

# Nevada Department of Wildlife

## 2019 Biennial Report

### Energy Review/Cost-recovery 2011 AB 307

NRS 701.610-640



Nevada Department of Wildlife  
Habitat Division  
6980 Sierra Center Pkwy, Ste 120  
Reno, NV 89511

Report Period: 2017–2018

## Summary of Development Review/Cost-Recovery Program

This report is submitted to the 80th (2019) Nevada Legislature pursuant to NRS 701.610–640.

### Background

In 2011, the 76th Nevada Legislature passed Assembly Bill 307, legislation that created a cost-recovery program for the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) to provide increased capacity to review and provide feedback on wildlife impacts to proponents of energy development projects. The program was also intended to encourage interaction with NDOW to identify and seek recommendations to avoid and minimize potential wildlife impacts early in the project planning phases.

The legislation was in response to a renewable energy land rush that occurred following shifting energy policies and strategies, including a federal incentive program to develop renewable energy on public lands. The pace of energy projects relaxed since this initial drive in 2008–2010, with an average of more than 9 energy projects per year from 2012–2014, and nine (9) total energy projects between 2015–2016. During the last two years (2017–2018) we have seen a considerable increase in the number of project applications, with a total of 19 applications submitted during this period. This increase is likely due to renewed interest in domestic energy development and independence at a national level. Technical guidance on energy developments continues to be a significant role for the Habitat Division at NDOW.

### Summary of Activities

Several types of energy projects covered under the program have submitted review applications to NDOW since 2012 (Table 1). A total of 66 projects have submitted applications to the cost-recovery review program between 2012 and 2018. The majority of those have been utility-scale

Table 1. Projects under NDOW’s energy review/cost-recovery program (AB307 2011).

	Solar	Geothermal	Wind	Transmission	Other*	Grand Total
2012	3	2	0	3	1	9
2013	11	0	1	4	1	17
2014	4	1	0	7	0	12
2015	3	0	0	1	1	5
2016	4	0	0	0	0	4
2017	2	1	1	3	0	7
2018	10	0	0	1	1	12
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>66</b>

\*Includes two gas pipelines (2012 and 2015), one gas power plant (2013), and one biomass project (2018).

solar projects (37 projects), with 23 of those projects occurring in the Mojave Desert of southern Nevada. Transmission projects have been the second busiest energy sector reviewed under the program (19 projects).

Costs recovered in the program from 2012–2018 total \$550,350 and are provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Recovered costs for NDOW’s energy review/cost-recovery program (AB307 2011).

	Solar	Geothermal	Wind	Transmission	Other*	Grand Total
2012	\$30,000.00	\$2,240.21	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$52,240.21
2013	\$110,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$155,000.00
2014	\$40,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$40,000.00	\$0.00	\$85,000.00
2015	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$40,000
2016	\$40,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$40,000
2017	\$20,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$0	\$50,000
2018	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$115,000
<i>Grand Total</i>	<b>\$355,109</b>	<b>\$12,240</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$110,000</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>\$522,350</b>

\*Includes two gas pipelines (2012 and 2015), one gas power plant (2013), and one biomass project (2018).

### Program Direction

The Development Review/Cost-recovery program at NDOW has increased opportunities for engagement on energy development projects by formally requiring interaction of project proponents and the Habitat Division at the Department. Funds from cost-recovery have also expanded opportunities for NDOW to enhance knowledge of wildlife in areas of potential energy development. This knowledge is fundamental for providing quality input on wildlife species that can be used to avoid and minimize project impacts, input that provides greater certainty for project proponents when planning development activities and greater input to land management agencies reviewing environmental impacts from such developments.