

# CONCEPTUAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

FINAL DRAFT  
DECEMBER 2014



OVERTON

WILDLIFE  
MANAGEMENT  
AREA

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## OVERVIEW

The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) has prepared this final draft of the Overton Wildlife Management Area (OWMA) Conceptual Management Plan (CMP) to guide the management of wildlife, habitat, visitor facilities, water infrastructure and related programs on the OWMA. NDOW prepared this document by taking into account the public and agency comments it received on the draft CMP. The draft CMP was posted on NDOW's website in May, 2014 and a wide range of agencies, non-profit organizations, OWMA users and other interested members of the public were notified regarding its availability. NDOW accepted comments on the draft CMP until July 1, 2014. Comments were also received at the Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife's public meeting on June 17, 2014. A summary of the comments received on the draft CMP is found in Appendix C.

The OWMA is located in the Moapa Valley of Clark County and totals 17,229 acres. The two major sources of water on the OWMA are the Muddy and Virgin rivers. A portion of the OWMA along the Muddy River has been developed with ponds, seasonal wetlands, a campground, equipment shop, employee residences and an office, while the Virgin River portion of the OWMA is undeveloped.

A description of the OWMA, related maps, and more information on its natural resources and public uses are found in Part One of this document. Part One also contains a description of the CMP planning process and related policies, plans and regulations. Part Two of the CMP contains the goals, objectives and proposed management actions that were developed during the update of this CMP. The first draft of this document was developed by a team of NDOW employees using input provided by the public during two public scoping meetings and in comment letters and emails sent to NDOW after the meetings. The public scoping meetings were held on November 5, 2012 in Overton and on November 6, 2012 in Las Vegas. In addition to the public comments, other important sources of information used to prepare Part Two of this document include NDOW's Wildlife Commission Policy 66 regarding the management of Wildlife Management Areas (see Appendix D) and NDOW's Comprehensive Strategic Plan, which was prepared in 2004.

NDOW intends to use this CMP as a working document to guide the management of the area for a ten-year period. However, this plan contains a monitoring and adaptive management component that may lead to more frequent management changes if conditions change or the effects of the implemented management actions do not lead to the desired results. More information regarding this adaptive management approach is contained in the last section of Part Two (Section E).

A finalized, print-ready copy of this CMP was released to the public in April, 2015 and its content was finalized in December, 2014. A digital copy of this document is available on NDOW's website at the following link:

[http://www.ndow.org/Nevada\\_Wildlife/Wildlife\\_Management\\_Areas/](http://www.ndow.org/Nevada_Wildlife/Wildlife_Management_Areas/)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## PART ONE

I. Introduction.....	1
A. Purpose of Plan.....	1
B. Contents of Plan.....	1
C. Planning Process.....	2
D. Relationship to Policies, Plans and Regulations.....	2
II. Description of Overton WMA.....	7
A. Geographic Setting.....	7
B. Land Management Status and Overton WMA Boundary.....	7
C. Climate.....	11
D. Cultural Features.....	11
E. History of Parcel.....	11
F. Acquisition History and Purpose.....	12
G. Overton WMA Administration.....	12
III. Wildlife Habitats and Soils of Overton WMA.....	13
A. Wildlife Habitats.....	13
B. Rare Plant Species.....	17
C. Soils.....	17
IV. Wildlife Resources of Overton WMA.....	18
A. Waterfowl.....	18
B. Upland Game.....	20
C. Nongame Wildlife.....	21
D. Game Fish.....	24
E. Nongame Fish.....	24
F. Rare Wildlife Species.....	24
V. Hydrology and Water Resources of Overton WMA.....	27
A. Hydrology and Water Resources.....	27
B. Water Distribution and Management.....	28
VI. Existing Management of Overton WMA.....	29
A. Farming.....	29
B. Alkali Bulrush Plots.....	29

C. Prescribed Burning .....	31
D. Herbicide Spraying .....	31
E. Invasive Plant Management .....	32
F. Collecting Waterfowl and Harvest Data .....	32
G. Facilities Management.....	33
H. Law Enforcement.....	33
VII. Public Use of Overton WMA .....	34
A. Hunting .....	34
B. Fishing on Lake Mead Proper .....	35
C. Other Wildlife-Related Activities .....	37
VIII. Recently Completed Projects .....	38

PART TWO

I. Introduction and Approach .....	39
II. Goals, Objectives and Management Actions.....	41
A. Habitat and Wildlife Management .....	41
1. Waterfowl, Dove and Terrestrial Game Species Habitats and Wildlife Mgmt. ....	42
2. Terrestrial Non-Game Species Habitats and Wildlife Management.....	44
3. Undesirable Vegetation Control .....	47
4. Rare Plant Protection .....	48
5. Predator Management.....	48
6. Aquatic Species Habitats and Wildlife Management.....	49
7. Farming Practices.....	50
8. Land and Water Rights Acquisitions.....	51
B. Public Use, Education and Outreach .....	51
1. Hunting Opportunities and Blinds .....	54
2. Other Visitor, Recreation and Education Facility Improvements .....	56
3. Avoiding & Minimizing Conflicts Between Different Types of Recreation Users...	57
4. Volunteer Opportunities .....	58
C. Facility Development and Maintenance .....	59
1. Water Infrastructure and Flood Control .....	60
2. Headquarters Buildings and Grounds .....	60
D. Regulations Compliance and Enforcement .....	61
E. Monitoring and Adaptive Management .....	63
References.....	64

## **LIST OF APPENDICES**

APPENDIX A	Summary of OWMA CMP Goals, Objectives and Management Actions
APPENDIX B	OWMA Management Actions Schedule and Budget
APPENDIX C	Public Comments on the Draft CMP and Related Responses
APPENDIX D	Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners Policy 66
APPENDIX E	WMA Regulations
APPENDIX F	OWMA-Specific Regulations
APPENDIX G	NDOW, USBR and NPS Memorandum of Agreement
APPENDIX H	Western Regional Climate Center Summary Near OWMA
APPENDIX I	Nevada Natural Heritage Program Species Lists
APPENDIX J	Species Expected or Known to Occur on or Near OWMA
APPENDIX K	OWMA Conservation Measures
APPENDIX L	Reasonable Accommodations for Disabled Hunters Process

## **LIST OF FIGURES**

FIGURE 1	Vicinity Map
FIGURE 2	Moapa Valley Portion of OWMA
FIGURE 3	Land Status and Critical Habitat
FIGURE 4	Wildlife Habitats
FIGURE 5	Historic Lake Mead Inundation Levels

## **LIST OF TABLES**

TABLE 1	Overton WMA Annual Mid-Winter Waterfowl Survey Counts 2005-2014
TABLE 2	Water Rights Summary
TABLE 3	Overton WMA Waterfowl Harvest Summary 2002-2014

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
BMPs	Best Management Practices
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CCAB	Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CMP	Conceptual Management Plan
ESA	Endangered Species Act
LMNRA	Lake Mead National Recreation Area
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MSL	Mean Sea Level
NAC	Nevada Administrative Code
NDEP	Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
NDF	Nevada Division of Forestry
NDOW	Nevada Department of Wildlife
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NPS	National Park Service
NRS	Nevada Revised Statute
NWAP	Nevada Wildlife Action Plan
OGT	Operation Game Thief
OWMA	Overton Wildlife Management Area
PVC	Polyvinyl chloride
SOCP	Species of Conservation Priority
UNLV	University of Nevada, Las Vegas
USBR	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
WMA	Wildlife Management Area

# PART ONE

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## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. PURPOSE OF PLAN

Planning the future of Nevada's Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) is essential due to the increasing and sometimes conflicting demands being placed on limited natural resources. The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) is undertaking long-range planning for the Overton Wildlife Management Area (OWMA) while updating the original OWMA Conceptual Management Plan (CMP) prepared in 2000. This document incorporates the results of the recent planning work and is an updated CMP. It will be used to maintain and enhance the OWMA's natural resources while helping meet present and future recreation demands. It will also be used to help avoid and minimize conflicts between different types of recreation uses.

Like the original OWMA CMP, this updated CMP guides the management of species, habitats, and programs on the OWMA. The goals, objectives, and management actions developed in this updated CMP will guide management decisions concerning the property for a ten-year period; however, this plan's monitoring and adaptive management strategy may lead to more frequent management changes if appropriate. NDOW will use the management actions contained in this CMP for budgeting purposes and to help develop its Federal Aid grant proposals.

### B. CONTENTS OF PLAN

Part One of the CMP includes a summary of the planning process and background information regarding the OWMA's wildlife resources, habitats, water resources, current management approach, and public uses. The plan's updated goals, objectives, and management actions are presented in Part Two. The appendices include supporting information as listed below.

Appendix A: Summary of OWMA CMP Goals, Objectives and Management Actions

Appendix B: OWMA Management Actions Schedule and Budget

Appendix C: Public Comments on the Draft CMP and Related Responses

Appendix D: Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners Policy 66

Appendix E: WMA Regulations

Appendix F: OWMA-Specific Regulations

Appendix G: NDOW, USBR and NPS Memorandum of Agreement

Appendix H: Western Regional Climate Center Summary Near OWMA

Appendix I: Nevada Natural Heritage Program Species Lists

Appendix J: Species Expected or Known to Occur on or Near OWMA

Appendix K: OWMA Conservation Measures

Appendix L: Reasonable Accommodations for Disabled Hunters Process

## C. PLANNING PROCESS

An important part of the CMP planning process was the early identification and incorporation of public views, interests and concerns. Meetings with stakeholders (individuals or entities that could be affected by management actions at the OWMA) were held in southern Nevada. At these meetings, NDOW staff presented an overview of the management issues at the OWMA, relevant policy guidance from the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners, preliminary ideas for addressing the issues, and recorded all input received from the meeting attendees. The stakeholder meetings were held on November 5, 2012 in Overton and November 6, 2012 in Las Vegas. Stakeholders provided comments at the meetings and via email. Participants in the stakeholder and Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife (CCAB) meetings included interested community members, hunters, bird watchers, dog trainers,



*Overton Wildlife Management Area*

representatives of sportsmen and conservation organizations, and some members of the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners and CCAB.

The CMP's draft management actions (also referred to as strategies) were also the subject of public review and comment during two CCAB meetings on May 7, 2013 and June 18, 2013. The draft management actions that were prepared for the CCAB meetings were emailed to everyone who attended the stakeholder meetings or had already submitted comments via email after the public meetings in November, 2012.

Comments received on the draft actions were incorporated into the proposed management actions included in the draft CMP.

Another round of public comments was requested by NDOW after the draft CMP was released in the latter part of May, 2014. NDOW accepted comments on the draft CMP until July 1, 2014. Comments were also received at the CCAB's public meeting on June 17, 2014. Appendix C of this document includes a summary of the comments received on the draft CMP. The comments on the draft CMP were used to help finalize the new management actions included in Part Two of this document.

## D. RELATIONSHIP TO POLICIES, PLANS AND REGULATIONS

This updated CMP was developed in accordance with the guidelines, policies, laws and regulations affecting the OWMA and summarized below.

## 1. [FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE AND SPORT FISH RESTORATION ACTS](#)

Portions of the OWMA were purchased with Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act funds to protect its wildlife values, and with management priorities given to wetland development, waterfowl protection and related activities, including the use of the area as a public hunting ground. As required by Federal Aid regulations, this property must continue to serve the purpose for which it was acquired (see 50 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Section 80.134).

## 2. [NEVADA BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS POLICY NUMBER P-66 RELATED TO MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS](#)

This broad policy for Nevada’s WMAs was last amended in August 1998 (Appendix D). It provides policy-level guidance for NDOW staff when preparing site specific operational plans (e.g. this CMP). It directs staff to give management priority at the OWMA and other identified WMAs to wetland protection, development and waterfowl-related activities, including the use of WMAs as a public hunting ground “with all other uses being secondary.” The policy also encourages multiple and “non-consumptive” uses (e.g. bird watching, hiking on nature trails, educational and scientific pursuits) “without decreasing the opportunity or experience for consumptive users” (i.e. hunters and anglers).

## 3. [NDOW COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PLAN \(2004 THROUGH 2009\)](#)

NDOW last updated its Comprehensive Strategic Plan in 2004 (Nevada Department of Wildlife 2004). The desired outcomes and management goals included in this CMP are consistent with, and in some cases identical to, those included in the 2004 Strategic Plan. The goals provide broad management direction for the more specific objectives and management actions defined in this CMP.

## 4. [NEVADA WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN](#)

The Nevada Wildlife Action Plan (NWAP) was updated in 2012 (Wildlife Action Plan Team 2012). This NDOW-facilitated document provides overall activity direction for a ten-year period concerning 22 key habitats and wildlife identified as Species of Conservation Priority (SOCP). Implementation of the actions defined in this CMP will help NDOW achieve the goals of the NWAP by helping protect and enhance the habitat of the following SOCP expected or known to occur on or near the OWMA. These are the: desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*), Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), Virgin River chub (*Gila seminuda*), Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*), Yuma Clapper Rail (*Rallus longirostris yumanensis*), and woundfin (*Plagopterus argentissimus*). A comprehensive list of species expected or



Southwestern Willow Flycatcher

known to occur on or near the OWMA, including those addressed in the NWAP, can be found in Appendix J.

## 5. [STATE REGULATIONS](#)

In accordance with the provisions of Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 501.105, the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners, also referred to as the Wildlife Commission, is responsible for establishing policies and adopting regulations necessary for the preservation, protection, management, and restoration of wildlife and its habitat. These duties are further refined in NRS 501.181, which allows the Wildlife Commission to establish policies for areas of interest including the acquisition of lands, water rights, easements and other property, including the entry, access to, occupancy and use of such property. Such property includes leases of grazing rights and sales of agricultural products. NDOW must also comply with the regulations of the State Water Engineer, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), and other state agencies.

## 6. [WETLAND CONSERVATION PLAN FOR WMAS](#)

Funded by an EPA grant, the Wetland Conservation Plan for Wildlife Management Areas was completed for NDOW in July 1998 (Huffman, et al. 1998). The overall goal of this plan was no net loss of wetlands on WMAs and an increase in wetland quantity and quality on WMAs. Specific recommendations from the plan regarding the OWMA are listed below.

- Management objectives should be reviewed with respect to water levels maintained by the USBR at Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LMNRA)
- Manage for sensitive species
- Increase management and control of the extensive tamarisk (*Tamarix* spp.) invasion

## 7. [FISHERIES MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS PROGRAM AND PROCEDURE MANUAL AND BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS POLICY ON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM P-33](#)

These documents provide broad direction for all NDOW Fisheries Division programs, including WMAs if applicable. They will apply to the OWMA only if Lake Mead rises to the level where sport fishing becomes possible again or if new sport fishing opportunities are created within the OWMA.

## 8. [OTHER FEDERAL LAWS](#)

NDOW must abide by such Federal laws as the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Section 106 of the National Historical Preservation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), among others. This is accomplished by NDOW working with the respective

Federal agencies that administer and enforce the regulations used to implement these laws.

## 9. MIGRATORY BIRD PROGRAMS AND REGULATIONS

NDOW actively participates in migratory bird-related planning and management efforts at local, statewide, national, and international levels. In addition to implementing actions affecting migratory birds at WMAs, NDOW participates in and incorporates management goals and actions from the NWAP, Intermountain West Joint Venture, the North American Waterfowl Plan, the National Shorebird Conservation Plan and the Nevada Comprehensive Bird Conservation Plan for neo-tropical migratory birds.

Federal waterfowl regulations applicable to the hunting of migratory game birds are published in Title 50, Part 20 of the CFR. These regulations are enforced by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), pertain to the take of migratory game birds, and cover the topics listed below.

- Methods of legal take (shotgun smaller than 10 gauge with a capacity not exceeding three shells)
- Mandatory use of non-toxic shot
- Closed seasons
- Daily and possession limits
- Wanton waste of migratory birds is prohibited
- Species identification requirements (head or wing to remain attached until arriving at abode)
- Transportation and shipping rules

The regulations in 50 CFR have been adopted by the State of Nevada as applicable to all migratory game birds within the boundaries of the state (see Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 503.180). In addition, the State of Nevada has adopted other NAC regulations to assist in the management of migratory game birds and hunting on all applicable WMAs (Appendix E) and those more specific to the OWMA (Appendix F). These include regulations that cover the topics listed below.



*Northern Pintail*

- Establish which birds are considered migratory game birds and provide related protections (NAC 503.045)
- Creates rules for constructing, maintaining, and operating blinds and the use of decoys on WMAs (NAC 504.160)
- Require the use of non-toxic shot when hunting migratory game birds and while hunting on WMAs (NAC 508.183)

Finally, the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners annually pass regulations (referred to as Commission Regulations) that create migratory game bird season dates as well as daily bag and possession limits that are within the framework required by federal hunting regulations. Specific to the OWMA, Commission Regulations also establish specific hunt days, hunting reservation rules, and hunt location limitations. Commission Regulations are updated periodically and are discussed in public meetings that allow for public input according to Nevada's open meeting law (NRS 241.020).

10. [MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION AND NATIONAL PARK SERVICE](#)

In 1953, the Nevada Fish and Game Commission (the predecessor to NDOW) entered into an agreement with the USBR and NPS to establish the OWMA and to allow NDOW to cooperatively manage the OWMA. Since 1953, various amendments have been made to the original agreement and Appendix G contains the current draft of the MOA. Discussions are ongoing among the agencies to renew the MOA and a new draft is expected in 2015, however, significant changes to this document are not expected.

## II. DESCRIPTION OF OVERTON WMA

### A. GEOGRAPHIC SETTING

The OWMA lies in the lower reaches of the Moapa and Virgin valleys where the Muddy and Virgin rivers flow into the north end of the Overton Arm of Lake Mead. The boundary of the OWMA and its vicinity is shown on Figure 1. The OWMA is about 65 miles northeast of Las Vegas and can be accessed using Interstate 15 and State Route 169. The main entrance is located about two miles south of the town of Overton.

Most of the OWMA varies in elevation between 1,150 and 1,240 feet (ft.) above Mean Sea Level (MSL). Prominent topographic features of the surrounding area include the southern portion of Mormon Mesa located 1,800 ft. above MSL between the Muddy and Virgin rivers, Mormon Peak located approximately 28 miles north at an elevation of 7,400 ft. above MSL, and Virgin Peak located 18 miles east and approximately 8,000 ft. above MSL.

### B. LAND MANAGEMENT STATUS AND OVERTON WMA BOUNDARY

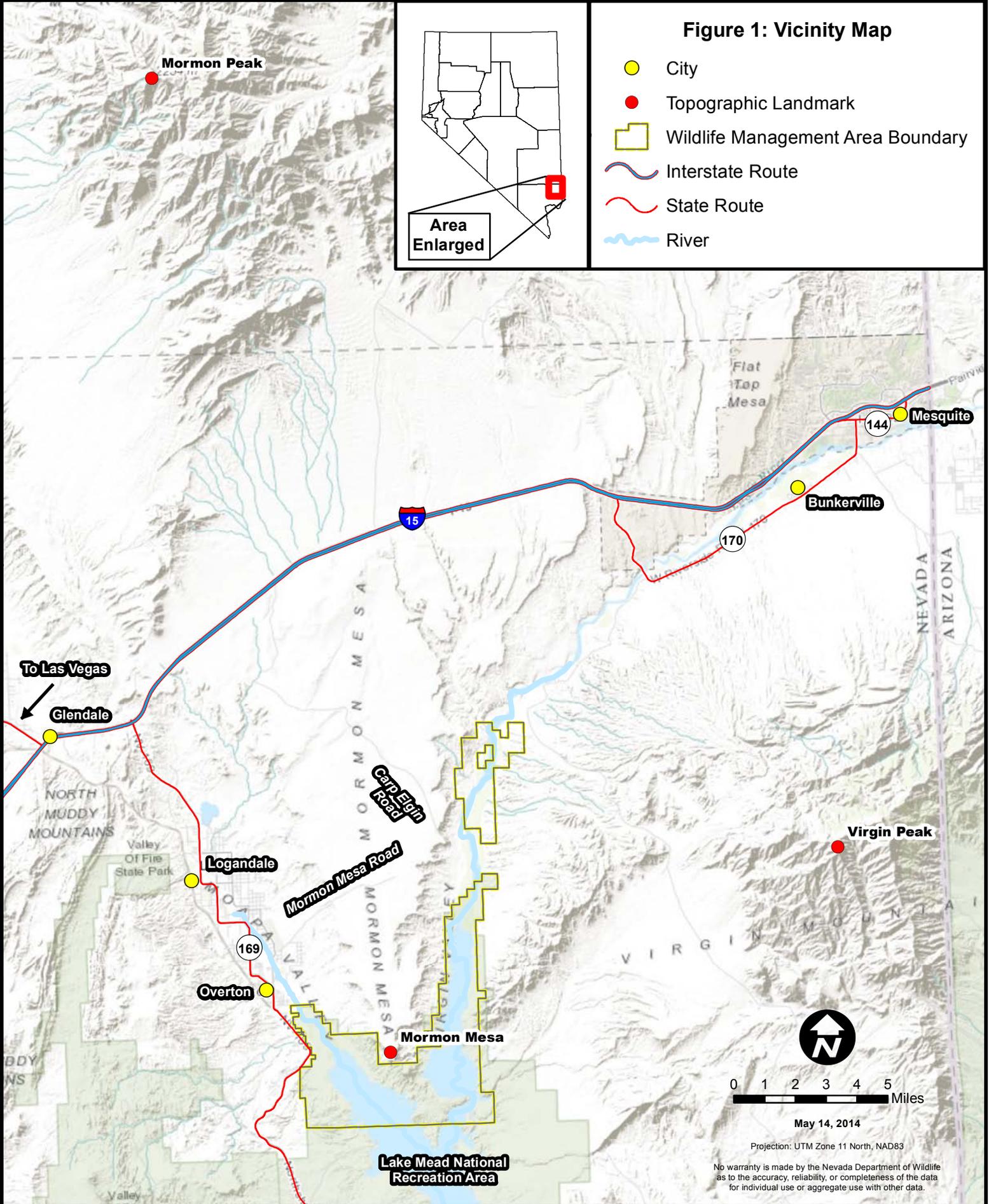
The OWMA comprises a total of 17,229 acres. Of this, 14,160 acres are leased from the USBR and NPS. The remaining 3,069 acres are owned in fee title by the State of Nevada, Division of State Lands, with administrative and management duties assigned to NDOW.

A consideration in OWMA management is the periodic fluctuation of Lake Mead's water level. Lake Mead is an actively managed reservoir of the larger Colorado River system and its water levels are dependent on operating procedures in effect at Hoover Dam that is operated by the USBR. Over the past 10 years, major lake elevation reductions have occurred and are expected to continue. The drop in lake level has exposed the OWMA's previously inundated Center, Pintail, Wilson and Feour ponds, and two larger fields that are currently farmed. Developed areas are confined to the Moapa Valley portion of the OWMA (Figure 2). The OWMA's Virgin River portion is essentially undeveloped.

Lands adjacent to OWMA are owned by private individuals, Clark County, USBR, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and NPS (i.e. LMNRA) (Figure 3). The Clark County Sanitation District's Sewage Treatment Facility is located adjacent to the OWMA boundary northeast of the Honeybee Pond. The roads depicted on Figure 3, especially inside the LMNRA boundary, may not extend as far as they once did and their location is approximate.



# OVERTON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

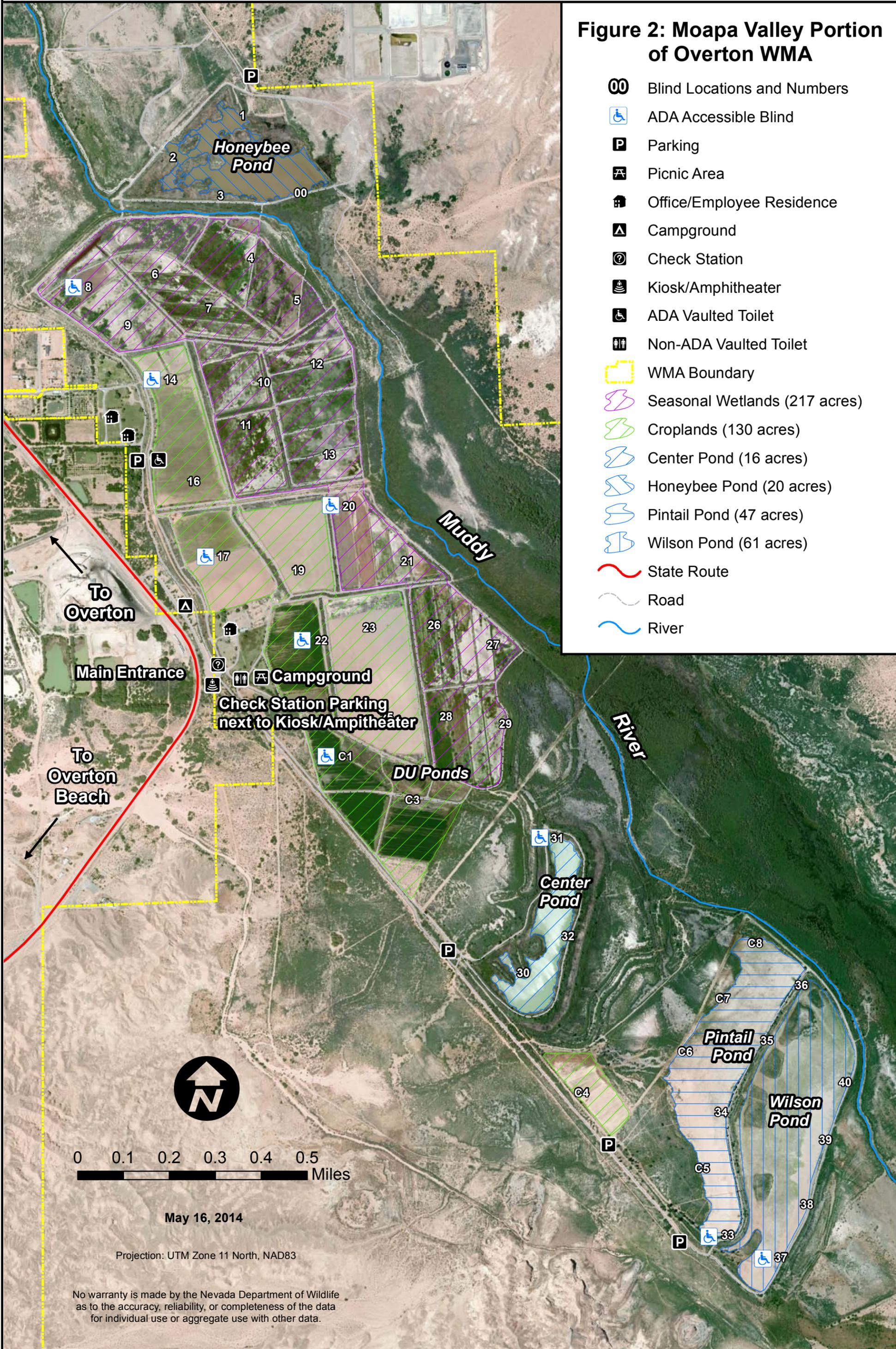


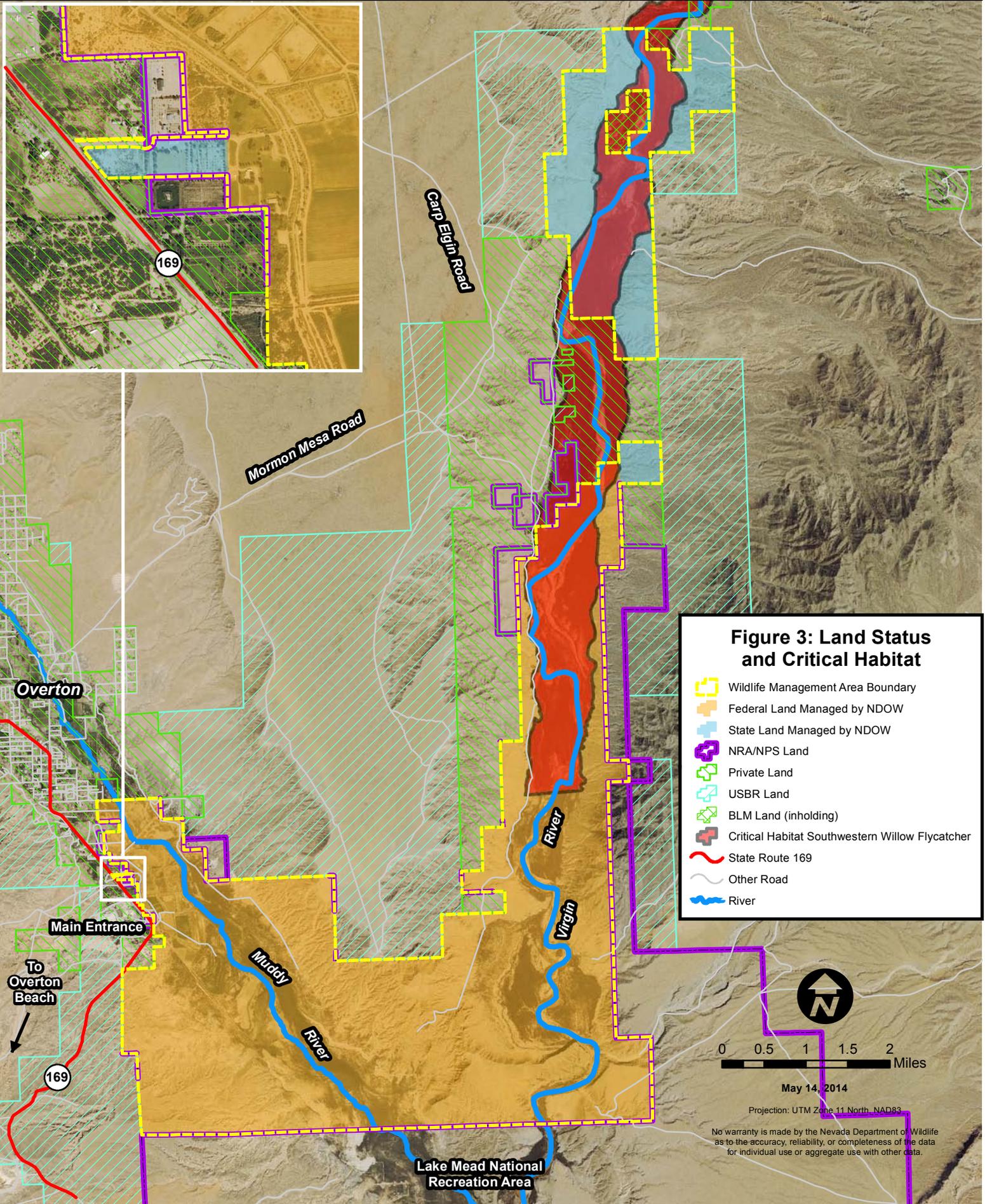
# OVERTON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA



**Figure 2: Moapa Valley Portion of Overton WMA**

- Blind Locations and Numbers
- ADA Accessible Blind
- Parking
- Picnic Area
- Office/Employee Residence
- Campground
- Check Station
- Kiosk/Amphitheater
- ADA Vaulted Toilet
- Non-ADA Vaulted Toilet
- WMA Boundary
- Seasonal Wetlands (217 acres)
- Croplands (130 acres)
- Center Pond (16 acres)
- Honeybee Pond (20 acres)
- Pintail Pond (47 acres)
- Wilson Pond (61 acres)
- State Route
- Road
- River





**Figure 3: Land Status and Critical Habitat**

- Wildlife Management Area Boundary
- Federal Land Managed by NDOW
- State Land Managed by NDOW
- NRA/NPS Land
- Private Land
- USBR Land
- BLM Land (inholding)
- Critical Habitat Southwestern Willow Flycatcher
- State Route 169
- Other Road
- River

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles  
 May 14, 2014  
 Projection: UTM Zone 11 North\_NAD83

No warranty is made by the Nevada Department of Wildlife as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

## C. CLIMATE

OWMA is located in the Mojave Desert and is subject to much climatic variation, including extreme summer temperatures regularly reaching above 115° F. The Western Regional Climate Center has been recording weather data from an active weather station at nearby Overton (No. 265846) since 1939. During this period-of-record, the average maximum temperature was 109.4°F in July and the average minimum temperature was 31.1°F in January (Western Regional Climate Center 2014). The highest recorded temperature was 122°F, and the lowest was 8°F.

The total precipitation has averaged 4.36 inches annually during this period-of-record with peaks occurring in December, January, and February. The period-of-record general climate summary for temperature and precipitation from the Overton weather station can be found in Appendix H. The range in annual precipitation is bounded by a low of 0.71 inches recorded in 1953 and a high of 12.37 inches recorded in 1941.

## D. CULTURAL FEATURES

The history of human existence in the Moapa Valley dates back more than 10,000 years. The ruins of the Pueblo Anasazi culture in the Moapa Valley extend about 25 miles north of the current high water level of Lake Mead, primarily along the Muddy River drainage. During the years Lake Mead waters have receded, ruins in the sand hill on the west side of OWMA were exposed. In the nearby Valley of Fire State Park, many petroglyphs are present, primarily from the Anasazi or Lost City People.

The Nevada State Historic Preservation Office considers OWMA highly sensitive for cultural resources since it has extensive riparian habitats, which are known to be important culturally elsewhere in Nevada and the Great Basin. Any future development projects on the OWMA that propose to move earth on previously undisturbed sites would have required cultural resource surveys completed and associated mitigation measures approved prior to any ground disturbances. In addition, any historic structures on the OWMA need to be documented and evaluated for significance prior to being altered or modified.

## E. HISTORY OF PARCEL

The first documented visit by European man in the Overton area occurred in 1826 when Jedediah Smith traveled through the area for trapping activities. In the 1850s, people traveled frequently through the Muddy River area along the route commonly referred to as the Mormon Road between Los Angeles and Salt Lake City. The town of Overton was settled in 1865 by settlers that grew cotton and to establish towns along the Mormon Road to California. Other immigrants moved into the valley in the 1880s, establishing ranches and farms. Agriculture and sand mining became important in the valley in the early 1900s. Following the construction of Hoover Dam and the subsequent inundation by Lake Mead, the USFWS created the Boulder Canyon National

Wildlife Refuge in 1940, which included the southernmost portion of Moapa Valley now known as OWMA.

## F. ACQUISITION HISTORY AND PURPOSE

In 1953, the Nevada Fish and Game Commission, predecessor to NDOW, entered into an agreement with the USBR and NPS to establish OWMA. Since 1953, various amendments have been made to the original lease. This agreement designates 11,446 acres as a general WMA and 2,715 acres as an intensively developed area. Between 1969 and 1974, NDOW purchased 3,069 acres of land in the Virgin Valley under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. Eight acres on the Moapa Valley side were purchased in 2004. Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Funds, which are derived from an excise tax on firearms and ammunition, were used to purchase additional property for its wildlife values. By Federal Aid regulation, the property must continue to serve the purpose for which it was acquired.

## G. OVERTON WMA ADMINISTRATION

The OWMA is administered by NDOW's Habitat Division under policies and regulations adopted by the Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners. Long-range plans and programs for the OWMA are overseen by the Habitat Division's Administrator and WMA Wildlife Staff Specialist, both located at NDOW's Reno headquarters. Field-level supervision of OWMA activities is the responsibility of the Wildlife Area Supervisor stationed at OWMA. One Wildlife Area Technician and one Equipment Mechanic perform the normal daily activities required for the orderly operation of the area. Routine and emergency law enforcement on the OWMA is conducted by NDOW's Law Enforcement Division.

During the past three years, an average of \$332,136 has been spent each year to operate the OWMA. This accounts for around 22% of the total amount budgeted to manage all of Nevada's WMAs. OWMA funding is comprised of 75% Federal Aid dollars and 25% state matching dollars. An average of 660 person-days has been budgeted for the area during the past five years, which is about 23% of the total person-days used to manage all WMAs in Nevada.



*Overton WMA Main Entrance*

### III. WILDLIFE HABITATS AND SOILS OF OVERTON WMA

#### A. WILDLIFE HABITATS

From wet meadows to desert riparian and desert scrub, the habitats of OWMA support a wide range of fish and wildlife species that contribute significantly to the biological diversity of southern Nevada. The OWMA contains approximately 6,680 acres of wetlands and aquatic habitats consisting of lacustrine, riverine, fresh emergent wetlands, wet meadow and desert riparian areas. Upland habitats total 10,980 acres including desert scrub, desert wash and croplands (see Figure 4). Habitat classifications were updated using the original work conducted for the 2000 CMP and more recent data derived from the Nevada Vegetation Synthesis Map Data (Peterson 2008) obtained from the Nevada Natural Heritage Program. Twenty-six different vegetation classifications were used to update the habitat data from the 2000 plan and were consolidated into the more common classifications depicted in Figure 4 and described below.

##### 1. DESERT WASH AND MESQUITE

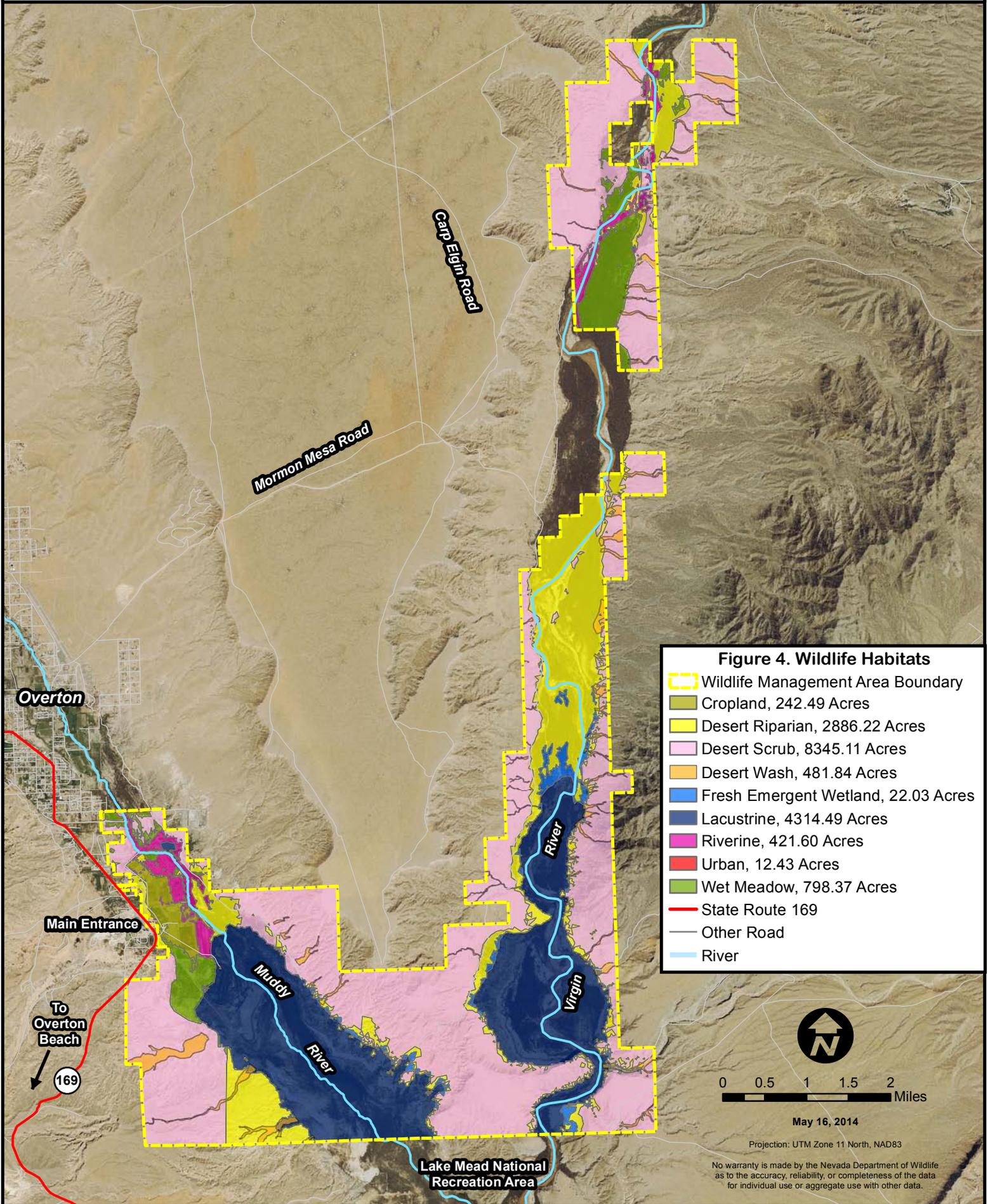
The desert wash and mesquite habitat is characterized by the presence of arborescent shrubs generally associated with intermittent streams or dry washes. Plants comprising desert wash and mesquite habitat generally are taller and denser than those of most other Mojave Desert habitats. Typical vegetation consists of mesquite (*Prosopis* spp.), catclaw (*Acacia greggii*), quail bush (*Atriplex lentiformis*), and wolfberry (*Lycium* spp.). Water may be present during part of the year, and flooding and a higher water table typify this habitat (Mayer and Laudenslayer 1988). Desert Wash and mesquite habitat supports more bird species than any other habitat on the OWMA with the exception of desert riparian. The dense shrubbery also provides food and cover for a number of small mammals including the desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus auduboni*), Gambel's quail (*Callipepla gambelii*), Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*), and other wildlife. Approximately 481 acres of this habitat occurs on the OWMA.

##### 2. DESERT RIPARIAN

Desert riparian habitats are characterized as dense groves of low, shrub-like trees to woodlands of small to medium-sized trees (Mayer and Laudenslayer 1988). On the OWMA, this habitat is associated with the floodplains of the Muddy and Virgin rivers. Usually, an abrupt transition occurs between this and adjacent shorter and more open desert habitats. Canopy development and height varies with constituent plant species. For example, willow thickets (*Salix* spp.) have heights from 3 to 10 feet, whereas galleries of Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) may exceed 80 feet. Other common plant species include arrowweed (*Pluchea sericea*), mesquite, sedges (*Carex* spp.), and rushes (*Juncus* spp.). Desert riparian habitat has been invaded by tamarisk on many portions of the OWMA. While relatively rare, the dense shrub cover and permanent water of desert riparian systems provide a more stable source of food,



# OVERTON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA



cover, and water making them extremely important to an array of wildlife populations. For example, the soft wood of cottonwood provides habitat for cavity nesters. Not surprisingly, more bird species at greater densities are supported by desert riparian than other desert habitats. There are about 2,886 acres of desert riparian habitat on the OWMA.

### 3. [MOJAVE DESERT SCRUB](#)

This is the most common habitat on the OWMA. Mojave Desert scrub habitats are open, scattered assemblages of evergreen or deciduous shrubs with canopy cover less than 50 percent (Mayer and Laudenslayer 1988). This habitat is well developed on valley floors. Creosotebush (*Larrea tridentata*) is often dominant in this habitat. Other associated plants include burrobrush (*Ambrosia dumosa*), wolfberry, and a host of annual forbs in years of timely and adequate rainfall. Desert scrub habitats support a variety of wildlife including Black-throated Sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*), kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), and numerous reptiles and rodents. There are about 8,345 acres of desert scrub on the OWMA.

### 4. [WET MEADOW](#)

Wet meadows generally have a simple structure consisting of a layer of herbaceous plants. Shrub or tree layers are usually very sparse. However, they may be an important feature of the meadow edge (Mayer and Laudenslayer 1988). Wet meadows usually occur as transition zones between fresh emergent wetlands and perennial grassland or mesic meadow. Where wet meadows merge with fresh emergent wetlands, slight differences in water depth control the species present. Common plant species on the OWMA in this habitat include rushes, sedges, spikerush (*Heleodoris* spp.) and willow. Waterfowl use this habitat for food, escape cover, and nesting habitat. There are 798 acres of this habitat on the OWMA.

### 5. [FRESH EMERGENT WETLAND \(PALUSTRINE\)](#)

Fresh emergent wetlands are characterized by erect, rooted herbaceous hydrophytes. Generally, perennial monocots to 6 ft. tall dominate vegetation (Cowardin, et al. 1979). Dominant vegetation in this habitat type on the OWMA includes alkali bulrush (*Scirpus maritimus*), hardstem bulrush (*S. acutus*), cattail (*Typha latifolia*), sago pondweed (*Potamogeton pectinatus*), rushes, smartweeds (*Polygonum* spp.), and common reed (*Phragmites australis*). The fresh emergent wetlands flood frequently and the roots of the vegetation prosper in an anaerobic (oxygen depleted) environment. The acreage of fresh emergent wetlands in Nevada has decreased dramatically since the turn of the century due to drainage and conversion to other uses, primarily agriculture and periodic droughts. Fresh emergent wetlands are among the most productive wildlife habitats in Nevada. They provide food, cover, and water for numerous kinds of birds including waterfowl, wading birds, secretive marsh birds,

and other mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. There are 22 acres of fresh emergent wetlands on the OWMA.

## 6. RIVERINE

The riverine system includes wetlands and deep-water habitats contained within a channel (Cowardin, et al. 1979). On the OWMA, this habitat consists of the Muddy River and Virgin River corridors. There are 421 acres of riverine habitat on the OWMA.

## 7. LACUSTRINE

Typical lacustrine habitats include permanently flooded lakes and reservoirs, intermittent lakes (e.g. playa lakes) and pond habitats with extensive areas of deepwater habitat (Cowardin, et al. 1979). Most permanent lacustrine systems support fish life; intermittent types usually do not. Vegetation, when present, is predominately nonpersistent emergent plants or submerged and/or floating plants. Lacustrine habitat is that portion of the OWMA inundated by Lake Mead. The deep water provides habitat for fish, cormorants, and diving ducks. Shallow littoral zones provide feeding areas for puddle ducks and shorebirds. Lacustrine habitats provide reproduction, foraging, water, and cover resources for mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. Using aerial photos taken in 2008, there was approximately 4,314 acres of lacustrine habitat on the OWMA.

## 8. AGRICULTURE CROPLAND

NDOW annually farms about 130 acres to enhance and increase wildlife habitat by growing specific grain crops (see Figure 2). Crops planted to benefit wildlife include barley, millet, wheat, alfalfa, and wildlife food and cover mixes. Many species of mammals and birds have adapted to croplands including doves, waterfowl, Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*), Sandhill Crane (*Grus Canadensis*), and White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*) that frequent the OWMA. In addition, there are 217 acres of intensively managed seasonal wetlands that are flooded in the fall to provide waterfowl forage. Hence, 347 acres are managed for food production.



Overton WMA Cropland

## 9. URBAN

Urban areas include buildings and grounds such as the OWMA headquarters, residences, public use facilities, and roads. These disturbed areas are susceptible to invasion by weeds and exotic plant species. Urban habitat occupies about 12 acres on the OWMA.

## B. RARE PLANT SPECIES

According to the Nevada Natural Heritage Program, a number of rare plants found within or near the OWMA either have special regulatory status and/or are at risk. These plants are listed below and additional information regarding their status is included in Appendix I.

- Littlefield milkvetch (*Astragalus preissi* var. *laxiflorus*);
- Silverleaf sunray (*Enceliopsis argophylla*);
- Dune sunflower (*Helianthus deserticola*);
- Threecorner milkvetch (*Astragalus geyeri triquetrus*) which prefers deep sand;
- Nye milkvetch (*Astragalus nyensis*) which is found in deep sand;
- Virgin River thistle (*Cirsium virginense*);
- Sticky buckwheat (*Eriogonum viscidulum*) which is found in deep sand; and
- Beaver Dam breadroot (*Pediomelum castoreum*).

## C. SOILS

Soils on the OWMA generally are moderately high to highly alkaline. Drainage is generally poor and soil texture varies from coarse to fine. Soils are not well suited for many agricultural crops, although with proper fertilization, most salt tolerant crops can be grown. The soils of OWMA fall into several soil series based on soil information from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The soil series present on the OWMA are described below.

Bluepoint Series: Consists of very deep, well drained to imperfectly drained, strongly calcareous, sandy soils formed in alluvium derived primarily from sandstone with mixtures of shale and limestone. These soils are cultivated and are suited for climatically adapted crops grown in the area.

Calico Series: Consists of deep, well drained to imperfectly drained strongly calcareous loamy soils formed in alluvium derived primarily from limestone with mixtures of sandstone, rhyolite and basalt. These soils, because of their high salinity, are managed as wetlands and bulrush is cultivated.

Overton Series: Consists of deep, poorly drained, very strongly calcareous, clayey soils formed in alluvium derived from limestone, shale and sandstone. These soils are strongly mottled with red and gray iron stains near the surface. On the OWMA, these soils are cultivated in agricultural crops and bulrush wetlands.

Tobler Series: Consists of deep, well-drained to imperfectly drained, strongly calcareous, sandy soils formed in alluvium primarily from sandstone, shale and limestone. On the OWMA, these soils are under cultivation for agricultural crops and wetlands, or are undeveloped and under native vegetation.

## IV. WILDLIFE RESOURCES OF OVERTON WMA

The fauna of OWMA is extremely diverse due to the mosaic of habitats present. This exceptional diversity in such a relatively small area makes the OWMA very important from a biological perspective. Although the area was originally developed to preserve habitats primarily for waterfowl, other fish and wildlife species including raptors, shorebirds, resident songbirds, neo-tropical migrants, and wading birds have benefited. There are 260 species of birds, 49 species of mammals, 17 species of fish and 43 species of reptiles and amphibians that are known to occur or are expected to occur on the OWMA (these species are listed in Appendices I and J).

### A. WATERFOWL

Waterfowl are common and highly visible on the OWMA. Waterfowl usage of the area is concentrated in the fall, winter, and spring periods. Limited waterfowl production has been recorded on the area.

#### 1. DUCKS

Over 22 species of ducks have been recorded on the OWMA. Annual Mid-Winter Waterfowl Surveys indicate the most commonly sighted species have been Northern Pintail (*Anas acuta*), Green-winged Teal (*Anas acuta*), Northern Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*), Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), and Gadwall (*Anas strepera*) (see Table 1).

Ducks are present year-round on the OWMA but their numbers begin to build with the migration beginning in late-September and typically peak in January. Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*) and Redhead (*Aythya americana*) tend to be early migrants, while flights of Mallard, Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*), and Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*) arrive later in the migration. Northern Pintail, Gadwall, Widgeon (*Anas americana*), Green-winged Teal, Shoveler, and Ruddy Duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) are normally present throughout the migration period.

Duck habitats are comprised of wet meadows, moist-soil units, ponds, fields, and riparian areas. Baltic rush (*Juncas balticus*), salt grass (*Distichlis spicata*) along the shorelines, and shallow depressions provide quality cover and nesting habitat. The most important duck food is sago pondweed, followed by alkali bulrush and spike rush.

Data from duck bands indicate ducks harvested on the OWMA come from all over the western United States and Canada; however there is a strong association with northern Utah marshes. The migration corridor from northern Utah through southern Nevada and into southern California is seemingly well defined. Not surprisingly, low numbers of waterfowl are recorded during periods of drought and high numbers were recorded during the fall and spring migration of wet years.

**TABLE 1: Overton WMA Annual Mid-Winter Waterfowl Survey Counts 2005-2014**

	YEAR	YEAR	YEAR	YEAR	YEAR	YEAR	YEAR	YEAR	YEAR	YEAR	AVERAGE
Mid-Winter Waterfowl Survey	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
Mallard	450	85	335	210	755	2,205	1,325	680	840	250	714
Black Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gadwall	100	210	120	60	175	130	50	355	535	40	178
Wigeon	140	10	0	10	75	30	0	10	130	10	42
Green-winged Teal	2,380	60	0	120	200	170	105	555	1,235	145	497
Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shoveler	190	95	0	65	125	125	30	130	420	690	187
Pintail	840	120	385	85	150	150	30	60	625	75	252
Wood Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whistling Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Subtotal Dabblers</b>	<b>4,100</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>2,810</b>	<b>1,540</b>	<b>1,790</b>	<b>3,785</b>	<b>1,210</b>	<b>1,869</b>
Redhead	40	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	10	6
Canvasback	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Scaup	0	0	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Ring-necked Duck	70	50	10	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	14
Goldeneye	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bufflehead	0	35	0	0	0	0	10	0	20	20	9
Ruddy Duck	60	25	0	0	0	0	0	40	0	0	13
<b>Subtotal Divers</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Total Ducks</b>	<b>4,270</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>1,480</b>	<b>2,810</b>	<b>1,550</b>	<b>1,840</b>	<b>3,805</b>	<b>1,240</b>	<b>1,914</b>
Lesser Snow Goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	10	1
Ross' Goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Snow/Ross' Unidentified	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Subtotal "Light " Geese</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>
White-fronted Goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Western Canada Goose	190	45	145	0	200	300	35	85	75	25	110
Lesser/Taverner Goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dark Geese Unidentified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Subtotal "Dark" Geese</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>Total Geese</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>111</b>
Tundra Swan	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1
Trumpeter Swan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swans Unidentified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Swans</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total Waterfowl</b>	<b>4,460</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>1,036</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>1,680</b>	<b>3,110</b>	<b>1,585</b>	<b>1,926</b>	<b>3,883</b>	<b>1,275</b>	<b>2,026</b>
Coots	690	320	445	175	515	1,100	685	910	455	1,530	683

## 2. GEESE

The Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) is the most common goose species found on the OWMA. Snow (*Chen caerulescens*) and Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*) are less frequent visitors. Geese are rarely seen at the OWMA during spring and summer months and infrequently observed from August to November. Migrants begin to arrive in December and their numbers peak in January. Similar to ducks, banding studies indicate that the majority of migrant geese utilizing OWMA breed in northern Utah.



Canada Geese

## 3. SWANS

Tundra Swans (*Cygnus columbianus*) are the most common species of swans found on the OWMA and typically arrive in late fall. Trumpeter Swans (*Cygnus buccinator*) are a relatively uncommon visitor.

## 4. COOTS

The American Coot (*Fulica americana*) is found in large numbers during the fall, winter, and spring seasons. They are the most common game bird on the area.

## B. UPLAND GAME

### 1. UPLAND GAME BIRDS

Mourning Doves (*Zenaida macroura*) occupy all habitat types on the OWMA. Numerous factors such as climatic and habitat conditions cause Mourning Dove breeding populations to be variable from year to year. Mourning Doves are present throughout the breeding season. The number of doves increase during fall migration and as weather shifts into late fall all but a few stragglers have left southern Nevada. White-winged Doves (*Zenaida asiatica*) occur infrequently on the OWMA.

From 1959 through 1969, NDOW released approximately 4,100 Ring-necked Pheasants (*Phasianus colchicus*) and 123 White-winged Pheasants (*Phasianus colchicus chrysolmelas*) on the OWMA. Due to such common problems as pen-raised birds lacking survival skills and habitat-related issues, these releases were not successful. Presently, pheasants are a rare sighting on the property and those birds are likely from off-site sources.

Gambel's Quail is common on the OWMA. Throughout the desert areas of southern Nevada, quail populations fluctuate widely in response to annual conditions, particularly winter rainfall that influences spring forage production. Quail populations on the OWMA tend to be more stable due to the presence of year-round water and cropland.

The Rio Grande Wild Turkey (*M. g. intermedia*) was introduced to the OWMA in February 1990. Since then, these birds have reproduced successfully, dispersing into areas off the OWMA. Currently, wild turkeys tend to concentrate on the OWMA and on croplands outside and north of the OWMA. The current estimate of turkeys in Moapa Valley is 350-500 with 60-90+ birds spending the majority of time on or near the OWMA.

## 2. [GAME MAMMALS AND FURBEARERS](#)

The only game mammal regularly observed on the OWMA is the desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus auduboni*). Similar to quail, cottontail populations respond to fluctuations in yearly habitat conditions. Furbearers known to frequent portions of OWMA include bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis*), and beaver (*Castor canadensis*).

## C. [NONGAME WILDLIFE](#)

A wide diversity of nongame birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and fish are found at the OWMA. The Colorado River system serves as a corridor for many birds migrating from nesting grounds to wintering areas as far south as Central and South America. The lower Colorado River system is a rich area for avian life, supplying easy travel routes and necessary cover, food, and water. Lists of species found or expected to occur on the OWMA are in Appendices I and J.

### 1. [WADING BIRDS](#)

Although it is possible to view them year-round, wading birds are more common at the OWMA during the fall and spring migrations. Some common species include Great Blue Heron (*Ardea Herodias*), Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*), and Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*). Other wading birds include White-faced Ibis (*Plegadis chihi*), and Great Egret (*Ardea alba*). Important feeding areas for wading birds include the shoreline of Lake Mead, edges of ponds, marsh areas, and wet meadows.

### 2. [SHOREBIRDS](#)

This group of birds is composed of species that prefer shoreline, mudflats, or wet meadow areas on the OWMA. Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*), American Avocet (*Recurvirostra americana*), Wilson's Phalarope (*Phalaropus tricolor*), Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*), and Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferous*) are common visitors. Other visitors include Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*), Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*), Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*), and Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*). Rare visitors include Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*), Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) and Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*).

Shorebird populations are most numerous during the fall and spring migrations. However, shorebird migrations are extremely variable from year to year depending on

climatic fluctuations and OWMA water levels. Fall migrations begin in summer when Wilson's Phalaropes arrive followed by American Avocets, Black-necked Stilts, Willets (*Tringa semipalmata*), and Godwits (Parmalee n.d.). Spring migrations tend to be quick compared to the more extended fall migrations. Breeding shorebird species include Killdeer and Spotted Sandpipers.

### 3. OTHER WATER AND MARSH BIRDS

The most abundant types of birds included in this category are various grebes, Double-crested Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), Ring-billed Gull (*Larus delawarensis*), Forster's Tern (*Sterna foresti*), and American White Pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*). Large groups of American White Pelicans occur in the fall and winter on the OWMA, adjacent Lake Mead, and Virgin River. Marsh birds occurring on the OWMA include the Western Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*), Sora (*Porzana carolina*), Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*) and the endangered Yuma Clapper Rail.

### 4. RAPTORS

OWMA is utilized by many raptor species during all seasons. Nesting species of raptors include the Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*), Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), and American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*). Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) and Prairie Falcons (*Falco mexicanus*) use the area for foraging. Peregrine Falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) breed nearby and also use OWMA year-round for foraging. Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) are regular winter visitors to OWMA. Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) and Merlins (*Falco columbarius*) also visit the area seasonally.



Peregrine Falcon

### 5. PASSERINES

Numerous passerine species frequent the OWMA, attracted to its diverse habitats including Mojave scrub, marsh, desert wash, mesquite, willow, and cottonwood areas. Passerines are diverse and represented by various flycatchers, hummingbirds, woodpeckers, warblers, gnatcatchers, orioles, swallows, thrashers, vireos, blackbirds, shrikes, grosbeaks, wrens, finches, towhees, and sparrows. Both the Virgin and Muddy River areas of OWMA support the greatest amount of important habitats for migrant and resident passerine birds. In particular, willow and cottonwood habitats provide key migratory and breeding habitat for the Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo and the endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. Mesquite habitats are also important to passerines, where you will likely encounter Phainopepla, Lucy's Warbler (*Oreothlypis luciae*), Crissal Thrasher (*Toxostoma crissale*), Western Kingbird (*Tyrannus verticalis*), and Verdin (*Auriparus flaviceps*). Other migrants visiting OWMA have included Purple Martin (*Progne subis*), Violet-green Swallow (*Tachycineta thalassina*), Ladder-backed Woodpecker (*Picoides scalaris*), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*), Sage

Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*), Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*), Cedar Waxwing (*Bombcilla cedrorum*), Northern Shrike (*Lanius excubitor*), Wilson's Warbler (*Cardellina pusilla*), Dickcissel (*Spiza Americana*), and Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*). Passerine populations generally peak during the spring migration period followed by nesting and breeding of resident and neo-tropical migrants. A comprehensive list can be found in Appendix J.

## 6. MAMMALS

A number of small and medium-sized mammal species reside at or frequent the OWMA. These include carnivores such as the coyote, striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), spotted skunk (*Spilogale putorius*), long-tailed weasel (*Mustela frenata*), and badger (*Taxidea taxus*). Herbivorous or granivorous species include black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*), white-tailed antelope squirrel (*Ammospermophilus nelsoni*), Merriam's kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys merriami*), desert kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys deserti*), desert pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus penicillatus*), as well as western harvest mouse (*Reithrodontomys megalotis*). Additionally, a multitude of bats utilize the OWMA for foraging, drinking and roosting. Some examples are the pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), Mexican free-tailed bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*), canyon bat (*Parastrellus hesperus*), Yuma myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*), western yellow bat (*Lasiurus xanthinus*), and big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*). Several migratory tree-roosting bats also utilize OWMA at various times of the year, including the western red bat (*Lasiurus blossevillii*), hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*) and silver-haired bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*).

## 7. REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

Reptile SOCP that have been observed at or adjacent to the OWMA include the: desert horned lizard (*Phrynosoma platyrhinos*), common chuckwalla (*Sauromalus alter*), desert iguana (*Dipsosaurus dorsalis*), long-nosed leopard lizard (*Gambelia wislizenii*), Great Basin collared lizard (*Crotaphytus bicinctores*), western banded gecko (*Coleonyx variegates*), spotted leafnose snake (*Phyllorhynchus decurtatus*), long-tailed brush lizard (*Urosaurus graciosus*), western shovel-nose snake (*Chionactis occipitalis*), and western threadsnake (*Rena humilis*). The sidewinder (*Crotalus cerastes*) frequents the sandier habitats of Mormon Mesa. Snake species not identified as SOCP include: the Great Basin gopher snake (*Pituophis catenifer melanoleucus*), coachwhip (*Masticophis flagellum*), glossy snake (*Arizona elegans*), desert nightsnake (*Hypsiglena torquata*), red racer (*Coluber constrictor*), variable groundsnake (*Sonora semiannulata*), western lyresnake (*Trimorphodon biscutatus*), Mojave patch-nosed snake (*Salvadora hexalepis*), long-nosed snake (*Rhinocheilus lecontei*), Mojave rattlesnake (*Crotalus scutulatus*), and speckled rattlesnake (*Crotalus mitchellii*). Additional lizard and snake species that do or may occur on the OWMA include: the side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*), tiger whiptail (*Aspidosceles tigris*), desert spiny lizard (*Sceloporus magister*), zebra-tailed lizard (*Callisaurus draconoides*), California kingsnake (*Lampropeltis getula*) and ornate tree lizard (*Urosaurus ornatus*). Woodhouse's toad (*Anaxyrus woodhousii*), red spotted toad (*A. punctatus*), and Pacific

treefrog (*Pseudacris regilla*) appear to be the most common nongame amphibians on the OWMA.

## 8. CRANES

Greater Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) occur in very small numbers at the OWMA, primarily during migrations. They use the area for resting and foraging during the early spring and fall period. In the late winter of 2013, a Common Crane (*Grus grus*), a rare visitor also known as the Eurasian Crane and usually only found in Europe, was discovered with a group of Greater Sandhill Cranes.

## D. GAME FISH

The OWMA borders the LMNRA and the size of the area within the OWMA inundated by Lake Mead has varied considerably. As discussed in Section VI, the lake's levels in recent years have been well below the OWMA boundary. Two of the three major tributaries of the lake, the Virgin and Muddy rivers, run through the OWMA. Both inflows are exceedingly important to the primary production of Lake Mead. These areas provide nutrient-rich inflows into the reservoir, stimulating primary productivity that supports the game fish populations in Lake Mead; however, game fish typically do not migrate up the Virgin and Muddy rivers into the OWMA. None of the ponds on the OWMA currently support game fish.

## E. NONGAME FISH

Several native nongame fish species are found in or near Lake Mead proper and on the OWMA. These species are discussed in more detail in Section F2. The OWMA is centered around three unique ecosystems, all of which are the habitat of sensitive nongame fish species: the Virgin River, the Muddy River, and the Colorado River (which includes Lake Mead proper).

## F. RARE WILDLIFE SPECIES

The Nevada Natural Heritage Program and NDOW databases for the OWMA area (see Appendices I and J) contain a number of rare wildlife species as described below. Most of these species are listed under the ESA, and/or are NDOW SOCP.

### 1. RARE BIRD SPECIES

Rare wildlife species recorded on the OWMA include the Endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Yuma Clapper Rail. Ongoing studies (McLeod and Pellegrini 2008-2012) on both the Virgin and Muddy River portions of the WMA have detected multiple pairs of breeding flycatchers in dense patches of coyote and Gooding's willows. The non-migratory Yuma Clapper Rail occurs on the WMA and is routinely detected during the breeding season at Honeybee, Center, and Wilson ponds, and the

Secret Marsh. Conservation measures have been established with the USFWS to help coordinate management actions on the WMA (see Appendix K).

The Bald Eagle, previously listed as Threatened under the ESA, is a winter visitor at the OWMA. The Peregrine Falcon, delisted from the ESA in 1999, hunts and forages on the WMA and breeds nearby.

Other rare species occurring on the OWMA include the Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo, which is protected as a Threatened species under the ESA. Also, the Western Least Bittern and Phainopepla occur on the WMA.

## 2. RARE FISH SPECIES

Fish species once common along the Virgin River include: woundfin, Virgin River chub, flannelmouth sucker (*Catostomus latipinnis*), desert sucker (*Catostomus clarkii*), and speckled dace (*Rhinichthys osculus*). These species are now rare and have not been found within the Virgin River portion of the OWMA in recent years.

The Moapa dace (*Moapa coriacea*), Virgin River chub, Moapa springfish (*Crenichthys baileyi moapae*), and Moapa speckled dace (*Rhinichthys osculus moapae*) are still found in upstream reaches of the Muddy River, but are no longer found in downstream reaches near the OWMA.



Razorback Sucker

Native fish species historically found on the main stem Colorado River, termed "big river" fishes, are nearly all extirpated from Lake Mead. These extirpated species include the Colorado pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*), humpback chub (*Gila cypha*), and bonytail chub (*Gila elegans*). Of the "big river" fishes, only the razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*) still remains in Lake Mead proper. Razorback

suckers are commonly found during surveys of the Overton Arm (the portion of Lake Mead nearest the OWMA, from Echo Bay up to the Muddy and Virgin River inflows).

NDOW is a partner with other agencies in the management and protection of nongame fish and is a key partner in the work groups listed below.

- Muddy River Biological Advisory Committee - interagency work group focusing on recovery and conservation of native fishes and riparian areas of the Muddy River
- Lower Virgin River Recovery Implementation Team - interagency work group seeking recovery and conservation of native fishes in the lower Virgin River (Virgin River Gorge in Arizona downstream to Lake Mead)

- Lake Mead Razorback Sucker Work Group - interagency work group focusing recovery and conservation of razorback sucker in Lake Mead; razorback sucker currently being reared in Center and Honeybee ponds at OWMA are a part of this group's efforts
- Native Fish Work Group - interagency work group seeking recovery and conservation of razorback sucker and bonytail in Lake Mohave and the Colorado River below Lake Mohave; razorback sucker currently being reared in Center and Honeybee ponds at OWMA are a part of this group's efforts as well



*Desert Horned Lizard*

## V. HYDROLOGY AND WATER RESOURCES OF OVERTON WMA

### A. HYDROLOGY AND WATER RESOURCES

OWMA is located along the Lower Moapa Valley sub-basin of the Colorado River Basin hydrologic area. The two major sources of water at the OWMA are the Muddy and Virgin rivers. Virgin River flows provide relatively natural habitat while Muddy River flows are diverted at the north end of the WMA for beneficial use on the developed portion of the area. The Muddy River has a long history of periodically flooding the lower Moapa Valley resulting in extensive damage to developed areas in the valley and on the OWMA. The shallow surface water evaporation rate within the Lower Moapa Valley Hydrographic Basin is estimated to be approximately 65 inches annually (Huntington and Allen 2010).

NDOW owns 51.3 preferred shares of the Muddy Valley Irrigation Company water that were purchased between 1968 and 2004 (see Table 2). The preferred shares deliver 125.6 acre-feet of water to be used between May 1 and September 30 each year. NDOW also owns 80.5 common shares of the Muddy Valley Irrigation Company water purchased in 1975 (70 shares) and 1989 (10.5 shares). The common shares deliver 157.0 acre-feet of water to be used between October 1 and April 30 each year.

Return flow permit #10188, Certificate #5126, issued to the NPS in 1961, provides 25 cubic feet per second (cfs) of Muddy River water for irrigation and propagation of migratory waterfowl on 561.8 acres of land. This water allocation is not to exceed 2,247.3 acre-feet of water per calendar year. NDOW has the use of this water as long as it manages the WMA. NDOW was issued two additional return flow permits for Muddy River water. Permit #81054 provides 25 cfs of water for wildlife purposes. Permit #27412 provides 10 cfs of water for fish, wildlife, and recreation purposes on 166.6 acres of land. Together, the return flow permits allow water to be used between January 1 and December 31 each year.

	Use	Period of Use	Diversion Rate	Duty Balance (ac-ft)	Date of Priority
Common Shares (80.5)	Irrigation	10/01-04/30	N/A	125.6	As Decreed
Preferred Shares (51.3)	Irrigation	05/01-09/30	N/A	157.0	As Decreed
Permit Number 10188 (NPS)	Irrigation	01/01-12/31	25 cfs	2,247.3	1937
Permit Number 27412	Wildlife	01/01-12/31	10 cfs	666.4	1973
Permit Number 81054	Wildlife	01/01-12/31	25 cfs	Waste and Drain (No Duty)	2007

As discussed in Section VI below, Lake Mead's inundation levels have played a major role in the management of the OWMA.

## B. WATER DISTRIBUTION AND MANAGEMENT

Water from the Muddy River is diverted from the river channel on the OWMA by raising the water level behind a diversion structure into the "A" canal. Water is then diverted from the "A" canal into a concrete feeder ditch at the head of each field. Irrigation structures are used to dispense water into the fields. The water distribution system on the OWMA is composed of approximately 10 miles of either polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe or cement ditches.

The diversion structure was damaged during the flood of 2005 when debris struck the radial gate rendering it non-functional. In coordination with NPS, USFWS, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, repairs to the diversion structure are scheduled to be completed in 2015 along with modifications to the cement walls to prevent further erosion. A catwalk will be provided for safe access to the operational works.

Water level monitoring is conducted frequently and adjustments are made as required. In most years on the OWMA, water is in surplus from September through April and in short supply during late May through August. Monthly water deliveries to the OWMA from the Muddy Valley Irrigation Company control the extent of pond and wetland development at the OWMA as well as the timing of irrigation for crops and bulrush fields. While water conservation and efficiencies will improve as deteriorating cement ditches are replaced with PVC pipe, there may be additional water available which could be purchased and transferred to OWMA to address part of the area's water shortages.



*OWMA Flood of 2005*

## VI. EXISTING MANAGEMENT OF OVERTON WMA

Historically, development activities at the OWMA were controlled to a large degree by the actual and projected water levels of Lake Mead. Historically, Lake Mead completely inundated three developed ponds and the lower agriculture fields (see Figure 5). In 1983, Lake Mead reached a maximum of 1,225.85 ft. above MSL. At this level it inundated three upper agricultural fields, two series of alkali bulrush fields, and nearly inundated the OWMA's residence and headquarters facilities. According to the most recent data available from the USBR's Lower Colorado River Operations office, Lake Mead was at an elevation of 1,093.49 ft. above MSL (United States Bureau of Reclamation 2014). Hydrographic records and other data from this office were used to estimate the Lake Mead water levels shown in Figure 5.

As shown in Figure 5, the lowest recorded lake level occurred in 2010 when the lake dropped to 1,081 ft. above MSL, well downstream of the OWMA. The USBR estimates that Lake Mead levels will be managed during the next 2 years at levels fluctuating between the current level and 1,069.11 ft. above MSL (United States Bureau of Reclamation 2014). Lake levels are not expected to exceed 1,215 ft. above MSL into the foreseeable future, which is the level at which the developed portion of the OWMA and related management activities would be directly affected.

The remainder of this section summarizes the major types of existing management practices at the OWMA.

### A. FARMING

A variety of agricultural crops are grown on about 130 acres of the OWMA to provide forage, shelter, and escape cover for a variety of wildlife. Alfalfa is currently the main forage crop grown on the area that benefits migrating waterfowl. Barley, oats, millet, sorghum, sudangrass, wheat, corn, sunflower, and rye grass have been planted in past years. Alfalfa is also grown as a rotation crop since it is high in nitrogen, and when disked into the soil, helps with soil fertility. Irrigation of croplands is accomplished through a system of concrete canals, ditches, and PVC pipes. The frequency of crop irrigation depends on soil, weather conditions, and crop requirements but averages once every 7-9 days. All planting is done on a schedule most advantageous to crop production, waterfowl, and other wildlife uses.

### B. ALKALI BULRUSH PLOTS

About 200 acres of alkali bulrush are presently managed under the farming and water management programs. Although alkali bulrush is a wetland plant, farming methods are used in its management. The fields are flooded in the fall and become shallow ponds throughout waterfowl season, providing the main food source for waterfowl that visit OWMA. Geese use these areas but also forage in the green alfalfa and barley fields. Spraying with herbicides approved for aquatic use, chopping, and burning are

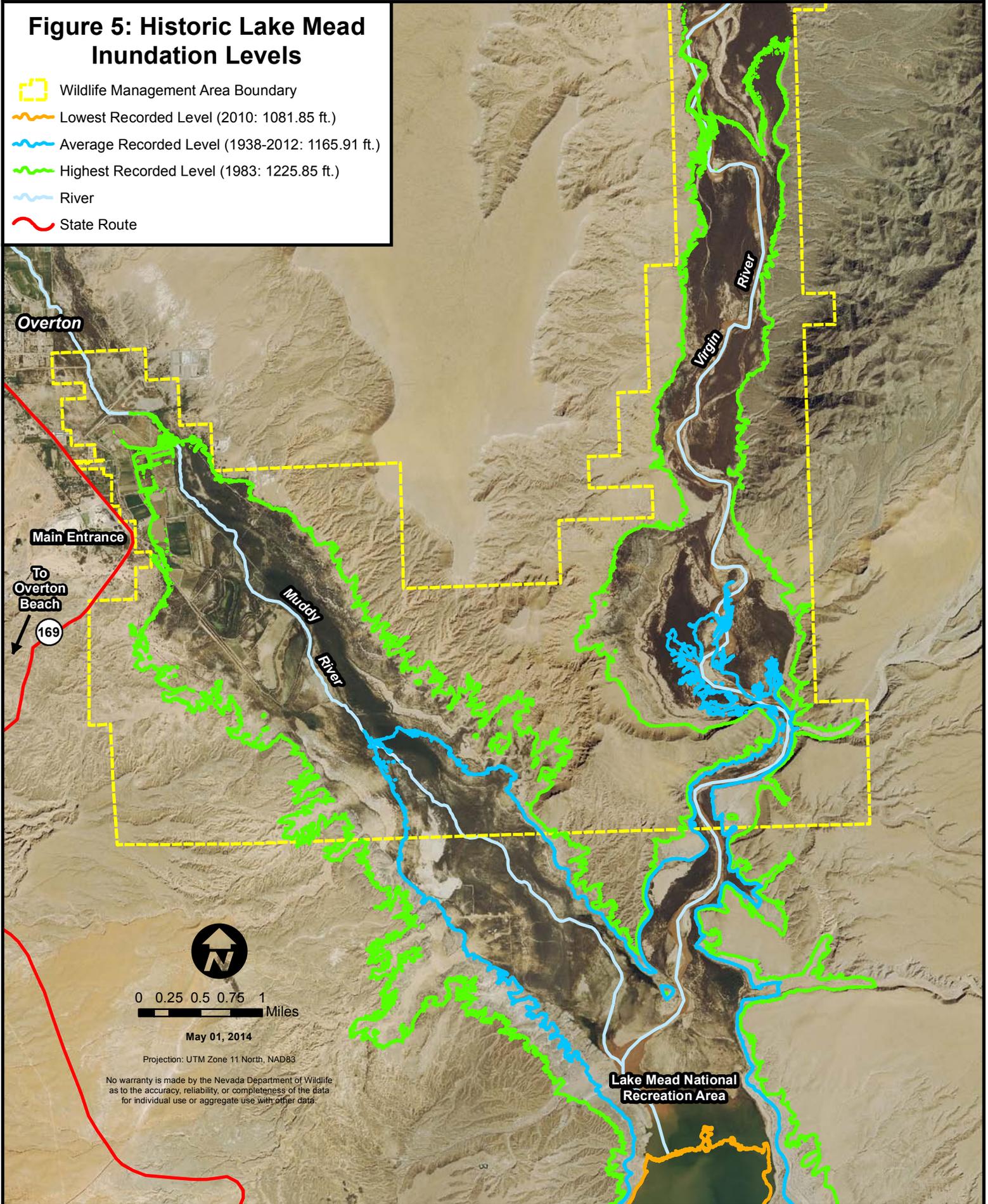


# OVERTON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA



## Figure 5: Historic Lake Mead Inundation Levels

-  Wildlife Management Area Boundary
-  Lowest Recorded Level (2010: 1081.85 ft.)
-  Average Recorded Level (1938-2012: 1165.91 ft.)
-  Highest Recorded Level (1983: 1225.85 ft.)
-  River
-  State Route



No warranty is made by the Nevada Department of Wildlife as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

used in these areas to control dense cattail. The fields are drained and allowed to dry through the summer months, providing water for summer crops.

### C. PRESCRIBED BURNING

Prescribed burning is a practical and economical tool for the management of natural vegetation and to control litter and stimulate plant re-growth. Using prescribed fire as a management tool in wetlands can reduce dead debris, and help control shrubs, trees, and thick stands of cattail and bulrush, while increasing the availability of forage.

Currently, area management practices include prescribed burning to improve waterfowl habitat, and vegetation maintenance along pond edges and agricultural drainage ditches. Burning is sometimes used in conjunction with mechanical manipulation. Following burning, the re-growth creates a green-up of sprouting plants that provides a tender succulent feed for upland game and migratory waterfowl.

Assistance during prescribed burns is provided by Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) by writing burn plans, providing additional personnel, and fire suppression engines. Smoke management from prescribed burning is becoming more of an issue in the western states. NDEP has recently revised regulations and the permit process for conducting prescribed burning. More planning, coordination, manpower, and equipment will be required in the future as the window of opportunity for prescribed burning narrows.

In general, the amount of cattails and hardstem bulrush on the OWMA is managed to provide as much variation of vegetation possible.

### D. HERBICIDE SPRAYING

Chemical control is an effective method to manage vegetation in conjunction with water management, when water management alone will not meet vegetation objectives. Spraying is conducted on about 100 acres annually with herbicides approved for aquatic use (e.g., Rodeo, Weedar 64, Garlon 3, and Aquaneat). The purpose of the spraying is to open up mono-typical stands of cattail and hardstem bulrush to make them more desirable for waterfowl. The areas targeted are primarily shallow (0-3 ft. deep). In the past, these areas were managed for alkali bulrush and sago pondweed.

Hand spraying is also conducted to open ditches, enhance water delivery, and to provide better habitat to attract waterfowl by decreasing the emergent vegetation, primarily hardstem bulrush and cattails. An added benefit to hand spraying these areas is that the rate of siltation in the ditches and creeks is reduced and less time and money is spent mechanically cleaning the ditches with heavy equipment.

## E. INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT

The proliferation of invasive, non-native plants has become a major threat to the developed and native habitats on the OWMA. Controlling invasive plant species is a difficult and time-consuming management concern. The competitive nature of these plants and their ability to spread, impacts the natural plant diversity and ultimately the diversity of animals on the WMA. Activities that may promote distribution of invasive plant species include farming, livestock grazing, ground disturbance, and others. Weed control with herbicides or mechanical treatments needs to be followed by reseeded and restoration of native plant species to prevent reinvasion of the weeds. Noxious weed management on the OWMA will be guided by the practices in the *Noxious Weed Regulatory Program* administered by the Nevada Department of Agriculture. The most problematic noxious weed species on the OWMA are tamarisk and Russian knapweed (*Centaurea repens*).



*Tamarisk*

Tamarisk or saltcedar is a non-native, deciduous shrub that has spread throughout the southwest mostly along waterways, interrupting natural habitats. Its aggressive root system penetrates the deep ground water, often to the detriment of other species. In many sites, it forms dense stands where no native plants can grow under the canopy. This species is very difficult to eradicate. Control methods include biological, mechanical, and chemical control; however, no one method has been entirely successful. On the

OWMA, tamarisk has invaded the Virgin and Muddy River corridors, creating a vast monoculture with few wildlife benefits. Intensive management after removal of tamarisk is critical to the success of restoration efforts.

Russian knapweed, a deep-rooted perennial colonizes cultivated fields, pastures, roadsides, and rangelands. Plants grow 1.5 to 3 ft. tall and invade new areas through cultivation and transporting seeds on equipment and vehicles.

## F. COLLECTING WATERFOWL AND HARVEST DATA

The annual Mid-Winter Waterfowl Survey, which is conducted by all states in early January, is the only statewide aerial waterfowl population survey that incorporates the OWMA. Additionally, fall and winter waterfowl population surveys on the OWMA are obtained through ground counts by OWMA staff.

Waterfowl surveys are conducted on the OWMA to monitor waterfowl use and harvest. Check stations are operated on the OWMA about 40 days each year to check in hunters and to obtain harvest data.

## G. FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Capital improvements on the OWMA include an office/shop building and equipment storage shed. Annual facilities maintenance includes general upkeep of storage buildings, grounds, and residences. All dams and dikes are maintained in good condition, and canals and ditches are cleaned and repaired as needed. Project roads are graded including cleaning culverts as necessary. The perimeter fence is repaired as needed. Facilities maintenance includes pumping outhouses annually, chopping weeds, and general upkeep of the public use facilities. OWMA information signs are repaired or replaced as necessary. All project equipment and vehicles are maintained in good condition for safe operation as outlined in the NDOW Equipment Policy and Procedures manual.

NDOW will periodically assess the property to make sure it is in compliance with the ADA. Where compliance is not met, the Department will develop a transition plan to meet any deficiencies. Needed upgrades and changes to facilities will be budgeted for and phased in over a period of time as funds become available.

## H. LAW ENFORCEMENT

Routine and emergency law enforcement on the OWMA is administered through NDOW's Law Enforcement Division. A summary of general WMA regulations along with regulations specific to OWMA are provided in Appendices E and F, respectively. The Game Warden that patrols the OWMA resides on the property and is also responsible for covering a patrol area that is approximately 9,600,000 acres in size.

## VII. PUBLIC USE OF OVERTON WMA

The OWMA is a productive oasis in the southern Nevada desert with hunting and wildlife watching the major public use activities. This WMA provides an important opportunity for people living in Clark County and elsewhere to hunt and otherwise enjoy waterfowl and other wildlife. The area contributes to the economy of both Overton and Logandale, particularly during the waterfowl, dove, and turkey seasons. The demand for wildlife- and wetlands-oriented recreation from the Las Vegas area far surpasses the capability of this area as currently developed to meet such demand. However, the potential exists for enhancing wildlife-related recreation opportunities on the OWMA if new recreation-related improvements are implemented.

### A. HUNTING

A significant portion of the public use on the OWMA involves the hunting sports, particularly for residents of Southern Nevada. Waterfowl hunting is the most popular hunting activity on the area. However, hunters also pursue dove, quail, rabbit, and wild turkey.

#### 1. WATERFOWL HUNTING

Due to its close proximity to the Las Vegas Valley, the OWMA is a high-demand use area for waterfowl hunters. As Southern Nevada's population grew so did the demand for hunting space on the management area. Due to safety concerns associated with crowded waterfowl hunting conditions, NDOW developed and implemented an assigned blind and reservation system on the OWMA. The assigned blind, reservation system, and reasonable accommodations for disabled hunters process has been modified through the years and is presently a very workable system that benefits the hunter and the resource. The regulations developed for these systems are found in Appendices E and F.



During the waterfowl season, hunting is allowed on the developed Moapa Valley portion of the WMA on opening day, even-numbered calendar days throughout the season, the last two days of the waterfowl season, and during youth waterfowl hunts. Hunters on the developed portion are confined to 45 blind locations with up to four hunters allowed per blind. Hunting activity is allowed every day for which there is an established season on the undeveloped Virgin Valley portion of the area.

Estimates of waterfowl hunter use and harvest on the management area are established through the use of bag checks, check stations, and the statewide hunter questionnaire. During the 2013-14 waterfowl hunting season on the OWMA, season length for ducks was 44 days with a daily (and in possession) limit of 7 (21) birds, respectively. The goose season was 44 days with a daily and possession limit of 3 (9) birds for Canada Goose, 6 (18) for White-fronted Goose and 20 (60) for light geese, respectively. Hunters could pursue coots during a 44 day season with a daily and possession limit of 25 (75) birds.

During 2013-14, sportsmen and women expended an estimated 2,200 hunter days to harvest 3,469 ducks and 58 geese with an average of 1.70 birds per hunter (see Table 3). During the past 12 years, estimates of hunter use on the OWMA place the average number of hunter days expended on waterfowl hunting at approximately 1,575 annually and 1.2 birds per hunter based upon information obtained from at the check station and user activity cards.

Since 2002, ducks have comprised approximately 96% of all waterfowl harvested on the OWMA. Dabblers have comprised around 85% of all waterfowl harvest on the area with Green-winged Teal, Mallards, Northern Pintails and Northern Shovelers accounting for the majority of the harvest of dabbling ducks. Diving species comprised about 10% of the waterfowl harvest with Redheads, Ruddy Ducks, Ring-necked Ducks and Scaup accounting for most of the harvest of diving ducks. Geese have comprised approximately 4% of the harvest with an average of 71 birds harvested annually. American Coots have comprised about 5% of the migratory game bird harvest with an average of 95 birds harvested annually since 2002.

## 2. [UPLAND GAME HUNTING](#)

Sportsmen are also attracted to OWMA for dove, quail, rabbit, and turkey hunting. Hunting of quail is difficult due to the heavy stands of brush. Rabbit hunting is usually associated with hunting of other species and they are taken when the opportunity arises. Mourning Doves are the principal dove species taken, although occasionally White-winged Dove and Eurasian Collared Dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*) also are taken. The availability of doves on the OWMA is largely dependent on the timing of the first cold weather front to arrive in Northern Nevada, that will ultimately push the birds into Southern Nevada. An estimated 1,250 upland game hunter use days occur annually.



*Rio Grande Turkeys*

## B. [FISHING ON LAKE MEAD PROPER](#)

Due to decreases in lake elevations, fishing activities primarily take place on Lake Mead downstream of the OWMA boundary. The Overton Arm of Lake Mead supports

**Table 3: Overton WMA Waterfowl Harvest Summary 2002-14**

Migratory Bird Season:	2002-	2003-	2004-	2005-	2006-	2007-	2008-	2009-	2010-	2011-	2012-	2013-	Average
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	
Mallard	86	251	270	356	370	898	391	692	739	998	841	915	567
Pintail	6	38	108	234	131	229	59	92	268	288	293	336	174
Gadwall	10	134	79	154	83	105	87	81	131	189	152	335	128
Wigeon	43	135	79	183	100	213	165	209	239	276	296	460	200
Green-winged teal	34	108	108	663	195	431	158	180	289	660	267	583	306
Cinnamon teal	6	11	4	60	11	79	13	9	13	62	31	104	34
Blue-winged teal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Shoveler	24	119	112	281	166	334	108	66	223	595	424	452	242
Wood Duck	5	2	1	11	1	8	0	1	1	11	4	2	4
Redhead	14	17	17	29	23	62	35	20	21	154	71	40	42
Canvasback	0	5	11	15	18	36	0	14	12	26	31	17	15
Scaup	23	19	35	21	8	24	15	13	16	24	30	19	21
Bufflehead	28	24	29	13	13	27	14	29	28	28	26	35	25
Ruddy Duck	98	39	62	76	35	59	21	20	68	72	116	84	63
Ring-necked Duck	21	35	52	50	24	29	22	13	21	37	66	26	33
Other Ducks	6	13	5	10	18	79	17	25	25	40	55	61	30
<b>Total Ducks</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>972</b>	<b>2156</b>	<b>1196</b>	<b>2613</b>	<b>1105</b>	<b>1464</b>	<b>2095</b>	<b>3461</b>	<b>2703</b>	<b>3469</b>	<b>1882</b>
Canada Geese	42	73	32	73	80	64	85	46	65	51	47	44	59
White-fronted	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	1
Snow or Ross	20	9	12	7	11	15	7	10	20	7	9	13	12
<b>Total Geese</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>Total Waterfowl</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>1032</b>	<b>1018</b>	<b>2238</b>	<b>1287</b>	<b>2692</b>	<b>1198</b>	<b>1520</b>	<b>2180</b>	<b>3520</b>	<b>2761</b>	<b>3527</b>	<b>1953</b>
Coot	27	58	15	74	120	79	74	85	61	70	265	207	95
Common Snipe	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	11	0	0	1
<b>Total Other</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>Hunter Data:</b>													
<b>Number of Hunters</b>	<b>1072</b>	<b>1163</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>2441</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>1729</b>	<b>1533</b>	<b>1536</b>	<b>1602</b>	<b>1848</b>	<b>1847</b>	<b>2200</b>	<b>1575</b>
<b>Ducks/Hunter</b>	<b>0.38</b>	<b>0.82</b>	<b>1.03</b>	<b>0.88</b>	<b>1.21</b>	<b>1.51</b>	<b>0.72</b>	<b>0.95</b>	<b>1.31</b>	<b>1.87</b>	<b>1.46</b>	<b>1.58</b>	<b>1.10</b>
<b>Dark Geese/Hunter</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>0.06</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>0.03</b>	<b>0.08</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>0.06</b>	<b>0.03</b>	<b>0.04</b>	<b>0.03</b>	<b>0.03</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>0.04</b>
<b>Light Geese/Hunter</b>	<b>0.019</b>	<b>0.008</b>	<b>0.013</b>	<b>0.003</b>	<b>0.011</b>	<b>0.009</b>	<b>0.005</b>	<b>0.007</b>	<b>0.012</b>	<b>0.004</b>	<b>0.005</b>	<b>0.010</b>	<b>0.009</b>
<b>Total Birds/Hunter</b>	<b>0.46</b>	<b>0.94</b>	<b>1.10</b>	<b>0.95</b>	<b>1.43</b>	<b>1.60</b>	<b>0.83</b>	<b>1.04</b>	<b>1.40</b>	<b>1.95</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>1.70</b>	<b>1.21</b>

some of the heaviest angler use on any reservoir in the state of Nevada. Before the mid-1980s, the Overton Arm supported over 40% of the Lake Mead fishing effort. This has changed somewhat with the introduction and success of the striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*). When the lake levels are high enough to reach the OWMA, (which is not expected to be a common occurrence in the future) the Overton Arm supports 20-25% of the lake-wide angling effort. Along the upper Overton Arm (the area of the Overton Arm closest to the OWMA), anglers typically have a fishing preference of largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*), smallmouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*), striped bass, black crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*), and channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*).

### C. OTHER WILDLIFE-RELATED ACTIVITIES

The OWMA receives considerable use by “non-consumptive users”. These users participate in a wide-range of recreation activities such as sightseeing, wildlife viewing, dog training, horseback riding, photography, hiking, and educational and scientific uses.

Wildlife viewing is becoming very popular across the country and in Nevada. In 2011, approximately 505,000 Nevada residents participated in wildlife watching activities (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2011). Roads throughout the area provide excellent viewing of wetland-dependent wildlife and upland wildlife.

Other wildlife-related activities on the OWMA have included bird watching tours and tree planting projects conducted by the Red Rock Audubon Society, an inventory of OWMA species by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) researchers, the development of potential watchable wildlife projects by UNLV, visits by scout groups, rotary clubs, hunting dog training and field trials by dog training organizations, hunter education classes, school groups, and others.



## VIII. PROJECTS COMPLETED SINCE THE LAST CMP

Since the year 2000 when the last OWMA CMP was prepared, a number of projects have been completed at the OWMA and are summarized below.

- Honeybee Pond was dried for a period of one year to allow for the use of heavy equipment to remove silt and excessive layers of decayed vegetation. Excavated materials were used to create islands for nesting and escape cover for wildlife.
- A new agricultural field above 1,215 ft. above MSL was built adjacent to the B-5 agriculture field and the B-4 alkali bulrush field. This field consists of approximately 28.5 acres for agriculture and 11 acres of wetland and riparian habitats, and provides increased opportunity for waterfowl and upland game hunting.
- Parking areas have been added that minimize disturbance to hunters and waterfowl.
- Foot bridges were maintained and built to improve hunter access.
- Campground and restroom facilities have been added and enhanced on the OWMA.
- The Check Station was relocated closer to the main gate in order to provide room for additional campsites.
- A trash receptacle was added at the campground to minimize need for frequent trash pickup by area personnel.
- ADA-compliant facilities were added to provide additional access for disabled visitors on the OWMA; this included the installation of two restrooms and three blinds for waterfowl hunting.
- Hunting blinds were replaced with larger and safer units. Hunting Blind 36 was moved from Pintail and Wilson ponds, and Blind C-3 was moved to the opposite side of the field for safer and more productive hunting in those locations.
- Improvements to the equipment shop included adding insulation, and replacing the cooling units to improve energy efficiency and working conditions.
- The OWMA's roads, fencing, and bridges were maintained and enhanced.
- Removal of asbestos and remodeling of the OWMA employee residence was completed.
- Cattle guard crossings were modified for improved user and heavy equipment access on the area.
- Crews continue to remove tamarisk and other invasive vegetation and plant desirable vegetation such as cottonwoods, willows and mesquite trees.
- Repairs have been made to levees and ditches following flood damage. Several open ditches have been replaced with PVC pipe.
- Water control structures were replaced at seasonal ponds and irrigation ditches in 2014.

# PART TWO

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## I. INTRODUCTION AND APPROACH

This section includes the CMP's desired outcomes, goals, objectives, and management actions. A team of NDOW employees developed these with input from OWMA stakeholders who provided comments during public scoping meetings held in Overton and Las Vegas during the preparation of the draft CMP, in follow-up emails from stakeholders, or at CCAB meetings in Las Vegas. Input from stakeholders was also received in the form of comments on the draft CMP. Together, the desired outcomes, goals, objectives, and management actions in this final draft of the CMP establish the OWMA's management direction for the next 10 years. Each of these terms is defined below.

Desired Outcomes are found at the beginning of each major section that follows and are brief descriptions of future conditions NDOW expects to be the result of successfully implementing the management actions defined in this CMP. The desired outcome statements are from NDOW's most recent strategic plan, the NDOW Comprehensive Strategic Plan (Nevada Department of Wildlife 2004).

Goals are broad statements of management direction related to the desired outcomes, but are relatively more detailed.

Objectives are related to each type of goal and provide further, more-detailed explanations of accomplishments that are desired once the related management actions are fully implemented.

Management Actions are specific action items, tasks or strategies to be implemented, and are needed to help ensure the CMP's goals and objectives are met. Management actions help answer the question "What specific tasks need to be accomplished to achieve our objectives?" There are two types of management actions: existing and new. The existing management actions are ongoing or recurring actions, or were in the process of being implemented by OWMA staff when the draft CMP was being prepared. New management actions have been included in this CMP, were finalized using comments on the draft CMP, and will be implemented in the future.

Some management actions may need to change over time if conditions change or unanticipated events occur. As described in more detail in Section II E, monitoring and adaptive management will be employed to monitor the effects of these actions and thus help determine how successful their implementation is. The results of the monitoring will help determine if some actions need to change or perhaps be replaced with different actions.

The goals, objectives, and management actions were divided into the major categories listed below.

#### Habitat and Wildlife Management

- Waterfowl, Dove, and Terrestrial Game Species Habitats and Wildlife Management
- Terrestrial Non-Game Species Habitats and Wildlife Management
- Undesirable Vegetation Control
- Protection of Rare Plants
- Predator Management
- Aquatic Species Habitats and Wildlife Management
- Farming, and Land and Water Rights Acquisitions

#### Public Use, Education and Outreach

- Hunting Opportunities and Blinds
- Other Visitor, Recreation, and Education Facility Improvements
- Avoiding and Minimizing Conflicts Between Different Types of Recreation Uses
- Volunteer Opportunities

#### Facility Development and Maintenance

- Water Infrastructure and Flood Control
- Headquarters Buildings and Grounds

#### Regulations Compliance and Enforcement

#### Monitoring and Adaptive Management



## II. GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

The goals, objectives, and management actions related to each type of resource, or management issue, are contained below and also are included in the summary table in Appendix A.

### A. HABITAT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

As noted by Wildlife Commission Policy 66 (Appendix D), the wetlands, riparian, and other water-related habitats found at the OWMA are especially important in arid regions like Nevada. In addition to being key habitats for a variety of resident game and non-game species, the OWMA's ponds and seasonal wetlands are a major stopping point for migratory waterfowl. These considerations, along with Policy 66's clear direction regarding what the area's priority uses need to be, were used to develop the habitat and wildlife management actions presented in this document. Such actions include habitat improvements that will benefit both game and non-game species, including the addition of a new pond, planting of additional cottonwoods, willows, and other riparian vegetation in areas where tamarisk has been removed, and increased efforts to connect undisturbed vegetation and other habitat components needed by the Yuma Clapper Rail and other secretive marsh birds. Efforts to control undesirable vegetation and predators will be increased. New pond leveling projects are needed to enhance waterfowl habitats while Conservation Measures will be used to help protect listed and candidate species. As funding allows, and when feasible, land and water rights will be purchased from willing sellers if they will help NDOW achieve the purposes of the OWMA.

#### *Related Desired Outcomes:*

*NDOW will conserve, protect, and manage all of Nevada's wildlife populations for their ecological, aesthetic, recreational, educational, and economic values*

*Wildlife habitats that are in good ecological condition, capable of supporting a diverse array of wildlife species*

*Healthy and secure game and furbearer populations in concert with their habitats, providing the public with recreational opportunities including hunting, trapping, and viewing*

*Aquatic habitats that are in good ecological condition, representing Nevada's variety of natural and man-made aquatic habitats*

*Predator populations actively managed in acceptable balance with game populations and species of special concern at localized levels*

*Secure, stable and diverse native aquatic wildlife populations*

*Aquatic habitats free of Aquatic Nuisance Species (also referred to as Aquatic Invasive Species)*

*Healthy, diverse wildlife populations and habitats within naturally functioning ecosystems (Nevada Department of Wildlife 2004)*

1. [WATERFOWL, DOVE AND TERRESTRIAL GAME SPECIES HABITATS AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT](#)

**GOAL:** Protect and enhance migrating and local waterfowl and dove habitats while maintaining sustainable and harvestable waterfowl and dove populations

**Objectives:**

- Provide adequate feeding and resting habitats for ducks and geese during the migration and wintering periods
- Maintain and manage waterfowl habitats at the OWMA ponds and seasonal wetlands more efficiently, thus saving water and stretching limited water supplies as much as possible
- Improve and maintain habitats for waterfowl species that prefer relatively shallow water (e.g. shallow wading and dabbling ducks)
- Protect roosting and feeding areas for migrating and resident doves
- No net loss of ponds and seasonal wetlands, and improve their quantity and quality
- Monitor changes in waterfowl populations over time

**Existing Management Actions**

- GS1. Maintain at least 50 percent of aquatic habitats at less than 18 inches of water to maximize feeding areas.
- GS2. Control aquatic emergent vegetation to achieve a desired ratio of 70% open water to 30% vegetative cover.
- GS3. Manage open water habitats to provide dense stands of submergent vegetation, primarily sago pondweed, for diving species.
- GS4. Manage wetlands to promote moist-soil plants that will attract waterfowl.
- GS5. Manage cattails in the seasonal wetlands to provide maximum feed production.
- GS6. Maintain the maximum number of wetland surface acres consistent with available water supplies to benefit waterfowl and maximize hunting conditions.
- GS7. Manage agricultural fields to provide a diversity of dispersed feeding sights for waterfowl and doves, including plant patterns that create broken edges (or an edge effect) in fields.
- GS8. Maintain cottonwood roost sites.

- GS9. Monitor Muddy River flows and maintain water diversions and levels in ponds and seasonal wetlands to provide as much waterfowl and other water-related wildlife habitats as possible.
- GS10. Conduct Mid-Winter Waterfowl Surveys that typically occur in January of each year. This survey provides an estimated number of waterfowl present at the OWMA. Such surveys are also conducted by other agencies continentally on the same week to help estimate population trends.

#### New Management Actions

- GS11. Proactively manage seasonal wetlands to promote establishment of moist-soil plants that will attract waterfowl.
- GS12. Every 5 to 10 years, dry up Honeybee Pond for a period of one year to allow the use of heavy equipment to remove silt and excessive layers of decayed vegetation. Use excavated materials to create islands for nesting and escape cover or other uses.
- GS13. Promote the growth of willows along drainage ditches and along dikes and banks of the seasonal wetlands.
- GS14. Conduct additional waterfowl population surveys to help estimate peak species numbers, waterfowl hunter use-days, and changes in long term trends.
- GS15. Level Wilson and Pintail ponds and install new outlet structures at the same time. Include varying depths and habitats in the newly configured ponds.
- GS16. Plant new cottonwoods and willows on the lower reaches of the Muddy River and in Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Yuma Clapper Rail habitats where biological vegetation control has taken place.
- GS17. Plant desirable dove food plants such as sunflower or cleome. Explore the use of various cereal grains to optimize dove feeding habitats.
- GS18. Add a new permanent pond on state-owned land near the existing employee housing with wildlife-attracting vegetation along its edges. (See new management action V4 in Section B9 for more information related to this pond.)
- GS19. Add more nesting platforms for waterfowl.

**GOAL:** Protect and enhance upland game bird habitats while maintaining sustainable and harvestable upland game populations

#### Objectives:

- Identify the locations of important turkey and quail nesting, brood-rearing and roosting habitats
- Conduct management activities in important upland game habitats in a manner that avoids and minimizes adverse effects to such habitats and wildlife populations

- Expand upland game bird habitats when conflicts with other uses would not occur

#### Existing Management Actions

- UB1. Maintain shrubs, trees, and other vegetation along the edges of fields, irrigation ditches, and other areas to provide cover, nesting, roosting, and brood-rearing habitats.

#### New Management Actions

- UB2. Plant more annual sunflower, cleome, and cereal grains along levees and field edges to provide forage and escape cover for turkeys and other upland birds.
- UB3. Identify and document upland game bird nesting locations to avoid and minimize conflicts with vegetation removal and other management actions.

## 2. TERRESTRIAL NON-GAME SPECIES HABITATS AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

**GOAL:** Protect and enhance habitats and populations of Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate terrestrial wildlife species

#### Objectives:

- Monitor changes in populations of listed and Candidate species found on the OWMA, including the Yuma Clapper Rail, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, and desert tortoise. Implement and follow associated Conservation Measures and protocols
- Protect, enhance, and/or restore habitats for these species emphasizing diverse, healthy, and naturally-functioning habitats (Wildlife Action Plan Team 2012)
- Continue coordinating and collaborating with NDOW's conservation partners to maximize the likelihood of meeting this goal

#### Existing Management Actions

- TE1. Conduct Yuma Clapper Rail, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, and desert tortoise population surveys, and inventory existing and potential habitats and assess for habitat suitability.
- TE2. Follow and update as needed Conservation Measures developed in consultation with the USFWS to minimize potential adverse effects to Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Yuma Clapper Rail, and YBCU if it is listed, due to OWMA operation and maintenance projects.
- TE3. Provide exposed mudflats and shallow water (<6 inch) and moist soils as stopover and feeding areas for shorebirds and water birds during spring and fall migration periods.

- TE4. At Honeybee and Center ponds, create a mosaic of connecting emergent vegetation habitats interspersed with areas of open water and drier, upland benches. Maintain dense cattails or bulrushes along the water edges with stable water levels for nesting and foraging by Yuma Clapper Rail and other secretive marsh birds.

#### New Management Actions

- TE5. Update Conservation Measures for Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Yuma Clapper Rail with the USFWS annually or as needed. Develop and implement Conservation Measures for Yellow-billed Cuckoo should the Candidate species become listed under the ESA.
- TE6. In addition to Honeybee Pond, Center Pond, and other OWMA ponds and seasonal wetlands to be determined, create a mosaic of connecting emergent vegetation habitats interspersed with areas of open water and drier, upland benches. Maintain dense cattails or bulrushes along the water edges with stable water levels for nesting and foraging by Yuma Clapper Rail and other secretive marsh birds. Maintain the Secret Marsh and associated hydrology in an undisturbed state to benefit and provide habitats for the Yuma Clapper Rail and other secretive marsh birds.
- TE7. Maintain wet soils and/or inundated areas within occupied or potential Southwestern Willow Flycatcher breeding sites. Suitable habitats should be inundated from May 1 through August 1 to enhance riparian habitats and breeding success on the OWMA.
- TE8. Restore and/or enhance complex riparian habitats including mature, dense stands of cottonwood and Gooding willow overstory and willow mid-story vegetation to benefit Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. Convert tamarisk dominated sites back to native trees and shrubs at rates conducive to no-net-loss of Southwestern Willow Flycatcher nesting pairs (Wildlife Action Plan Team 2012).
- TE9. Increase the removal of Tamarisk and replace with plantings of cottonwood and willows to benefit Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Monitor the defoliation of tamarisk by the tamarisk leaf beetle (*Diorhabda* spp.). Restore cottonwood and Gooding willow overstory and coyote willow mid-story through sapling planting and the restoration of natural channel-scouring processes for benefit of all wildlife including



*Yuma Clapper Rail*

Endangered birds (Wildlife Action Plan Team 2012). Identify areas where non-native vegetation may become established due to disturbance or invasion, and restore these with native assemblages.

TE10. In order to recover and restore previously occupied Southwestern Willow Flycatcher breeding habitats, investigate the feasibility of reestablishing former hydrologic processes to an approximate one-quarter mile stretch of the Muddy River.

TE11. Use volunteers, including conservation and school groups, in conjunction with agency biologists to monitor species and conduct restoration projects. Volunteer needs and efforts will be coordinated with NDOW's Regional Volunteer Coordinator.

**GOAL:** Protect and enhance other non-game bird, reptile, and mammal habitats and populations

**Objectives:**

- Maintain and restore healthy and naturally-functioning wildlife habitats for the benefit of non-game species
- Monitor and determine changes in non-game species populations over time

**Existing Management Actions**

- NG1. Minimize disturbance to native vegetation upon which non-game species depend.
- NG2. Maintain and provide water to ponds and seasonal wetlands in a manner that benefits non-game species.
- NG3. Implement vegetation management practices that benefits both game and non-game species by protecting and enhancing habitats and desirable vegetation.

**New Management Actions**

- NG4. Determine occurrence and habitat use of key SOCP reptiles on the OWMA including Gila monster, the desert horned lizard, common chuckwalla, desert iguana, long-nosed leopard lizard, Great Basin collared lizard, western banded gecko, spotted leaf-nosed snake, long-tailed brush lizard, western shovel-nosed, western threadsnake, southwest black-headed snake, and Mojave sidewinder.
- NG5. Restore, maintain, and protect habitats on the OWMA for the benefit of SOCP bird, mammal, and reptile species (see Appendix J)
- NG6. Determine occurrence and habitat functionality on the OWMA for western red bat and other warm desert riparian bats (Wildlife Action Plan Team 2012).
- NG7. Install nest boxes for non-game bird species.

- NG8. Determine the extent of burrowing owl use at the OWMA and the need for artificial burrows. Install artificial burrows if there is a need for them.

### 3. UNDESIRABLE VEGETATION CONTROL

**GOAL:** Control noxious weeds and other undesirable vegetation to minimize encroachment on wildlife habitats

**Objectives:**

- Identify and map the locations of noxious weeds and other undesirable vegetation
- Plan for the removal of noxious weeds and other undesirable vegetation and prioritize areas to be treated over time
- Coordinate vegetation removal actions with other agencies to help minimize the spread of undesirable vegetation onto and off of the OWMA

**Existing Management Actions**

- UV1. Control emergent vegetation through water control and chemical spraying to maintain a ratio of 70% open water to 30% emergent vegetation.
- UV2. Treat areas of cattail in seasonal wetlands and ponds with herbicides approved for aquatic use. Control cattail encroachment to no more than 10% in seasonal wetlands and no more than 20% in ponds.
- UV3. Consult with USFWS prior to any treatments of tamarisk or other invasive species that may occur in areas occupied by sensitive species. Follow Conservation Measures as identified.
- UV4. Employ area personnel, volunteer groups, and NDF Conservation Crews to cut and treat noxious plants on the area. Monitor and treat areas where undesirable species attempt to reestablish.
- UV5. Employ Best Management Practices (BMPs) with equipment, tools, and vehicles to prevent spread of noxious plant seeds to new areas. Monitor availability of new methods (e.g., herbicides) for treating noxious plants more effectively.
- UV6. Monitor and treat areas where undesirable species begin to reestablish. To prevent reinfestation of areas cleared of undesirable species, follow-up quickly with planting and seeding of desirable plants. Determine sources and monitor availability of plant stocks as part of the effort.
- UV7. Discourage the growth of cattail and encourage growth of alkali bulrush in ponds and seasonal wetlands. Do not flood wetlands during May and early June if emergent vegetation is a problem.
- UV8. Remove selected areas of arrowweed to allow for the growth of quail brush and other desirable plants.

- UV9. Improve water level management practices to control undesirable plant growth while reducing dependency on herbicide treatments.
- UV10. Use prescribed burning or mechanical methods to control large stands of undesirable vegetation and as weed control in agricultural fields at the end of growing seasons, before bird breeding seasons, and as appropriate at other times.

#### New Management Actions

- UV11. Inventory and map knapweed, tamarisk, and other invasive and noxious plants at the OWMA and develop a plan to define and implement related control measures.
- UV12. Determine prioritized sites to initiate tamarisk control, recognizing some areas will be defoliated by the tamarisk beetle. Employ BMPs with use of treatments (i.e., types of herbicides approved for use) and appropriate methods (e.g., cut stump, foliar treatment, burning). Follow restoration treatments with appropriate native plants in densities beneficial to wildlife.
- UV13. Coordinate with the NPS, USFWS, USBR, BLM, and Virgin River Conservation Program Partners and others on control and restoration efforts as needed.

#### 4. [RARE PLANT PROTECTION](#)

GOAL: Protect rare plants

##### Objectives:

- Identify the location of rare plants at the OWMA
- Protect rare plants from OWMA users and as management actions are implemented

##### Existing Management Actions

Not applicable

##### New Management Actions

- SP1. Conduct surveys for rare plants and map their locations.
- SP2. Review existing and new management actions and determine their potential to adversely affect the identified rare plants. Modify management actions to avoid and minimize related adverse impacts.
- SP3. Prevent damage to rare plants by recreationists.

#### 5. [PREDATOR MANAGEMENT](#)

GOAL: Manage and control predatory wildlife

**Objectives:**

- Determine predator presence and abundance, movement or migration patterns, and related surveillance protocols
- Define and employ effective capture techniques in cooperation with the Southern Nevada Health District

**Existing Management Actions**

Not applicable

**New Management Actions**

- P1. Define and implement surveillance protocols to detect and document empirical observations of predation events.
- P2. Determine and implement effective predator capture techniques that minimize impacts to non-target species.
- P3. Define and apply key indicators of predator presence to optimize and adapt capture efforts over time.

**6. AQUATIC SPECIES HABITATS AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT**

**GOAL:** Maintain and enhance habitats and populations of Endangered aquatic wildlife species

**Objectives:**

- Determine changes in Endangered aquatic species populations found on the OWMA (i.e. razorback sucker, woundfin, and Virgin River chub). Follow related Conservation Measures and protocols
- Maintain and restore diverse, healthy, and naturally-functioning habitats of these and other aquatic species
- Continue coordinating and collaborating with NDOW's conservation partners to promote these species and their habitats on the OWMA

**Existing Management Actions**

- AS1. Conduct surveys to assess the occurrence of Endangered fish on the OWMA (i.e., the razorback sucker, woundfin and Virgin River chub).
- AS2. Use Center and Honeybee ponds on the OWMA to assist in the recovery of razorback sucker.
- AS3. Continue working with the USFWS and the following work groups that help develop razorback sucker and other native fish Conservation Measures: the Muddy River Biological Advisory Committee, the Lower Virgin River Recovery Implementation Team, the Lake Mead Razorback Sucker Work Group, and the Native Fish Work Group.
- AS4. Protect and minimize the degradation of OWMA water quality as management actions are implemented.

#### New Management Actions

- AS5. Explore opportunities to further enhance razorback sucker habitats in Center and Honeybee ponds.

**GOAL:** Maintain and enhance habitats and populations of other native fish and amphibians endemic to the Colorado, Muddy, and Virgin River systems

#### Objectives:

- Maintain and restore diverse, healthy, and naturally-functioning habitats of these and other aquatic species
- Continue coordinating and collaborating with NDOW's conservation partners to maximize the likelihood of achieving the goal related to this objective

#### Existing Management Actions

- AS6. Conduct surveys to assess the occurrence of native fish and amphibians on the Muddy and Virgin rivers and the OWMA.
- AS7. Continue working on native fish species Conservation Measures and other topics with the USFWS and the work groups listed under action AS3 above.

#### New Management Actions

- AS8. If the need arises, explore options for using Center and Honeybee ponds to help with the conservation and recovery of other native fish.

## 7. [FARMING PRACTICES](#)

**GOAL:** Enhance wildlife habitats by allowing wildlife-compatible farming on the OWMA

#### Objective:

- Use farming to provide wildlife food sources and habitats for upland game birds and other wildlife

#### Existing Management Actions

- FA1. Lease approximately 130 acres of land to a lessee who will plant wildlife-compatible crops, including barley, Sudangrass, alfalfa, wild sunflower, millet, and sorghum.
- FA2. Help irrigate the lessee's crops and assist the lessee with soil cultivation and the removal of undesirable vegetation.
- FA3. Annually assess farming practices at the OWMA to determine their wildlife values and to determine if new actions are needed to better meet related objectives.

#### New Management Actions

- FA4. Barley will be planted along the edges of fields when appropriate and feasible.

### 8. LAND AND WATER RIGHTS ACQUISITIONS

**GOAL:** Acquire additional land and water rights from willing sellers if needed to help meet the purposes of the OWMA and when opportunities arise

#### Objectives:

- Increase water supplies for the OWMA as water rights become available
- Acquire additional land for the OWMA when parcels become available

#### Existing Management Actions

Not applicable

#### New Management Actions

- FA5. Evaluate and possibly purchase land and water rights from willing sellers when feasible and if such purchases will help NDOW achieve the purposes of the OWMA.

### B. PUBLIC USE, EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

NDOW plans to enhance public use and education opportunities at the OWMA while acknowledging that the number of new facilities and improvements must be limited given the budgetary constraints under which the agency operates. Additional information related to these types of management actions is found below.

#### *Hunting Opportunities and Blinds*

In addition to modifying blinds to enhance public safety and increase hunter success, NDOW plans to increase the number of blinds that can be accessed and used by disabled hunters. Based on input from OWMA stakeholders during public meetings, the following actions have been implemented since the public meetings and thus were not included in this document's new management actions. To increase hunter success and public safety, blind C3 was moved to a new location adjacent to one of the Ducks Unlimited ponds, and on the opposite side of the field where it was previously located. Blind 36 was moved from Pintail Pond to Wilson Pond and was placed on the other side of the levee from where it was previously located (the locations of the hunting blinds and ponds are shown on Figure 2). Modifications to the hunter reservation system are also planned to increase opportunities for hunters through the mail-in reservation system and to make the system easier to use.

### *Other Visitor, Recreation and Education Facility Improvements*

New visitor recreation and education improvements will include a multi-use pond, interpretive trail with educational signage and wildlife viewing areas, campground improvements, and a walk-through, three-dimensional (3-D) target archery course. After much consideration and discussion, NDOW is no longer actively pursuing a new visitor center at the OWMA due to its substantial projected costs and anticipated low visitor use levels. Although a facility was proposed during the 2000 CMP process, its prohibitive costs (the estimated costs in 2009 were approximately \$5 million) prevented NDOW from further considering the new facility. Additional issues that have surfaced since the last CMP update, are the following questions: how many people would use such a facility, and would usage levels be high enough to warrant its substantial costs? One of the major types of potential visitors to such a facility are school children on field trips. NDOW talked to the Clark County School District about this possibility and the District feels Overton is too far away for such visits, thus reducing a major source of visitation for such a facility. NDOW is still committed to enhancing wildlife-related education and outreach facilities in Clark County and will continue to explore such opportunities.



Another type of new recreation management action that was considered but is not being pursued at this time was the development of road, parking, and pond improvements on the Virgin River portion of the OWMA. NDOW is not proposing any new developments in this area at this time given the major cost of developing facilities in a remote area, the cost of road improvements needed to access that area, and the presence of critical or otherwise important habitats for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, desert tortoise, woundfin, Virgin River chub, and rare plants. These constraints would greatly limit the extent of any new development in that area. In addition, and as shown on Figure 3, there are many different land owners in the Virgin River area of the OWMA and expensive NEPA compliance and related cultural resource and rare plant surveys would be needed before new facilities or road improvements could take place.

### *Avoiding and Minimizing Conflicts Between Different Types of Recreation Uses*

Perhaps the most controversial issue that came up during the public scoping meetings were conflicts between hunters and dog trainers. There are some conflicts between other types of OWMA users and hunters, but the conflicts with dog trainers are by far the most common and were most frequently mentioned during the meetings and in comment emails and letters sent to NDOW after the meetings.

Not only does NDOW wish to try and minimize and avoid such conflicts, NDOW must also comply with Wildlife Commission Policy 66. This policy is included in Appendix D and provides NDOW's staff with guidance regarding WMA management and priorities. While Policy 66 states the priority uses at Overton and other specified WMAs are "wetland development and waterfowl activities, including the use of these areas as public shooting grounds with all other uses being secondary," it also encourages multiple uses at WMAs within the limits posed by the priority cited above. The policy also encourages "non-consumptive" uses (such uses include bird watching, dog training, educational pursuits, etc.) as long as they "can be accommodated without interfering with the primary purposes for which the areas were established and without decreasing the opportunity or experience for consumptive users" (such users include hunters). Thus, the key question becomes can NDOW provide opportunities for dog training, bird-watching and other non-consumptive opportunities while avoiding conflicts with hunters? The existing and new visitor and recreation facility-related management actions defined below (actions V1 through V11 in Section B2) and use restrictions and dog training actions (actions CA1 through CA3 in Section B3) should notably reduce conflicts between users at the OWMA. Dog training will be restricted to certain areas and on hunting rest days only, and a new multi-use pond is planned and will include a designated area for dog training. OWMA staff will also work with trainers to create better and more varied conditions for training at one of the ponds. Additional signage is planned and also will help reduce conflicts.

### *Volunteer Opportunities*

Another major message from the scoping meetings and subsequent comments received is OWMA users want to become more involved in habitat restoration and other wildlife-related projects. They also want to help NDOW staff with enforcing regulations and visitation rules. As reflected by new management actions V01 through V04 in Section B4 below, NDOW is committed to increasing volunteer opportunities at the OWMA and recognizes that volunteers, if adequately supervised and trained, can enhance the capacity of NDOW's limited OWMA staff. Unfortunately, NDOW does not have sufficient funding or staffing to start a deputy warden program as some stakeholders requested during the scoping meetings. However, the enhanced volunteer program is expected to result in more "eyes and ears" on the ground at the OWMA and more reporting of regulation and rules violations being reported to NDOW's Game Warden and OWMA staff.

### *Related Desired Outcomes:*

*Effective conservation of priority wildlife species through the completion and implementation of cooperative planning products*

*A public that appreciates Nevada's wildlife resources, informed of and making use of wildlife-related recreational pursuits*

*A majority of the public aware of what NDOW is and what it provides*

*Committed volunteers actively participating in NDOW programs and activities*

*A public that voluntarily complies with all laws and regulations, resulting in the enhanced protection of wildlife resources and greater public safety*

*A broadened funding base through partnerships with our stakeholders that afford access to new sources of funding while maintaining healthy and vigorous implementation of traditional funding sources*

*Improved opportunities for the public to access wildlife, wildlife habitats, and recreational opportunities through enhanced partnerships with public and private partners (Nevada Department of Wildlife 2004)*

## 1. [HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES AND BLINDS](#)

GOAL: Promote and improve public safety

### Objectives:

- Maintain adequate separation between hunter blinds and blind orientation that minimizes the risk of shooting accidents
- Use signage on roads and trails to inform visitors while minimizing safety-related risks
- Designate, locate, and regulate parking, camping, hiking trails, visitor access, and other items in a manner that minimizes conflicts among different types of users

### Existing Management Actions

- H1. Maintain existing hunting blinds with adequate spacing of 200 yards between blinds, 260 yards from occupied dwellings and an orientation that minimizes the risk of shooting-related accidents.
- H2. Enforce existing regulations that prevent overuse through a reservation system, not allowing hiking and bird watching near ponds on hunting days, restricting parking to limited areas, thus minimizing conflicts between different types of recreationists.

### New Management Actions

- H3. Move existing blinds 8 and 9 so there is less risk of shot landing on private property west of the OWMA. The blinds will also be configured so hunters will only be able to shoot over the ponds from the blinds.
- H4. Design and install new signs to improve public safety and provide visitors with more information.

**GOAL:** Maintain and expand hunting opportunities and improve the quality of hunting experiences

**Objectives:**

- Improve habitats and hunting blind conditions that will lead to greater hunter success rates
- Revise the hunting reservation system so it is easier to use
- Maintain and expand hunting opportunities for disabled hunters
- Regulate, and limit if necessary, hunter use to maintain high quality hunting experiences, protect natural resources, protect public safety, and avoid conflicts among users

**Existing Management Actions**

- H5. Continue to use the hunter reservation system established in 2012 with two changes as defined in new management actions H11 and H12 below.
- H6. Continue to implement the OWMA-Reasonable Accommodation ADA Process (see Appendix L) while maintaining hunter blinds 14, 22, and 31 for disabled hunters.
- H7. Relocate Canada geese to the OWMA from northern Nevada (as available).
- H8. Inspect and repair existing fences as needed.
- H9. Replace existing signs that have exceeded their useful life.
- H10. Revisit existing hunting regulations, including the reservation system, on an annual basis and implement changes as necessary to help meet related objectives.
- H11. Modify the existing hunter reservation system by only allowing waterfowl and dove hunters to draw one day during the mail-in reservation systems.

**New Management Actions**

- H12. Develop an online reservation system that would permit hunters to make reservations via the internet rather than having to go to an NDOW office or to the OWMA, as funding sources allow.
- H13. Replace pit blinds 19, 23, and 25 with newer pit blinds.
- H14. Convert box blinds 4, 5, 6, and 7 to pit blinds.
- H15. While designing the pond leveling projects at Wilson and Pintail ponds, explore opportunities to add blinds to the islands that will be created at these ponds.
- H16. To increase opportunities for disabled hunters, convert blinds 8, 9, 17, 33, 37, C1, and C4 to disabled hunter blinds. Update the OWMA-Reasonable Accommodation ADA Process to incorporate these changes. These blinds will be available to hunters that are not disabled if they are not reserved by disabled hunters.
- H17. Extend existing fences to keep trespassing cattle off the OWMA. Extend fences around Center, Pintail, and Wilson ponds.

## 2. OTHER VISITOR, RECREATION AND EDUCATION FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

**GOAL:** Help meet growing demands for outdoor recreation and education-related opportunities while improving the quality of outdoor recreation and education experiences

### Objectives:

- Maintain and expand a range of recreation opportunities at the OWMA while protecting priority uses per Commission Policy 66, and as funding allows. Meet recreation demands in a manner that avoids and minimizes conflict among users and adverse impacts to natural resources
- Replace or upgrade visitor and recreation facilities that have exceeded their useful lives or are in need of repair. Expand facilities to help meet unmet demands
- Monitor recreation use to help determine if additional facilities are needed, or if certain types of recreation demands are not being met
- Work with users and community leaders to identify and acquire funding to help pay for improvements

### Existing Management Actions

- V1. Maintain existing roads and parking areas.
- V2. Maintain existing campground facilities.
- V3. Add shade trees to the campground.

### New Management Actions

- V4. Add a new multi-use pond on the parcel of state-owned land near and west of the existing OWMA employee housing or near the amphitheater and current employee office. This pond will be designed to support bird watching, a picnic area, fishing, and limited dog training. Dog training will only be allowed in a designated area to help avoid conflicts with bird watchers, fishermen, and other recreationists. In addition, and to minimize the risks of such conflicts, hunting, firearms and other noise-making devices will not be allowed at the new pond.
- V5. Build a new interpretive trail with educational signage and wildlife viewing areas along the edge of the new pond and continuing to nearby seasonal wetlands, where it will connect to the existing dirt road network that is used as a trail for wildlife viewing. Like the existing



- trails and dirt roads, the new trail will not be open on hunt days and vehicles will be restricted during hunting seasons.
- V6. Develop bird and plant checklists for the OWMA and correlate those lists with a wildlife viewing guide that will inform and direct visitors to key wildlife viewing areas that include related signage. Add a limited number of wildlife viewing platforms in these designated areas.
  - V7. Expand and make improvements to the existing campground by upgrading tables, fire rings, restrooms, parking pads, and other campsite facilities while adding additional shade trees and gravel to camping access roads at the OWMA.
  - V8. Design and develop a known distance archery range and walk-through/3-D target archery course. The area south of the campground and west of Center Pond and the Pintail and Wilson ponds road is being considered for this new feature, and it would likely be around 20 acres. A new parking area would be developed with an adjacent sighting range, tables, and shade structure. The entrance to the archery course would also be adjacent to the parking area.
  - V9. Add gravel to each of the major OWMA roads used by recreationists that do not currently have sufficient amounts of gravel, and maintain these improved features.
  - V10. Install new signs and education/information kiosks to help inform visitors about the OWMA's wildlife resources and their habitats. New signs will also be used to improve public safety and minimize and avoid conflicts between different types of users.
  - V11. Monitor area recreation use and document the number of visitors and types of recreationists visiting the OWMA. Interview users to help determine how well they enjoyed their visit and to seek their input on OWMA resources and management.

### 3. [AVOIDING AND MINIMIZING CONFLICTS BETWEEN DIFFERENT TYPES OF RECREATION USES](#)

**GOAL:** Avoid conflicts between different types of recreationists as much as possible

**Objectives:**

- Separate conflicting recreation uses spatially and temporally when possible
- Monitor recreation use to help determine if conflicts between recreationists are occurring and the contributing factors behind the conflicts
- Encourage users to be courteous and respectful to others

### Existing Management Actions

- CA1. Do not allow hikers, bird watchers, dog trainers, and other types of recreationists, other than hunters with a blind reservation, to be near or at the OWMA's ponds, fields, and seasonal wetlands on waterfowl hunt days.
- CA2. Limit vehicle access to designated parking areas and roads, and greatly restrict such access during hunting seasons. Only disabled hunters are allowed to drive their vehicles up to their assigned blinds (see Appendix L). All other hunters must access their blinds by foot after parking in designated areas.

### New Management Actions

- CA3. During the waterfowl hunting season, dog training will only be allowed at the two ponds adjacent to blind 8 on the first Saturday rest day and the last Wednesday rest day of each month. Dog trainers will only be allowed to use noise making devices from 8am to 12pm at these ponds during the waterfowl hunting season. OWMA staff will work with dog trainers to create better and more varied training conditions at one of these ponds. A new gravel parking area will be located close to the pond with controlled vehicle access to avoid conflicts with other users and OWMA residences.

## 4. VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**GOAL:** Provide opportunities for volunteers while expanding the capabilities of limited NDOW staff resources

### Objectives:

- Provide supervised opportunities for volunteers that will enhance the following aspects of OWMA management:
  - habitat enhancement
  - outdoor education
  - adherence to and enforcement of laws and regulations
  - visitor services
  - facility maintenance
- Work with volunteers to identify and acquire funding to help pay for volunteer programs

### Existing Management Actions

Not applicable

### New Management Actions

- VO1. NDOW will work with volunteers to plan new projects they can work on and to organize related work days. NDOW will look for opportunities for conservation groups, school groups, and other

volunteers to assist with a variety of management and maintenance activities such as the development and implementation of interpretive programs, tree and seedling planting, trail building, blind maintenance, wildlife surveys and monitoring, campground improvements, weed control, staffing the OWMA's check-in station, checking boundary fences, maintaining water infrastructure and other facilities, and reporting regulation violations to the OWMA Supervisor or Game Warden.

- VO2. Create an organized volunteer group for the OWMA that will work with NDOW's Regional Volunteer Coordinator in the Las Vegas office and the OWMA Supervisor. This group will work on the types of projects listed above under action VO1 and coordinate with NDOW's Game Warden regarding how to report regulation violations they may witness.
- VO3. Volunteer opportunities and projects will be posted on NDOW's OWMA and volunteer program websites. A volunteer email distribution list will be maintained and used by OWMA staff to communicate with volunteers and to help make sure they are aware of upcoming volunteer projects. These efforts will be coordinated with the NDOW's regional volunteer coordinator.
- VO4. Establish a 3-month per year Conservation Aid position to help OWMA staff with miscellaneous projects.

### C. FACILITY DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE

Management of facilities on the OWMA will include the following types of management actions: providing work facilities that are well maintained, providing roads and bridges that are in suitable condition for public use, maintaining a well-defined boundary around the OWMA, and consulting with and incorporating the input from OWMA stakeholders concerning area management and planning. A new employee office will be built to replace the building that was destroyed by fire in December of 2013. The new building will include a bunkhouse for visiting staff, a meeting room, and a large storage shed.

The risk of flooding at the OWMA and related damage to roads, ponds, and other facilities is a major concern. NDOW's engineers have conducted an analysis to determine what water conveyance and flood control improvements are needed to provide a level of flood protection equal to a 1 in 500 year event at the OWMA. While ongoing maintenance of existing ditches, culverts, and other facilities will continue to improve their ability to handle high flows, three new physical modifications are also needed and are included below in management actions WF1, WF4, and WF5. The first of these, repair the existing Muddy River diversion dam on the OWMA, is an existing action that is expected to be completed during the fall or early winter of 2015. The other two improvements involve replacement of low-capacity culverts with higher-capacity culverts. NDOW's engineers will coordinate with Clark County's Regional

Flood Control District during the design of the Lewis Lane project at the northern edge of the OWMA.

*Related Desired Outcome:*

*NDOW facilities that are safe, accessible to all persons, well-maintained, and contribute to the accomplishment of the agency's mission (Nevada Department of Wildlife 2004)*

1. [WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND FLOOD CONTROL](#)

**GOAL:** Maintain and improve water delivery and flood control capabilities while improving water use efficiency

**Objectives:**

- Minimize the risk of flooding by providing 500-year level flood protection
- Maintain water conveyance infrastructure in properly functioning condition
- Stretch limited water resources by improving the efficiency of water use/minimizing water losses in all water conveyance facilities

**Existing Management Actions**

- WF1. Repair the existing Muddy River diversion dam on the OWMA
- WF2. Maintain flood control dikes and ditches, including the clearance of excess vegetation from ditches, culverts and other facilities
- WF3. Replace approximately one existing, open water conveyance ditch with PVC pipe each year.

**New Management Actions**

- WF4. Work with Clark County to replace the existing culvert at the Lewis Lane crossing of the Muddy River with a higher capacity culvert.
- WF5. Replace the culvert at the Muddy River crossing near the Honey Bee Pond Spillway with a higher capacity culvert.
- WF6. Increase water efficiency by increasing the rate of water conveyance ditch replacements; replace a total of 750 feet of ditches with PVC pipe per year.

2. [HEADQUARTERS BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS](#)

**GOAL:** Improve the function and appearance of headquarters buildings and grounds

### Objectives:

- Maintain, repair, and replace existing structures once they have exceeded their useful lives or been damaged beyond repair by fire, earthquakes, floods, etc.
- Remove structures, equipment and materials that no longer serve a purpose and are not needed

### Existing Management Actions

- BG1. Maintain and repair staff office and residential buildings
- BG2. Remove damaged structures, equipment and materials from the area: structures and materials remaining from the fire that destroyed the employee office and the wind-damaged equipment shed and shade canopy.

### New Management Actions

- BG3. Provide adequate heating in the shop building by repairing existing units or installing new 120,000 BTU propane heating units.
- BG4. Construct a new office building with a bunkhouse, meeting room, parking area, and large equipment storage shed. This will be located near the existing, temporary office building to tie into existing utilities.

## D. REGULATIONS COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Stakeholders stated during the CMP public scoping process that more Game Warden presence is needed at the OWMA and that some hunters “crash the blinds” without reservations after OWMA staff leave for the day when their shift is over. Some area users want to volunteer and help NDOW enforce OWMA regulations and visitation rules and asked NDOW to start a “deputy warden program.”



NDOW has listened to this input but must manage the OWMA with a limited budget and the Game Warden assigned to the OWMA must also patrol other areas in a 9.6 million-acre patrol area. While funds do not exist to hire additional Game Wardens, there is an opportunity to increase Game Warden presence at the OWMA by re-assigning one of the wardens that patrols the Southern Region’s reservoirs to the OWMA from time to time after the boating season winds down (typically after Labor Day and until early spring). The timing of the drop in boating use at local reservoirs coincides with the hunting season at the OWMA when the potential for regulation violations, conflicts between users, accidents, etc. is at its highest. The addition of a bunkhouse at the new employee office building will allow the visiting Game Warden to spend

more time at the OWMA and less time during the day driving to and from their home base. NDOW recognizes that a deputy warden program would be popular, but unfortunately, the funding or adequate staffing to oversee the program does not exist. However, NDOW does welcome creating more opportunities for volunteers (as discussed above in the Volunteer Opportunities section), including creating opportunities for volunteers to provide more “eyes and ears” for the Game Wardens and OWMA staff. NDOW is also planning to establish a new 3-month-per-year Conservation Aid position that will help NDOW staff with hunter check-ins, enforcement of rules and regulations, habitats and maintenance projects, etc.

*Related Desired Outcome:*

*A public that voluntarily complies with all laws and regulations, resulting in the enhanced protection of wildlife resources and greater public safety (Nevada Department of Wildlife 2004)*

**GOAL:** Maximize compliance with area regulations and visitation rules

**Objectives:**

- Increase the likelihood of voluntary compliance by contacting, informing, and involving the public
- Work with and encourage volunteers to report violations
- Explore and obtain new funding sources to support Law Enforcement

**Existing Management Actions**

- LE1. Enforce existing regulations and visitation rules. Help ensure related signage is up to date and visible.
- LE2. Replace and install new signs that help visitors understand regulations and identify the location of the OWMA boundary.

**New Management Actions**

- LE3. From Labor Day through early spring, NDOW’s Law Enforcement Division will attempt to increase Game Warden presence at the OWMA by having additional Game Wardens assist with coverage of the area as staffing and patrol needs permit, at the discretion of NDOW’s Southern Region Lieutenant, during times when the potential for regulation violations, accidents, conflicts between users, etc. is at its highest.
- LE4. Work with NDOW’s Wildlife Commissioners, the State Legislature, CCAB, and others to find additional funding that would help increase Game Warden presence at the OWMA
- LE5. Increase public awareness of Operation Game Thief (OGT) with signs, public notices and radio advertisements at the OWMA and in the Moapa Valley. OGT is a NDOW program with a toll-free number that allows people to report poaching and other wildlife-

related violations anonymously and to collect rewards in some cases.

## E. MONITORING AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

A resource management and planning approach that has become an important management tool since the 2000 CMP was prepared is monitoring and adaptive management. As one stakeholder said at a public stakeholder meeting, the updated CMP's management actions need to be re-visited on a regular basis to determine how successful they have been, and if necessary, revised as conditions change and/or to make them more effective.

### *Related Desired Outcome:*

*A focused and responsive agency, clearly mission-oriented* (Nevada Department of Wildlife 2004)

**GOAL:** Modify management actions over time if necessary to better meet the goals of this plan and as conditions change

### **Objectives:**

- Monitor the implementation of management actions and determine their effects
- If the objectives related to the actions are not being met as well as they should be, determine what alternative courses of action would better meet the objectives and implement the modified or new actions

### **Existing Management Actions**

Not applicable

### **New Management Actions**

- AM1. OWMA staff will monitor the implementation of the management actions contained in this CMP and their effects. They will provide NDOW management with semi-annual progress reports and related recommendations. Any recommended modifications to the management actions will be documented and implemented following approval by NDOW management.
- AM2. The status of management action implementation and recommended modifications (if any) will be summarized on NDOW's OWMA website. The public will be able to provide related comments for NDOW to consider as it implements the monitoring and adaptive management approach.

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# Appendix A



**Appendix A**  
**Summary of OWMA CMP Goals, Objectives and Management Actions\***

Goals	Objectives	Existing and New Management Actions
<i>Waterfowl, Dove and Terrestrial Game Species Habitats and Wildlife Management</i>		
<p>Protect and enhance migrating and local waterfowl and dove habitats</p> <p>Maintain sustainable and harvestable waterfowl and dove populations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide adequate feeding and resting habitats for ducks and geese during the migration and wintering periods</li> <li>• Maintain and manage waterfowl habitats at the OWMA ponds and seasonal wetlands more efficiently, thus saving water and stretching limited water supplies as much as possible</li> <li>• Improve and maintain the habitats of waterfowl species that prefer relatively shallow water (e.g. shallow wading and dabbling ducks)</li> <li>• Protect roosting and feeding areas for migrating and resident doves</li> <li>• No net loss of ponds and seasonal wetlands and improve their quantity and quality</li> <li>• Monitor changes in waterfowl populations over time</li> </ul>	<p><u>Existing Management Actions</u></p> <p>GS1. Maintain at least 50 percent of aquatic habitats at less than 18 inches of water to maximize feeding areas.</p> <p>GS2. Control aquatic emergent vegetation to achieve a desired ratio of 70% open water to 30% vegetative cover.</p> <p>GS3. Manage open water habitats to provide dense stands of submergent vegetation, primarily sago pondweed, for diving species.</p> <p>GS4. Manage wetlands to promote moist-soil plants that will attract waterfowl.</p> <p>GS5. Manage cattails in the seasonal wetlands to provide maximum feed production.</p> <p>GS6. Maintain the maximum number of wetland surface acres consistent with available water supplies to benefit waterfowl and maximize hunting conditions.</p> <p>GS7. Manage agricultural fields to provide a diversity of dispersed feeding sights for waterfowl and doves, including plant patterns that create broken edges (or an edge effect) in fields.</p> <p>GS8. Maintain cottonwood roost sites.</p> <p>GS9. Monitor Muddy River flows and maintain water diversions and levels in ponds and seasonal wetlands to provide as much waterfowl and other water-related wildlife habitats as possible.</p> <p>GS10. Conduct Mid-Winter Waterfowl Surveys that typically occur in January of each year. This survey provides an estimated number of waterfowl present at the OWMA. Such surveys are also conducted by other agencies continentally on the same week to help estimate population trends.</p> <p><u>New Management Actions</u></p> <p>GS11. Proactively manage seasonal wetlands to promote establishment of moist-soil plants that will attract waterfowl.</p> <p>GS12. Every 5 to 10 years, dry up Honeybee Pond for a period of one year to allow the use of heavy equipment to remove silt and excessive layers of decayed vegetation. Use excavated materials to create islands for nesting and escape cover or other uses.</p> <p>GS13. Promote the growth of willows along drainage ditches and along dikes and banks of the seasonal wetlands.</p> <p>GS14. Conduct additional waterfowl population surveys to help estimate peak species numbers, waterfowl hunter use-days, and changes in long term trends.</p> <p>GS15. Level Wilson and Pintail ponds and install new outlet structures at the same time. Include varying depths and habitats in the newly configured ponds.</p> <p>GS16. Plant new cottonwoods and willows on the lower reaches of the Muddy River and in Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Yuma Clapper Rail habitats where biological vegetation control has taken place.</p> <p>GS17. Plant desirable dove food plants such as sunflower or cleome. Explore the use of various cereal grains to optimize dove feeding habitats.</p> <p>GS18. Add a new permanent pond on state-owned land near the existing employee housing with wildlife-attracting vegetation along its edges. (See new management action V4 for more information related to this pond.)</p> <p>GS19. Add more nesting platforms for waterfowl.</p>
<p>Protect and enhance upland game bird habitats</p> <p>Maintain sustainable and harvestable upland game populations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify the locations of important turkey and quail nesting, brood-rearing and roosting habitats</li> <li>• Conduct management activities in important upland game habitats in a manner that avoids and minimizes adverse effects to such habitats and wildlife populations</li> <li>• Expand upland game bird habitats when conflicts with other uses would not occur</li> </ul>	<p><u>Existing Management Actions</u></p> <p>UB1. Maintain shrubs, trees and other vegetation along the edges of fields, irrigation ditches and other areas to provide cover, nesting, roosting and brood-rearing habitats.</p> <p><u>New Management Actions</u></p> <p>UB2. Plant more annual sunflower, cleome and cereal grains along levees and field edges to provide forage and escape cover for turkeys and other upland birds.</p> <p>UB3. Identify and document upland game bird nesting locations to avoid and minimize conflicts with vegetation removal and other management actions.</p>
<i>Terrestrial Non-Game Species Habitats and Wildlife Management</i>		
<p>Protect and enhance habitats and populations of Threatened, Endangered and Candidate terrestrial wildlife species</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor changes in populations of listed and candidate species found on the OWMA, including the Yuma Clapper Rail, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and desert tortoise. Implement and follow associated Conservation Measures and protocols.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Existing Management Actions</u></p> <p>TE1. Conduct Yuma Clapper Rail, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and desert tortoise population surveys and inventory existing and potential habitat and assess for habitat suitability.</p> <p>TE2. Follow Conservation Measures developed in consultation with the USFWS to minimize potential adverse effects to Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Yuma Clapper Rail due to OWMA operation and maintenance projects.</p> <p>TE3. Provide exposed mudflats and shallow water (&lt;6 inch) and moist soils as stopover and feeding areas for shorebirds and water birds during spring and fall migration periods.</p> <p>TE4. At Honeybee and Center ponds, create a mosaic of connecting emergent vegetation habitats interspersed with areas of open water and drier, upland benches. Maintain dense cattails or bulrushes along the water edges with stable water levels for nesting and foraging by Yuma Clapper Rail and other</p>

\*Note: the management actions related to one type of resource goal and objectives may indirectly benefit other types of resources

**Appendix A**  
**Summary of OWMA CMP Goals, Objectives and Management Actions\***

Goals	Objectives	Existing and New Management Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect, enhance and/or restore habitats for these species emphasizing diverse, healthy and naturally-functioning habitats (see NWAP 2012).</li> <li>• Continue coordinating and collaborating with NDOW's conservation partners to maximize the likelihood of meeting this goal</li> </ul>	<p>secretive marsh birds.</p> <p><u>New Management Actions</u></p> <p>TE5. Update Conservation Measures for Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Yuma Clapper Rail with the USFWS annually or as needed. Develop and implement Conservation Measures for Yellow-billed Cuckoo should the candidate species become listed under the ESA.</p> <p>TE6. In addition to Honeybee Pond, Center Pond, and other OWMA ponds and seasonal wetlands to be determined, create a mosaic of connecting emergent vegetation habitats interspersed with areas of open water and drier, upland benches. Maintain dense cattails or bulrushes along the water edges with stable water levels for nesting and foraging by Yuma Clapper Rail and other secretive marsh birds. Maintain the Secret Marsh and associated hydrology in an undisturbed state to benefit and provide habitats for the Yuma Clapper Rail and other secretive marsh birds.</p> <p>TE7. Maintain wet soils and/or inundated areas within occupied or potential Southwestern Willow Flycatcher breeding sites. Suitable habitats should be inundated from May 1<sup>st</sup> through August 1<sup>st</sup> to enhance riparian habitats and breeding success on the OWMA.</p> <p>TE8. Restore and/or enhance complex riparian habitats including mature, dense stands of cottonwood and Gooding willow overstory and willow mid-story vegetation to benefit Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. Convert tamarisk dominated sites back to native trees and shrubs at rates conducive to no-net-loss of Southwestern Willow Flycatcher nesting pairs (NWAP 2012).</p> <p>TE9. Increase the removal of Tamarisk and replace with plantings of cottonwood and willows to benefit Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Monitor the defoliation of tamarisk by the tamarisk leaf beetle (<i>Diorhabda spp.</i>). Restore cottonwood and Gooding willow over story and coyote willow mid-story through sapling planting and the restoration of natural channel-scouring processes for benefit of all wildlife including endangered birds (NWAP 2012). Identify areas where non-native vegetation may become established due to disturbance or invasion, and restore these with native assemblages.</p> <p>TE10. In order to recover and restore previously occupied southwestern willow flycatcher breeding habitats, investigate the feasibility of reestablishing former hydrologic processes to an approximate one-quarter mile stretch of the Muddy River.</p> <p>TE11. Use volunteers, including conservation and school groups, in conjunction with agency biologists to monitor species. Volunteer needs and efforts will be coordinated with NDOW's Regional Volunteer Coordinator.</p>
Protect and enhance other non-game bird, reptile and mammal habitats and populations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain and restore healthy and naturally-functioning wildlife habitats for the benefit of non-game species</li> <li>• Monitor and determine changes in non-game species populations over time</li> </ul>	<p><u>Existing Management Actions</u></p> <p>NG1. Minimize disturbance to native vegetation upon which non-game species depend.</p> <p>NG2. Maintain and provide water to ponds and seasonal wetlands in a manner that benefits non-game species.</p> <p>NG3. Implement vegetation management practices that benefits both game and non-game species by protecting and enhancing habitats and desirable vegetation.</p> <p><u>New Management Actions</u></p> <p>NG4. Determine occurrence and habitat use of key SOCP reptiles on the OWMA including Gila monster, the desert horned lizard, common chuckwalla, desert iguana, long-nosed leopard lizard, Great Basin collared lizard, western banded gecko, spotted leaf-nosed snake, long-tailed brush lizard, western shovel-nosed, western threadsnake, southwest black-headed snake, California kingsnake, and Mojave sidewinder.</p> <p>NG5. Restore, maintain and protect habitats on the OWMA for the benefit of SOCP including but not limited to loggerhead shrike, LeConte's thrasher, desert night lizard, western brush lizard shovelnose snake, desert pocket mouse, western threadsnake, Gila monster, Great Basin collared lizard and other wildlife (NWAP 2012).</p> <p>NG6. Determine occurrence and habitat functionality on the OWMA for western red bat and other warm desert riparian bats (from NWAP 2012).</p> <p>NG7. Install nest boxes for non-game bird species.</p> <p>NG8. Determine the extent of burrowing owl use at the OWMA and the need for artificial burrows. Install artificial burrows if there is a need for them.</p>
<i>Undesirable Vegetation Control</i>		
Control noxious weeds and other undesirable vegetation to minimize encroachment on wildlife habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and map the locations of noxious weeds and other undesirable vegetation</li> <li>• Plan for the removal of noxious weeds and other undesirable vegetation and prioritize areas to be treated over time</li> <li>• Coordinate vegetation removal actions with other agencies to help minimize the spread of undesirable vegetation onto and off of the OWMA</li> </ul>	<p><u>Existing Management Actions</u></p> <p>UV1. Control emergent vegetation through water control and chemical spraying to maintain a ratio of 70% open water to 30% emergent vegetation.</p> <p>UV2. Treat areas of cattail in seasonal wetlands and ponds with herbicides approved for aquatic use. Control cattail encroachment to no more than 10% in seasonal wetlands and no more than 20% in ponds.</p> <p>UV3. Consult with USFWS prior to any treatments of tamarisk or other invasive species that may occur in areas occupied by sensitive species. Follow Conservation Measures as identified.</p> <p>UV4. Employ area personnel, volunteer groups, and NDF Conservation Crews to cut and treat noxious plants on the area. Monitor and treat areas where undesirable species attempt to reestablish.</p> <p>UV5. Employ Best Management Practices with equipment, tools and vehicles to prevent spread of noxious plant seeds to new areas. Monitor availability of new methods (e.g., herbicides) for treating noxious plants more effectively.</p> <p>UV6. Monitor and treat areas where undesirable species begin to reestablish. To prevent reinfestation of areas cleared of undesirable species, follow-up quickly with planting and seeding of desirable plants. Determine sources and monitor availability of plant stocks as part of the effort.</p>

\*Note: the management actions related to one type of resource goal and objectives may indirectly benefit other types of resources

**Appendix A**  
**Summary of OWMA CMP Goals, Objectives and Management Actions\***

Goals	Objectives	Existing and New Management Actions
		<p>UV7. Discourage the growth of cattail and encourage growth of alkali bulrush in ponds and seasonal wetlands. Do not flood wetlands during May and early June if emergent vegetation is a problem.</p> <p>UV8. Remove selected areas of arrowweed (<i>Pluchea sericea</i>) to allow for the growth of quail brush and other desirable plants.</p> <p>UV9. Improve water level management practices to control undesirable plant growth while reducing dependency on herbicide treatments.</p> <p>UV10. Use prescribed burning or mechanical methods to control large stands of undesirable vegetation and as weed control in agricultural fields at the end of growing seasons, before bird breeding seasons, and as appropriate at other times.</p> <p><u>New Management Actions</u></p> <p>UV11. Inventory and map knapweed, tamarisk and other invasive and noxious plants at the OWMA and develop a plan to define and implement related control measures.</p> <p>UV12. Determine prioritized sites to initiate tamarisk control, recognizing some areas will be defoliated by the tamarisk beetle. Employ Best Management Practices with use of treatments (i.e., types of herbicides approved for use) and appropriate methods (e.g., cut stump, foliar treatment, burning). Follow restoration treatments with appropriate native plants in densities beneficial to wildlife.</p> <p>UV13. Coordinate with the NPS, USFWS, USBR, BLM, and Virgin River Conservation Program Partners and others on control and restoration efforts as needed.</p>
<i>Rare Plant Protection</i>		
Protect rare plants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the location of rare plants at the OWMA</li> <li>Protect rare plants from OWMA users and as management actions are implemented</li> </ul>	<p><u>Existing Management Actions:</u> Not applicable</p> <p><u>New Management Actions</u></p> <p>SP1. Conduct surveys for rare plants and map their locations.</p> <p>SP2. Review existing and new management actions and determine their potential to adversely affect the identified rare plants. Modify management actions to avoid and minimize related adverse impacts.</p> <p>SP3. Prevent damage to rare plants by recreationists.</p>
<i>Predator Management</i>		
Manage and control predatory wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine predator presence and abundance, migration patterns and related surveillance protocols</li> <li>Define and employ effective capture techniques in cooperation with the Southern Nevada Health District</li> </ul>	<p><u>Existing Management Actions:</u> Not applicable</p> <p><u>New Management Actions</u></p> <p>P1. Define and implement surveillance protocols to detect predator (e.g., raccoon and ravens) tracks and sign, and document empirical observations of predation events.</p> <p>P2. Determine and implement effective predator capture techniques that minimize impacts to non-target species.</p> <p>P3. Define and apply key indicators of predator presence to optimize and adapt capture efforts over time.</p>
<i>Aquatic Species Habitats and Wildlife Management</i>		
Maintain and enhance habitats and populations of Endangered aquatic wildlife species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determine changes in Endangered aquatic species populations found on the OWMA (razorback sucker, woundfin and Virgin River chub). Follow related Conservation Measures and protocols.</li> <li>Maintain and restore diverse, healthy and naturally-functioning habitats of these and other aquatic species</li> <li>Continue coordinating and collaborating with NDOW's conservation partners to promote these species and their habitats on the OWMA</li> </ul>	<p><u>Existing Management Actions</u></p> <p>AS1. Conduct surveys to assess the occurrence of Endangered fish on the OWMA (i.e., the razorback sucker, woundfin and Virgin River chub).</p> <p>AS2. Use Center and Honeybee Ponds on the OWMA to assist in the recovery of razorback suckers.</p> <p>AS3. Continue working with the USFWS and the following work groups that help develop razorback sucker and other native fish Conservation Measures: the Muddy River Biological Advisory Committee, the Lower Virgin River Recovery Implementation Team, the Lake Mead Razorback Sucker Work Group, and the Native Fish Work Group.</p> <p>AS4. Protect and minimize the degradation of OWMA water quality as management actions are implemented.</p> <p><u>New Management Actions</u></p> <p>AS5. Explore opportunities to further enhance razorback sucker habitats in Center and Honeybee Ponds.</p>
Maintain and enhance habitats and populations of other native fish and amphibians endemic to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain and restore diverse, healthy and naturally-functioning habitats of these and other aquatic species</li> </ul>	<p><u>Existing Management Actions</u></p> <p>AS6. Conduct surveys to assess the occurrence of native fish and amphibians on the Virgin and Muddy Rivers and the OWMA.</p> <p>AS7. Continue working on native fish species Conservation Measures and other topics with the USFWS and the work groups listed under action AS3 above.</p>

\*Note: the management actions related to one type of resource goal and objectives may indirectly benefit other types of resources

**Appendix A**  
**Summary of OWMA CMP Goals, Objectives and Management Actions\***

Goals	Objectives	Existing and New Management Actions
the Virgin, Muddy and Colorado River systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue coordinating and collaborating with NDOW's conservation partners to maximize the likelihood of achieving the goal related to this objective</li> </ul>	<p><u>New Management Actions</u>  AS8. If the need arises, explore options for using Center and Honeybee Ponds to help with the conservation and recovery of other native fish.</p>
<i>Farming, and Land and Water Rights Acquisitions</i>		
<p>Enhance wildlife habitats by allowing wildlife-compatible farming on the OWMA</p> <p>Acquire additional land and water rights from willing sellers if needed to help meet the purposes of the OWMA and when opportunities arise</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use farming to provide wildlife food sources and habitats for upland game birds and other wildlife</li> <li>Increase water supplies for the OWMA as water rights become available</li> <li>Acquire additional land for the OWMA when parcels become available</li> </ul>	<p><u>Existing Management Actions</u>  FA1. Lease approximately 130 acres of land to a lessee who will plant wildlife-compatible crops, including barley, Sudangrass, alfalfa, wild sunflower, millet, and sorghum.  FA2. Help irrigate the lessee's crops and assist the lessee with soil cultivation and the removal of undesirable vegetation.  FA3. Annually assess farming practices at the OWMA to determine their wildlife values and to determine if new actions are needed to better meet related objectives.</p> <p><u>New Management Actions</u>  FA4. Barley will be planted along the edges of fields when appropriate and feasible.  FA5. Evaluate and possibly purchase land and water rights from willing sellers when feasible and if such purchases will help NDOW achieve the purposes of the OWMA.</p>
<i>Hunting Opportunities and Blinds</i>		
Promote and improve public safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain adequate separation between hunter blinds and blind orientation that minimizes the risk of shooting accidents</li> <li>Use signage on roads and trails to inform visitors while minimizing safety-related risks</li> <li>Designate, locate and regulate parking, camping, hiking trails, visitor access and other items in a manner that minimizes conflicts among different types of users.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Existing Management Actions</u>  H1. Maintain existing hunting blinds with adequate spacing of 200 yards between blinds, 260 yards from occupied dwellings and an orientation that minimizes the risk of shooting-related accidents.  H2. Enforce existing regulations that prevent overuse through a reservation system, not allowing hiking and bird watching near ponds on hunting days, restricting parking to limited areas, thus minimizing conflicts between different types of recreationists.</p> <p><u>New Management Actions</u>  H3. Move existing blinds 8 and 9 so there is less risk of shot landing on private property west of the OWMA. The blinds will also be configured so hunters will only be able to shoot over the ponds from the blinds.  H4. Design and install new signs to improve public safety and provide visitors with more information.</p>
<p>Maintain and expand hunting opportunities</p> <p>Improve the quality of hunting experiences</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve habitats and hunting blind conditions that will lead to greater hunter success rates</li> <li>Revise the hunting reservation system so it is easier to use</li> <li>Maintain and expand hunting opportunities for disabled hunters</li> <li>Regulate, and limit if necessary, hunter use to maintain high quality hunting experiences, protect natural resources, protect public safety, and avoid conflicts among users.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Existing Management Actions</u>  H5. Continue to use the hunter reservation system established in 2012 with two changes as defined in new management actions H11 and H12 below.  H6. Continue to implement the OWMA-Reasonable Accommodation ADA Process (see Appendix L) while maintaining hunter blinds 14, 22, and 31 for disabled hunters.  H7. Relocate Canada geese to the OWMA from northern Nevada (as available).  H8. Inspect and repair existing fences as needed.  H9. Replace existing signs that have exceeded their useful life.  H10. Revisit existing hunting regulations, including the reservation system, on an annual basis and implement changes as necessary to help meet related objectives.  H11. Modify the existing hunter reservation system by only allowing waterfowl and dove hunters to draw one day during the mail-in reservation systems.</p> <p><u>New Management Actions</u>  H12. Develop an online reservation system that would permit hunters to make reservations via the internet rather than having to go to an NDOW office or to the OWMA as funding sources allow.  H13. Replace pit blinds 19, 23 and 25 with newer pit blinds.  H14. Convert box blinds 4, 5, 6, and 7 to pit blinds.  H15. While designing the pond leveling projects at Wilson and Pintail Ponds, explore opportunities to add blinds to the islands that will be created at these ponds.  H16. To increase opportunities for disabled hunters, convert blinds 8, 9, 17, 33, 37, C1 and C4 to disabled hunter blinds. Update the OWMA-Reasonable Accommodation ADA Process to incorporate these changes. These blinds will be available to hunters that are not disabled if they are not reserved by</p>

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**Appendix A**  
**Summary of OWMA CMP Goals, Objectives and Management Actions\***

Goals	Objectives	Existing and New Management Actions
		disabled hunters. H17. Extend existing fences to keep trespassing cattle off the OWMA. Extend fences around Center, Pintail, and Wilson Ponds.
<i>Other Visitor, Recreation and Education Facility Improvements</i>		
<p>Help meet growing demands for outdoor recreation and education-related opportunities</p> <p>Improve the quality of outdoor recreation and education experiences</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain and expand a range of recreation opportunities at the OWMA while protecting priority uses per Commission Policy 66, and as funding allows. Meet recreation demands in a manner that avoids and minimizes conflict among users and adverse impacts to natural resources.</li> <li>Replace or upgrade visitor and recreation facilities that have exceeded their useful lives or are in need of repair. Expand facilities to help meet unmet demands.</li> <li>Monitor recreation use to help determine if additional facilities are needed, or if certain types of recreation demands are not being met</li> <li>Work with users and community leaders to identify and acquire funding to help pay for improvements.</li> </ul>	<p><u>Existing Management Actions</u></p> <p>V1. Maintain existing roads and parking areas.  V2. Maintain existing campground facilities.  V3. Add shade trees to the campground.</p> <p><u>New Management Actions</u></p> <p>V4. Add a new multi-use pond on the parcel of state-owned land near and west of the existing OWMA employee housing or near the amphitheater and current employee office. This pond will be designed to support bird watching, a picnic area, fishing and limited dog training. Dog training will only be allowed in a designated area to help avoid conflicts with bird watchers, fishermen, and other recreationists. In addition, and to minimize the risks of such conflicts, hunting, firearms and other noise-making devices will not be allowed at the new pond.  V5. Build a new interpretive trail with educational signage and wildlife viewing areas along the edge of the new pond and continuing to nearby seasonal wetlands, where it will connect to the existing dirt road network that is used as a trail for wildlife viewing. Like the existing trails and dirt roads, the new trail will not be open on hunt days and vehicles will be restricted during hunting seasons.  V6. Develop bird and plant checklists for the OWMA and correlate those lists with a wildlife viewing guide that will inform and direct visitors to key wildlife viewing areas that include related signage. Add a limited number of wildlife viewing platforms in these designated areas.  V7. Expand and make improvements to the existing campground by upgrading tables, fire rings, restrooms, parking pads and other campsite facilities while adding additional shade trees and gravel to camping access roads at the OWMA.  V8. Design and develop a known distance archery range and walk-through, 3-D target archery course. The area south of the campground and west of Center Pond and the Pintail and Wilson ponds road is being considered for this new feature, and it would likely be around 20 acres. A new parking area would be developed with an adjacent sighting range, tables and shade structure. The entrance to the archery course would also be adjacent to the parking area.  V9. Add gravel to each of the major OWMA roads used by recreationists that do not currently have sufficient amounts of gravel, and maintain these improved features.  V10. Install new signs and education/information kiosks to help inform visitors about the OWMA's wildlife resources and their habitats. New signs will also be used to improve public safety and minimize and avoid conflicts between different types of users.  V11. Monitor area recreation use and document the number of visitors and types of recreationists visiting the OWMA. Interview users to help determine how well they enjoyed their visit and to seek their input on the OWMA's resources and management.</p>
<i>Avoiding and Minimizing Conflicts Between Different Types of Recreation Uses</i>		
<p>Avoid conflicts between different types of recreationists as much as possible</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Separate conflicting recreation uses spatially and temporally when possible</li> <li>Monitor recreation use to help determine if conflicts between recreationists are occurring and the contributing factors behind the conflicts.</li> <li>Encourage users to be courteous and respectful to others</li> </ul>	<p><u>Existing Management Actions</u></p> <p>CA1. Do not allow hikers, bird watchers, dog trainers and other types of recreationists, other than hunters with a blind reservation, to be near or at the OWMA's ponds, fields and seasonal wetlands on waterfowl hunt days.  CA2. Limit vehicle access to designated parking areas and roads, and greatly restrict such access during hunting seasons. Only disabled hunters are allowed to drive their vehicles up to their blinds. All other hunters must access their blinds by foot after parking in designated areas.</p> <p><u>New Management Actions</u></p> <p>CA3. During the waterfowl hunting season, dog training will only be allowed at the two ponds adjacent to blind 8 on the first Saturday rest day and the last Wednesday rest day of each month. Dog trainers will only be allowed to use noise making devices from 8am to 12pm at these ponds during the waterfowl hunting season. OWMA staff will work with dog trainers to create better and more varied training conditions at one of these ponds. A new gravel parking area will be located close to the pond with controlled vehicle access to avoid conflicts with other users and OWMA residences.</p>
<i>Volunteer Opportunities</i>		
<p>Provide opportunities for volunteers</p> <p>Expand the capabilities of limited NDOW staff resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide supervised opportunities for volunteers that will enhance the following aspects of OWMA management: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>habitat enhancement</li> <li>outdoor education</li> <li>adherence to and enforcement of laws and regulations</li> <li>visitor services</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><u>Existing Management Actions</u> Not applicable</p> <p><u>New Management Actions</u></p> <p>VO1. NDOW will work with volunteers to plan new projects they can work on and to organize related work days. NDOW will look for opportunities for conservation groups, school groups and other volunteers to assist with a variety of management and maintenance activities such as tree and seedling planting, trail building, blind maintenance, wildlife surveys and monitoring, campground improvements, weed control, staffing the OWMA's check-in station, checking boundary fences, maintaining water infrastructure and other facilities, and reporting regulation violations to the OWMA Supervisor or Game Warden.  VO2. Create an organized volunteer group for the OWMA that will work with NDOW's Regional Volunteer Coordinator in the Las Vegas office and the OWMA Supervisor. This group will work on the types of projects listed above under action VO1 and coordinate with NDOW's Game Warden regarding how to report</p>

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**Appendix A**  
**Summary of OWMA CMP Goals, Objectives and Management Actions\***

Goals	Objectives	Existing and New Management Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- facility maintenance</li> <li>• Work with volunteers to identify and acquire funding to help pay for volunteer programs</li> </ul>	<p>regulation violations they may witness.</p> <p>VO3. Volunteer opportunities and projects will be posted on NDOW's OWMA and volunteer program websites. A volunteer email distribution list will be maintained and used by OWMA staff to communicate with volunteers and to help make sure they are aware of upcoming volunteer projects. These efforts will be coordinated with the NDOW's regional volunteer coordinator.</p> <p>VO4. Establish a 3-month per year Conservation Aid position to help OWMA staff with miscellaneous projects.</p>
<i>Water Infrastructure and Flood Control</i>		
<p>Maintain and improve water delivery and flood control capabilities</p> <p>Improve water use efficiency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimize the risk of flooding by providing 500-year level flood protection</li> <li>• Maintain water conveyance infrastructure in properly functioning condition</li> <li>• Stretch limited water resources by improving the efficiency of water use/minimizing water losses in all water conveyance facilities</li> </ul>	<p><u>Existing Management Actions</u></p> <p>WF1. Repair the existing Muddy River diversion dam on the OWMA</p> <p>WF2. Maintain flood control dikes and ditches, including the clearance of excess vegetation from ditches, culverts and other facilities</p> <p>WF3. Replace approximately one existing, open water conveyance ditch with PVC pipe each year.</p> <p><u>New Management Actions</u></p> <p>WF4. Work with Clark County to replace the existing culvert at the Lewis Lane crossing of the Muddy River with a higher capacity culvert.</p> <p>WF5. Replace the culvert at the Muddy River crossing near the Honey Bee Pond Spillway with a higher capacity culvert.</p> <p>WF6. Increase water efficiency by increasing the rate of water conveyance ditch replacements; replace a total of 750 feet of ditches with PVC pipe per year.</p>
<i>Headquarters Buildings and Grounds</i>		
<p>Improve the function and appearance of headquarters buildings and grounds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain, repair and replace existing structures once they have exceeded their useful lives or been damaged beyond repair by fire, earthquakes, floods, etc.</li> <li>• Remove structures, equipment and materials that no longer serve a purpose and are not needed</li> </ul>	<p><u>Existing Management Actions</u></p> <p>BG1. Maintain and repair staff office and residential buildings</p> <p>BG2. Remove damaged structures, equipment and materials from the area: structures and materials remaining from the fire that destroyed the employee office and the wind-damaged equipment shed and shade canopy.</p> <p><u>New Management Actions</u></p> <p>BG3. Provide adequate heating in the shop building by repairing existing units or installing new 120,000 BTU propane heating units.</p> <p>BG4. Construct a new office building with a bunkhouse, meeting room, parking area and large equipment storage shed. This will be located near the existing, temporary office building to tie into existing utilities.</p>
<i>Regulation Compliance and Enforcement</i>		
<p>Maximize compliance with area regulations and visitation rules</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the likelihood of voluntary compliance by contacting, informing, and involving the public</li> <li>• Work with and encourage volunteers to report violations</li> <li>• Explore and obtain new funding sources to support Law Enforcement</li> </ul>	<p><u>Existing Management Actions</u></p> <p>LE1. Enforce existing regulations and visitation rules. Help ensure related signage is up to date and visible.</p> <p>LE2. Replace and install new signs that help visitors understand regulations and identify the location of the OWMA boundary.</p> <p><u>New Management Actions</u></p> <p>LE3. From Labor Day through early spring, NDOW's Law Enforcement Division will attempt to increase Game Warden presence at the OWMA by having additional game wardens assist with coverage of the area as staffing and patrol needs permit, at the discretion of NDOW's Southern Region Lieutenant, during times when the potential for regulation violations, accidents, conflicts between users, etc. is at its highest.</p> <p>LE4. Work with NDOW's Wildlife Commissioners, the State Legislature, CCAB, and others to find additional funding that would help increase game warden presence at the OWMA</p> <p>LE5. Increase public awareness of OGT with signs, public notices and radio advertisements at the OWMA and in the Moapa Valley. OGT is a NDOW program with a toll-free number that allows people to report poaching and other wildlife-related violations anonymously and to collect rewards in some cases.</p>
<i>Monitoring and Adaptive Management</i>		
<p>Modify management actions over time if necessary to better meet the goals of this plan and as conditions change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor the implementation of management actions and determine their effects</li> <li>• If the objectives related to the actions are not being met as well as they should, determine what alternative courses of action would better meet the objectives</li> </ul>	<p><u>Existing Management Actions</u> Not Applicable</p> <p><u>New Management Actions</u></p> <p>AM1. OWMA staff will monitor the implementation of the management actions contained in this CMP and their effects. They will provide NDOW management with semi-annual progress reports and related recommendations. Any recommended modifications to the management actions will be documented and implemented following approval by NDOW management.</p> <p>AM2. The status of management action implementation and recommended modifications will be summarized on NDOW's OWMA website. The public will be able to provide related comments for NDOW to consider as it implements the monitoring and adaptive management approach.</p>

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# Appendix B



Appendix B: OWMA Management Actions Schedule and Budget

Proposed Management Actions					
<i>Existing Management Actions</i>					
		FY 15	FY 16	FY 17	Long Term Estimates
<b>Road, Fencing and Parking Improvements</b>					
Improve road from Check Station to Wilson Pond		\$ 4,000			
<i>Maintain existing roads and parking areas</i>		\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	
Improve Pintail Pond parking area		\$ 1,250			
Develop new parking area for dog training by blind #8		\$ 1,250			
New fencing around Center, Pintail and Wilson Ponds			\$ 40,000		
<i>Inspect and repair existing fences</i>		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	
<b>Signage</b>					
<i>Replace existing signs</i>		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000		
Purchase informational kiosks and literature racks			\$ 4,000		
Develop new signs for public safety and reduce conflicts		\$ 1,800		\$ 1,800	
<b>Hunting Opportunities and Blinds</b>					
Reconfigure blinds 8 and 9		\$ 1,100			
Improve blinds 8, 9, 17, 33, 37, C-1 and C-4 to accommodate disabled hunters		\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	
Convert box blinds 4, 6 and 7 to pit-type blinds		\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	
Replace old pit blinds at 19, 23 and 25 with newer pit blinds		\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000		
Replace additional blinds that are ADA accessible		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	
<i>Relocate Canada geese to OWMA from northern Nevada (if available)</i>		\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	
<b>Visitor and Recreation Facility Improvements</b>					
Modify ponds near blind 8 for dog training opportunities		\$ 2,000			
Establish new parking area near blind 8 for dog training		\$ 1,100			
<i>Maintain existing campground facilities</i>		\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000		
Upgrade parking pads and campground road			\$ 2,000		
<i>Improve fire rings, tables and install new ADA Restroom at campground</i>		\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 23,000	
<i>Add shade trees to campground</i>		\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 750	
Develop a known-distance and 3-D archery range				\$ 60,000	
Develop a new multi-use pond with trails and signs					\$ 300,000
Develop a bird and plant checklist			\$ 2,000		
Add campground sites and parking areas			\$ 10,000		
Improve and add new foot bridges		\$ 700	\$ 700		
Install new restrooms that are ADA accessible				\$ 20,000	

\* These preliminary cost estimates are based on engineering estimates conducted before final design of improvements and are subject to change.

Appendix B: OWMA Management Actions Schedule and Budget

	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17	Long Term Estimates
<b>Headquarters Buildings and Grounds</b>				
Heating units for Shop Building		\$ 5,000		
Shade structure for equipment		\$ 75,000		
New office building with large meeting room and parking area				\$ 350,000
<b>Farming</b>				
<i>Continuation of the Farming Lease Agreement</i>	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500	
<b>Vegetation Management</b>				
Inventory and map noxious weeds on OWMA	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 200	
<i>Treatment of noxious and invasive plants</i>	\$ 4,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	
<i>Seeding of desirable vegetation</i>	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	
<b>Water Infrastructure and Flood Control</b>				
<i>Replace open ditches with pipe</i>	\$ 40,000		\$ 30,000	
<i>Repair Muddy River Diversion Dam</i>	\$100,000			
Replace Lewis Lane culvert				\$ 100,000
Replace culvert on Muddy River below Honeybee Dam				\$ 80,000
Pond Leveling of Pintail and Wilson Ponds	\$ 25,000			\$ 200,000
Replace water control structures in seasonal ponds	\$ 3,200	\$ 3,200	\$ 3,200	
Replace water control structures in irrigation ditches	\$ 1,000		\$ 1,000	
Honeybee Pond Maintenance				\$ 40,000
Totals	\$214,350	\$174,350	\$164,450	\$ 1,070,000

\* These preliminary cost estimates are based on engineering estimates conducted before final design of improvements and are subject to change.

# Appendix C



## Appendix C

### Public Comments on the Draft CMP and Related Responses

<b>Commenter</b>	<b>Comment Number</b>	<b>Comment and Response</b>
M. Kowal	1.	NDOW should no longer allow the planting of corn or strawberry clover. <i>Response: Existing management action FA1 was modified to reflect the fact that NDOW no longer plans on planting corn or strawberry clover.</i>
	2.	Add more goose nests like the one at Honey Bee pond. <i>Response: A new management action (GS19) has been added to address this comment.</i>
	3.	Fix the road to blinds 12 and 13. <i>Response: This road is one of the roads that will be improved under new management action V9</i>
	4.	Create more opportunities for volunteers to work on projects and provide input. <i>Response: This comment has already been addressed: see new management actions VO1 to VO4.</i>
	5.	Use Duck Stamp funds to level more seasonal wetlands. <i>Response: New management action GS15 includes two new pond leveling projects. Additional leveling projects will be considered over the long-term.</i>
	6.	Plant more barley instead of always having alfalfa and sudan grass. <i>Response: A new management action (FA4) was added to acknowledge there may be opportunities to plant more barley along the edges of fields. While the existing agricultural lease allows the planting of barley at a larger scale, it is currently not economically feasible to do so.</i>
	7.	Remove alfalfa bales from the fields sooner. <i>Response: The current agricultural lease requires all bales to be removed within 3 days after baling is completed. NDOW staff will make sure this requirement is complied with.</i>
	8.	Change box blinds 4, 5, 6 and 7 to pit blinds. <i>Response: New management action H14 was modified to include box blind 5; the other blinds mentioned in this comment were already included in the management action.</i>
	9.	Change vegetation on seasonal wetland islands from brush to grass. <i>Response: NDOW wishes to maintain a balance of vegetation types on islands, with some having brush and others grass. A balanced approach will also be taken on the islands that will be created during the two new pond leveling projects.</i>
T. Reymer	10.	Provide dog training opportunities on weekends and not just weekdays. <i>Response: As part of new management action CA3, dog training will be allowed on the first Saturday rest day of each month during the waterfowl hunting season.</i>

<b>Commenter</b>	<b>Comment Number</b>	<b>Comment and Response</b>
T. Reymer	11.	Supports developing hunting opportunities on the Virgin River arm. <i>Response: New infrastructure on the Virgin River arm to support hunting is not being proposed at this time for the reasons described in the introduction to CMP section IIB.</i>
Red Rock Audubon Society	12.	Address effects of climate change on the availability of water used at the WMA and related operations. <i>Response: This is an issue that NDOW will monitor and address as appropriate over the long-term, and if appropriate, the next time the CMP is updated in approximately ten years. Fortunately, NDOW's water rights are fairly senior and thus less subject to potential reductions in water availability compared to more junior rights.</i>
	13.	Need to involve non-hunting public more and re-establish relationships with them; let them know how they can contribute financially and with volunteer labor. <i>Response: As new management actions VO1 to VO4 and TE11 are implemented, NDOW will work with the non-hunting public on volunteer and funding opportunities.</i>
	14.	Implement actions that will attract non-game bird species; (nest boxes for kestrels and barn owls, artificial burrows for burrowing owls, more cottonwoods and willows) their organization wants to help install these. <i>Response: New management action NG7 was added to the final draft of the CMP to include new nest boxes. New management action NG8 was added to determine the extent of burrowing owl use on the OWMA and to determine the need for artificial burrows. Planting more cottonwoods and willows is already included in new management actions TE8 and TE9</i>
	15.	With the decline of Lake Mead water levels there is an increasing need for waterfowl resting areas at the WMA; add a waterfowl rest or sanctuary area closed to hunting; this would improve hunting and bird-watching opportunities. <i>Response: the new pond included in new management action V4 will serve as a waterfowl resting area as hunting will not be allowed at this pond. The addition of additional ponds was considered during the CMP planning process but was not recommended due to a lack of available water.</i>
	16.	Since the visitor center is not being proposed, the multi-use pond should be moved closer to the farming area so it is near food; include an island and make this the new "sanctuary" pond? <i>Response: There are a number of reasons why the new pond is proposed to be constructed on the parcel of state-owned land near the existing OWMA buildings. These reasons include: the addition of new parking and a road extension needed to access the new pond and related trail will be less expensive in this location compared to locations farther away from State Route 169; since the new pond will be supporting various types of "passive" recreation, it should not be located near hunting areas, and building the pond on state-owned land will be less expensive and save time compared to building it on federal land. As shown on Figure 3 in Part One of the CMP, there is very little state-owned land on the Muddy River portion of the OWMA. NDOW will consider including an island when the pond is designed.</i>

<b>Commenter</b>	<b>Comment Number</b>	<b>Comment and Response</b>
Red Rock Audubon Society	17.	NDOW should work with the USFWS to improve the WMA's crop selection so it attracts more waterfowl and is more water efficient. <i>Response: NDOW already consults with the USFWS regarding crop selection and many other aspects of OWMA management.</i>
	18.	Add opaque blinds with viewing holes for bird-watching purposes. <i>Response: While bird watchers are able to use the many existing blinds at the OWMA on all odd-numbered (rest) days during the waterfowl season, and during the rest of the year, NDOW is interested in adding additional bird watching blinds if new locations are needed. NDOW also plans on including one or more bird-watching structures at the new multi-use pond to be developed (see new management action V4). When we meet with the non-hunting public regarding volunteer opportunities and potential projects at the OWMA (see the response to comment 13 above), we will include this topic on the agenda.</i>
National Park Service	19.	Regarding the text on page 4 of the draft CMP: for portions of the OWMA that are on NPS land, NDOW must also comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Compliance with NEPA should be coordinated through Lake Mead NRA staff whenever new projects are proposed on the OWMA. <i>Response: NEPA was added to the related section on page 4 and NDOW will coordinate with the Lake Mead NRA staff whenever new projects are proposed on the OWMA.</i>
	20.	Regarding the text on page 6 of the draft CMP, lands are not leased; they are cooperatively managed under an MOA. <i>Response: this requested change was made to the related text in the final CMP.</i>
	21.	Regarding Figure 3 on page 9 of the draft CMP, roads inside the NPS boundary may not extend as far as they once did. Lake Mead NRA staff can provide updated information on the status of park roads. <i>Response: the text introducing Figure 3 has been modified to let the reader know that the locations of the secondary (dirt or gravel) roads in Figure 3 are approximate.</i>
	22.	In addition to the cultural resources associated with the Anasazi, there are also historic structures on the property that need to be documented and evaluated for significance prior to being altered or modified. <i>Response: this additional information has been added to the related text in the final CMP.</i>
	23.	The NPS would like to see Tamarisk removed and replaced with native riparian plants whenever feasible. <i>Response: NDOW agrees and has included this approach in new management actions TE8 and TE9.</i>
	24.	The NPS would like to consult on agricultural species planted. <i>Response: the NPS will be consulted on this topic; in addition to making the related edits to the text in the final CMP, this type of consultation is included in the updated Cooperative Management Agreement that is being finalized by the NPS, USBR and NDOW.</i>
	25.	There should be Goals, Objectives, and Management Actions (Part Two of the document) associated with the sensitive plants listed on page 16 of the draft CMP. <i>Response: A new sensitive plants-related goal, objective and management action was added to the final draft of the CMP.</i>

<b>Commenter</b>	<b>Comment Number</b>	<b>Comment and Response</b>
National Park Service	26.	<p>The NPS was contacted some time ago about the need to repair and modify the diversion structure, but project-level detail was not available. NEPA compliance for this project should be coordinated with the NPS prior to implementation.</p> <p><i>Response: NDOW is in the process of obtaining a new design and related documentation for the diversion project. Once this has been obtained, the NPS will be provided with the project-level detail and the related NEPA compliance will be completed and coordinated with the NPS.</i></p>
	27.	<p>Ensure that the desirable foods planted for doves and other birds are not invasive. The NPS would like to consult on species planted on NPS lands.</p> <p><i>Response: All seeds planted by NDOW at WMAs and as part of restoration projects in other areas of the state undergo testing for the seeds of invasive species. As noted in the response to comment number 24, the NPS will be allowed to consult with NDOW on species planted at the OWMA under the updated Cooperative Management Agreement that is being finalized by the NPS, USBR and NDOW.</i></p>
	28.	<p>Herbicide use should be based on an Integrated Pest Management Program. Lake Mead's Exotic Plant Management Plan has guidelines for herbicide application. Specific pesticides should be approved by the NPS, and quantities used should be reported annually.</p> <p><i>Response: this type of NPS input is included in the updated Cooperative Management Agreement that is being finalized by the NPS, USBR and NDOW.</i></p>
	29.	<p>The NPS would like to consult on capital improvements that occur on NPS lands.</p> <p><i>Response: this type of NPS input is included in the updated Cooperative Management Agreement that is being finalized by the NPS, USBR and NDOW.</i></p>
	30.	<p>The NPS would like to consult on more detailed plans for predator management. The nature of the OWMA will attract predators from surrounding areas.</p> <p><i>Response: NDOW will consult with the NPS regarding predator management.</i></p>
	31.	<p>NPS lands should not be sublet for farming for profit.</p> <p><i>Response: NDOW must allow the farmer that uses OWMA land to grow crops to make a modest profit since NDOW cannot afford, and does not desire, to do farming on its own.</i></p>
	32.	<p>Developments being considered for the Virgin River portion of the OWMA should be outside the NPS boundary. Rare plants, in addition to the sensitive animal species, should be listed as factors discouraging development in the Virgin River area.</p> <p><i>Response: as requested, rare plants have been added to the text of the final CMP as one of the reasons why NDOW is not pursuing new developments for the Virgin River portion of the OWMA.</i></p>
	33.	<p>There should be Goals, Objectives, and Management Actions associated with sensitive plants in Appendix A.</p> <p><i>Response: The new sensitive plants-related goal, objective and management action included in Part Two of the final CMP have also been included in Appendix A.</i></p>

<b>Commenter</b>	<b>Comment Number</b>	<b>Comment and Response</b>
National Park Service	34.	If new buildings are to be constructed on NPS lands, the NPS should have a role in review and approval of such improvements. To a lesser degree, the same is true for smaller improvements such as restrooms and campgrounds. NEPA compliance is required for new installations. <i>Response: NDOW will consult with the NPS on these types of projects and related NEPA compliance will take place for all new installations, as required by the Cooperative Management Agreement.</i>
J. Brown	35.	Upset about being locked in the WMA after entering it with his truck <i>Response: NDOW staff will make more of an effort to check to make sure there are no visitors on the WMA before they lock the access gates.</i>
	36.	Supports dog training at the WMA on non-hunt days during the hunting season <i>Response: New management action CA3 allows dog training on two non-hunt days per month during the hunting season.</i>
Las Vegas Hunting Retriever Club, B. Smith, P. Young, J. Smith, and W. Roberts	37. to 41.	Wants NDOW to allow dog training on non-hunt days during the hunting season <i>Response: New management action CA3 allows dog training on two non-hunt days per month during the hunting season.</i>

# Appendix D



**STATE OF NEVADA  
BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS**

**Commission Policy Number 66**

Number: **P-66**  
Title: Management and Use of Wildlife  
Management Areas  
Reference: NRS 501.105, 501.181  
Effective Date: March 28, 1980  
Amended Date: August 15, 1998  
Reviewed Date: 2002

**PURPOSE**

The primary purpose of this document is to provide policy-level guidance to the Department of Wildlife in the development of site specific operational plans for all the individual wildlife management areas (WMAs) in the State of Nevada.

**JUSTIFICATION**

In accordance with the provisions of NRS 501.105, the Board of Wildlife Commissioners is responsible for establishing policies and adopting regulations necessary to the preservation, protection, management and restoration of wildlife and its habitat. These duties are further refined in NRS 501.181, which allows the Commission to establish policies for areas of interest including the acquisition of lands, water rights and easements and other property, including the entry, access to, and occupancy and use of such property, including leases of grazing rights, and sales or agricultural products.

**BACKGROUND**

Nevada not only has the distinction of being the driest state in the nation, but also continues to be one of the fastest growing from a human population perspective. The increased demands for the limited water resources has escalated the importance of maintaining viable and functioning wetlands, and other water-related habitats, upon which a variety of game, nongame, and sensitive species of fish and wildlife depend. It has been estimated that 85 percent of the historic wetlands in the western part of the State, and 52 percent of the wetlands statewide have been lost. The desire to acquire and maintain wetlands in public ownership was also identified as a priority initiative in the recently adopted Comprehensive Management (CMS) planning process.

Nevada also has an inherent obligation from a national and international perspective to participate in efforts to insure the future well being of migratory birds, a majority of which utilize the wetlands and other habitats of Nevada for only a part of their life cycle. The wildlife management areas of this State are an extremely important component of the North American Waterfowl Plan, the National Shorebird Conservation Plan, and the Partners in Flight Bird Conservation Plan, a plan which considers the needs of neotropical migratory birds.

## Appendix D

The State of Nevada through the Department of Wildlife currently owns in fee title, and/or maintains long-term leases for over 120,000 acres of real property, including attendant water rights in some cases. A vast majority of this land was acquired for the primary purpose of protecting wetlands, inclusive of maintaining public shooting grounds. Opportunities continue to exist for acquiring additional wetlands and other critical habitats for fish and wildlife through the Park and Wildlife Bond Bill program, use of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration projects, and other funding initiatives.

Planning the future of Nevada's wildlife management areas is essential due to the increased and sometimes conflicting demands being placed upon these limited resources. The adoption of broad policies and attendant long-range plans can therefore assist in meeting the present and future use demands, help maintain and enhance the resource, and resolve the problems of the conflicting resource uses.

### **POLICIES**

In order to address the current and future needs of the fish and wildlife resources, and the publics that utilize these resources, the Board of Wildlife Commissioners does hereby establish the following policies to provide for the preservation, protection, management and restoration of wildlife and its habitats on State owned or controlled wildlife management areas (WMAs):

**Priority Uses:** The primary objectives governing the management and use of WMAs must necessarily be linked to the purposes for which the areas were purchased, particularly from a Federal Aid or other funding source perspective. Based upon this premise, priority management for the following listed WMAs will be directed toward wetland development and waterfowl activities, including the use of these areas as public shooting grounds, with all other uses being secondary: Stillwater, Mason Valley, Scripps, Fernley, Humboldt, Alkali Lake, Franklin Lake, Overton, Key Pittman, Railroad Valley, and Wayne E. Kirch.

Using similar justification and rationale as described above, the following listed areas will receive priority management for fisheries-related programs: Kingston Canyon, Birch Creek, Cave Lake, Bruneau River, Schroeder Reservoir and Eagle Valley Reservoir. It is the intent of this policy to maximize available opportunities for all consumptive and nonconsumptive fish and wildlife uses within the WMA system, after consideration of the primary uses described above and within limits posed by provisions of the Endangered Species Act, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and other similar state and federal legislative mandates.

**Multiple Uses:** Because of the limited availability and subsequent high demand for wetland-related resources in Nevada, all WMAs purchased with Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration funds shall be developed, maintained and managed primarily for wetland values. In the same manner, all WMAs purchased with Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration funds shall be developed, maintained and managed primarily for fisheries-

## Appendix D

related values. The maximum recreational or other public use will be pursued whenever and wherever feasible, but with the limits posed by the above reference priorities, within habitat capabilities, and as may be limited by budget constraints or regulations applicable to lands purchased using Federal Aid.

Consumptive Uses: Hunters and anglers benefit fish and wildlife by funding most of the WMA programs in the State of Nevada. Therefore, the hunting and fishing public shall continue to have priority standing in establishing the direction for future management and use of all the WMA system properties, when such lands were purchased with consumptive user derived funds. Hunting and fishing shall also be allowed where appropriate on lands purchased with the Park and Wildlife Bond Bill program or with other general public funds. On some WMAs, the scope of activities and the number of hunters and/or hunter days may be limited to protect natural resources, to maintain an optimum recreational experience and to provide for public safety.

Nonconsumptive Uses: The WMA system will be made available for educational, scientific, aesthetic and other nonconsumptive uses, whenever these activities can be accommodated without interfering with the primary purposes for which the areas were established, and without decreasing the opportunity or experience for consumptive users. Because of the many opportunities these areas provide for the general public, nonconsumptive uses associated with the fish and wildlife resources such as bird watching, nature trails, educational pursuits, scientific endeavors and other associated activities will be encouraged whenever and wherever possible.

Water Rights: Whenever water becomes available, the Department shall, subject to available manpower and money, apply for and/or purchase such waters as deemed necessary to maintain existing wetlands and/or develop new wetlands necessary for the preservation, maintenance and enhancement of wildlife and their habitats on WMAs.

Land Acquisition: In concert with public input provided as part of the inventory portion of the CMA planning process, strategies developed in the CMA plan, and in accordance with policies established under the Park and Wildlife Bond Bill program, the Department will continue to pursue a land acquisition program that meets the needs and desires of the public, and provides for the preservation, protection, and restoration of wildlife and their habitats within the WMA system.

Wetlands Management: An overall goal of no net loss of wetlands and the enhancement of wetland quantity and quality are the long-term wetlands management objectives on WMAs purchased with Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration funds. Comprehensive strategies for protecting and enhancing wetlands will be developed for each WMA using the Geographical Information System (GIS) natural resource inventory. The condition of present water delivery facilities will be reviewed, and improvement projects developed where needed on WMAs to increase efficiency of water delivery and promote water conservation.

Vegetation Management: Strategies to promote vegetation that is of maximum value to

## Appendix D

waterfowl and other migratory birds will be developed through water level manipulation, prescribed burning, herbicide applications and other means in an effort to meet plan-specific objectives on each WMA. Procedures will also be developed to control and eradicate invasive and undesirable plants such as tamarisk and whitetop. Upland habitats on WMAs will be managed to maximize biodiversity, which may also require periodic vegetative manipulation.

Public Access: appropriate road and trail systems will be established and maintained within each WMA to insure adequate public access to the resource, recognizing however, that some seasonal road closures may be necessary to protect the resource, and/or enhance the recreational experience. Roadways, parking areas and other vehicular control measures will be adequately signed to insure public compliance.

Camping: although camping is recognized as an important part of the outdoor recreational experience, and that overnight and/or day-use facilities may be needed at some WMA locations, the Department of Wildlife is not in the camping business simply for the sake of camping. Facilities will therefore be provided only in those areas where there is an expressed demand by fish and wildlife resource users, and only to specifically meet the identified needs of the users.

On those WMAs where improved camping facilities are deemed necessary to address the needs of the general public, and the development of such sites are compatible with fish and wildlife management objectives of the area, the Department of Wildlife shall work in cooperation with the Division of State Parks to provide upgraded camping facilities through the use of site-specific Memorandums of Agreement.

Boat Ramps: Recognizing that boating access is an important component associated with recreational opportunity at many of the WMAs, adequate boat ramp facilities will be provided for launching medium to small boats on reservoirs and ponds where appropriate.

Grazing Practices: It is recognized that livestock grazing frequently provides a viable and cost-effective management tool for enhancing habitat conditions for certain species of wildlife, and livestock grazing may therefore be utilized periodically on some WMAs to meet area-specific plan objectives.

Farming Practices: It is recognized that agricultural production of farmland crops is an extremely beneficial asset to many species of wildlife, particularly some species of migratory birds, and that such practices add to the biodiversity of wildlife in Nevada. Although the major focus of the WMA program will be directed toward developing, enhancing and maintaining natural wetland systems, farming may be initiated on some areas to meet site-specific management area needs. Because of the high cost of farming for agricultural products, a cost benefit analysis will be one of the factors used in determining whether or not an area will be farmed.

Funding Sources: The ownership, maintenance and management of real property,

## Appendix D

particularly land and water, is an expensive program component of fish and wildlife management. The current WMA system provides both direct and indirect benefits to the general public through habitat and migratory bird protection. However, it is the consumptive users that are currently paying a majority of the costs for maintaining these areas. Therefore, it is the intent of this Board that the Department develop strategies and implement programs in an attempt to assess the nonconsumptive users a fee to offset the high costs of management, particularly for those users receiving direct benefits from the WMA system.

This policy shall remain in effect until amended, repealed, or superseded by the Board of Wildlife Commissioners.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS IN REGULAR  
SESSION, AUGUST 15, 1998.

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Bill Bradley, Chairman  
Board of Wildlife Commissioners

# Appendix E



Appendix E - WMA Regulations  
**NDOW Wildlife Management Areas**

The State of Nevada through the Department of Wildlife owns or has long-term leases on more than 155,000 acres of land incorporated into wildlife management areas (WMAs) across the state. The primary management emphasis on WMAs is the protection of wetlands and waterfowl including the use of the areas as public hunting grounds. Hunting opportunities for sportsmen on WMAs include migratory game bird, upland game bird, furbearer and big game hunting. Below is a table of restrictions associated with each of the wildlife management areas. Please review this table and the accompanying list of hunt and use restrictions on wildlife management areas before hunting in these areas.

Area	Trespass	Use of Vessels	Use of Campfires	Camping
Overton WMA (Clark Co.)	Trespass prohibited at Honey Bee Pond and Center Pond from March 1 through Aug. 1	Vessels are prohibited on all ponds. Vessels are allowed on the portion of the area inundated by Lake Mead, except that on Overton hunt days, vessels may be used only by persons authorized to hunt waterfowl.	Permitted within the rest and trails area.	Permitted within the rest and trails area.
W.E. Kirch WMA (Nye Co.)	Trespass prohibited from Feb. 15 through Aug. 15 in the upper portion of Adams-McGill, Cold Springs, Dacey and Haymeadow reservoirs, and all of Tule Reservoir.	Vessels must be operated at a speed that leaves a flat wake, but in no case may exceed 5 nautical miles per hour. Only vessels without motors may be used on Dacey Reservoir from Feb. 15 through August 15. Flat wake restriction in effect all other dates.	Permitted within the Dave Deacon Campground.	Permitted within the Dave Deacon Campground.
Key Pittman WMA (Lincoln Co.)	Trespass prohibited from Feb. 15 through Aug. 15 in the portion of Nesbitt Lake north of the old fence line.	Vessels must be operated at a speed that leaves a flat wake, but in no case may exceed 5 nautical miles per hour.	Not permitted	Not permitted
Mason Valley WMA (Lyon Co.)	Trespass prohibited from Feb. 15 through Aug. 15 in the eastern portion of the main developed pond area, as posted.	All vessels are prohibited from Feb. 15 through Aug. 15 each year, except on Hinkson Slough, Bass, Crappie, and North Ponds, Beaver Slough and the Walker River. Vessels must be operated at a speed that leaves a flat wake, but in no case may exceed 5 nautical miles per hour.	Permitted in those sites designated for camping.	Permitted in those sites designated for camping.
Humboldt WMA (Pershing & Churchill Co.)		Airboats are prohibited on the Humboldt Sink until 1 hour after the legal shooting time on the opening day of the waterfowl season. Airboats are prohibited on the Toulon portion of the area during the waterfowl season. All vessels are prohibited on the ponds 5 days before the opening day of waterfowl season.	Permitted in those sites designated for camping.	Permitted in those sites designated for camping.
Fernley WMA (Lyon Co.)			Permitted	Permitted
Scripps WMA (Washoe Co.)	Trespass prohibited from Feb. 15 through Aug. 15 in that portion of the area that lies south of Little Washoe Lake.		Not Permitted	Not Permitted
Alkali Lake WMA (Lyon Co.)			Not Permitted	Not Permitted
Franklin Lake WMA (Elko Co.)			Not Permitted	Not Permitted
Bruneau River WMA (Elko Co.)			Permitted	Permitted except that camping is not permitted in any building or other structure located within the WMA .
Step toe Valley WMA (White Pine Co.)		Water skiing allowed only between 11 a.m. and sunset. Flat wake restrictions for boats during other hours.	Not Permitted	Not Permitted

## NDOW Wildlife Management Areas

**Special regulations** are in effect at our state Wildlife Management Areas. Please review the following information and adjacent table before hunting on a state Wildlife Management Area.

### Restrictions on Use of Firearms and Ammunition

(NAC 504.135)

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, the discharging of a rifle or pistol is prohibited on the following wildlife management areas:

- (a) Overton in Clark County.
- (b) Key Pittman in Lincoln County.
- (c) Wayne E. Kirch in Nye County.
- (d) Scripps in Washoe County.
- (e) Mason Valley in Lyon County.

2. Deer may be hunted on the Mason Valley and Wayne E. Kirch Wildlife Management Areas only by persons using:

- (a) Shotguns and rifled shotgun slugs or shotgun rounds with sabots that contain a single expanding projectile; or
- (b) Longbows and arrows.

A shotgun that is used to hunt deer pursuant to this subsection may be equipped with a smoothbore barrel that is partially or fully rifled.

3. The use of shotguns capable of holding more than three shells is prohibited on all wildlife management areas owned or managed by this State unless the shotgun is plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so that the total capacity of the shotgun does not exceed three shells.

4. The use or possession of shells for a shotgun containing shot that is toxic or larger than standard-size T is prohibited on the following wildlife management areas:

- (a) Overton in Clark County.
- (b) Key Pittman in Lincoln County.
- (c) Wayne E. Kirch in Nye County.
- (d) Scripps in Washoe County.
- (e) Mason Valley in Lyon County.
- (f) Fernley in Lyon County.
- (g) Alkali Lake in Lyon County.
- (h) Humboldt in Churchill and Pershing Counties.
- (i) Steptoe Valley in White Pine County.
- (j) Franklin Lake in Elko County.

5. The use or possession of shotgun rounds with sabots that contain other than rifled slugs of conventional design is prohibited on all wildlife management areas owned or managed by this State.

6. The provisions of subsection 1 do not apply to persons authorized by the Department to use rifles and pistols for the control of predatory animals and rodents.

7. For the purposes of this section, all shot shall be deemed toxic unless it has been approved as nontoxic by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to 50 C.F.R. § 20.134.

**Restrictions on entry into certain areas (NAC 504.120)**

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, a person shall not enter, occupy, use or be upon the following described portion of the Scripps Wildlife Management Area from February 15 through August 15:

That portion of the Scripps Wildlife Management Area which lies south of Little Washoe Lake, as posted, and further described as including all or portions of Sections 1 and 2, T. 16 N., R. 19 E., M.D.B. & M. and Sections 25, 26, 35 and 36, T. 17 N., R. 19 E., M.D.B. & M.

2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, a person shall not enter, occupy, use or be upon the following described portion of the Key Pittman Wildlife Management Area from February 15 through August 15:

The portion of Nesbitt Lake north of the old fence line.

3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, a person shall not enter, occupy, use or be upon the following described portion of the Wayne E. Kirch Wildlife Management Area from February 15 through August 15:

The upper portion of Adams-McGill, Cold Springs, Dacey and Haymeadow reservoirs, as posted, and all of Tule reservoir.

4. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, a person shall not enter, occupy, use or be upon the following described portion of the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area from February 15 through August 15:

The eastern portion of the main developed pond area, as posted.

5. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, a person shall not enter, occupy, use or be upon the following described portion of the Overton Wildlife Management Area from March 1 through August 1:

The Honey Bee Pond and the Center Pond.

6. The provisions of subsections 1 to 5, inclusive, do not apply to authorized personnel in the performance of their official duties.

**Restrictions on Deer Hunting in Particular Areas; Prohibition on Use or Possession of Certain Shotgun Rounds in Particular Areas. (NAC 503.170)**

1. In the fenced or cultivated lands of the Smith and Mason Valleys, in the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area and in the zones within the Fort Churchill State Historic Park and the Lahontan State Recreation Area that are designated for hunting by the Administrator of the Division of State Parks of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources:

(a) Deer may be hunted only with:

(1) A shotgun no larger than 10 gauge and no smaller than 20 gauge, using:

(I) Rifled slugs; or

(II) Shotgun rounds with sabots that contain rifled slugs or a single expanding projectile; or

(2) A longbow and arrow.

(b) The use or possession of shotgun rounds with sabots that contain other than rifled slugs or a single expanding projectile is prohibited.

2. A shotgun that is used to hunt deer pursuant to subsection 1 may be equipped with a smoothbore barrel or a barrel that is partially or fully rifled.

3. In the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area:

(a) Deer may be hunted only on the following days during the season set for the hunting of deer:

(1) Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays;

(2) Nevada Day, as observed, pursuant to NRS 236.015;

(3) November 11, Veteran's Day as observed;

## Appendix E

- (4) Thanksgiving Day; and
- (5) Family Day, as declared pursuant to NRS 236.015.
- (b) Deer may be hunted only with longbow and arrow during the season set for the archery hunt for deer.

### **Construction and Use of Hunting Blinds; Use of Decoys (NAC 504.160)**

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 6, a person may construct a hunting blind on any wildlife management area if the Department has no obligation to protect a privately constructed blind or to arbitrate the use or priority of use of such a blind. A blind to be constructed must:
  - (a) Be temporary and portable;
  - (b) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (c) be constructed of lumber, screen, fabric, synthetic material or native vegetation; and
  - (c) In the Kirch, Steptoe Valley and Mason Valley Wildlife Management Areas, be constructed of native vegetation, removable fabric, or a synthetic material that is of a temporary nature.
2. A group of persons may construct a blind only after the supervisor of the wildlife management area has approved the plans for the blind.
3. Sunken blinds, and barrels and boxes used as sunken blinds, must be covered when not in use to prevent the entrapment of animals.
4. The use of a sink box is prohibited.
5. A blind may not be locked or reserved for the use of a particular person or group of persons.
6. The Department may:
  - (a) Prohibit the construction of a hunting blind if it is detrimental to a wildlife management area or portion thereof.
  - (b) Designate a hunting blind on a wildlife management area as intended for the use of persons with physical handicaps pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 to 12213, inclusive, and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto.
7. A person may use decoys on a wildlife management area so long as the decoys are not left set up in the field between the hours of 9 p.m. and 3 a.m.

### **Control of Vehicular Travel (NAC 504.115)**

1. Vehicular travel within a wildlife management area may be controlled for operation of the area, for public use and to benefit the public and wildlife resources. Such control may include specifying parking areas, closing interior roads or trails to vehicular travel and prohibiting travel beyond designated points.
2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, it is prohibited, within a wildlife management area, to operate a motor vehicle:
  - (a) Off an interior road or trail that is designated for vehicular travel; or
  - (b) On an interior road or trail that is marked as closed to vehicular travel.
3. The provisions of subsections 1 and 2 do not apply to authorized personnel in the performance of their official duties.

### **Restrictions on Camping; Building Prohibited; Restrictions on Operation of Certain Devices (NAC 504.145)**

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, camping is prohibited in wildlife management areas.
2. Camping is permitted in the:
  - (a) Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area in those sites designated for camping.
  - (b) Wayne E. Kirch Wildlife Management Area within the Dave Deacon Campground.

## Appendix E

- (c) Humboldt Wildlife Management Area in those sites designated for camping.
  - (d) Fernley Wildlife Management Area.
  - (e) Overton Wildlife Management Area within the rest and trails area.
  - (f) Bruneau Wildlife Management Area, except that camping is not permitted in any building or other structure located within that wildlife management area.
3. Camping facilities, including, without limitation, house trailers, must not be stored, parked or maintained in a wildlife management area for more than 8 days, or left in a wildlife management area for occasional occupancy by a person or group of persons associated with the facility.
  4. The erection, fabrication or maintenance of a permanent dwelling or building in a wildlife management area is prohibited.
  5. A person camping in a site, campground or area within a wildlife management area designated for camping pursuant to subsection 2 shall not operate a television, radio or any other device, including, without limitation, a generator, between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. if the device produces sound that is audible beyond the campsite in which it is operated.

### **Trapping: Restrictions; Permits (NAC 504.170)**

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, a person shall not trap on a wildlife management area.
2. Persons having permits to do so may trap on the Overton, Key Pittman, Wayne E. Kirch, Railroad Valley, Humboldt, Fernley, Scripps, Mason Valley, Steptoe Valley, Franklin Lake and Alkali Lake Wildlife Management Areas.
3. Permits to trap on wildlife management areas will be issued through a drawing process and may contain designations of specific trapping areas, dates or other restrictions to ensure compatibility with other public activities.

### **Campfires and Bonfires Prohibited; Exceptions**

(NAC 504.140)

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, campfires and bonfires are prohibited in wildlife management areas.
2. Campfires are permitted in the:
  - (a) Wayne E. Kirch Wildlife Management Area within the Dave Deacon Campground.
  - (b) Humboldt Wildlife Management Area in those sites designated for camping.
  - (c) Fernley Wildlife Management Area.
  - (d) Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area in those sites designated for camping.
  - (e) Overton Wildlife Management Area within the rest and trails area.
  - (f) Bruneau Wildlife Management Area.

### **Denial of Use of Area for Abuse or Littering of Area**

(NAC 504.155) The Department may deny further use of the management area to any person who abuses or litters the area.

### **Removal of Persons from Area: Authority; Grounds**

(NAC 504.110) The Department or an authorized agent may remove a person from a wildlife management area for disorderly conduct, intoxication or any other conduct which endangers the area, a person, wildlife or livestock.

# Appendix F



**STATE OF NEVADA**  
**BOARD OF WILDLIFE COMMISSIONERS**

The Board of Wildlife Commissioners under the authority of Section 501.181, 503.090, 503.140 and 503.245 of the Nevada Revised Statutes, does hereby adopt the following regulations for the management of migratory waterfowl. These recommendations comply with the *Proposed Regulations Frameworks for 2013-14 Late Hunting Season on Certain Migratory Game Birds* established by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

**CR 14-01**  
**2013-2014**

**OVERTON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA**

1. Waterfowl hunting is permitted on the Moapa Valley portion of the area on:
  - a) the opening day of the earliest opening waterfowl season,
  - b) even days thereafter through the end of regular duck and goose seasons,
  - c) the closing two days of any duck and goose season, and
  - d) during any youth waterfowl hunt.
2. Before or after the regular duck and goose seasons, hunting is allowed every day for wildlife species upon which there is an established open season.
3. Upland game bird and rabbit hunting is prohibited during the regular duck and goose seasons, except for persons possessing a valid wild turkey tag to hunt turkeys in the Moapa Valley of Clark County. These persons may hunt turkeys every day for which the tag is valid. These persons are prohibited from pursuing any other upland game birds or rabbits during such time that the fall turkey season is concurrent with the waterfowl season.
4. During the waterfowl season on the Moapa Valley portion of the area, hunters must hunt from assigned hunt locations (blinds) constructed by the Department of Wildlife. A maximum of up to four hunters are permitted at each hunt location. Assigned hunt locations are marked by numbered stakes. Hunters shall hunt only within their assigned hunt location and moving to vacant locations is prohibited. The only exception involves reasonable accommodation of the disabled.
5. During the opening day and the first weekend of the dove season, the maximum capacity for the Moapa Valley portion of the area is 60 hunters by reservation. Vacancies will be filled by stand-by hunters on a first-come, first-served basis.
6. On Overton Hunt days, only persons authorized to hunt waterfowl may use vessels on the portion of the area inundated by Lake Mead.

## Appendix F - OWMA-Specific Regulations

### OVERTON-KEY PITTMAN HUNTER RESERVATION SYSTEM

1. To guarantee an opportunity to hunt, reservations must be made for the following specified days of each hunt listed:

The Key Pittman Wildlife Management Area

- a) The earliest opening day of the general duck and goose seasons.

The Moapa Valley portion of the Overton Wildlife Management Area

- a) Opening day and the first weekend of the dove season.
- b) The entirety of any open waterfowl season.

Special Regulation for the Moapa Valley Portion of the Overton Wildlife Management Area: A person or his representative applying for reservations for group hunting will be limited to up to four hunters per party.

2. Dove Reservation Process:

Hunters wishing to make reservations for opening day and the first weekend of the dove season at the Overton Wildlife Management Area will do so via a paper application available at the Las Vegas and Henderson offices of NDOW or on the NDOW web site at [www.ndow.org](http://www.ndow.org). Unless their privilege is limited or revoked pursuant to law, any resident or nonresident is eligible to have their name included on one application for each hunt day for which reservations are required. A person whose name appears on more than one application for each hunt day for which reservations are required will be rejected from the drawing. Hunters will be permitted to draw only one reservation during this mail-in application process unless there are less than 60 applicants on a day for which reservations are required. Applications for the dove hunt at the Overton Wildlife Management Area shall be received at the Headquarters Office in Reno (through a postal service only) no later than the second Wednesday in July. A public drawing will be held at the Headquarters Office in Reno at 10:00 a.m. on the last Wednesday in July. Successful applicants will receive a reservation confirmation by return mail. Successful reservation holders will be allowed to substitute one person of a hunt party but that substitute must not have been included in an application of the mail-in process or part of a stand-by group.

3. Waterfowl Opening Day/Weekend Reservation Process:

Hunters wishing to make reservations for the first two hunt days of the earliest opening duck and goose seasons at the Overton Wildlife Management Area and the opening day of the duck and goose seasons at the Key Pittman Wildlife Management Area will do so via a paper application available at the Las Vegas and Henderson offices of NDOW or on the NDOW web site at [www.ndow.org](http://www.ndow.org). Unless their privilege is limited or revoked pursuant to law, any resident or nonresident is eligible to have their name included on one application for each hunt day for which reservations are required. A person whose name appears on more than one application for each hunt day for which reservations are required will be rejected from the drawing. For the Overton WMA, hunters will be permitted to draw only one reservation through the mail-in application process unless there are available blinds on a day for which mail-in reservations are required. Applications for these waterfowl hunt days shall be received at the Headquarters Office in Reno (through a postal service only) no later than the second Wednesday in September. A public drawing will be held at the Las Vegas regional office at 10:00 a.m. on the last Wednesday in September. Successful applicants will receive a reservation confirmation by return mail. Successful reservation holders will be allowed to substitute one person of a hunt party but that substitute must not have been included in an application of the mail-in process or part of a stand-by group.

4. Waterfowl Remainder of Season Reservation Process:

Reservations for the remainder of the waterfowl hunting season at the Overton Wildlife Management Area will be available the Monday prior to the opening of the waterfowl season and must be made in person (or by a representative) at the Las Vegas or Henderson offices or at the Overton Wildlife Management Area. Hunters that are successful during the mail-in application process for the first two hunt days must use those reservations before making reservations for the remainder of the season. An individual may reserve no more than one assigned hunt location on the Moapa Valley portion of the area for no more than four individuals to hunt as a party and this reservation must be utilized prior to reserving another hunt day. The reservations must be in the hunter's possession and be shown to the check station attendant to constitute a valid reservation for the day specified. At the Key Pittman Wildlife Management Area, reservations for hunting will be required only on the earliest opening day of the regular duck season and goose seasons. All hunters will check in at the main entrance on the opening day of waterfowl season. For the remainder of the waterfowl season, hunters will complete a

## Appendix F - OWMA-Specific Regulations

reservation card obtained from the Frenchy Lake or Nesbitt Lake check station box and deposit the card in an appropriate drop box for each day hunted. Failure to turn in a completed card at the Key Pittman Wildlife Management Area or failure to check out at the Overton Wildlife Management Area may result in a citation being issued, and the loss of hunting privileges for the remainder of the season. No vehicles are allowed on the areas during the hunting season.

5. During the waterfowl season at the Overton Wildlife Management Area, an assigned hunt location program will be in effect. Hunters will make a reservation for one of three types of hunt locations (field, pond or bulrush plot) and the specific hunt location will be determined by a drawing at the check station prior to each day's hunt. NDOW reserves the right to adjust blind availability and blind assignments based on the conditions present on the day of the hunt.
6. A hunter with a reservation will be considered as a "no-show" if he does not present himself at the check station by one full hour before shooting time, except that at the Overton Wildlife Management Area, a hunter with a reservation will be considered a "no-show" if he does not present himself at the checking station one and one-half hours before shooting time during the waterfowl season.
7. Standby hunters must register at the check station upon arrival.
8. All reservations, permits and assigned hunting locations are nontransferable.

# Appendix G



WT# 12826  
8/30/62

(2)

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT  
AMONG  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
AND  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
AND  
THE STATE OF NEVADA, DIVISION OF STATE LANDS,  
ACTING FOR AND ON BEHALF OF  
THE DIVISION OF WILDLIFE  
OVERTON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

CA 8360-90-0003  
(BOR) 4-07-30-L0399

Article I, Background and Objectives

This Agreement, entered into this 30<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1962, among the United States of America, hereinafter referred to as the United States, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior, hereinafter respectively referred to as Reclamation and Service, and the State of Nevada, Division of State Lands, acting for and on behalf of the Division of Wildlife, hereinafter referred to as NDOW;

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, Reclamation is responsible for administering the Boulder Canyon Project pursuant to 45 Stat. 1057, as amended (43 USC 617 et seq.) for the purpose of storing, releasing, and utilizing water; and,

WHEREAS, the Service administers the Lake Mead National Recreation Area pursuant to Public Law 88-639 (16 USC 460n et seq.); and,

WHEREAS, the Service, Reclamation, and the State of Nevada, acting through the State Fish and Game Commission, executed an agreement dated January 14, 1953, which was amended December 24, 1953, and May 15, 1962, for the lease of specified lands within the Boulder Canyon Project for the development and administration as a wildlife-restoration project under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved September 2, 1937, entitled, "An Act to provide that the United States shall aid the States in wildlife-restoration projects, and for other purposes," (50 Stat. 917, 16 USC, 1946 ed., Section 669 et seq.) as amended; (50 CFR 80.1 et seq.); and,

WHEREAS, NDOW desires to continue using specified lands within the Boulder Canyon Project/Lake Mead National Recreation Area designated as the Overton Wildlife Management Area.

**Article II, Statement of Work**

Not applicable.

**Article III, Terms of Agreement**

NOW, THEREFORE, Reclamation, Service, and NDOW do hereby agree as follows:

1. Reclamation and the Service hereby permit NDOW to develop, maintain, and administer for wildlife restoration and management purposes, the following described lands, including public lands of the United States withdrawn for reclamation purposes and lands acquired by the United States as part of the Lake Mead National Recreation Area subject to the reservations and exceptions contained in this Memorandum of Agreement:

**Description of Leased Land**

**MOUNT DIABLO MERIDIAN**

**a. Intensively Developed Area.**

Township 16 South, Range 68 East

Section 19, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$ ;

Section 20, SW $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{2}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ , SE $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ ;

Section 28, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ , SE $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ ;

Section 29, All;

Section 30, NE $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{2}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{2}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{2}$ , NE $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$ ;

Section 31, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{2}$ ;

Section 32, NW $\frac{1}{2}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ ;

Section 33, All.

**b. Wildlife Management Area General.**

Township 15 South, Range 68 East

Section 36, SE $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Township 15 South, Range 69 East

Section 31, SE $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{2}$ , SW $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Township 16, South, Range 68 East

Section 1, E $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ , S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{2}$ ;

Section 12, E $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ W $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
 Section 13, E $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{2}$ , SW $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
 Section 23, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
 Section 24, All;  
 Section 25, All;  
 Section 26, SE $\frac{1}{2}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{2}$ , E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
 Section 28, E $\frac{1}{2}$ , NW $\frac{1}{2}$ , NE $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
 Section 31, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{2}$ , SE $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
 Section 32, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
 Section 34, All;  
 Section 35, All;  
 Section 36, All;

Township 16, South, Range 69 East

Section 6, NW $\frac{1}{2}$ , W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
 Section 7, W $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
 Section 18, W $\frac{1}{2}$ , SW $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
 Section 19, W $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
 Section 30, W $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  
 Section 31, W $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Township 17 South, Range 68 East

Section 1, All;  
 Section 2, All;  
 Section 3, All;  
 Section 4, All;  
 Section 5, All.

Township 17 South, Range 69 East

Section 6, All.

2. In the event that Reclamation determines that certain use of the lands described above are surplus to its needs in the operation of the Boulder Canyon Project, NDOW will be so notified so that it may attempt to acquire said lands in its own name. Should NDOW acquire any such lands they will be deleted from this Agreement by amendment thereto. This provision only applies to such Reclamation withdrawn lands which are outside the authorized boundaries of Lake Mead National Recreation Area.
3. NDOW shall have, during the life of this Agreement, the privilege of using any and all of the waters available to Reclamation under Water Right Application No. 10188, filed by the Federal Government with the State of Nevada, December 1, 1937.
4. Reclamation and/or Service shall retain control of, and the use of, water arising from Kelsey Springs, now covered by

Water Right Application 1802, Certificate 296, with the State of Nevada, dated December 14, 1916, provided that NDOW may be granted the use of water in excess of the requirements of Reclamation, the Service, or both.

5. All rights and benefits accruing to NDOW under this Agreement are subordinate to the rights of Reclamation in carrying out its obligations and responsibilities in the storage, release, control, and utilization of water in the Boulder Canyon Project and to the rights of the Service in the administration of the recreation area.
6. NDOW will continue to plan, develop, and manage the area as a state operated Wildlife Management Area; however, general layout and major development plans in furtherance of this program shall, before being acted on, first be subject to approval by Reclamation and by the Service. All development and new activity plans shall be in compliance with applicable cultural resource and natural resource compliance requirements. This approval shall be in addition to any approval of the project plans and estimates by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as a condition to the extension of federal aid to the project as a wildlife-restoration project.
7. NDOW will submit to the Service for approval any plans for introductions of new wildlife species, introductions of new plant species, and proposed uses of herbicides or pesticides.
8. In the planning, construction, and renovation of buildings and facilities and in the provision of programs and services to the public, NDOW shall provide the highest level of accessibility possible and feasible for persons with visual, hearing, mobility, and mental impairments consistent with the nature of the area and programs and consistent with the obligation to conserve natural resources and preserve the quality of the recreation experience for all participants, in accordance with the Architectural Barriers Act of 1968; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1992.
9. There is excepted and reserved from the lands permitted hereby:
  - a. The right to establish and maintain rights-of-way or other easements needed in carrying on the activities of Reclamation or the Service;
  - b. The right of the officers, agents, employees, licensees, and permittees of the United States, at all proper times and places, freely to have ingress to,

passage over, and egress from all of the land covered by this Agreement for the purpose of carrying on official activities of Reclamation or the Service;

- c. The right to require NDOW to remove any part or all of any structure or improvement placed on the land which will interfere with the official duties, obligations, or operations of Reclamation or the Service. Written notice of any request for such removal will be served on NDOW and upon failure of NDOW to comply with such request within 60 days of notice, Reclamation or the Service may, at their option, terminate the Agreement.
10. All income derived by NDOW from the permitted area, other than the intensively developed area as agreed upon and described earlier, shall be paid to Reclamation for benefit of the Colorado River Dam Fund pursuant to the Act of Congress approved December 21, 1928, (45 Stat. 1057); all income from the intensively developed area will be deposited in the State Fish and Game Fund and an equivalent amount or more must be used for the maintenance of the said area.
11. NDOW shall not assign the subject area, in whole or in part, without the consent, in writing, of Reclamation and the Service, and any attempted transfer or assignment, whether voluntary or involuntary, without such consent, in writing, shall, at the option of the United States, subject the Agreement to immediate termination; however, NDOW may assign or contract the development and operation of the area or parts of the area to private individual(s) for farming or other specific wildlife management purposes, providing the assignment or contract does not grant the assignee or NDOW rights beyond those received by NDOW under this Agreement.
12. The United States assumes no responsibility for damage to property or injuries to persons which may arise from, or be incident to, the use and occupation of the subject lands by NDOW, or for damages to the property or injuries to the persons of any of NDOW's officers, agents, servants, or employees, or others who may be on said property at their invitation or at the invitation of any one of them.
13. NDOW will indemnify and hold harmless the United States from any claim arising from damage to the property or injury to the persons of others, including members of the public, by reason of the planning, establishment, operation, maintenance, or use of the Wildlife Management Area or any activity carried on incident thereto. The State is limited by statute to \$50,000 per incident.
14. NDOW, in carrying out this Agreement, shall comply with all applicable water and air pollution laws and regulations of

the United States and the State of Nevada, and shall obtain all required permits or licenses from the appropriate Federal, State, or local authorities.

**Article IV, Key Officials**

1. Alan O'Neill, Superintendent, Lake Mead National Recreation Area.
2. Lawrence F. Hancock, Regional Director, Lower Colorado Region, Bureau of Reclamation.
3. William A. Molini, Administrator, Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife.

**Article V, Property Management and Disposition**

Not applicable.

**Article VI, Prior Approval**

Not applicable.

**Article VII, Reports**

NDOW and the Service agree to exchange annual or periodic plans or reports relating to the Wildlife Management Area or adjacent lands. NDOW and the Service agree to exchange reports, data, or research documents relating to the Wildlife Management Area or adjacent lands. NDOW agrees to annually submit to Reclamation, with a copy to the Service, on a form provided by Reclamation, a report on public use relating to the Wildlife Management Area or adjacent lands.

**Article VIII, Termination**

This Agreement shall terminate and all rights of NDOW hereunder shall cease as to the entire subject area or any portion thereof:

1. Upon the expiration of this Agreement.
2. Upon failure of NDOW to observe and comply with any of the conditions, exceptions, or reservations set forth in this Memorandum of Agreement. The Reclamation or the Service may give written notice to NDOW of any violation or default under the terms of this Agreement, and NDOW shall have 90 days in which to correct the default or cease the violation. If not so corrected this Agreement may be terminated by concurrent notice by the Reclamation and the Service to NDOW.

3. Upon 6 month's written notice from the Reclamation or the Service to NDOW, in the event that the Reclamation or the Service determines that the lands are needed by their agency to fulfill their statutory or administrative responsibilities.
4. Upon termination, all movable structures, facilities, or equipment placed on the leased lands by NDOW shall remain the property of the State and will be removed at any time within 6 months after termination, provided that the premises shall be restored by NDOW to as nearly as is reasonably possible to their original condition.
5. This Agreement shall be for a period of 5 years from the date of execution, unless terminated sooner as provided above. If all parties to the Agreement resolve that it has produced the desired effects of mutual cooperation and should be continued as is, a simple Reaffirmation Memorandum may be used to renew the permit for another 5 years.

#### Article IX, Required Clauses

During the performance of this contract, NDOW agrees as follows:

1. NDOW will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.
  - a. NDOW will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated, during employment, without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Such action shall include, but not be limited to, the following: Employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. NDOW agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by the Contracting Officer setting forth the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.
  - b. NDOW will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by, or on behalf of, NDOW, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.
  - c. NDOW will send to each labor union or representative of workers with which it has a collective bargaining

agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice to be provided by the agency Contracting Officer, advising the labor union or worker's representative of NDOW's commitment under Section 202 of Executive Order 11246, dated September 24, 1965, and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment.

- d. NDOW will comply with all provisions of Executive Order 11246, dated September 24, 1965, and of the rules, regulations, and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor.
- e. NDOW will furnish all information and reports required by Executive Order 11246, dated September 24, 1965, and by the rules, regulations, and orders of the Secretary of Labor, or pursuant thereto, and will permit access to his books, records, and accounts by the Contracting Officer and the Secretary of Labor for purposes of investigation to ascertain compliance with such rules, regulations and orders.
- f. In the event of NDOW's noncompliance with the nondiscrimination clauses of this contract or with any of such rules, regulations, or orders, this contract may be cancelled, terminated, or suspended in whole or in part and NDOW may be declared ineligible for further government contracts in accordance with procedures authorized in Executive Order 11246, dated September 24, 1965, and such other sanctions may be imposed and remedies invoked as provided in Executive Order 11246, dated September 24, 1965, or by rule, regulation, or order of the Secretary of Labor, or as otherwise provided by law.
- g. NDOW will include the provisions of paragraphs a. through g. in every subcontract or purchase order, unless exempted by rules, regulations, or orders of the Secretary of Labor issued pursuant to Section 204 of Executive Order 11246, dated September 24, 1965, so that such provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor. NDOW will take such action with respect to any subcontract or purchase order as the Contracting Office may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions, including sanctions for noncompliance; provided, however, that in the event NDOW becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subcontractor or vendor as a result of such direction by the Contracting Office, NDOW may request the United States to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the United States.

2. No member or delegate to Congress or Resident Commissioner shall be admitted to any share or part of this contract or to any benefit which may arise therefrom, but this restriction shall not be construed to extend to this contract if made with a corporation or company for its general benefit.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have hereunto subscribed their names as of the date first above written.

The United States of America

**ACTING FOR** Robert W. Johnson  
Lawrence F. Hancock, Regional Director  
Lower Colorado Region  
Bureau of Reclamation

7/15/94  
Date

**ACTING** Alan O'Neill  
Alan O'Neill, Superintendent  
Lake Mead National Recreation Area

8/11/94  
Date

STATE OF NEVADA  
Division of State Lands

By: P. B. Wilcox  
PAMELA B. WILCOX  
Administrator and Ex-Officio  
State Land Registrar

8/30/94  
Date

**APPROVED:**

STATE OF NEVADA  
Division of Wildlife

By: William A. Molini 9/22/94  
WILLIAM A. MOLINI  
Administrator Date

**APPROVED as to Form:**

FRANKIE SUE DEL HAPA  
Attorney General

By: C. Wayne Howle 9/7/94  
C. WAYNE HOWLE  
Deputy Attorney General Date

WL-83  
WAT #15473  
NOT RECORDED  
EXECUTED 9-9-04

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**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT  
AMONG  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
AND  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
AND  
THE STATE OF NEVADA, DIVISION OF STATE LANDS,  
ACTING FOR AND ON BEHALF OF  
THE DIVISION OF WILDLIFE  
OVERTON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA**

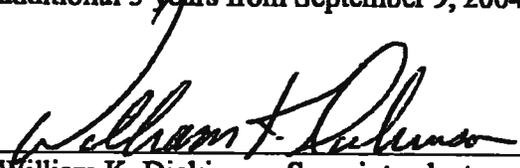
CA 8360-90-0003  
(BOR) 4-07-30-L0399

**REAFFIRMATION MEMORANDUM**

We, the undersigned, have the authority and do hereby reaffirm this agreement among the Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, and the State of Nevada, Division of State Lands, acting for and on behalf of the Division of Wildlife, Overton Wildlife Management Area, for the purpose of operating and maintaining the Overton Wildlife Management Area.

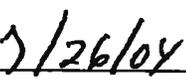
The original agreement was signed by Robert W. Johnson, Acting for Lawrence F. Hancock, Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation, James D. Vanderford, Acting for Alan O'Neill, Superintendent, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, and Pamela B. Wilcox, Administrator and Ex-Officio State Land Registrar, for the State of Nevada.

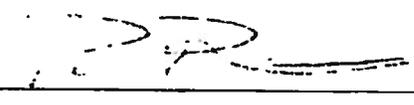
This agreement, with all its terms, conditions, and amendments, shall continue in effect for an additional 5 years from September 9, 2004 to September 8, 2009.

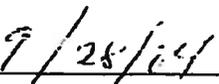
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William K. Dickinson, Superintendent  
Lake Mead National Recreation Area

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**ACTING FOR**  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert W. Johnson, Regional Director  
Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Region

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nevada State Division of Lands

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Douglas C. McWhorter  
Terry R. Crawforth, Director  
Department of Wildlife

9/23/04  
Date

Approved as to form by:  
Wayne Hulse  
Deputy Attorney General for  
Attorney General

27 SEP 04  
Date

# Appendix H



## Appendix H-Western Regional Climate Center Summary Near OWMA

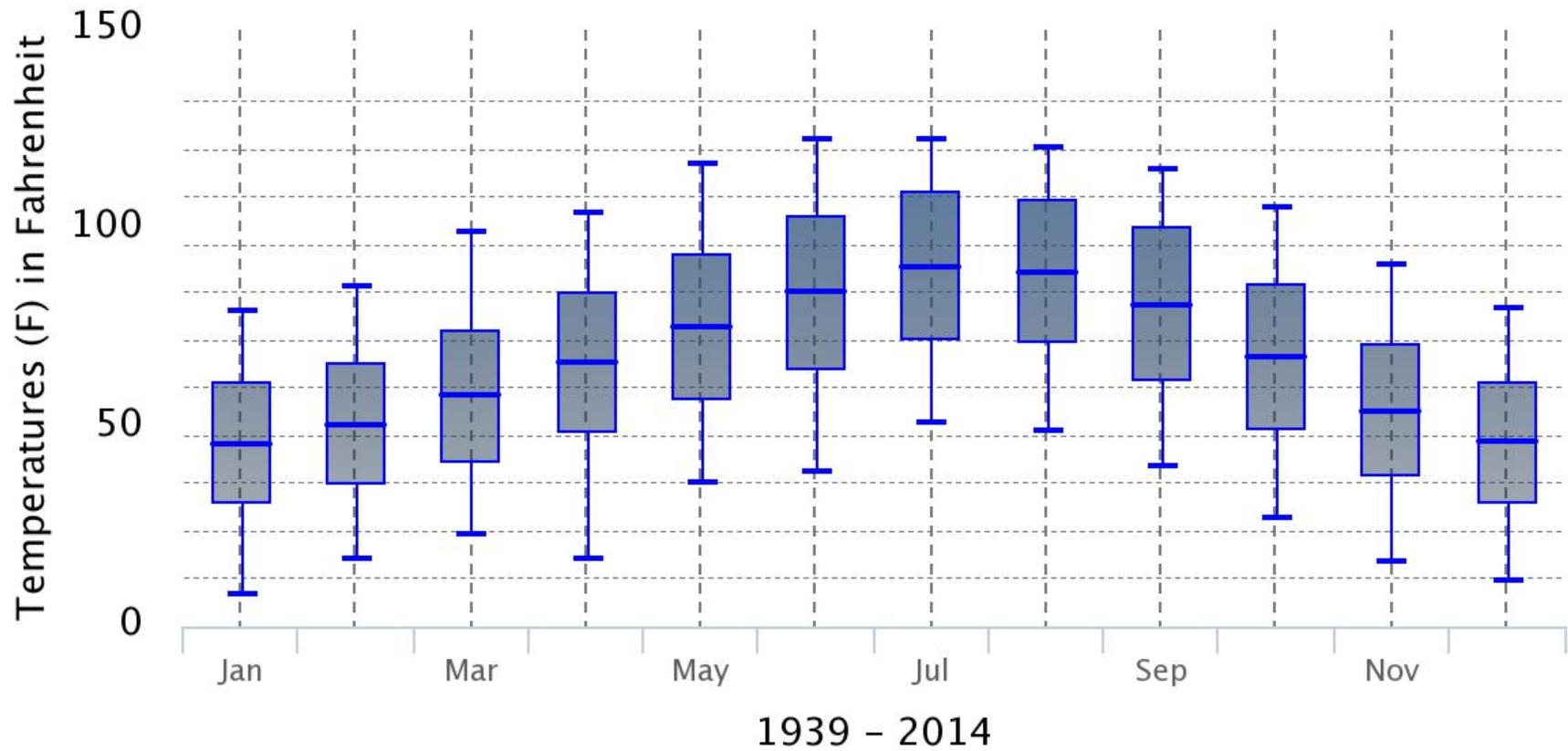
Station Name OVERTON  
 Station ID USC00265846  
 Station Network GHCN  
 Station State NV  
 Start Year 1939  
 End Year 2014

Climate Variables Temperatures (F)

Time	Max	Min	Mean	High	Date	Low	Date	High	Yr	Low	Yr
Jan	61	31.1	46	79	31/2003	8	03/1954	53.4	2003	36.3	1949
Feb	66	35.8	50.8	85	20/1995	17	23/1953	58.4	1995	43.8	1956
Mar	74.1	41.5	57.9	99	21/2004	23	01/1956	67	2004	51.2	1948
Apr	83.6	49	66.2	104	26/1996	17	03/1955	71.8	2000	60.1	1958
May	93.3	57.5	75.4	116	28/2003	36	27/1953	82.7	2009	67.7	1953
Jun	103.4	64.5	84	122	28/1994	39	07/1954	90.2	2000	78.6	1944
Jul	109.4	72	90.7	122	01/2013	51	01/1958	96.6	2010	82.8	1958
Aug	107	71.3	89.1	120	11/1940	49	18/1954	92.8	1940	83.2	1956
Sep	100.3	61.9	81.1	115	03/1950	40	25/1953	86.6	2009	74.8	1961
Oct	86.2	50	68.1	105	01/2010	27	30/1956	75.8	2003	62.6	1946
Nov	70.9	37.7	54.4	91	04/2010	16	20/1956	59.2	1995	49.1	1994
Dec	61.3	31.4	46.3	80	07/1940	11	31/1953	52.4	1939	41.6	1953
Ann	84.7	50.3	67.5	122	7/1/2013	8	1/3/1954	70.3	2003	64.3	1955

### OVERTON, NV, Temperatures (F)

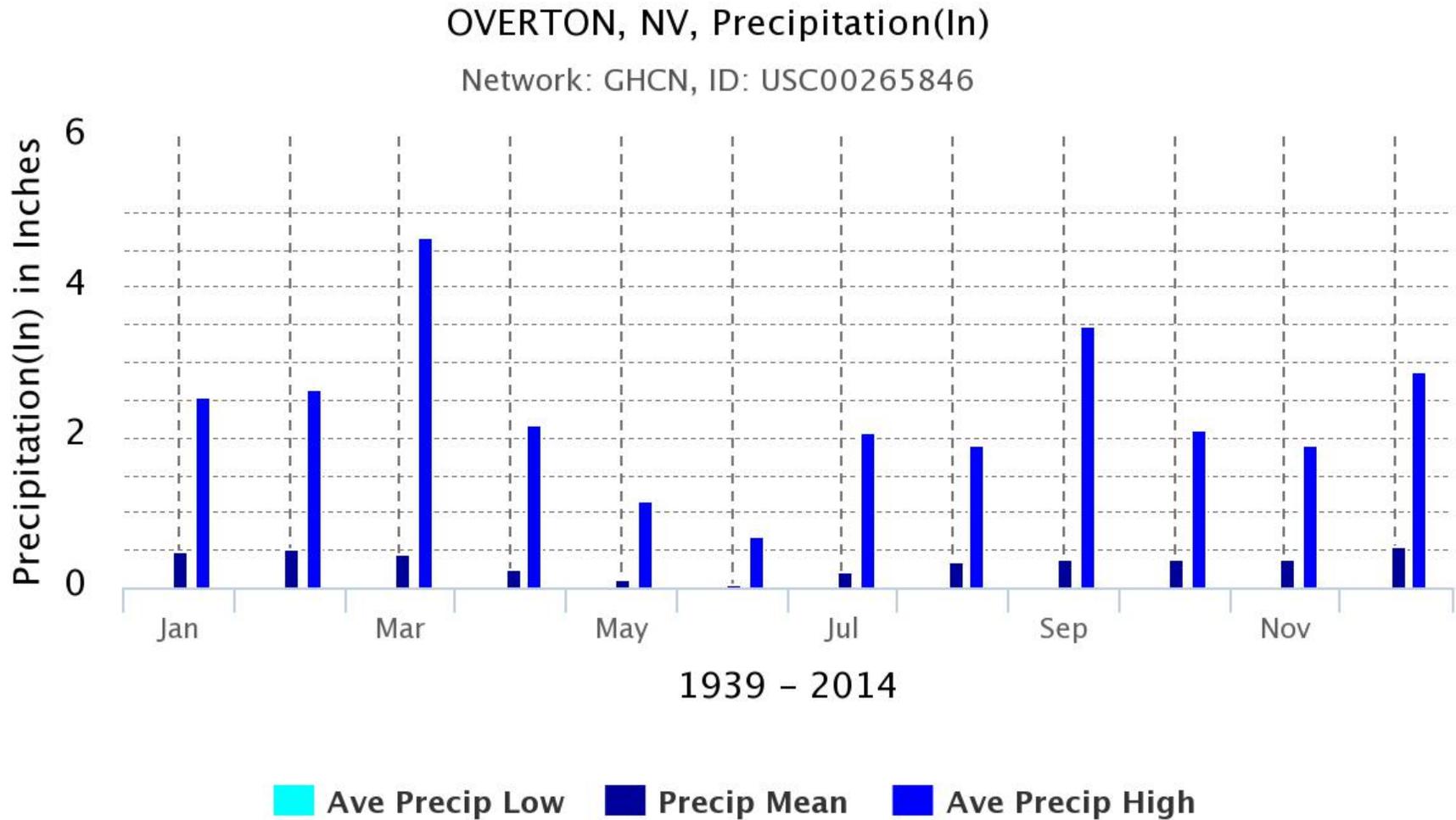
Network: GHCN, ID: USC00265846



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## Appendix H-Western Regional Climate Center Summary Near OWMA

Station Name	OVERTON				
Station ID	USC00265846				
Station Network	GHCN				
Station State	NV				
Start Year	1939				
End Year	2014				
Climate Variables	Precipitation(In)				
Time	Mean	High	Yr	Low	Yr
Jan	0.5	2.55	2010	0	1947
Feb	0.55	2.67	1998	0	1947
Mar	0.47	4.68	1992	0	1946
Apr	0.28	2.19	1965	0	1945
May	0.13	1.19	1958	0	1942
Jun	0.06	0.7	1993	0	1939
Jul	0.24	2.09	1998	0	1939
Aug	0.36	1.92	1941	0	1944
Sep	0.39	3.5	1939	0	1942
Oct	0.41	2.12	1941	0	1944
Nov	0.39	1.93	1965	0	1943
Dec	0.58	2.89	2010	0	1950
Ann	4.36	12.37	1941	0.71	1953



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# Appendix I



# Appendix I-Nevada Natural Heritage Program Species Lists

LEO DROZDOFF  
*Director*

Department of Conservation  
and Natural Resources

JENNIFER E. NEWMARK  
*Administrator*

BRIAN SANDOVAL  
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STATE OF NEVADA  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
**Nevada Natural Heritage Program**  
<http://heritage.nv.gov>

10 December 2012

Mike Zahradka  
Nevada Department of Wildlife  
HCR 10 Box 10808  
Ely, NV 89301

RE: Data request received 07 December 2012

Dear Mr. Zahradka:

We are pleased to provide the information you requested on endangered, threatened, candidate, and/or At Risk plant and animal taxa recorded within or near the Overton Wildlife Management Area Project in Clark County. We searched our database and maps for the following, a three kilometer radius around map provided including:

Township 15S Range 69E Section 36  
Township 16S Range 68E Sections 01, 12, 13, and 24-36  
Township 17S Range 68E Sections 01-05  
Township 17S Range 69E Section 06

The enclosed printout lists the taxa recorded within the given area. The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) manages, protects, and restores Nevada's wildlife resources and associated habitat. Please contact Chet Van Dellen, NDOW GIS Coordinator (775.688.1565) to obtain further information regarding wildlife resources within and near your area of interest. Removal or destruction of state protected flora species (NAC 527.010) requires a special permit from Nevada Division of Forestry (NRS 527.270).

Please note that our data are dependent on the research and observations of many individuals and organizations, and in most cases are not the result of comprehensive or site-specific field surveys. Natural Heritage reports should never be regarded as final statements on the taxa or areas being considered, nor should they be substituted for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments.

Thank you for checking with our program. Please contact us for additional information or further assistance.

Sincerely,

Eric S. Miskow  
Biologist /Data Manager

Appendix I-Nevada Natural Heritage Program Species Lists  
**At Risk Taxa Recorded Near the Overton Wildlife Management Area Project**

Compiled by the Nevada Natural Heritage Program for the Nevada Department of Wildlife

10 December 2012

<u>Scientific name</u>	<u>Common name</u>	<u>Usfws</u>	<u>Blm</u>	<u>Usfs</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Srank</u>	<u>Grank</u>	<u>Lat</u>	<u>Long</u>	<u>Prec</u>	<u>Last</u> <b>observed</b>
<b>Plants</b>											
<i>Astragalus geyeri</i> var. <i>triquetrus</i>	threecorner milkvetch		S		CE	S2S3	G4T2T3	363522N	1142010W	S	1980-PRE
<i>Astragalus geyeri</i> var. <i>triquetrus</i>	threecorner milkvetch		S		CE	S2S3	G4T2T3	363210N	1142447W	S	1995-04-15
<i>Astragalus geyeri</i> var. <i>triquetrus</i>	threecorner milkvetch		S		CE	S2S3	G4T2T3	363141N	1142346W	S	1995-04-15
<i>Astragalus geyeri</i> var. <i>triquetrus</i>	threecorner milkvetch		S		CE	S2S3	G4T2T3	363257N	1142031W	S	1995-04-07
<i>Astragalus geyeri</i> var. <i>triquetrus</i>	threecorner milkvetch		S		CE	S2S3	G4T2T3	363813N	1141937W	S	1987-04-30
<i>Astragalus nyensis</i>	Nye milkvetch					S3	G3	363455N	1142006W	M	1979-04-12
<i>Astragalus preussii</i> var. <i>laxiflorus</i>	Littlefield milkvetch					S1S2	G4T2	363025N	1142447W	M	1995-04-29
<i>Cirsium virginense</i>	Virgin River thistle					S1	G2	363127N	1142429W	S	1995-07-21
<i>Enceliopsis argophylla</i>	silverleaf sunray		N			S1?	G2G3	362827N	1142255W	M	1871
<i>Eriogonum viscidulum</i>	sticky buckwheat		S		CE	S2	G2	363457N	1141731W	S	1980-PRE
<i>Eriogonum viscidulum</i>	sticky buckwheat		S		CE	S2	G2	364105N	1141641W	M	1979-04-12
<i>Eriogonum viscidulum</i>	sticky buckwheat		S		CE	S2	G2	364049N	1141756W	S	1980-PRE
<i>Eriogonum viscidulum</i>	sticky buckwheat		S		CE	S2	G2	364011N	1141934W	S	1998-03-27
<i>Eriogonum viscidulum</i>	sticky buckwheat		S		CE	S2	G2	363523N	1142010W	S	1979-04-14
<i>Eriogonum viscidulum</i>	sticky buckwheat		S		CE	S2	G2	363430N	1142028W	S	1995-04-07
<i>Helianthus deserticola</i>	dune sunflower					S3	G2G3Q	363540N	1142841W	G	1938-05-28
<i>Pediomelum castoreum</i>	Beaver Dam breadroot					S3	G3	363523N	1142020W	M	1991-PRE
<i>Pediomelum castoreum</i>	Beaver Dam breadroot					S3	G3	363133N	1141926W	M	1976-04-22
<b>Invertebrates</b>											
<i>Hesperopsis graciellae</i>	MacNeill sooty wing skipper		N			S1	G2G3	363540N	1142841W	G	1988-09
<i>Megandrena mentzeliae</i>	red-tailed blazing star bee					S2	G2	363257N	1142541W	S	1998-06-09
<b>Reptiles</b>											
<i>Gopherus agassizii</i>	Mojave desert tortoise	LT	S	T	YES	S2S3	G4	364032N	1141858W	S	1987-1990
<i>Heloderma suspectum cinctum</i>	banded Gila monster		N;C		YES	S2	G4T4	T14S R69E		G	1939
<b>Mammals</b>											
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	pallid bat		N;C	I	YES	S3	G5	363154N	1142628W	M	1960
<i>Chaetodipus penicillatus</i>	desert pocket mouse					S1S2	G5	363932N	1141804W	M	1997-09-17
<i>Chaetodipus penicillatus</i>	desert pocket mouse					S1S2	G5	363432N	1142017W	M	1999-08-15
<i>Chaetodipus penicillatus</i>	desert pocket mouse					S1S2	G5	362916N	1142310W	S	2007-06-19
<i>Notiosorex crawfordi</i>	Crawford's desert shrew					S3	G5	363136N	1142450W	S	2007-04-18
<i>Parastrellus hesperus</i>	western pipistrelle		N			S4	G5	363025N	1142447W	M	1936-05-10

**Appendix I-Nevada Natural Heritage Program Species Lists**

<u>Scientific name</u>	<u>Common name</u>	<u>Usfws</u>	<u>Blm</u>	<u>Usfs</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Srank</u>	<u>Grank</u>	<u>Lat</u>	<u>Long</u>	<u>Prec</u>	<u>Last</u>
											<b>observed</b>
<b>Birds</b>											
<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo	C	S	I;S	YES	S1B	G5T3Q	T15S R69E		S	2007-07-10
<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	LE	S	E	YES	S1B	G5T1T2	363818N	1141908W	S	2010-06-14
<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	LE	S	E	YES	S1B	G5T1T2	363105N	1142447W	S	2011-SU
<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	LE	S	E	YES	S1B	G5T1T2	363222N	1142002W	S	2005-Sum
<i>Ixobrychus exilis hesperis</i>	Western Least Bittern		N		YES	S2B	G5T3T4	363236N	1142610W	G	1987-04-26
<i>Phainopepla nitens</i>	Phainopepla		N		YES	S2B	G5	363236N	1142610W	G	1954-06-01
<i>Rallus longirostris yumanensis</i>	Yuma Clapper Rail	LE			YES	S1	G5T3	T15S R69E		S	2004-04-13
<i>Rallus longirostris yumanensis</i>	Yuma Clapper Rail	LE			YES	S1	G5T3	T16S R68E		S	2008-06-25
<i>Rallus longirostris yumanensis</i>	Yuma Clapper Rail	LE			YES	S1	G5T3	363000N	1142006W	S	2004-04-28

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Usfws) Categories for Listing under the Endangered Species Act:

- LE Listed Endangered - in danger of extinction in all or a significant portion of its range
- LT Listed Threatened - likely to be classified as Endangered in the foreseeable future if present trends continue
- C Candidate

Precision (Prec) of Mapped Occurrence:

- Precision, or radius of uncertainty around latitude/longitude coordinates:
- S Seconds: within a three-second radius
  - M Minutes: within a one-minute radius, approximately 2 km or 1.5 miles
  - G General: within about 8 km or 5 miles, or to map quadrangle or place name

Bureau of Land Management (Blm) Species Classification:

- S Nevada Special Status Species - USFWS listed, proposed or candidate for listing, or protected by Nevada state law
- N Nevada Special Status Species - designated Sensitive by State Office
- C California Special Status Species (see definition S and N)

Nevada Natural Heritage Program Global (Grank) and State (Srank) Ranks for Threats and/or Vulnerability:

- G Global rank indicator, based on worldwide distribution at the species level
- T Global trinomial rank indicator, based on worldwide distribution at the infraspecific level
- S State rank indicator, based on distribution within Nevada at the lowest taxonomic level
  - 1 Critically imperiled and especially vulnerable to extinction or extirpation due to extreme rarity, imminent threats, or other factors
  - 2 Imperiled due to rarity or other demonstrable factors
  - 3 Vulnerable to decline because rare and local throughout its range, or with very restricted range
  - 4 Long-term concern, though now apparently secure; usually rare in parts of its range, especially at its periphery
  - 5 Demonstrably secure, widespread, and abundant
    - A Accidental within Nevada
    - B Breeding status within Nevada (excludes resident taxa)
    - H Historical; could be rediscovered
    - N Non-breeding status within Nevada (excludes resident taxa)
    - Q Taxonomic status uncertain
    - U Unrankable
    - Z Enduring occurrences cannot be defined (usually given to migrant or accidental birds)
    - ? Assigned rank uncertain

United States Forest Service (Usfs) Species Classification:

- S Region 4 (Humboldt-Toiyabe NF) sensitive species
- I Region 5 (Inyo NF) sensitive species
- E Region 4 and/or Region 5 Endangered species
- T Region 4 and/or Region 5 Threatened species

Nevada State Protected (State) Species Classification:

- Fauna:
- YES Species protected under NRS 501.
- Flora:
- CE Critically endangered - species whose survival requires assistance because of overexploitation, disease or other factors, or because their habitat is threatened with destruction, drastic modification or severe curtailment (NRS 527.260-.300)

# Appendix J



Appendix J  
Species Expected or Known to Occur on or Near the OWMA

Birds

Common Name	Scientific Name	NDOW Species of Conservation Priority	U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered, Threatened, or Candidate Species
Abert's Towhee	<i>Melospiza aberti</i>		
Allen's Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>		
American Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	X	
American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	X	
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>		
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>		
American Goldfinch	<i>Spinus tristis</i>		
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>		
American Pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>		
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>		
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>		
American Tree Sparrow	<i>Spizella arborea</i>		
American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	X	
American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>		
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>		
Ash-throated Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>		
Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>		
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	X	
Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>		
Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	X	
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>		
Barrow's Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala islandica</i>		
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	X	
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megasceryle alcyon</i>		
Bendire's Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma bendirei</i>	X	
Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>		
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>		
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	X	
Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>		
Black-chinned Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus alexandri</i>		
Black-chinned Sparrow	<i>Spizella atrogularis</i>	X	
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>		
Black-headed Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>		
Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>		
Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>		
Black-tailed Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila melanura</i>		
Black-throated Gray Warbler	<i>Setophaga nigrescens</i>		
Black-throated Sparrow	<i>Amphispiza bilineata</i>		
Blue Grosbeak	<i>Passerina caerulea</i>		
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>		
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>		
Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	X	
Bonaparte's Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus philadelphia</i>		
Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>		
Brewer's Sparrow	<i>Spizella breweri</i>	X	
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus platycercus</i>		
Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>		
Brown-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus tyrannulus</i>		
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>		
Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>		
Bullock's Oriole	<i>Icterus bullockii</i>		

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Birds

Common Name	Scientific Name	NDOW Species of Conservation Priority	U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered, Threatened, or Candidate Species
Western Burrowing Owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	X	
Bushtit	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>		
Cactus Wren	<i>Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus</i>		
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>		
Calliope Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus calliope</i>		
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>		
Canvasback	<i>Aythya valisineria</i>	X	
Canyon Wren	<i>Catherpes mexicanus</i>		
Caspian Tern	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>		
Cassin's Finch	<i>Haemorhous cassinii</i>	X	
Cassin's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>		
Cassin's Vireo	<i>Vireo cassinii</i>		
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>		
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>		
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>		
Cinnamon Teal	<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>		
Clark's Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i>		
Clay-colored Sparrow	<i>Spizella pallida</i>		
Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>		
Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>		
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>		
Common Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>		
Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>	X	
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>		
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>		
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	X	
Common Poorwill	<i>Phalaenoptilus nuttallii</i>		
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>		
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>		
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>		
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>		
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>		
Cordilleran Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax occidentalis</i>		
Costa's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte costae</i>		
Crissal Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma crissale</i>		
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>		
Dickcissel	<i>Spiza americana</i>		
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>		
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>		
Dusky Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax oberholseri</i>		
Eared Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>		
Eurasian Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>		
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>		
Evening Grosbeak	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>		
Ferruginous Hawk	<i>Buteo regalis</i>	X	
Flammulated Owl	<i>Psilosops flammeolus</i>	X	
Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>		
Franklin's Gull	<i>Leucophaeus pipixcan</i>		
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>		
Gambel's Quail	<i>Callipepla gambelii</i>		
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	X	

Appendix J  
Species Expected or Known to Occur on or Near the OWMA

Birds

Common Name	Scientific Name	NDOW Species of Conservation Priority	U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered, Threatened, or Candidate Species
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>		
Grasshopper Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>		
Gray Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax wrightii</i>		
Gray Vireo	<i>Vireo vicinior</i>		
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>		
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>		
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>		
Greater Roadrunner	<i>Geococcyx californianus</i>		
Greater Sandhill Crane	<i>Grus canadensis</i>	X	
Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>		
Greater White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>		
Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>		
Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>		
Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>		
Green-tailed Towhee	<i>Pipilo chlorurus</i>		
Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>		
Harris's Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia querula</i>		
Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>		
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>		
Hooded Merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>		
Hooded Oriole	<i>Icterus cucullatus</i>		
Horned Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>		
Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>		
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>		
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>		
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>		
Inca Dove	<i>Columbina inca</i>		
Juniper Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus ridgwayi</i>		
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>		
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	<i>Picoides scalaris</i>		
Lark Bunting	<i>Calamospiza melanocorys</i>		
Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>		
Lazuli Bunting	<i>Passerina amoena</i>		
Least Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>		
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>		
LeConte's Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma lecontei</i>	X	
Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Spinus psaltria</i>		
Lesser Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles acutipennis</i>		
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>		
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>		
Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolni</i>		
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	X	
Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	X	
Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	X	
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>		
Lucy's Warbler	<i>Oreothlypis luciae</i>		
MacGillivray's Warbler	<i>Geothlypis tolmiei</i>		
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>		
Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>		
Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>		
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>		

Appendix J  
Species Expected or Known to Occur on or Near the OWMA

Birds

Common Name	Scientific Name	NDOW Species of Conservation Priority	U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered, Threatened, or Candidate Species
Mew Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>		
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>		
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>		
Gilded Flicker	<i>Colaptes chrysoides</i>	X	
Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	X	
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>		
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>		
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	X	
Northern Pygmy-Owl	<i>Glaucidium gnoma</i>		
Northern Saw-whet Owl	<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>		
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>		
Northern Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>		
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	X	
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>		
Pacific Loon	<i>Gavia pacifica</i>		
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>		
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	X	
Phainopepla	<i>Phainopepla nitens</i>		
Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>		
Pine Siskin	<i>Spinus pinus</i>		
Plumbeous Vireo	<i>Vireo plumbeus</i>		
Prairie Falcon	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	X	
Purple Martin	<i>Progne subis</i>		
Pygmy Nuthatch	<i>Sitta pygmaea</i>		
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>		
Red Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>		
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>		
Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>		
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>		
Redhead	<i>Aythya americana</i>	X	
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	X	
Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>		
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>		
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>		
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>		
Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>		
Ring-necked Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>		
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>		
Rock Wren	<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>		
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>		
Ross's Goose	<i>Chen rossii</i>		
Rough-legged Hawk	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>		
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>		
Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>		
Rufous Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>	X	
Rusty Blackbird	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>		
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>		
Sagebrush Sparrow	<i>Artemisiospiza nevadensis</i>	X	
Sage Thrasher	<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>	X	
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>		
Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>		

Appendix J  
Species Expected or Known to Occur on or Near the OWMA

Birds

Common Name	Scientific Name	NDOW Species of Conservation Priority	U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered, Threatened, or Candidate Species
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>		
Scott's Oriole	<i>Icterus parisorum</i>	X	
Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>		
Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>		
Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>		
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	X	
Snow Goose	<i>Chen caerulescens</i>		
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>		
Snowy Plover	<i>Charadrius nivosus</i>	X	
Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>		
Sora	<i>Porzana carolina</i>		
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>		
Spotted Towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>		
Stilt Sandpiper	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>		
Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>		
Surf Scoter	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>		
Swainson's Hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>		
Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>		
Thayer's Gull	<i>Larus thayeri</i>		
Townsend's Solitaire	<i>Myadestes townsendi</i>		
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>		
Trumpeter Swan	<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>		
Tundra Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>		
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>		
Vaux's Swift	<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>		
Verdin	<i>Auriparus flaviceps</i>		
Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>		
Violet-green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>		
Virginia Rail	<i>Rallus limicola</i>		
Virginia's Warbler	<i>Oreothlypis virginiae</i>	X	
Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>		
Water Pipit	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>		
Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>		
Western Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>		
Western Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>		
Western Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>		
Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	X	
Western Screech-owl	<i>Megascops kennicottii</i>		
Western Tanager	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>		
Western Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>		
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>		
White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>		
White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>		
White-faced Ibis	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>	X	
White-throated Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>		
White-throated Swift	<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>		
White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>		
White-winged Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>		
Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>		
Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>		

Appendix J  
Species Expected or Known to Occur on or Near the OWMA

Birds

Common Name	Scientific Name	NDOW Species of Conservation Priority	U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered, Threatened, or Candidate Species
Willow Flycatcher (Southwestern)	<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	X	E
Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	X	
Wilson's Warbler	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>		
Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes hiemalis</i>		
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>		
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	X	T
Yellow-breasted Chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>		
Yellow-headed Blackbird	<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>		
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>		
Yuma Clapper Rail	<i>Rallus longirostris yumanensis</i>	X	E

Appendix J  
Species Expected or Known to Occur on or Near the OWMA

Mammals

Common Name	Scientific Name	NDOW Species of Conservation Priority	U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered, Threatened, or Candidate Species
Allen's big-eared bat	<i>Idionycteris phyllotis</i>	X	
antelope ground squirrel	<i>Ammospermophilus leucurus</i>		
badger	<i>Taxidea taxus</i>		
beaver	<i>Castor canadensis</i>		
big brown bat	<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>		
black-tailed jackrabbit	<i>Lepus californicus</i>		
bobcat	<i>Lynx rufus</i>		
Botta's pocket gopher	<i>Thomomys bottae</i>	X	
cactus mouse	<i>Peromyscus eremicus</i>		
California myotis	<i>Myotis californicus</i>		
California leaf-nosed bat	<i>Macrotus californicus</i>	X	
canyon bat	<i>Parastrellus hesperus</i>		
canyon mouse	<i>Peromyscus crinitus</i>		
chisel-toothed kangaroo rat	<i>Dipodomys microps</i>		
coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>		
deer mouse	<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>		
desert cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus auduboni</i>		
desert kangaroo rat	<i>Dipodomys deserti</i>	X	
desert pocket mouse	<i>Chaetodipus penicillatus</i>	X	
desert shrew	<i>Notiosorex crawfordi</i>		
desert woodrat	<i>Neotoma lepida</i>		
gray fox	<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>		
hoary bat	<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	X	
house mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>		
kit fox	<i>Vulpes macrotis</i>		
little pocket mouse	<i>Perognathus longimembris</i>		
long-legged myotis	<i>Myotis volans</i>		
desert pocket mouse	<i>Chaetodipus formosus</i>		
long-tailed weasel	<i>Mustela frenata</i>		
Merriam kangaroo rat	<i>Dipodomys merriami</i>		
Mexican free-tailed bat	<i>Tadarida brasiliensis</i>	X	
mountain lion	<i>Felis concolor</i>		
muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethica</i>		
pallid bat	<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>		
porcupine	<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>		
racoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>		
ringtail	<i>Bassariscus astutus</i>		
rock squirrel	<i>Spermophilus variegatus</i>		
round-tailed ground squirrel	<i>Spermophilus tereticaudus</i>		
silver-haired bat	<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>	X	
southern grasshopper mouse	<i>Onychomys torridus</i>		
spotted bat	<i>Euderma maculatum</i>	X	
spotted skunk	<i>Spilogale gracilis</i>		
striped skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>		
Townsend's big-eared bat	<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	X	
western harvest mouse	<i>Reithrodontomys megalotis</i>		
western red bat	<i>Lasiurus blossevillii</i>	X	
western yellow bat	<i>Lasiurus xanthinus</i>		
Yuma myotis	<i>Myotis yumanensis</i>		

Appendix J  
Species Expected or Known to Occur on or Near the OWMA

Fish

Common Name	Scientific Name	NDOW Species of Conservation Priority	U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered, Threatened, or Candidate Species
black bullhead	<i>Ameiurus melas</i>		
black crappie	<i>Pomoxis nigromaculatus</i>		
blue tilapia	<i>Oreochromis aureus</i>		
bluegill	<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>		
channel catfish	<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>		
common carp	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>		
desert sucker	<i>Catostomus clarki</i>		
flannelmouth sucker	<i>Catostomus latipinnis</i>	X	
green sunfish	<i>Lepomis cyanellus</i>		
largemouth bass	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>		
mosquitofish	<i>Gambusia affinis</i>		
razorback sucker	<i>Xyrauchen texanus</i>	X	E
red shiner	<i>Cyprinella lutrensis</i>		
speckled dace	<i>Rhinichthys osculus</i>		
Virgin River chub	<i>Gila seminuda</i>	X	E
Virgin River spinedace	<i>Lepidomeda mollispinis mollispinis</i>	X	
woundfin	<i>Plagopterus argentissimus</i>	X	E

Appendix J  
Species Expected or Known to Occur on or Near the OWMA

Reptiles-Amphibians

Common Name	Scientific Name	NDOW Species of Conservation Priority	U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Endangered, Threatened, or Candidate Species
American bullfrog	<i>Lithobates catesbeiana</i>		
Arizona toad	<i>Anaxyrus microscaphus</i>	X	
chuckwalla	<i>Sauromalus ater</i>	X	
common kingsnake	<i>Lampropeltis getulus</i>		
desert horned lizard	<i>Phrynosoma platyrhinos</i>	X	
desert iguana	<i>Dipsosaurus dorsalis</i>	X	
desert night lizard	<i>Xantusia vigilis</i>	X	
desert night snake	<i>Hypsiglena torquata</i>		
desert striped whipsnake	<i>Masticophis taeniatus</i>		
desert tortoise	<i>Gopherus agassizii</i>		T
Gila monster	<i>Heloderma suspectum</i>	X	
Gilbert's skink	<i>Plestidon gilberti</i>	X	
Great Basin collared lizard	<i>Crotophytus bicinctores</i>	X	
Great Basin fence lizard	<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>		
Great Basin gopher snake	<i>Pituophis catenifer</i>		
Great Basin rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus oreganus lutosus</i>		
Great Basin spadefoot	<i>Spea intermontana</i>	X	
Great Basin whiptail	<i>Aspidoscelis tigris</i>		
Great Plains toad	<i>Anaxyrus cognatus</i>	X	
long-nosed leopard lizard	<i>Gambelia wislizenii</i>	X	
long-tailed brush lizard	<i>Urosaurus graciosus</i>	X	
Mojave rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus scutulatus</i>		
northern side-blotched lizard	<i>Uta stansburiana</i>		
Pacific chorus frog (treefrog)	<i>Pseudacris regilla</i>		
red racer (coachwhip)	<i>Masticophis flagellum</i>		
red spotted toad	<i>Anaxyrus punctatus</i>		
relict leopard frog	<i>Lithobates onca</i>	X	C
ring-necked snake	<i>Diadophis punctatus</i>	X	
sidewinder	<i>Crotalus cerastes</i>	X	
Smith's black-headed snake	<i>Tantilla hobartsmithi</i>	X	
speckled rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus mitchellii</i>		
spotted leaf-nosed snake	<i>Phyllorhynchus decurtatus</i>	X	
western (Mojave) shovel-nosed snake	<i>Chionactis occipitalis</i>	X	
western banded gecko	<i>Coleonyx variegatus</i>	X	
western blind (or thread) snake	<i>Rena humilis</i>	X	
western ground snake	<i>Sonora semiannulata</i>		
western long-nosed snake	<i>Rhinocheilus lecontei</i>		
western lyre snake	<i>Trimorphodon biscutatus</i>		
western patch-nose snake	<i>Salvadora hexalepis</i>		
western skink	<i>Plestidon skiltonianus</i>		
Woodhouse's toad	<i>Anaxyrus woodhousii</i>		
yellow-backed spiny lizard	<i>Sceloporus uniforms</i>		
zebra-tailed lizard	<i>Callisaurus draconoides</i>		

# Appendix K



## Appendix K-OWMA Conservation Measures

### OVERTON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (OWMA)

#### Conservation Measures:

To minimize effects to southwestern willow flycatcher, the following conservation measures will be implemented for operations and maintenance projects occurring that could affect SWFL habitat (see attached map) or that could affect the hydrology of SWFL habitat:

- 1) Prior to initiating work related to the aforementioned, the Las Vegas Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Office will be notified. NDOW (OWMA) and the Service will coordinate to delineate and mark buffers around SWFL habitat in order to protect it during project implementation.
- 2) All work affecting SWFL habitat or hydrology will occur outside of the breeding season, May 1 to August 31.
  - a. Efforts will be made not to remove mature native riparian trees, especially cottonwoods and Gooding's willows.
  - b. Mature riparian forest vegetation that is removed will be replaced at a ratio of one to one. If vegetation cannot be replanted on site, it will be replanted at another location in the OWMA. During operations and maintenance activities, the number of acres of cottonwoods and willow removed will be documented, so that after the project is finished an equal number of acres of plants can be replanted. To save money it may be wise to transplant any trees and shrubs that need to be removed. OWMA staff, NDOW biologists, and Service biologists will meet annually to revisit any work affecting SWFL habitat that has occurred at OWMA.
- 3) Development of a longer-term management plan and budget will be initiated to address issues with water overflow that occur during flood events, which may include designing an outflow channel to divert excess water off of OWMA without negatively impacting water occurring in SWFL habitat on or within the Muddy River.

#### Conservation Measures:

To minimize effects to Yuma clapper rail (YUCR), the following conservation measures will be implemented for operations and maintenance projects occurring in or near YCRA habitat:

- 1) All work will occur outside of the breeding season, March 1st to June 30th (if treatment of cattail or marsh habitat needed during this timeframe NDOW must consult prior to with FWS).
- 2) Efforts directed at reducing cattail habitat will encourage a mosaic of open areas interspersed with dense cattail and other marsh habitat for benefit of YUCR and other marsh birds and waterfowl.

# Appendix L





Brian Sandoval  
Governor

## Appendix L-Reasonable Accommodations for Disabled Hunters Process

STATE OF NEVADA

### DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

1100 Valley Road

Reno, Nevada 89512

(775) 688-1500 • Fax (775) 688-1595

TONY WASLEY  
Director

RICHARD L. HASKINS, II  
Deputy Director

PATRICK O. CATES  
Deputy Director

### Overton WMA-Reasonable Accommodation ADA Process

In an effort to provide improved hunting access for disabled waterfowl hunters using the Overton Wildlife Management Area (OWMA), the Department has elected to use the following trial program on the area. Under the terms of this program, a hunter who presents a government-issued proof of disability, such as; Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) placard, Social Security Administration Award letter, Veterans Affairs Award letter, or similar documentation, will be allowed to use a motorized vehicle to transport himself/herself, gear and personal attendant if required from a designated parking area to the blind location for that day. Other important items of note:

- This trial program shall be in effect for the remainder of the 2013-2014 waterfowl season providing users of the described transportation devices abide by the described rules.
- To minimize disturbance to wildlife and other hunters, disabled hunters will only be allowed to use motorized vehicles to access blinds 8, 14, 17, 20, 22, 31, 33, 37, and C-1.
- In the event that roads are muddied from storm activity, area staff may declare a moratorium on motorized vehicle travel in order to protect the safety of the operator and the road resources of the area.
- Operators of the motorized vehicles will not travel any faster than 15 MPH while traveling back and forth to their blind location.
- All motorized vehicles used by disabled hunters to access hunting blinds must be parked in assigned areas designated by Department employees.

#### PROCEDURES:

##### Background-Federal ADA Requirements

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities in all programs, activities, and services of public entities. It applies to all state and local governments, their departments and agencies, and any other instrumentalities or special purpose districts of state or local governments.

##### Reasonable Accommodations Process

The Department complies with the ADA program and public accommodation laws and wishes to make hunting accessible to anyone, including those with disabilities. However, the Department also must do so in balance with the agency and division mission to protect the wildlife habitat and environmental resources from harm.

At Wildlife Management Areas, there are areas where motorized vehicles are restricted in order to preserve and protect wildlife habitat. Therefore, in order for an individual to use a power-driven mobility device, Department employees would:

- 1) Verify the persons' disability with a government-issued proof of disability (and make a photocopy to have on file) ;
- 2) Assess the mobility aid (Segway, ATV, OHV or other); and if applicable,
- 3) Assign a hunting blind, from the above list, to the qualifying individual for use during their hunt.

##### Proof of Disability Inquiries

Department employees *shall not* ask an individual using a wheelchair or Other Power-Driven Mobility Device (OPDMD) questions about the nature and extent of the individual's disability.

Department employees *may* ask a person using an OPDMD to provide a credible assurance that the mobility device is required because of the person's disability.

## Appendix L-Reasonable Accommodations for Disabled Hunters Process

If the Department permits the use of a class of OPDMD's by individuals with disabilities (such as, OHV's, ATV's and others are allowed), they shall accept valid government issued proof of disability to an individual.

### **Valid Government-Issued Proof of Disability**

Department employees shall accept the following as credible assurance of proof of disability (and make a copy of each for filing):

- Presentation of a valid, State-issued, disability parking placard from the DMV or card (*A valid disability placard or card is one that is presented by the individual to whom it was issued and is otherwise in compliance with the State of Issuance's requirements*), or
- Proof of disability such as an Award Letter from Social Security Disability, Veterans Affairs, or
- A valid Nevada Severely Disabled Hunting License or Nevada Disabled Veterans Hunting License.

Along with a photo identification matching the name of any of the above documents.

### **Wildlife Management Areas Assessments**

All Wildlife Area Supervisors, in consultation with the Wildlife Management Areas Staff Specialist (PCN 0104) and other Department staff as necessary, shall determine what type of mobility devices may be permitted as reasonable accommodation for persons with a mobility disability using the factors above.

For questions or issues regarding this policy please contact:

Mike Zahradka  
Nevada Department of Wildlife  
Wildlife Staff Specialist/Habitat Division  
[mzahradka@ndow.org](mailto:mzahradka@ndow.org)  
(775)688-1563  
1100 Valley Road  
Reno, NV 89512

Federal Laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and sex. Members of the public who feel they've been discriminated against in any Nevada Department of Wildlife program, activity, or facility, may write to the following:

Diversity Program Manager  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
4401 North Fairfax Drive, MS: 7072-43  
Arlington, VA 22203

You may also write to the following:  
Director  
Nevada Department of Wildlife  
1100 Valley Road  
Reno, NV 89512-2817

- \* Individuals with a disability who are in need of special services should contact the Department at least 48 hours prior to the hunt at the OWMA Office (702) 397-2142.