

The BLM Carson City District (CCD) is developing the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Carson City District planning area. The Carson City RMP will provide detailed information about the current state of resources on public lands within the planning area, and set forth a plan of action for managing those resources for the next twenty or so years under the BLM's multiple use mandate.

WATER RESOURCES

Water resources within the CCD planning area are affected by urban growth. There is concern of the impact groundwater pumping has on water resources. The supply of water available for use is limited by nature. Occurrence, distribution, and movement of water and the relationship of water with the environment dictate how we plan, analyze, design, utilize, and manage our public lands.

BLM manages multiple uses that can directly or indirectly impact how water interacts as it cycles through the assessment area. This can influence both the quality and quantity of water present.



Walker River in Wilson Canyon



Carson River in Carson Valley

RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL STANDARD FOR WATER QUALITY

Standards for Rangeland Health state that water quality criteria in Nevada and California State Law shall be achieved or maintained, as indicated by:

- chemical constituents do not exceed the water quality standards;
- physical constituents do not exceed the water quality standards;
- biological constituents do not exceed the water quality standards;
- and the water quality of all water bodies, including groundwater located on or influenced by BLM lands will meet or exceed the applicable Nevada or California water quality standards.

Water quality standards for surface and ground water include designated beneficial uses, numeric criteria, narrative criteria, and antidegradation requirements set forth under State law, and as found in Section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act.



The BLM water rights policy provides for management of public lands under principles of multiple use and sustained yield. The BLM water rights program works to insure water availability by acquiring and protecting existing federal reserved water rights and state appropriative water rights.



Hot Spring in Dixie Valley



Curtz Lake

CCD is also responsible for maintaining an up-to-date water use inventory data and water rights records.

Potential Water Resources issues to be addressed include:

- The State of Nevada only has narrative standards for water quality of seeps and springs that are key resources on public lands. How should CCD address water quality on these water sources?
- Which watersheds need special protection to (1) protect public water supplies, (2) ensure the continued existence of federally listed, candidate, or BLM sensitive aquatic species, (3) ensure public health and safety, and (4) facilitate other public uses?

CCD Planning Webpage:
http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field.html

Comments can also be mailed to:
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