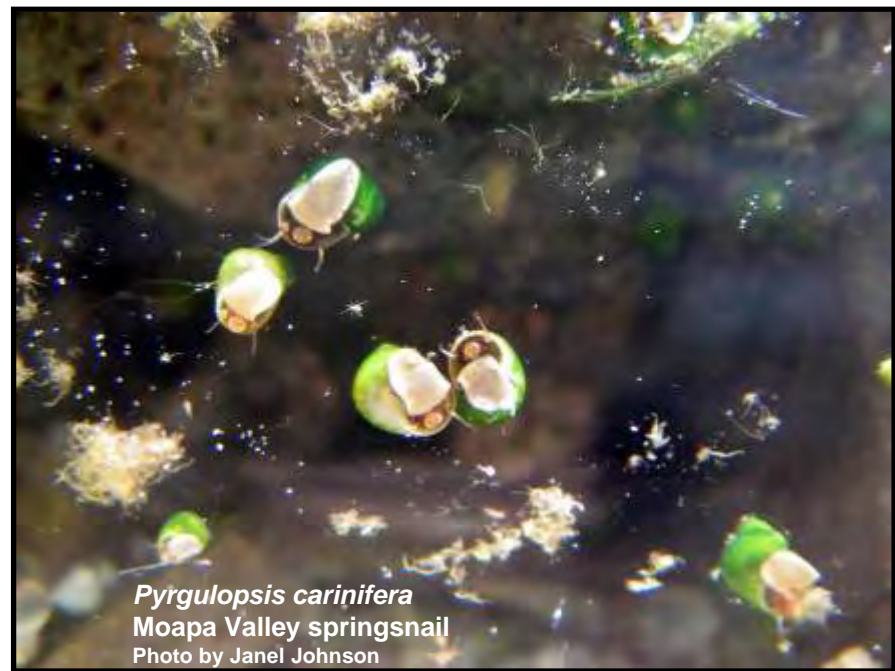
NNHP is currently tracking 593 species:

- 289 Plants
- 170 Invertebrates
- 120 Vertebrates
- 14 Mosses & Lichens

Administrator
Jennifer Newmark



Arctomecon californica
Las Vegas bearpoppy
Photo by Jim Morefield



Pyrgulopsis carinifera
Moapa Valley springsnail
Photo by Janel Johnson

An additional 178 species
are on the NNHP
Watch List
**2 positions lost*
**Travel and operating
reductions*

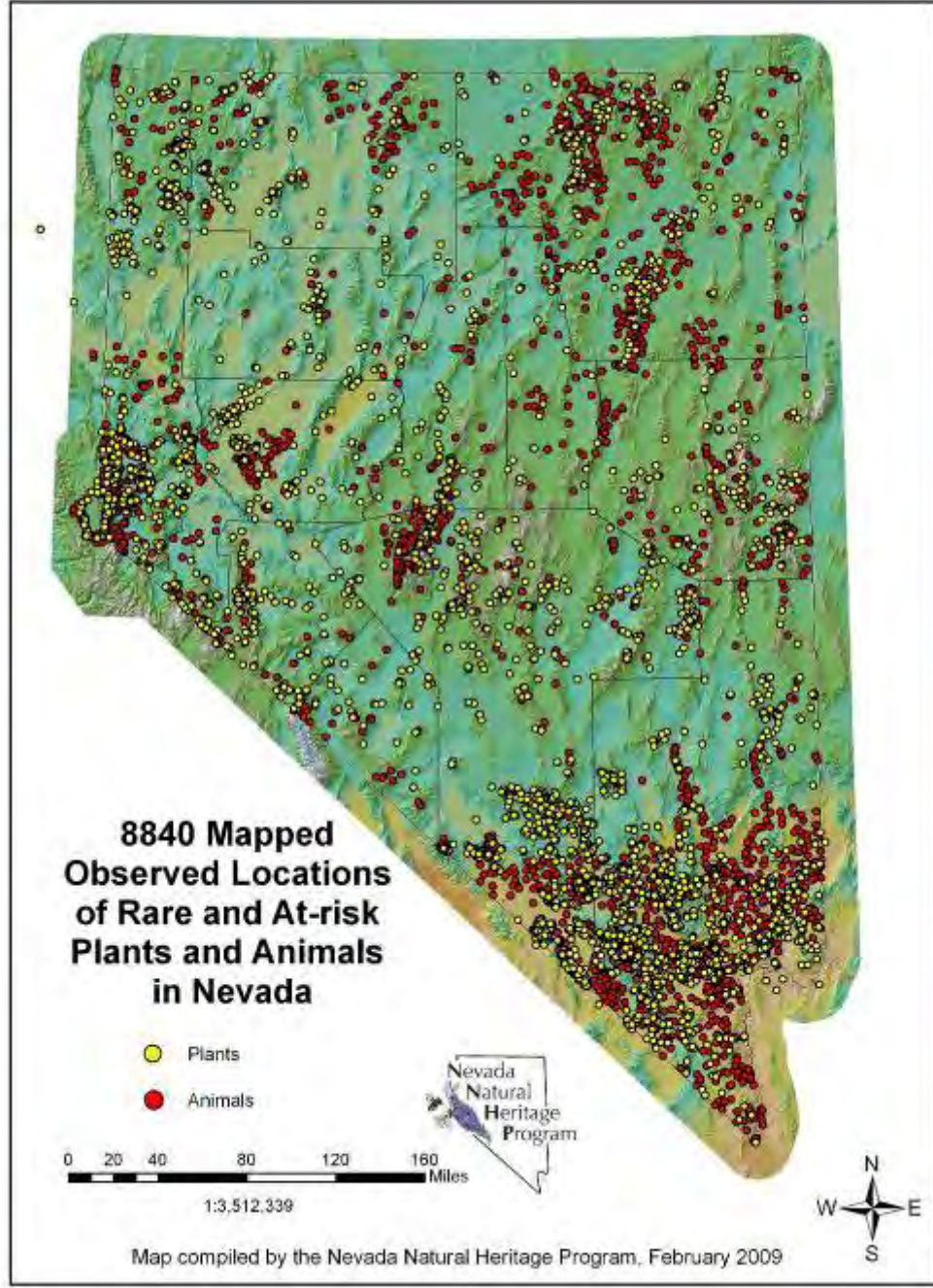




Administrator
Jennifer Newmark



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Commission for the
**PRESERVATION OF
WILD HORSES**

Wild Horse Program Mission

To sustain viable herds of wild horses on public lands throughout Nevada; and to serve as a clearinghouse for information about wild horses.

Administrator
Catherine Barcomb



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**CONSERVATION &
NATURAL RESOURCES**



Administrator
Catherine Barcomb

Historic Successes

- ▶ Land use planning document reviews
- ▶ Public and media inquiries
- ▶ Prison adoption program
- ▶ Mustang Heritage Foundation creation
- ▶ Program will sunset in FY 2010



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