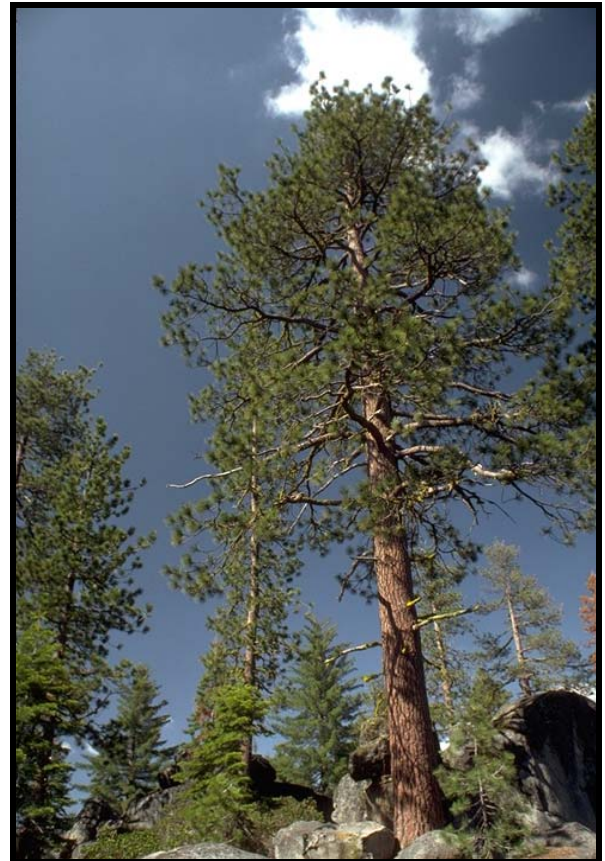


# Nevada Natural Resources Status Report

June 2002



Nevada Department of Conservation  
and Natural Resources

# Notes to the Reader

The Nevada Natural Resources Status Report is the second technical report produced as part of the Nevada Natural Resources Plan (NNRP). Improving coordination to enhance conservation and management of the biological, land, water, air, and recreation resources is the purpose of the NNRP. The NNRP is a strategic planning process coordinated through the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) with the Divisions of the DCNR, the Nevada Department of Agriculture and Nevada Division of Minerals. Goals of the NNRP process emphasize intergovernmental coordination, public awareness and involvement, dissemination of resource information, and recommending strategies to resolve priority resource issues. As the process proceeds, the NNRP Technical Working Group will prepare and distribute other technical reports about natural resources, their management, and priority issues in Nevada. The Status Report can be viewed on the Internet, at the DCNR home page (below). Contact information for the DCNR Divisions is provided below.

Divisions and Special Programs	Address	Phone	Website Address
Conservation Districts	333 W. Nye Lane, Room 126, Carson City, NV 89706	775.687.6977	<a href="http://www.state.nv.us/cnr/conv01.htm">http://www.state.nv.us/cnr/conv01.htm</a>
Environmental Protection	333 W. Nye Lane, Room 138, Carson City, NV 89706	775.687.4670	<a href="http://www.ndep.state.nv.us/index.htm">http://www.ndep.state.nv.us/index.htm</a>
Forestry	1201 Johnson Street, Suite D, Carson City, NV 89706	775.684.2500	<a href="http://www.state.nv.us/cnr/forestry">http://www.state.nv.us/cnr/forestry</a>
State Lands	333 W. Nye Lane, Room 118, Carson City, NV 89706	775.687.4364	<a href="http://www.state.nv.us/lands/">http://www.state.nv.us/lands/</a>
State Parks	1300 S. Curry Street, Carson City, NV 89703	775.687.4370	<a href="http://www.state.nv.us/stparks/">http://www.state.nv.us/stparks/</a>
Water Resources	123 W. Nye Lane, Carson City, NV 89706	775.687.4380	<a href="http://ndwr.state.nv.us/">http://ndwr.state.nv.us/</a>
Wildlife	1100 Valley Road, PO Box 10678, Reno, NV 89520	775.688.1500	<a href="http://www.nevadadivisionofwildlife.org">http://www.nevadadivisionofwildlife.org</a>
Natural Heritage Program	1550 E. College Parkway, Rm. 145, Carson City, NV 89706	775.687.4245	<a href="http://www.state.nv.us/nvnhp/">http://www.state.nv.us/nvnhp/</a>
Commission for the Preservation of Wild Horses	885 Eastlake Boulevard, Carson City, NV 89704	775.849.3625	<a href="http://state.nv.us/cnr/horse01.htm">http://state.nv.us/cnr/horse01.htm</a>

Should you have questions or comments about this report or the Nevada Natural Resources Plan, please contact us at:

## NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Left cover photo. *Arctomecon californica* (Las Vegas bearpoppy) inhabits gypsum-rich soil with Mojave Desert shrubs in southeastern Nevada. Photo by Joan G. Wright, for Clark County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan.

Right cover photo. *Pinus washoensis* (Washoe pine) grows in mixed conifer forest slopes on the east side of the Carson Range in western Nevada. Photo by Robert Potts, California Academy of Sciences.

**Kenny C. Guinn, Governor  
STATE OF NEVADA**



# **Nevada Natural Resources Status Report**

**June 2002**

**Technical Report 2  
Nevada Natural Resources Plan**

**R. Michael Turnipseed, P.E., Director  
Department of Conservation and Natural Resources**

# Preparers Notes

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resource's Technical Working Group (TWG) prepared the Nevada Natural Resources Status Report under the guidance of the NNRP Steering Committee. The Steering Committee includes the director and assistant director of the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the administrators of the divisions and special programs within the Department. The TWG members who are participating in the development and implementation of the NNRP planning process include:

Jennifer Newmark .....	Natural Heritage Program
John Walker .....	Division of Environmental Protection
Verne Rosse.....	Division of Environmental Protection
David Cowperthwaite .....	Division of Environmental Protection
Steve Weaver.....	Division of State Parks
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Jason King.....	Division of Water Resources
Rich Harvey.....	Division of Forestry
Chuck Moses.....	Department of Agriculture
Don Henderson .....	Department of Agriculture
Ed Skudlarek.....	Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

In addition to assistance provided by many hard working people throughout the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, we are very grateful for the time, effort, and contributions from other state and federal agencies. The state draft Natural Resources Status Report could not have been prepared without special efforts by those agencies that take the important step of making their databases, maps, and technical reports available to the public. We extend a special thanks to these people at the:

- Nevada Department of Agriculture
- Nevada Division of Minerals, Commission on Mineral Resources
- Nevada Bureau of Health Protection Services, Health Division
- Nevada State Historic Preservation Office
- Nevada Department of Transportation
- Nevada Energy Office
- Nevada Commission on Economic Development
- Nevada Public Utilities Commission
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Nevada State Office
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Nevada State Office
- U.S. Forest Service, Humboldt Toiyabe National Forest Supervisor's Office
- U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service
- U.S. Geological Survey
- U.S. Department of Defense
- U.S. Department of Energy

**Nevada Natural Resources Status Report**  
**Public Review Draft**

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# State of Nevada



## Nevada Facts

- Area: 110,540 square miles or 70,745,000 acres
- Population, 2000: 1,998,257
- Average Population Density: 18 persons per square mile
- Highest Elevation: Boundary Peak, 13,140 feet (Esmeralda County)
- Lowest Elevation: Colorado River, 470 feet (Clark County)
- Average Annual Precipitation: 9 inches (statewide)
- Mountain Ranges: 314, 25 with summits over 10,000 feet
- Groundwater Basins: 256
- Native Plants and Animal Species: > 4600, 309 unique to Nevada
- Public Outdoor Recreation Land: 57 million acres

# About the Nevada Natural Resources Status Report

The Nevada Natural Resources Status Report was prepared by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources as part of the agency's ongoing process to develop a Natural Resources Plan. The report gives a big picture view of the resources about which Nevadans care deeply: clean water and air; wildlife diversity; healthy aquatic, rangeland and forest ecosystems; outdoor recreation opportunities; and the natural beauty of wide-open desert and mountain wildlands. These are the essential elements of healthful, enjoyable, and productive communities. The focus of the report is the current state of these and other natural resources within the state.

Nevada's population and economy continues to expand. Understanding growth related impacts on environmental quality and consumption of natural resources is a central issue the report attempts to address. Where are the state's resources strained or showing resilience? How are natural systems responding to larger pollutant loads? What is being done to manage resources so that current and future needs can be met? The report provides information that may assist in answering these and related questions.

However, the Natural Resources Status Report is not an exhaustive assessment of all resources. The report presents the information that agencies made available to characterize environmental and resource conditions and the impacts of programs. To some degree the report focuses attention on high profile issues identified through public meetings and a survey of resource management agencies. Foremost areas of concern throughout the state include:

- Environmental quality and natural open space in urbanizing areas;
- Biodiversity and wildlife habitat;
- Ecological health of aquatic, rangeland and forest ecosystems;
- Non-native flora and fauna;
- Management of livestock, wild horses, and wildlife;
- Wildland fire effects on native ecosystems and property; and,
- Quality and quantity of outdoor recreation resources.

Nevada's resources are managed and monitored by many different agencies within an array of overlapping land and resource management units. Because the purpose of the report is to take a step towards developing an integrated, comprehensive set of natural resource indicators, available data and information was sought from many agencies and published reports. Many agencies responsible for resource management and environmental protection gather a substantial amount of data. However, in general, agencies can do more to use available data to assess the impact their protection and management efforts have on natural resources and the effectiveness of related program activities. Agencies and public and private decisions makers would benefit by increased efforts to disseminate information generated by resource scientists and program managers. Interagency coordination has improved in recent years, as suggested by the number of ongoing collaborative planning events addressing priority resource issues. These efforts present an opportunity to improve data analysis, information sharing, and public reporting.

This is the department's initial attempt to provide a comprehensive report on the state of the environment in Nevada. Hopefully the information assists government agencies, elected officials, industry, and citizens in becoming more familiar with our state's natural resources and aware of achievements and needed improvements in sustaining our natural resources. The Natural Resources Status Report can be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.state.nv.us/cnr/nrp/status.htm>. Comments may be mailed to [eskudlar@govmail.state.nv.us](mailto:eskudlar@govmail.state.nv.us).

# Acronyms

BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs (U.S.)
BLM	Bureau of Land Management (U.S.)
BOR	Bureau of Reclamation (U.S.)
BAQ	Bureau of Air Quality (Nevada)
CD	Conservation Districts
CRMP	Coordinated Resource Management Plan
DCNR	Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (Nevada)
DOD	Department of Defense (U.S.)
DOI	Department of Interior (U.S.)
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency (U.S.)
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FWS	Fish and Wildlife Service (U.S.)
HA	Hydrographic Area
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
HMA	Herd Management Area
HTNF	Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
LCT	Lahontan Cutthroat Trout
NBMG	Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology
NCA	National Conservation Area
NDCD	Nevada Division of Conservation Districts
NDEP	Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
NDF	Nevada Division of Forestry
NDOW	Nevada Division of Wildlife
NDOA	Nevada Department of Agriculture
NDOM	Nevada Division of Minerals
NDSL	Nevada Division of State Lands
NDSP	Nevada Division of State Parks
NDWR	Nevada Division of Water Resources
NNHP	Nevada Natural Heritage Program
NNRP	Nevada Natural Resources Plan
NPIF	Nevada Partners in Flight
NPS	National Park Service
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRS	Nevada Revised Statutes
SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office (Nevada)
SNPLMA	Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
WSA	Wilderness Study Area
WMA	Wildlife Management Area



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