

APPENDIX B

MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES IN NEVADA

Nevada Department of Wildlife

The Mission of the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) is to protect, preserve, manage and restore wildlife and its habitat for their aesthetic, scientific, educational, recreational and economic benefits to citizens of Nevada and the United States, and to promote the safety of persons using vessels on the waters of this state. The Department of Wildlife is commissioned in NRS 501.331 to “administer the wildlife laws of this state and chapter 488 of NRS (boating law).” A director is appointed by the governor to carry out the policies and regulations of the Commission, and direct the activities and programs of the Department. NDOW facilities include a headquarters office, 3 regional offices and 27 field offices that house the functions of agency management, information and education, public service, air operations and radio dispatch communications. The total staff consists of 243 full time personnel. www.ndow.org

Wildlife Management Areas

There are 11 Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) in Nevada, encompassing approximately 48,560 hectares (120,000 acres) of wildlife habitat. These areas are home to many resident and migratory birds, mammals, fish and amphibians. Located throughout the state, the public can generally drive to a WMA in less than two hours from the major population centers and find great access to wildlife viewing. The primary management emphasis on most WMAs is the protection of wetlands and migratory birds including the use of the areas as public hunting grounds. WMAs also provide important sport fishing and wildlife watching opportunities, and several WMAs provide essential habitat and conservation opportunities for numerous SOCP species. Hunting opportunities on WMAs include migratory game bird, upland game bird, furbearer, and big game hunting. <http://www.ndow.org/wild/habitat/wma/>

- The *Alkali Lake WMA*, located in Lyon County about 16 km (10 miles) southwest of Yerington, encompasses 1,395 hectares (3,450 acres) and lies in and adjacent to a small natural sink at the south end of Smith Valley. The WMA can provide 1,215 hectares (3,000 acres) of wetland habitat during wet years, however during most years, the area is dry. Waterfowl are the most common wildlife on the area, but those numbers fluctuate dramatically in response to water availability. Waterfowl hunting and wildlife viewing are popular activities.
- *Bruneau River WMA* is located in Elko County about 130 km (80 miles) north of Elko and 13 km (10 miles) south of the Idaho border. The WMA totals 1,930 hectares (4,770 acres) and includes the Bruneau River and Meadow Creek drainages. Numerous wildlife species including Greater Sage-Grouse, Blue Grouse, redband trout, mule deer and a wide variety of raptors, passerines, and reptiles benefit from the mosaic of habitats in the area. Primary recreational uses of the WMA are hunting, fishing, camping and wildlife viewing.
- *Fernley WMA* is located in Lyon County, about 5 km (3 miles) east of the city of Fernley. The area consists of 5,270 hectares (13,020 acres) including seasonally flooded alkali flats, wet meadow and desert riparian habitats, and desert shrublands of greasewood and shadscale. During wet years, this

area provides habitat for migratory and nesting waterfowl and other wetland-dependent wildlife. Waterfowl hunting is the primary recreational use of the area.

- *Franklin Lake WMA*, located 105 km (65 miles) southeast of Elko in Elko County, includes 1,305 hectares (3,230 acres) of wetlands within the Ruby Lake-Franklin Lake ecosystem. The Franklin Lake wetlands are a natural, unaltered ecosystem fed by over 25 small streams flowing out of the Ruby Mountains. Water levels are dependent on snow pack in the Rubies and annual rainfall in the Ruby Valley. Franklin Lake provides important migratory and breeding habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, Sandhill Cranes and numerous other species. Waterfowl hunting and wildlife viewing are the most common recreational pursuits in the area.
- *Humboldt WMA* located in Pershing and Churchill counties, totals 15,030 hectares (37,140 acres) and is about 30 km (20 miles) southwest of Lovelock and 130 km (80 miles) east of Reno. The WMA lies at the terminus of the Humboldt River, which serves as the major source of water for the area. Wetlands and aquatic habitats comprise 11,290 hectares (27,900 acres) of the area. During wet years, the area contains very large expanses of water which attracts a vast array of waterfowl, shorebirds and wading birds to the shallow water habitat. Waterfowl hunting and wildlife viewing are the major recreational uses of the area.
- *Key Pittman WMA* is located in Lincoln County at the north end of the Pahrnagat Valley, about 220 km (135 miles) south of Ely. Nesbitt and Frenchy lakes, totaling about 200 hectares (500 acres), are located on the WMA. Adjacent to the lakes are marshes and agricultural cropland surrounded by uplands. The fish and wildlife resources of the area are very diverse due to the mosaic of habitat types found on the WMA. Waterfowl, wading birds, shorebirds, passerines and numerous other wildlife species benefit from the project and the WMA provides important habitat for several SOCP species. Waterfowl hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing are popular recreational uses of the area.
- *Mason Valley WMA*, in Lyon County, consists of approximately 5,415 hectares (13,375 acres) of desert shrub lands and wet meadows supporting an abundance of fish and wildlife. The Walker River floodplain meanders through Mason Valley WMA, providing food, cover and water for a vast array of wildlife. Numerous wet meadows and ponds dot the landscape, attracting ducks, geese, swans, songbirds and wading birds. The deep-water habitat of the newly constructed North Pond reservoir is home to fish, Osprey and American White Pelicans. Alkali desert scrub, an upland plant community, covers an extensive area of Mason Valley WMA and provides shelter to many mammals including raccoon and mule deer. A wide variety of hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities occur in the Mason Valley WMA.
- *Overton WMA* lies in the lower extremes of the Moapa and Virgin River valleys in Clark County, where they flow into the north end of the Overton Arm of Lake Mead. Located in the Mojave Desert, Overton WMA supports an abundance of fish and wildlife. Desert riparian habitat, associated with the floodplain of the Muddy and Virgin rivers, is extremely important to wildlife populations. The dense shrubbery of desert wash habitat provides food and shelter for small mammals and many species of birds. Numerous wet meadows and ponds dot the landscape, providing food, cover, and water for birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. The deep water of Lake Mead provides habitat for fish, cormorants, and diving ducks, while shallow littoral zones provide feeding areas for puddle ducks and shorebirds.

- *Scripps WMA* in Washoe County consists of about 965 hectares (2,380 acres) and includes the north end of Big Washoe Lake and the marshes south of Little Washoe Lake in Washoe Valley. The uplands surrounding the wetland areas are primarily sagebrush and desert shrub lands. Waterfowl hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing are popular recreational pastimes of the area. The WMA provides an important opportunity for residents of Reno, Sparks and Carson City to enjoy wetland-associated wildlife within close proximity to their homes.
- *Steptoe Valley WMA* located just south of Ely in White Pine County consists of 2,600 hectares (6,425 acres), plus an additional 11,050 hectares (27,305 acres) of grazing allotments associated with the base property. From wet meadows and riparian corridors to sagebrush and piñon-juniper uplands, the habitats of Steptoe Valley WMA support an abundance of fish and wildlife. Sagebrush is important habitat for mule deer, pronghorn, sage grouse and a multitude of nongame species. Piñon-juniper habitats are present on the uplands surrounding the Steptoe Creek drainage. The riparian habitats of Steptoe Valley include cottonwood, willow, and aspen. Various ponds and wet meadows dot the landscape, providing food, cover, and water for numerous species of waterfowl, wading birds, and mammals. The deep water of Comins Lake provides habitat for fish and diving ducks.
- *Wayne E. Kirch WMA* is located in the White River Valley in northeastern Nye County. From sagebrush to wet meadows and grasslands, the Kirch WMA supports an abundance of fish and wildlife. The White River bisects the area and provides wetlands and deep water habitats. Uplands in Kirch WMA include sagebrush, alkali desert scrub, annual grassland and desert wash. Sagebrush provides important habitat for mule deer, pronghorn, sage grouse and nongame species. The desert wash habitat is found in narrow corridors around intermittent streams carrying runoff from the Egan Range into the White River Valley. Springs and spring outflows on Kirch WMA provide essential habitat for several native aquatic SOCP species including Nevada's first Native Fish Refuge site at Hot Creek, designated in 1969. The reservoirs on Kirch WMA provide important sport fishing resources and habitats for diving ducks, puddle ducks, and shorebirds.

Hatcheries

The Mission of the NDOW hatchery program is to rear and stock fish into Nevada waters for their scientific, educational, recreational, and economic benefits to the citizens of Nevada. NDOW administers three fish hatcheries and one rearing station that annually raise 2.2 million fish for stocking into 36 streams and rivers, and 61 lakes, reservoirs and ponds. <http://www.ndow.org/fish/stocking/hatch/>

- Located on the Ruby Valley National Wildlife Refuge, *Gallagher Hatchery* produces approximately 100,000 pounds of trout each year. The most common trout raised at Gallagher is rainbow, but brown, brook and occasionally hybrid trout are also reared there. Operations at Gallagher are unique to the rest of Nevada's hatchery system in that rainbow and brown trout broodstock are maintained to assist in annual egg production needs.
- *Spring Creek Rearing Station*, located near the town of Baker, receives predominantly rainbow trout at a fingerling size and raises them to a catchable length for planting. Originally constructed in 1949, Spring Creek Rearing Station produces about 35,000 pounds of trout annually.
- Constructed in 1990, *Mason Valley Hatchery* is located within the Mason Valley WMA, near Yerington,

Nevada. This facility raises a variety of trout, including brook, brown, cutthroat, tiger and several strains of rainbow. Total production from this hatchery is approximately 150,000 pounds of trout per year.

- The reconstruction of Lake Mead Hatchery, on the western shore of Lake Mead, was completed in 2005. NDOW's newest hatchery was intended to provide a state-of-the-art facility for the rearing of up to 180,000 pounds of rainbow trout annually, for stocking in southern Nevada and other locations in the State. Unfortunately, the subsequent detection of invasive quagga mussels in Lake Mead combined with high water temperatures from low Lake Mead storage levels has precluded trout production for the immediate future and trout rearing activities were suspended in 2007 until a practical solution to these problems could be found. Funding provided by native fish programs has allowed limited rearing of certain Nevada native fish species such as razorback suckers which can tolerate warmer water temperatures, for release into the Colorado River system.

Partners for Conservation and Development

The Nevada Partners for Conservation and Development (NPCD) was formed in 2010 to provide leadership and a forum for collaborative, landscape scale and scientifically based habitat restoration program in Nevada. The NPCD established a process for project development with a "ground-up" approach and focus on local partners, as modeled by the Utah Partners for Conservation and Development group. This model provides strong evidence that working in a genuinely collaborative and cross boundary fashion will show results in the form of increasingly healthy habitat and the ability to respond to large ecological problems.

Funding for Wildlife Conservation on Private Lands

- ***NDOW Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)***

The primary objective of LIP is to protect and restore habitats on private lands to benefit Species of Conservation Priority; those species which are federally listed, proposed, or candidate species as well as other species determined to be at risk. The LIP program provides technical and financial assistance to private landowners for habitat protection and restoration. <http://www.ndow.org/wild/conservation/lip/>

- ***Question 1 – Nevada's Conservation Bond***

In 2002, Nevadans voted and passed the \$200 million Question 1 Bond Initiative, authorizing the state to issue bonds for projects to protect and preserve natural resources in Nevada. NDOW received \$27.5 million for the acquisition of property to enhance, protect, and manage wildlife and wildlife habitat, or enhance recreational opportunities related to wildlife, for the development and renovation of facilities and the improvement of existing habitats for fish and other wildlife.

Through the Question 1 Bond Initiative funding, NDOW and partners have undertaken several conservation-based planning projects that have expanded the scientific understanding of some of Nevada's habitat and species or increased protections of wildlife and habitat through the implementation of strategic actions. These projects include the Nevada Springs Conservation Plan, Nevada Comprehensive Bird Conservation Plan, Bird Habitat Conservation through County Planning, and the Wildlife Action Plan Revision with climate change analyses.

Nevada's Wildlife Conservation Partners

The following list of agencies and organizations represents our best attempt to inventory all the entities that have participated in the mission of wildlife conservation in Nevada, currently maintain responsibility for or interest in wildlife conservation, and are expected to continue to do so.

Federal Agencies

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. In Nevada, the Fish and Wildlife Service focuses its efforts in three primary program areas: Ecological Services, Fisheries, and National Wildlife Refuges. Nevada also receives technical assistance from their regional office programs, most notably the Office of Migratory Bird Management. <http://www.fws.gov/nevada/>

- ***Ecological Services Program***

This program provides technical assistance and project funding in three basic subject areas – endangered species, habitat conservation, and environmental contaminants. The staff assesses species and habitat status, threats, and conservation needs; and work in partnership with others to develop species management and recovery plans, conservation strategies and agreements, species listing packages and petition responses. The Fish and Wildlife Service also offers a variety of private landowner conservation tools and funding opportunities. Safe Harbor Agreements provide benefits for listed species while also providing regulatory assurances to landowners. Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances provide incentives for non-Federal landowners to conserve species that are candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act. The Partners for Fish and Wildlife program offers cost-share grant funding to landowners for managing and restoring habitats on their private lands.

- ***Fisheries***

This program maintains partnerships with States, Tribes, Federal agencies, other USFWS programs, and private interests in a larger effort to conserve fish and other aquatic resources in Nevada. The Lahontan National Fish Hatchery Complex is an integrated fishery program that includes the Nevada Fishery Resource Office, Lahontan National Fish Hatchery (NFH), and Marble Bluff Fish Passage Facility. The program encompasses nearly all fishery program activities including fish passage, production and tagging programs, in-stream flow management, strain evaluation, and habitat restoration. Lahontan NFH houses an important broodstock of the original Pyramid Lake strain of Lahontan cutthroat trout that will be critical for re-establishing wild populations of Lahontan cutthroat trout to the Pyramid/Truckee River and Walker Lake basins.

- ***National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs)***

The Fish and Wildlife Service administers about 890,310 hectares (2.2 million acres) of land on nine wildlife refuges in Nevada. These lands are managed primarily for their fish, wildlife, and habitat values although other compatible uses may also occur there.

Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex includes four refuges in southern Nevada – Ash Meadows, Desert Range, Moapa Valley, and Pahrangat. <http://www.fws.gov/desertcomplex/>

- *Ash Meadows NWR*, located in the Amargosa Valley of southern Nye County, consists of over 9,310 hectares (23,000 acres) of spring-fed wetlands and alkaline desert uplands providing habitat for at least 24 plants and animals found nowhere else in the world. Ash Meadows has a greater concentration of endemic species than any other local area in the United States and the second greatest in all of North America.
- *Desert National Wildlife Range*, the largest National Wildlife Refuge in the lower 48 states, encompasses 607,000 hectares (1.5 million acres) of Mojave Desert habitats and ecological communities in southern Nevada. The Refuge contains six major mountain ranges, the highest rising from 750 m (2,500-foot) valleys to nearly 3,050 m (10,000 feet). Management of desert bighorn sheep and their habitat is the most important objective of the range, although the refuge also provides habitat for the diversity of Mojave Desert wildlife.
- *Moapa Valley NWR*, located in northeastern Clark County, was established to protect the endangered Moapa dace, a small endemic fish present only in the headwaters of the Muddy River system. Dace habitat on the refuge consists of stream channels supported by six thermal springs.
- *Pahranagat NWR* is located in Lincoln County. The Refuge provides habitat for migratory birds, especially waterfowl. Pahranagat's water originates from large springs to the north of the refuge. The wetland habitats of Pahranagat support a variety of plant species favored as food by over 230 species of migratory birds and other resident wildlife. The refuge has four main water impoundments.

Ruby Lake NWR, located in extreme southeastern Elko County and northern White Pine County, consists of 15,230 hectares (37,630 acres) of marsh, meadow, and sagebrush habitat. It lies in a closed drainage basin along the eastern flank of the rugged and scenic Ruby Mountains. Ruby Lake NWR is an important nesting area for a variety of ducks and water birds. <http://www.fws.gov/rubylake/>

Sheldon NWR, located in the extreme northwest corner of Nevada in Washoe and Humboldt Counties, protects more than 202,345 hectares (500,000 acres) of high desert habitat for large herds of pronghorn antelope, flocks of Greater Sage-Grouse, and a rich assortment of other wildlife. The landscape is vast, rugged, and punctuated with waterfalls, narrow gorges, and lush springs among rolling hills and expansive tablelands of sagebrush and mountain-mahogany. <http://www.fws.gov/sheldonthartmtn/Sheldon>

The *Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge Complex* includes three northern Nevada refuges – Stillwater and Fallon near the town of Fallon, and Anaho Island in Pyramid Lake. <http://www.fws.gov/stillwater/>

- *Stillwater NWR* is located in the Lahontan Valley, near the community of Fallon, 100 km (60 miles) east of Reno. The Stillwater wetlands are well-known to birders, as this area has been designated a site of international importance by the Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network because of the hundreds of thousands of shorebirds passing through during migration. Also listed as a 'Globally Important Bird Area' by the American Bird Conservancy, more than 280 species have been sighted in the area. These tremendously rich and diverse wetlands attract more than 250,000 waterfowl each year, as well as over 20,000 other water birds.
- *Fallon NWR*, located in the Lahontan Valley near the town of Fernley, includes gently rolling to flat

desert shrublands consisting of greasewood and saltbush. A system of both active and stable dunes also accentuates the topography in this area. The terminus of a branch of the Carson River occurs on the Fallon NWR, providing habitat for both waterfowl and upland game.

- *Anaho Island NWR* is located near the eastern shoreline of Pyramid Lake. The refuge is a sanctuary for colonial nesting birds, primarily American White Pelicans. Anaho Island is isolated within the Pyramid Lake Paiute Indian Reservation, but is managed by the Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System under an agreement with the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe.

- ***Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program***

The goal of the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is to work with private and Tribal landowners who want to voluntarily improve fish, wildlife, and plant habitat on their lands. The program provides cost-share funding and technical expertise to these landowners. The Nevada Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is coordinate by Service staff biologists in Reno, Elko, and Las Vegas. The program's focus is on improvement of wetland, riparian, sagebrush/grasslands, desert scrub, wet-meadow, and aquatic habitats to benefit migratory birds, and threatened, endangered and other sensitive or declining species.

<http://www.fws.gov/nevada/partners/index.html>

The ***Office of Migratory Bird Management of the Fish and Wildlife Service*** is dedicated to conserving migratory bird populations and their habitats in sufficient quantities to prevent them from being considered as threatened or endangered; and to ensure the citizens of the United States continued opportunities to enjoy both consumptive and nonconsumptive uses of migratory birds and their habitats.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Approximately 68 percent of the State of Nevada's land base is under multiple use management by BLM. Resource Management Plans provide management guidance for individual BLM districts, including standards and guidelines for maintaining or improving the various resources that occur within that district. BLM programs must consider wildlife, habitats, and sensitive species issues in their decision-making processes. In addition, the individual districts have responsibility for proactively managing critical wildlife resources such as endangered species, and riparian and wetland habitats, and regularly participate in various partner-based efforts such as the Governor's sage grouse team, species recovery implementation teams, and game projects.

The BLM also manages the public landscape under regionally focused efforts such as the Great Basin Restoration Initiative, or on a more local scale, under guidance provided in area plans. For example, there are three National Conservation Areas and several designated wilderness areas managed by BLM in Nevada, as well as numerous Wilderness Study Areas that are managed for their natural character. In collaboration with the University of Nevada, BLM initiated a Great Basin Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit with a mission of providing research, technical assistance and education to address resource issues and assist inter-disciplinary problem-solving in an ecosystem context. <http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en.html>

National Park Service (NPS)

NPS lands in Nevada include Great Basin National Park in White Pine County, a portion of Lake Mead National Recreation Area in Clark County, and a small corner of Death Valley National Park in Nye and Esmeralda counties. The mission of the NPS is to preserve, protect, and manage biological resources and related ecosystem

processes in the National Park System. Accordingly, the individual parks take a proactive ecosystem-based approach to management, and maintain active programs devoted to management of park resources for the protection of wildlife, endangered species, and habitats. <http://www.nps.gov/nv/>

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS)

The USFS administers approximately eight percent of the land base in the state, primarily as the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, the largest National Forest in the lower 48 states. A small portion of the Forest Service lands in Nevada are managed by the Inyo National Forest and the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. The Humboldt-Toiyabe is comprised of 10 Ranger Districts, each geographically separated by a vast landscape of public lands. The Forest Service manages their landscape under the direction of Forest Plans that provide standards and guidelines for managing natural resources. The Humboldt-Toiyabe Forest Plan is currently being revised. <http://www.fs.usda.gov/htnf/>

Department of Defense (DOD)

In Nevada, DOD manages more than 2,023,428 hectares (5 million acres) of lands, including the Nellis Air Force Range, Fallon Naval Air Station, and Hawthorne Army Munitions Depot. DOD lands are typically closed to public and multiple uses. As a result, many portions of these installations are relatively unfragmented and undisturbed. In 1990, Congress passed legislation establishing the Legacy Resource Management Program to provide financial assistance to DOD efforts to preserve natural and cultural heritage. The program assists DOD in protecting and enhancing resources while also supporting military readiness. The DOD has partnered with The Nature Conservancy partners and other partners on the Legacy Program to develop conservation area plans for both the Hawthorne installation and Fallon NAS.

Department of Energy (DOE)

The DOE's only significant land base in the State is the Nevada Test Site (NTS) located in Nye County, in southcentral Nevada. The NTS is one of the largest restricted access areas in the United States. The remote site is surrounded by thousands of additional acres of land withdrawn from the public domain by Nellis Air Force Range and the Desert National Wildlife Range. All together, these lands comprise an unpopulated land area of approximately 14,165 square kilometers (5,470 square miles). Public access to the Nevada Test Site is strictly controlled; therefore the wildlife habitats are generally in good condition. Habitat types include various desert scrub and lower montane woodland systems. <http://www.nv.doe.gov/default.htm>

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBoR)

USBOR maintains active environmental programs at both ends of the State. The Lahontan Basin Area Office provides management and oversight for Reclamation activities and interests in the three river basins which make up the Lahontan Basin Area. The area managed includes the Carson, Truckee, and Humboldt River basins. The major programs of the Lahontan Basin Area Office are primarily related to water rights on the Truckee River and the operation of the Newlands Project. The water right issues are complicated by the endangered cui-ui and the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout in Pyramid Lake, the trust responsibility of the Secretary to both the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Indian Tribe, and their obligation to provide water for the Lahontan Valley wetlands. <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/lbao>

The Lower Colorado Region office of USBR manages the Colorado River to meet water and power delivery obligations, enhance outdoor recreation opportunities, and provide flood control. Associated with these activities, the USBR has programs focused on protection of endangered species and enhancement of native habitats for Colorado River fishes and riparian birds. <http://www.usbr.gov/lc/>

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

The NRCS provides conservation assistance to agricultural producers, Native American tribes, units of state and local government, and other Federal agencies in the planning, development and implementation of conservation systems. The purposes of these conservation systems are to reduce erosion, improve soil and water quality, improve and conserve wetlands, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, improve air quality, improve pasture and range condition, reduce upstream flooding and improve woodlands. NRCS offers a variety of incentive-based conservation programs aimed at species and habitat conservation including: the Wetlands Reserve Program, Grassland Reserve Program, Environmental Quality Incentive Program, and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program. NRCS continually strives to build, develop, facilitate, and promote cooperative conservation partnerships. NRCS and partnering agencies administer programs to assist farmers, ranchers, and other landowners in conserving natural resources. Many of these programs identify at-risk species and the conservation of critical habitat as a priority. These programs provide technical, as well as financial, assistance in order to achieve the implementation of appropriate conservation systems. The NV WAP will be used to help direct program funds to assist in the conservation of priority species and habitat types. <http://www.nv.nrcs.usda.gov>.

- *Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)* offers landowners assistance to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property. The NRCS provides technical and financial support to help landowners with their wetland restoration efforts. The NRCS' goal is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, along with optimum wildlife habitat, on every acre enrolled in the program.
- *Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)* provides assistance for developing and improving wildlife habitat, primarily on private land. Under this program, NRCS provides both technical assistance and up to 75 percent cost-share assistance to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat.
- *Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)* provides a conservation program for farmers and ranchers that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible national goals. EQIP offers financial and technical help to assist eligible participants install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The EPA develops and enforces regulations that implement environmental laws passed by Congress, including the Clean Water Act. Research grants are available through this agency to answer a broad range of questions associated with environmental quality. Nevada is situated in EPA Region 9 which maintains its regional office in San Francisco, California. Current areas of focus in Nevada include Lake Tahoe and the Carson River, SW ReGAP, and the Declining Amphibian Population Task Force (especially declining amphibians in southern Nevada). <http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/region9.html>

USDA APHIS Wildlife Services

The Wildlife Services division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) provides assistance in resolving conflicts between wildlife and people. Wildlife Services personnel address issues of wildlife depredations on agricultural crops, livestock, and property as well as respond to wildlife-related issues of public safety. In Nevada, offices are maintained in Reno and Las Vegas and field agents are stationed in several rural areas around the state.

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/state_office/nevada_info.shtml

Desert Terminal Lakes

Provides \$200 million to the Department of Interior to find ways to provide water to at-risk natural desert terminal lakes, such as Pyramid Lake, Summit Lake, and Walker Lake. Currently, the Desert Terminal Lakes program is managed by the Bureau of Reclamation office.

U.S. Geological Survey – Biological Research Division (BRD)

The mission of BRD is to provide science expertise to support sound management and conservation of the Nation's biological resources. In Nevada, BRD research is focused in on population biology and species-habitat relationships of desert fishes; ecology and physiology of desert tortoise and other Mojave Desert reptiles; and fire ecology of Mojave Desert ecological systems. <http://www.werc.usgs.gov/>

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE)

Provides engineering services for designing, building and operating water resources and other civil works projects. In Nevada, the COE is a partner in various habitat management efforts, including restoration of the Truckee River through Reno and Sparks, and mitigation programs for aquatic species in water streams, rivers, and lakes throughout the state. <http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/>

State Agencies

Nevada Natural Heritage Program (NNHP)

The mission of the NNHP is to help coordinate the resource needs of Nevada's diverse biological heritage with human activities. This is primarily achieved through the maintenance of an inventory and current databases on the locations, biology, and conservation status of all threatened, endangered, and sensitive species and biological communities in the state. Heritage also participates in and contributes to various species conservation strategies, mostly notably, the Nevada Bat Conservation Plan, amphibian conservation strategies, and aquatic species recovery implementation teams.

The NNHP uses the best available biological data to evaluate conservation priorities for over 700 kinds of native animals, plants, vegetation types, and their habitats—those at greatest risk of extinction or serious decline—and supplies information and technical services to meet diverse conservation, planning, development, land management, and research needs. NNHP provides the citizens of Nevada with a cost-effective early warning system, designed to minimize future resource conflicts, and to help prevent species from becoming threatened or endangered by encouraging less costly, less burdensome, and more proactive conservation measures. The

NNHP is a contributing member of NatureServe, a network connecting science with conservation, consisting of natural heritage programs and conservation data centers found across the United States, Canada, and Latin America. It is also part of the National Biological Information Infrastructure.

The NNHP is the lead state resource agency for development of the Nevada Wetland Information System and Geographic Information System and the preparation of the Nevada Wetland Priority Conservation Plan. The purpose of these projects is to create, maintain and update a biological, technical, and institutional information base and make it available for preparation of a comprehensive state conservation strategy; as a supporting element for various agency and collaborative plans involving wetlands, aquatic habitats, watershed, wildlife, sensitive species, outdoor recreation and other natural resources; and, for projects to conserve, restore, or develop wetland resources. <http://heritage.nv.gov/>

Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF)

Manages forestry, nursery, endangered plant species, and watershed resource activities on certain public and private lands; and provides fire protection for natural resources through fire suppression and prevention, post-fire rehabilitation, and prescribed burning. NDF resource programs that provide assistance to private landowners for proper management of forests and piñon-juniper woodlands also can result in conservation and enhancement of wildlife habitat on privately-owned land. <http://forestry.nv.gov/>

- *Forest Stewardship Program and Stewardship Incentives Program (SIP)* offer cost shares and grants to assist landowners with implementation of conservation projects such as reforestation, wildlife habitat improvement, and soil and water conservation.
- *Nursery and Seedbank Program* provides native and adapted plant materials, seedlings and seed, for post-burn rehabilitation, riparian restoration, and other conservation projects on federal, state, and private lands.

NDF, in conjunction with the Department of Corrections, operates the Conservation Camp Program that provides trained and equipped inmate crews to fight fires and assist on resource conservation projects. The program provides a statewide labor force for vegetation management and other worthwhile conservation projects.

Nevada Division of State Parks (NDSP)

Manages 24 State Parks across the state with three primary purposes – historical preservation, resource protection, and outdoor recreation. Several State Park properties contain key habitats for some of Nevada’s Species of Conservation Priority, including California Spotted Owl, Northern Goshawk, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and Yuma Clapper Rail. Each State Park operates under a Master Plan that identifies resource values such as important wildlife species and habitats. Park operations are designed to meet stewardship responsibility for the management of these natural resources with minimum impacts. Several properties have “backcountry” designations with specific backcountry management goals and objectives that focus on resource maintenance and protection. <http://parks.nv.gov/>

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP)

As the lead agency for the protection of water quality and achievement of standards, NDEP implements programs to address nonpoint source pollution. The *Division's Bureau of Water Quality Planning* annually awards federal Clean Water Act Section 319 funds through the Nonpoint Source Program for projects that reduce, eliminate, or prevent Non-point source pollution. With an emphasis on the watershed approach, many types of water quality improvement projects also enhance habitat conditions for wildlife. Funded projects include seeding eroding upland slopes with native and adapted grasses, forbs, and shrubs; stabilizing eroding channel banks; rehabilitating riparian areas; and constructing fences and livestock watering systems to control livestock access to riparian areas. <http://ndep.nv.gov/>

The ***Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation*** regulates mining activities in Nevada to ensure that Nevada's waters are not degraded by mining operations and that the lands disturbed by mining operations are reclaimed to ensure a productive post-mining land use. The Reclamation Branch regulates exploration and mining operations in Nevada on private and public lands. An operator must obtain a reclamation permit prior to construction of any exploration, mining, or milling activity that will disturb over 2 hectares (5 acres) or remove in excess of 37,085 metric tons (36,500 tons) of earth materials. In coordination with NDOW, the Bureau of Mining Regulation and Reclamation can help ensure that permitted mining related activities minimize impacts on wildlife and their habitats; including the conservation of subterranean habitats for bat roosting, reproduction, and hibernation. <http://ndep.nv.gov/bmrr/index.htm>

Nevada Division of Minerals (NDOM)

Conducts a program to identify inactive mines in the State, rank their degree of hazard and carry out activities to secure the sites, through owners or division staff. Through a cooperative agreement between the division and the BLM, abandoned mines scheduled for closure can be assessed for their values as wildlife habitats and measures may be taken to retain their habitat values. <http://minerals.state.nv.us/>

Nevada Division of State Lands (NDSL)

Offers planning assistance to local governments in preparation of master plans and public land policy plans. The NDSL also conducts community planning training workshops for local government officials and residents. These are opportunities to coordinate planning activities that influence wildlife habitat. The Division of State Lands also represents state and local interests, including those related to wildlife and habitat management, on federal land management projects.

Two other projects in which the NDSL is involved present opportunities to increase public awareness of the importance of wildlife conservation efforts, and perhaps could lead to added support for local wildlife planning. The NDSL is assisting the Governor's office with implementation of the Western Governors Association (WGA) Enlibra Program. Case studies of local collaborative planning projects, such as were recently convened for sage grouse, are being developed for a western U.S. Enlibra Summit. Lessons learned from the case studies and at the Summit may lead to a WGA effort to obtain resources to assist local collaborative planning groups. The Governor's office and the NDSL are also updating Nevada's Public Land Policy Plan. Related action items are being identified that might benefit wildlife in conservation need along with other public land resources and nearby communities. <http://lands.nv.gov/>

Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDOA)

NDOA encourages the advancement and protection of agriculture and related industries for the benefit of Nevada citizens. NDOA works in a voluntary manner with interested landowners to address issues involving production agriculture. Because a large portion of the agricultural production in Nevada is dependent on access to and use of natural resources located on public lands, the department is often involved in the resource issues associated with these activities. The NDOA Natural Resource Program is involved in all aspects of natural resource management or environmental regulation that affects, or is affected by, agriculture in Nevada. Due to staffing and budgetary limitations, this program usually focuses on broad programmatic issues, as opposed to specific issues or situations affecting individuals.

NDOA has primary responsibility for the enforcement of noxious weed laws and for control of noxious weeds for the protection of agricultural and natural resources. The agency is also responsible for Nevada's Coordinated Invasive Weed Strategy, which works from a platform of collaborative, linked efforts to prevent, control, and manage invasive weed species. NDOA, in conjunction with the University of Nevada's Cooperative Extension, the USDA Agricultural Research Service, and the NRCS, helps to build awareness of economically acceptable farming and ranching practices that aid in the conservation of wildlife and their habitats.

Other program activities include maintenance of the Department's public land grazing trend data base and economic analysis; administration of the Nevada Agricultural Mediation Service – a state program funded by a USDA grant. NDOA administers Section 8 Review process (Pesticide Registration Improvement Act)—a program designed to provide conflict resolution among BLM, USFS and permittees at the allotment level. NDOA works with the Board of Agriculture and other state agencies to develop state policies and comments on natural resource and public land issues and participates in the Executive Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) process and other similar processes in the state. The agency provides input into various land and resource planning processes throughout the state, and organizes and supports the Department's Environmental Action Committee. <http://agri.state.nv.us/>

Tribal Lands and Governments

Nevada includes 19 federally recognized Native American tribes comprised of 28 separate tribes, bands, and community councils. The estimated land area that they collectively own and manage is approximately 485,625 hectares (1.2 million acres). Tribal lands include colonies, reservations, allotments, ranches, tribal fee land, federal land, government-owned land, and trust lease lands. Wildlife resources on these lands are typically managed through established wildlife and fisheries management programs, sometimes in partnership with Federal and State resource agencies. For example, the Pyramid Lake Tribe actively manages their cui-ui and Lahontan cutthroat trout resources and maintains working partnerships with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Nevada Department of Wildlife.

A few other ongoing and active tribal wildlife efforts include the Duckwater Tribe's cooperative relationship with the USFWS to manage for Railroad Valley springfish, and the partnership between the Moapa Band of Paiutes and various others to manage for riparian and aquatic wildlife on the upper Muddy River. Recently, the Summit Lake Paiute Tribe received funding to establish a Greater Sage-Grouse conservation program and the Walker River Paiute Tribe has established a fisheries program focusing on Lahontan cutthroat trout.

The Nevada Indian Commission is a state agency created to study matters affecting the social and economic

welfare and well-being of American Indians residing in Nevada. Commission activities are aimed at developing and improving cooperation and communications among the Tribes, State, local governments, and related public agencies. The Commission serves as liaison between the State and the 19 federally recognized tribes. The Commission has assisted state agencies and Tribes with issues affecting Nevada's American Indian constituency and serves as a forum in which Indian needs and issues are considered. The Commission is a conduit by which concerns involving Native American Indians or Tribal interests are channeled through the appropriate network and serves as the point of access for Tribes to learn about state government programs and policies.

Another entity that focuses on Nevada's tribes and tribal members is the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada. The main intent of ITCN is to serve as a large political body for the small Nevada Tribes. From that point in time, ITCN has played a major role in promoting Health, Educational, Social, Economic, and Job Opportunity Programs. ITCN now manages Federal and State funded programs aimed at improving the well-being of community members throughout the State of Nevada. <http://www.itcn.org/ITCN%20Home.html>

Nevada's Local Government Agencies and Programs

Nevada Association of Counties (NACO)

A nonpartisan, nonprofit corporation, owned, organized, and operated by Nevada's county governments that has a membership composed of Nevada's county governments and represents all 17 Nevada counties. The mission of NACO is to "encourage county government to adopt and maintain a spirit of local, regional, state, and national cooperation which will result in public policy that optimizes the management of county personnel, financial, and natural resources; to provide courteous and effective services that will earn and maintain the public trust in county government." <http://nvnaco.org/>

Counties

Nevada's counties are integral partners in any wildlife management plans and programs. County roles will vary widely, depending on individual project goals, but may include the participation of parks and recreation departments, animal control divisions, or urban redevelopment committees. Many counties were closely involved with the local sage grouse working groups in developing the local area plans that were incorporated into the Governor's sage grouse effort.

Several counties have incorporated wildlife standards and guidelines directly into their planning efforts. For example, Churchill County developed wildlife standards for their Quality of Life plan, while Clark County convened the Environmentally Sensitive Lands Committee to identify sideboards for future development. Lincoln County has developed a county-wide multi-species habitat conservation plan while Lyon County has developed a middle Carson River centric habitat conservation plan. A variety of other local entities guide wildlife management activities in Nevada.

Conservation Districts

Conservation Districts coordinate assistance from public and private, local, state and federal entities, in an effort to develop locally driven solutions to natural resource concerns. In Nevada, there are currently 28 conservation districts. Similarly, Town Advisory Boards can play a role in monitoring and advising the effects of agency programs on their local communities. <http://www.nacdnet.org/about/districts/directory/nv.phtml>

Water Management Entities

Water Authorities, Water Districts, and Irrigation Districts may also participate in wildlife management activities. The **Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA)** mission is to manage the region’s water resources and develop solutions that will ensure adequate future water supplies for the Las Vegas Valley. The SNWA develops and manages a “flexible portfolio of diverse water resources.” This portfolio includes a variety of Colorado River and in-state resources, including both surface water and groundwater rights and groundwater applications. As a matter of course, the SNWA evaluates the potential impacts of its actions on the environment and strives to balance resource needs with the preservation of wildlife habitat. Accordingly, their environmental research division coordinates with agencies and other entities to use science to inform their decision making process.

The **Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA)** was formed in 2000 as a collaboration among the Cities of Reno and Sparks, and Washoe County, as a means of efficiently managing water resources. Other bodies that may play a role in wildlife management include local irrigation or water districts.

Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) is a bi-state agency charged with protecting Lake Tahoe through maintenance of a clean, healthy and sustainable lake environment. The TRPA sets goals and standards for Environmental Thresholds carrying capacities for fish and wildlife habitat (and other resources), and enforces implementing ordinances to achieve and maintain such capacities while providing opportunities for orderly growth and development consistent with such capacities. The Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) is a multi-partner cooperative effort to define restoration needs for achieving the thresholds.

Conservation Organizations

The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

The Mission of The Nature Conservancy is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. TNC has developed a strategic, science-based planning process, called Conservation by Design, which helps identify the highest-priority places—landscapes that, if conserved, promise to ensure biodiversity over the long term. Taken together, these landscapes form a vision of conservation success and a roadmap for getting there—the Conservation Blueprint. TNC has five priority conservation initiatives to address the principal threats to conservation at the sites where they work, focusing on fire, climate change, freshwater, marine, and invasive species. TNC works to preserve lands and waters for future generations by working with communities, businesses, governments, partner organizations, indigenous people and communities.

The Nature Conservancy’s Nevada program is focused on protecting a suite of high priority conservation areas through stewardship and partnership. Current programs are addressing conservation needs on the Truckee, Carson, and Amargosa, in eastern Nevada’s sagebrush and piñon-juniper habitats, and in high biodiversity areas throughout the state with a current emphasis on those dependent upon reliable water supplies.

<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/nevada/index.htm>

American Land Conservancy (ALC)

A national organization that protects land for the benefit of people and wildlife. ALC works in partnership with

communities, private landowners, local land trusts, and public land agencies to find effective conservation solutions for threatened natural resources. ALC uses techniques such as land acquisition, conservation easements, and the acquisition of water rights, grazing leases or other interests in land. ALC's projects in Nevada lie primarily in the vicinity of the Carson Range. <http://www.alcnet.org/>

Nevada Land Conservancy

A Nevada-based land trust working with landowners and communities to protect and preserve open space for an enhanced quality of life. With the help of members, volunteers, land owners, businesses and government agencies, the Nevada Land Conservancy protects special places through acquisition, easement, open space planning, outreach and environmental restoration. <http://www.nvlc.org/>

Trust for Public Land (TPL)

A national land conservation organization that conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, community gardens, historic sites, rural lands, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come. TPL's conservation work focuses on protection strategies for parklands, working landscapes, natural areas, and sites of cultural, historic, and aesthetic significance. TPL also offers conservation planning services for agencies and communities. TPL has active projects across the state. <http://www.tpl.org/>

The Conservation Fund

Working through partnerships to preserve wildlife habitat, working landscapes and community open-spaces. Since 1996 the Fund has worked with local ranchers, the BLM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Clark County to purchase willing sellers' grazing allotments on public lands and open space in Las Vegas Valley and Washoe Valley. <http://www.conservationfund.org/>

Desert Fishes Council (DFC)

Focused on preserving the biological integrity of desert aquatic ecosystems and their associated life forms, holds symposia to report related research and management endeavors, and effects rapid dissemination of information concerning activities of the Council and its members. Although DFC's main focus is desert fishes, other aquatic species associated with desert ecosystems (e.g. amphibians) are also included under its umbrella.

DFC was formed in response to impacts to habitats of the endemic fishes of Ash Meadows and nearby Death Valley from groundwater pumping for agricultural development. Concerned biologists and management agency officials convened a symposium to address the threats and protection and preservation of this unique fauna, and it was at this symposium, in November 1969, that the Desert Fishes Council was born.

<http://www.desertfishes.org/>

Audubon Society Nevada Important Bird Area Program

Audubon's Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program is statewide program designed to identify areas that provide exceptional habitat for birds at various times in their life history and to seek opportunities to help steward these areas. These IBAs embody interagency cooperation and public participation and contribute not only to a state and regional level understanding of bird habitat requirements, but to a national and global effort to protect

birds and their habitat. The Nevada IBA Program is part of a global partnership between National Audubon Society and BirdLife International. <http://www.nevadaudubon.org/iba.html>

Lahontan Audubon Society

Serves northern Nevada, representing 1,000 conservation-minded members, to help restore, preserve, and improve habitat for birds and other wildlife and to provide education about birds and their habitats in Nevada and adjacent areas of California. Members help protect and preserve the environment by participating in activities such as site clean-ups and improvements. They volunteer their time helping to educate the public about birds and bird habitat through birding classes, field trips, and school presentations, so the public may gain an appreciation for the environment and become good stewards of the land. <http://www.nevadaudubon.org/>

Red Rock Audubon Society

Serves southern Nevada and is the Las Vegas chapter of the National Audubon Society. Their mission is to protect, restore and improve the natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife, and to educate the public about our unique Nevada environment. Red Rock Audubon sponsors various meetings, educational programs, field trips, and volunteer events to facilitate bird conservation in southern Nevada. <http://www.redrockaudubon.org/>

Bristlecone Audubon Society

The newest chapter within Nevada is centered out of Elko and serves the northeastern corner of the state. Being a newcomer to the Audubon family, this chapter has been focused on providing field trips, Christmas Bird Counts, and volunteer events. <http://bristleconeaudubon.webnode.com/>

Sierra Club

As America's oldest, largest, and most influential grassroots environmental organization, the Sierra Club's mission includes exploring, enjoying and protecting the wild places of the earth; practicing and promoting the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; educating and enlisting humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and using all lawful means to carry out these objectives. The Sierra Club has two chapters in Nevada. <http://nevada.sierraclub.org/>

Truckee River Yacht Club

Works for the betterment of the Truckee River from its source in Lake Tahoe to its terminus at Pyramid Lake. The Truckee River Yacht Club works on a variety of issues including water quality and maintaining minimum flows, improving dams to allow fish movements through the watershed, improving access for recreational users, minimizing human impacts in the river's floodplain, and volunteer based river clean-up efforts. <http://www.truckeeriver.org/dev/about.php>

Walker Lake Working Group

The task of this group is to prevent the collapse of the Walker Lake ecosystem and improve the health of the lake. The Group works to build public support for a long-term solution to protect the lake without jeopardizing

the upstream community. The group has three specific goals: the reestablishment of spawning runs of the Lahontan cutthroat trout; delivery of sufficient water to the lake so that Total Dissolved Solids (salt) levels are low enough to support the Walker Lake ecosystem; and, to acquire and transfer water rights for environmental and recreational purposes. <http://www.walkerlake.org/>

Declining Amphibian Population Task Force (DAPTF)

Established in 1991 by the Species Survival Commission of the World Conservation Union (IUCN), in response to an emerging pattern of global amphibian declines. Its mission is to determine the nature, extent, and causes of declines of amphibians throughout the world, and to promote means by which declines can be halted or reversed. DAPTF includes approximately 90 Regional Working Groups that focus on collecting data on amphibian declines and their causes. Other issue-based working groups include Disease and Pathology, Monitoring Techniques, Chemical Contaminants, Climatic and Atmospheric Change, and Captive Breeding. The California/Nevada Chapter meets approximately annually, focusing on these issues as they apply to California and Nevada populations. <http://www.canvamphibs.com/>

Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC)

An inclusive partnership dedicated to the conservation of the herpetofauna (reptiles and amphibians) and their habitats. Membership includes individuals from state and federal agencies, conservation organizations, museums, pet trade industry, nature centers, zoos, industries, herpetological organizations, research laboratories, forest industries, and environmental consultants. PARC focuses on habitat, endangered and threatened species, and keeping common native species common. <http://www.parcplace.org/>

Wildlife and Habitat Improvement of Nevada (WHIN)

A sportsman and conservation organization devoted to the maintenance and betterment of Nevada's wildlife populations and their habitat. Many of the members devote countless hours to carry out work projects and to plan and execute the annual banquet, picnic and other social activities. Funds raised by WHIN are used to purchase materials for field projects, for contributions to government agencies such as NDOW for specific purposes, such as wildlife research and habitat improvement; or, to make donations to, or pool resources with, other non-profit organizations for wildlife management projects in Nevada. <http://www.whinlv.org/>

Nevada Wilderness Coalition

An affiliation of various wilderness advocacy organizations, including Friends of Nevada Wilderness, the Nevada Wilderness Project, The Wilderness Society, Campaign for America's Wilderness, Nevada Outdoor Recreation Association, and Red Rock Audubon Society. Collectively these organizations represent more than 7,000 Nevadans. <http://www.wildnevada.org/>

Great Basin Land and Water (GBLW)

A non-profit Nevada corporation established to acquire water rights for conservation, in order to benefit the long-term ecological health of the Truckee River and Pyramid Lake. GBLW works with the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and local governments to improve water quality in the Truckee River. <http://www.greatbasinlandandwater.org/>

Lahontan Wetlands Coalition

An informal group of representatives from the Sierra Club, Lahontan Audubon Society, Nevada Waterfowl Association, and other interested people and organizations focused on obtaining water for wetlands in the Lahontan Valley, transferring Carson Lake to the State of Nevada, encouraging cooperative management of water between the state of Nevada and federal agencies to sustain wetland dependent birds, and assisting with habitat improvements.

HawkWatch International (HWI)

The mission of this organization is to monitor and protect hawks, eagles, other birds of prey and their environments through research, education, and conservation. HWI and its organizational precursors have been studying the fall raptor migration in the Goshute Mountains of northeastern Nevada since 1980. In addition to gathering important scientific data, the Goshute project provides opportunities for the public to learn about the ecology and conservation needs of raptors through on-site environmental education and interpretation conducted by full-time volunteer educators. <http://www.hawkwatch.org/>

League to Save Lake Tahoe

This organization has advocated for the protection and restoration of Lake Tahoe since 1957. The League is supported by more than 5,000 individuals and families. The League was instrumental in the creation of the TRPA and the development of a regional plan for the area. The League has developed a history of building public support for conservation of the Tahoe Basin, bringing science into public decision-making, winning litigation when necessary to enforce the law, and building consensus among business and government leaders in support of protecting and restoring Lake Tahoe. <http://keptahoebblue.org/>

Nevada Wildlife Federation

Dedicated to sustaining Nevada's natural resources for wildlife through conservation and education. The Federation is one of the oldest and largest conservation organizations in Nevada, founded in 1951 by sportsmen with an interest in wildlife. Today their membership is diversified and is involved not only in wildlife conservation, but related natural resource conservation issues. The Federation has 20 Affiliate member organizations in Nevada with more than 5,000 members. Its programs emphasize youth conservation education, installing stream structures to improve native trout habitat, fencing springs to prevent trampling by livestock and wild horses, developing educational materials for sage grouse, and counting sage grouse on leks each spring. <http://nvwf.org/>

Friends of Nevada Wilderness

Friends of Nevada Wilderness is dedicated to preserving all qualified Nevada public lands as wilderness, protecting all present and potential wilderness from ongoing threats, educating the public about the values of and need for wilderness, and improving the management and restoration of wild lands.

<http://www.nevadawilderness.org/>

Sportsman's Groups

Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife

A sportsmen conservationist group that provides a unified voice for sportsmen in the legislature. The Coalition represents all types of sportsmen, including big game, waterfowl, upland game, fishing, trapping, houndsmen, rod and gun clubs and general conservationists. During legislative sessions, the Coalition allows rapid dissemination of information to each Coalition member group pertaining to relevant wildlife issues.

Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn

A non-profit organization dedicated since 1964 to the utilization, conservation, and welfare of the desert bighorn sheep in Nevada. The organization offers support to various government agencies associated with the care and protection of the desert bighorn. In addition, the organization strives to inform the public as to many of the problems involving the desert bighorn sheep and our advancing civilization. <http://www.desertbighorn.com/>

Mule Deer Foundation (MDF)

Mule Deer Foundation and its corps of volunteers work to ensure the conservation of mule deer and blacktail deer and their habitats. MDF is headquartered in Reno and has over 10,000 members and approximately 65 chapters nationwide. MDF volunteers raise thousands of dollars to help fund habitat and conservation projects throughout the West. MDF's goals center on restoring, improving and protecting mule deer habitat, which results in self-sustaining, healthy, free-ranging, and huntable mule deer populations. MDF supports scientific research and is a co-founder of the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Alliance. MDF also implements conservation education programs. <http://www.muledeer.org/>

Nevada Bighorns Unlimited (NBU)

Nevada Bighorns Unlimited (NBU) was founded in 1981 by a small group of Nevada sportsmen and conservationists. Since its beginning, NBU has grown into a successful, action-oriented, non-profit organization with a membership base of over 3,500. NBU is an organization concerned with the conservation and management of not only bighorn sheep, but all of Nevada's wildlife. The organization's mission is to promote and enhance increasing populations of wildlife in Nevada, to fund programs for professional management and habitat improvements, and to protect the heritage of sportsmen and hunters. NBU has chapters in Midas, Elko, Fallon, and Reno. <http://nevadabighornsunlimited.org/>

Nevada Sportsman Coalition (NSC)

Nevada Sportsman Coalition (NSC) is dedicated to promoting the charitable works of conservation organizations to the general public and educating Nevada's population on issues facing sportsmen. Through their efforts, NSC encourages Nevada's youth to enroll in conservation education programs. Nevada sportsmen have contributed millions of dollars and thousands of hours to habitat and wildlife restoration. NSC recognizes that the survival of the sportsmen and their charitable efforts is tied to the public's continued interest in their works.

Nevada Trappers' Association

Nevada Trappers' Association promotes sound and sensible policies and opposes bad policies pertaining to furbearer management. The Association promotes the education of young trappers and the public, the latter regarding the consumptive use of wild animals as a necessary wildlife management tool. The Association also promotes the continuation of an annual fur harvest using the best tools presently available for that purpose. <http://www.nvtrappers.org/>

Ducks Unlimited (DU)

Ducks Unlimited (DU) conserves, restores, and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. Currently there are 26 active chapters in Nevada that raise funds for wildlife habitat projects through the sponsorship of local banquets and other events. DU provides representation to the Nevada Steering Committee of the Intermountain West Joint Venture. <http://www.ducks.org/nevada>

Nevada Waterfowl Association

Nevada Waterfowl Association's mission is to protect, restore and enhance Nevada's wetlands and the wildlife dependent upon them, especially waterfowl and shorebirds. Nevada Waterfowl Association is a family-oriented conservation organization that was created in 1987 by a group of individuals who were alarmed at the rate of loss of Nevada's unique desert wetlands. The organization works closely with agencies and other organizations, including the USFWS, NDOW, Lahontan Wetlands Coalition, DU, Canvasback Gun Club, Greenhead Hunting Club, and others to preserve Nevada's unique desert wetlands for future generations. <http://www.nevadawaterfowl.org/>

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF)

This organization's mission is to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife, and their habitat. The RMEF is committed to conserving, restoring and enhancing natural habitats; promoting the sound management of wild, free-ranging elk; fostering cooperation among federal, state and private organizations and individuals in wildlife management and habitat conservation; educating members and the public about habitat conservation, the value of hunting, hunting ethics and wildlife management. The RMEF meets its mission by funding habitat enhancement projects such as prescribed burns and water developments; wildlife management projects such as elk transplants and cooperative initiatives among elk and livestock interests; research on elk and their habitat to provide wildlife managers with information needed to manage elk; conservation education programs to increase the awareness of the importance of wildlife and their habitat with people of all ages; land conservation projects such as acquisitions and conservation easements; and hunting heritage projects to promote ethical hunting and ensure future hunting opportunities. <http://www.rmef.org/Conservation/WhereWeWork/Nevada/>

Safari Club International Foundation

Safari Club International Foundation is committed to providing value to members by shaping policies and legislation that protect the freedom to hunt locally, nationally and internationally; keeping members informed regarding issues that impact hunting while educating and entertaining members with engaging articles about the rich heritage of hunting in all forms of media; providing a community for hunters worldwide where camaraderie is enjoyed and expert information is exchanged, and where members are able to participate in a

market for quality hunting goods and services; promoting a positive image of hunters and portraying them as responsible citizens who fund wildlife conservation, education and other programs which benefit the community. <http://www.safariclubfoundation.org/>

Trout Unlimited (TU)

Trout Unlimited (TU) is dedicated to conserving, protecting, and restoring North America's trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds. TU accomplishes this mission on local, state and national levels with an extensive and dedicated volunteer network. TU's national and regional offices employ professionals who testify before Congress, publish a quarterly magazine, intervene in federal legal proceedings, and work with the organization's 125,000 volunteers in 500 chapters nationwide to keep them active and involved in conservation issues. TU has four chapters in Nevada. <http://www.tu.org/>

Truckee River Fly Fishers

A conservation and fly fishing club headquartered in Reno and are dedicated to improving and promoting the sport of fly fishing in Nevada by promoting and encouraging the conservation of game fish, especially wild trout, through the betterment of the streams and lakes in Nevada and the Eastern Sierra. They also encourage and assist youth to become fly fishermen and sportsmen. The group developed the Trout in the Classroom program now administered by NDOW in over 100 schools in Nevada. The group conducts river cleanups on the Truckee River and wraps trees to protect them from beaver damage and has also sponsored interpretive displays at the Verdi Nature Center.

Other Key Partners

Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition (ENLC)

The Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition (ENLC) is a community-based partnership of about 50 non-governmental partners including agricultural, conservation, cultural, environmental, private enterprise, and other interests. The mission of the ENLC is to restore the dynamic and diverse landscapes of the Great Basin for present and future generations through collaborative efforts. The Coalition's function is to assist in implementing the Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project, a strategy for implementing the Great Basin Restoration Initiative. The ENLC's function is to build partnerships, conduct fundraising, establish goals and objectives, determine the process, and provide science and technical assistance in landscape restoration. <http://www.envlc.org/>

Intermountain West Joint Venture

The mission of the Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV) is to facilitate the long-term conservation of key avian habitat including planning, funding, and developing habitat projects that benefit all biological components of Intermountain ecosystems. The IWJV achieves the mission by developing partnerships with private and public landowners who support habitat conservation, promoting the restoration and maintenance of all bird populations; and fostering the protection, restoration, and enhancement of wetlands, riparian habitats, and the widely diverse uplands characteristic of the region. Each state in the IWJV area has developed a Coordinated State Bird Plan to advance the mission of the IWJV. <http://www.iwvj.org>

Great Basin Bird Observatory (GBBO)

Formed in 1997, this non-profit organization is dedicated to the conservation and understanding of bird populations in the Great Basin and northern Mojave Desert. GBBO considers its role to be a catalyst for bringing together partners in bird monitoring, inventory, and bird habitat conservation planning, as well as for helping advance the skills of volunteers in bird conservation and knowledge of the interested public about Nevada's birds. GBBO emphasizes partnerships, applied research, building a volunteer community, and public education. Current projects include the Nevada Bird Count and the Aquatic Bird Count, statewide efforts to monitor and track trends in bird populations. <http://www.gbbo.org>

Nevada Mining Association

The Nevada Mining Association promotes modern mining conducted with environmental sensitivity and careful regard to the environment, assisting Nevada's mining industry in assigning high priority operating in an environmentally responsible manner, to protect wildlife, reclaim mined land, and employ new technologies to make operations environmentally safer. <http://www.nevadamining.org>

Universities

University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), and University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) maintain active teaching and research programs focused on wildlife ecology and conservation biology.

Faculty and students in UNR's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences are studying mammal behavior, habitat use by hawks, waterfowl, and shorebirds, grazing and riparian ecosystem function, forest processes, fire ecology, and nutrient cycling.

The University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Program is also housed at UNR. Its Natural Resources and other programs address a variety of topics related to management of Nevada's wildlife, including riparian habitat, sage grouse management, and invasive weeds. <http://www.unce.unr.edu>

UNLV's Department of Biological Sciences maintains an active research program, focused in part on ecology, biogeography, systematics, physiology, and genetics. UNLV scientists have conducted a variety of studies on local wildlife, including southern Nevada bats, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals.

Desert Research Institute

The Desert Research Institute (DRI) is the environmental research arm of the Nevada System of Higher Education. DRI conducts cutting-edge applied research in air, land and life, environment, renewable energy, and water quality across Nevada, the United States and on every continent.

Partnership-based Plans and Programs

Conservation programs, plans, agreements, and strategies typically involve a partnership among various public and private partners. These documents generally outline specific conservation measures to identify and reduce or eliminate threats to species, enhance their habitat, and maintain properly functioning ecosystems. Early conservation efforts preserve management options, minimize the cost of recovery, and reduce the potential for

restrictive land use policies in the future. Effective conservation may reverse a species' decline, ultimately eliminating the need for protection under the Endangered Species Act. There are a number of existing multi-partner conservation programs, plans, agreements, and strategies in place in Nevada.

Great Basin Environmental Program

A multi-state partnership to improve land health and ecosystem productivity with a proposal to provide new funding, establish partnerships and integrate efforts with federal agencies, state agencies, tribes, NGOs and the private sector to address critical environmental issues. <http://greatbasinenvironmentalprogram.org/>

Great Basin Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Provides research, technical assistance and education to federal land management, environmental and research agencies and their potential partners by developing a program of research, technical assistance and education that involves the biological, physical, social, and cultural sciences needed to address resources issues and interdisciplinary problem-solving at multiple scales and in an ecosystem context at the local, regional, and national level. <http://www.ag.unr.edu/gbcesu/>

Great Basin Landscape Conservation Cooperative

An applied science and management partnerships between Interior Department bureaus and others involved in natural resource management and conservation, designed to better integrate science and management to address climate change and related issues. http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/Great_Basin_LCC.html

Great Basin Information Project

Provides consolidated and efficient access to information about the Great Basin and the Columbia Plateau Regions. <http://greatbasin.nbii.gov>

Great Basin Research and Management Partnership

Promotes comprehensive and complementary research and management collaborations to sustain ecosystems, resources and communities across the Great Basin by providing a mechanism for assembling the diverse research and management groups working in the Great Basin to: 1) obtain consensus in identifying and prioritizing regional issues; 2) expand and help focus existing collaborative efforts; and 3) facilitate new teams to address emerging issues. It also provides critical information sharing capacity for both existing collaborations and new teams. <http://greatbasin.wr.usgs.gov/gbrmp/index.html>

Great Basin Restoration Initiative

Seeks to provide technical assistance and guidance, obtain funding, and keep the issue of the failing Great Basin ecosystems in the public's vision. <http://www.blm.gov/id/st/en/prog/gbri.html>

Sage Grouse Conservation Plan for Nevada and Portions of Eastern California (Governor's Sage Grouse Conservation Team and local Sage Grouse working groups).

In 2000, Governor Guinn appointed a team of approximately 25 people from diverse backgrounds and interests

to his Sage Grouse Conservation Team. The mission of the team, as defined by Governor Guinn, is “To conserve and protect Nevada’s sage grouse and their habitat.” To address both regional and statewide conservation concerns, the sage grouse conservation planning effort was broken down into seven different planning teams that included state and federal agency personnel, non-government partners and private stakeholders representing a wide variety of interests. Each team drafted a plan identifying local risks to sage grouse populations and identified actions to mitigate these risks. The Governor’s Sage Grouse Conservation Team incorporated the local plans and completed the Sage Grouse Conservation Plan for Nevada and Portions of Eastern California in 2004. With the submittal of the state plan to the USFWS, the State provided valuable information regarding the status and conservation needs of the Greater Sage-Grouse in Nevada.

Nevada Wetland Priority Conservation Plan (NvWP)

This plan was prepared by the Nevada Natural Heritage Program, in association with the Nevada Division of State Parks and NDOW. It is a required element of the Nevada Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), which was updated by the NDSP in 2003. Section 303 of the Emergency Wetlands Resources Act of 1986 (EWRA) directs states to prepare or update a wetland conservation plan as part of its SCORP every five years to maintain eligibility to receive federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (L&WCF) grants. In recent years, the NDSP received over \$1 million annually from the L&WCF. The NDSP applies the funds to acquire or develop land, water, or structures for outdoor recreation, including natural and cultural resources. Half of the state’s L&WCF allocation is shared with counties and municipalities for local projects.

The EWRA specifies the NvWP must 1) be consistent with the National Wetlands Priority Conservation Plan, prepared by the USFWS; 2) provide evidence of consultation with NDOW, the state agency responsible for fish and wildlife resources; and, 3) identify the state’s wetland conservation priorities based on a comparative evaluation of losses and gains, threats, and functions and values, and the alternative strategies for conservation of priority wetlands. The key outputs are an assessment of the conservation status of wetlands in Nevada; the state’s list of priority (vulnerable and valuable) wetlands; and, strategies state agencies can employ to conserve priority wetlands.

Nevada Springs Conservation Plan (NVSCP)

The Nevada Natural Heritage Program (NNHP), Desert Research Institute and the Nature Conservancy partnered for the development of the Nevada Springs Conservation Plan. The plan is the culmination of a partnership among the three entities and more than three years of field work, data analysis and conservation planning. Since the mid-1980s, DRI has been gathering information on springs throughout the state and has been documenting the condition of the springs. The springs conservation plan reports on the condition of 283 springs, associated animal species, and recommended conservation actions.

Spring Mountains National Recreation Area Conservation Agreement

The Spring Mountains ecosystem in Clark and Nye Counties has long been recognized as an island of endemism, harboring 25 plant and wildlife species found nowhere else in the world. A conservation agreement for the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area was established in 1998 and in 2000, was incorporated into the Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP). Successful implementation of this conservation agreement and conservation activities under the MSHCP are necessary to ensure the long-term survival of the rare species that occur there.

Amargosa Toad

The agreement and strategy for the Amargosa toad and co-occurring sensitive species in the Oasis Valley of Nye County, Nevada was executed by the partners in September 2000 and has been in the implementation phase since that time.

Columbia Spotted Frog

Conservation agreements and strategies were developed in 2003 for the Toiyabe and Northeast subpopulations of the Great Basin population of the Columbia spotted frog. The agreements and strategies were designed to expedite implementation of conservation measures for the respective subpopulations of the species as a collaborative and cooperative effort among resource agencies, governments, and land owners.

Relict Leopard Frog

The National Park Service is the lead agency for preparing a Conservation Agreement for the species with cooperation from State, County, and Federal partners. Implementation of the conservation agreement and strategy is intended to protect the species and its habitat, implement necessary conservation actions, and preclude listing of this candidate species.

Townsend's Big-eared Bat

In an effort to identify and implement conservation measures for the Townsend's big-eared bat, the Idaho Conservation Effort convened 19 professionals from 10 western states within the native range of the species. The result of this three-year effort was the publication and implementation of Species Conservation Assessment and Conservation Strategy for the Townsend's Big-eared Bat (Pierson et al., 1999). Nevada participated in all aspects of preparation and is currently in the implementation phase of the conservation strategy.

Recovery Implementation Teams

Although the majority of aquatic species of conservation need in Nevada which are listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) are included under existing Recovery Plans, these documents are in many cases outdated, do not describe needed actions at a level suitable to direct on-the-ground conservation efforts, or are focused only on recovery needs for the listed species and do not adequately address conservation for the full assemblage of aquatic species which occur in the included habitats. For that reason NDOW and the USFWS, in coordination with other partners, have focused on the development of Recovery Implementation Team (RIT) working groups to more effectively implement conservation and recovery for a number of species and aquatic systems.

The RIT teams are voluntary working groups that meet periodically to assess the status of included species and conservation efforts, review, develop and adaptively modify on-ground conservation actions, and coordinate field efforts. Composed of state and federal agency partners, and also tribes, local entities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) as appropriate, these implementation level teams have proven to be an effective approach to insure that conservation efforts for the included species (many of which have no formal "recovery team" organized by USFWS) are progressing effectively. In particular, the RIT approach in many cases

has allowed managers to take a more ecosystem-based view for all species of concern in included aquatic habitats, rather than the single-species focus common to formal recovery team processes. Key RIT and related teams in Nevada are listed below.

Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Distinct Population Segment Teams

BLM, USFS, USFWS and NDOW participate in the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Interagency Management Team and Distinct Population Segment teams. Each year members of these teams meet to review accomplishment of the previous year and schedule recovery activities for the current year. These teams are the focal point for decision making on all critical activities concerning the management of Lahontan Cutthroat Trout. Team participation by agency management personnel is essential to the continued success of the process.

White River RIT directs conservation efforts for aquatic species in the upper White River system in White Pine and Nye Counties, including White River spinedace, Preston and Moorman White River springfish, White River speckled dace and White River desert sucker.

Railroad Valley Fishes RIT directs conservation efforts for aquatic species in Railroad Valley, Nye County, including habitats on Duckwater tribal lands. Included species are Railroad Valley springfish and Railroad Valley tui chub.

Big Spring Spinedace RIT directs conservation efforts for Big Spring spinedace in Condor Canyon (upper Meadow Valley Wash), Lincoln County. Unlike some other RIT efforts, this team has a single-species focus for recovery of the spinedace.

Pahranagat Valley Native Fishes RIT directs conservation efforts for aquatic species in Pahranagat Valley, Lincoln County, including Pahranagat roundtail chub, White River and Hiko White River springfish, and Pahranagat speckled dace.

Muddy River RIT directs conservation efforts for aquatic species in the upper Muddy River system, Clark County, including Moapa dace, Moapa White River springfish, Moapa speckled dace, and Virgin River chub.

Lower Virgin River RIT directs conservation efforts for aquatic species in the Virgin River in Clark County, Nevada and Mohave County, Arizona. Included species are Virgin River chub, woundfin, flannelmouth sucker, and desert sucker. The Virgin River RIT was formed to address the need to coordinate conservation efforts in the lower Virgin River basin. This team works closely with the Virgin River Resource Management and Recovery Program which directs conservation efforts for these fishes in the upper Virgin River basin in Washington County Utah, and also the range-wide Virgin River Fishes Recovery Team, to develop and coordinate implementation of conservation efforts within this watershed for endemic aquatic species.

Colorado River has several RIT-like processes that have been developed to supplement the range-wide Colorado River Fishes Recovery Team and coordinate local conservation efforts for endemic fishes in the main-stem Colorado River in Nevada, which includes Lakes Mead and Mohave, and the Colorado River below Davis Dam. The principal working group effort has been the Lake Mohave Native Fish Work Group. Under the leadership of the USBR, this group coordinates interagency cooperative efforts to restore and maintain the adult razorback sucker population in Lake Mohave through collection and rearing to sub-adult size, for repatriation, of wild-spawned larvae from Lake Mohave. The recently organized Colorado River Native Fish Work Group is

developing a larger role in coordination partnership efforts in other areas of the lower Colorado River basin, including Lake Mead and areas downstream of Lake Mohave in Nevada, Arizona and California.

Devils Hole Pupfish Recovery Team

Although more of a formal Recovery Team process under the lead of the USFWS, this recently formed team directs conservation efforts for the Devils Hole pupfish at Devil's Hole, Nye County, and also the two extant refuges for this species.

Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs)

HCPs are prepared to address the loss of or disturbance to endangered species on non-Federal lands. These plans typically describe a conservation program with measures to minimize, mitigate, and avoid impacts to species and their habitats. The USFWS approves the HCPs and issues a take permit under the Endangered Species Act to the non-federal entities responsible for implementing the plan. Many HCPs are regionally or watershed based, and thus involves a suite of partners that work with the HCP applicant to carry out the conservation and mitigation measures included within the plan. In Nevada, there are several existing HCPs and several more under development, all in the southern portion of the state.

Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) and Clark County Desert Conservation Program (DCP)

The DCP is a multi-partner effort that was initially focused on desert tortoise, but has been expanded to include conservation actions for many other species and habitats. The permit issued by the USFWS for the Clark County MSHCP allows for the loss of 58,680 hectares (145,000 acres) of habitat on non-federal lands over a 30-year period in return for conservation and mitigation measures for desert tortoise and a host of other species, primarily on Federal lands. This MSHCP and DCP are major funding sources for wildlife conservation in Clark County. The DCP devotes some of their focus on development and implementation of conservation management strategies for species covered under the MSHCP and their habitats. The *Southern Nevada Mesquite Woodland Habitat Management Plan and Meadow Valley Wash Ecological Assessment* are examples of two such efforts. <http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/Depts/dcp/Pages/CurrentHCP.aspx>

Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (MSCP)

The Lower Colorado River MSCP is a multi-agency effort to conserve and recover endangered species, and protect and maintain endangered species and wildlife habitat on the lower Colorado River while ensuring the certainty of existing river water and power operations. The MSCP covers areas up to and including the full-pool elevations of Lakes Mead, Mohave and Havasu and the historical floodplain of the Colorado River from Lake Mead to the United States-Mexico Southerly International Boundary, a distance of about 645 km (400 miles). <http://www.lcrmscp.gov/>

Southeast Lincoln County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan

This HCP was completed in 2010 and will mitigate primarily for the loss of desert scrub (desert tortoise habitat) on approximately 6,070 hectares (15,000 acres) that will be developed just over the county line in the vicinity of

the City of Mesquite. In addition, the HCP addresses the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher habitat within riparian zones within key watersheds and flood control measures within the City of Caliente.

<http://www.fws.gov/nevada/highlights/comment/slc/index.htm>

Virgin River Habitat Conservation Plan

The Virgin River HCP will address the effects of development in and around the City of Mesquite on endangered fishes and birds inhabiting the lower Virgin River. The Virgin River HCP is currently under development through the Virgin River Habitat Conservation and Recovery Program. <http://vrhcrp.mesquitenv.gov/>

Other Key Plans and Programs

LANDFIRE

A five-year, multi-partner wildland fire, ecosystem, and fuel mapping project. This project will generate consistent, comprehensive maps and data describing vegetation, fire, and fuel characteristics across the United States. These maps are produced at scales fine enough to assist in prioritizing and planning specific hazardous fuel reduction and ecosystem restoration projects. The consistency of LANDFIRE methods ensures that data will be nationally relevant, while the 30-meter grid resolution assures that data can be locally applicable. LANDFIRE meets agency and partner needs for data to support landscape fire management planning, prioritization of fuel treatments, collaboration, community and firefighter protection, and effective resource allocation. LANDFIRE map and data products for much of Nevada should be completed and available to the land management agencies and partners in 2006. <http://www.landfire.gov/>

Partners In Flight -- North American Land Bird Conservation Plan

The Partners in Flight (PIF) North American Landbird Conservation Plan provides a continental synthesis of priorities and objectives to guide landbird conservation actions at national and international scales. The scope for this Plan is the 448 species of native landbirds that regularly breed in the U.S. and Canada. Fully 100 of these species warrant inclusion on the PIF Watch List, due to a combination of threats to their habitats, declining populations, small population sizes, or limited distributions. Of these, 28 species require immediate action to protect small remaining populations, and 44 more are in need of management to reverse long-term declines.

This Plan also highlights the need for stewardship of the species and landscapes characteristic of each portion of the continent, identifying 158 species (including 66 on the Watch List) that are particularly representative of large avifaunal biomes, and whose needs should be considered in conservation planning. Taken together, the pool of Watch List and Stewardship Species represent the landbirds of greatest continental importance for conservation action.

Nevada Partners In Flight Bird Conservation Plan.

Nevada Partners in Flight is a group of conservation organizations, state and federal agencies, and research institutions. The Nevada Bird Conservation Plan developed by the Nevada Partners in Flight group identifies bird species in Nevada that are declining with objectives and suggested actions for their conservation. One of the goals identified in the Nevada Bird Conservation Plan is to work with private landowners to reverse the decline of these "priority species" by protecting and conserving their habitat.

http://www.gbbo.org/bird_conservation_plan.html

U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan

Partners from state and federal agencies and non-governmental organizations from across the country pooled their resources and expertise to develop a conservation strategy for migratory shorebirds and the habitats upon which they depend. The plan provides a scientific framework to determine species, sites, and habitats that most urgently need conservation action. The primary goals of the plan are to ensure that adequate quantity and quality of shorebird habitat is maintained at the local level and to maintain or restore shorebird populations at the continental and hemispheric levels. Shorebird conservation strategies for Nevada are found in the Intermountain West Regional Report (Oring et al., 1999).

North American Waterbird Conservation Plan

This plan provides an overarching framework and guide for conserving waterbirds. The Plan sets forth goals and priorities and advocates continent-wide monitoring; provides an impetus for regional conservation planning; proposes national, provincial, state and other local conservation planning and action; and creates a larger context for local habitat conservation. Taken together, these activities should assure healthy populations and habitats for the waterbirds of the Americas. Waterbird conservation strategies for Nevada are found in the Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan (Ivey and Herziger, 2005).

North American Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network

In 1988, the Lahontan Valley Wetlands were incorporated into the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. This network provides an international system of linked reserves to protect important sites required by birds throughout their ranges.

North American Waterfowl Management Plan

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan is an international action plan to conserve migratory birds throughout the continent. The Plan's goal is to return waterfowl populations to their 1970s levels by conserving wetland and upland habitat. The Plan is a partnership of federal, provincial/state and municipal governments, non-governmental organizations, private companies and many individuals, all working towards achieving better wetland habitat for the benefit of migratory birds, other wetland-associated species and people. Plan projects are international in scope, but implemented at regional levels.

Swan Lake Nature Study Area

Various public agencies and non-profit organizations established the nature study area on 728 hectares (1,800 acres) of wetlands in Washoe County that provides bird watching opportunities and also serves as an outdoor educational facility for school children and others. A strategic plan was completed in 2011.

Carson Lake Transfer

The Carson Lake property in Churchill County is about 12,140 hectares (30,000 acres) in size with a seasonal wetland of about 3,238 hectares (8,000 acres). It supports thousands of waterfowl during fall migration, and is

home to a large variety of shorebirds. Historically, Carson Lake served as the terminus of the Carson River, and is one of the last remnants of ancient Lake Lahontan. After development of the Newlands Project for agricultural irrigation in the Lahontan Valley, the wetland was reduced to about 345 hectares (850 acres). In the years that followed, and until a water rights acquisition program was set into effect, the wetland relied on drain flows from irrigation practices for sustenance. Following the future transfer of Carson Lake to the state, the property will be managed by NDOW as a state wildlife management area. NDOW's management objectives for the area are to preserve and enhance up to 4,130 hectares (10,200 acres) of the shallow wetlands and wet meadows that are unique to the area to benefit all wetland-dependent wildlife species; provide nesting, feeding and resting habitat to meet the needs for a maximum number and variety of migratory and nonmigratory wildlife; and to provide for waterfowl hunting, bird watching, and other forms of public recreation in a manner which is compatible with the area's wildlife and wetland resources.

Bat Conservation

The Nevada Bat Working Group and Western Bat Working Group are comprised of agencies, organizations and individuals interested in bat research, management, and conservation. These groups coordinate with other organizations such as Bat Conservation International, which is devoted to conservation, education, and research initiatives involving bats and the ecosystems they inhabit. The Nevada Bat Conservation Plan was developed by the Nevada Bat Working Group to provide strategic and proactive guidance for managing bat populations and habitats in Nevada. <http://www.wbwg.org/aboutus/portals/NVportal.html>

Wildlife Rehabilitators

Three non-profit organizations, Northeastern Nevada Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic, Wild Animal Infirmary for Nevada and Wild Wings provide rehabilitation services for birds of prey and other native species.