

8.3

BLM CARSON CITY DISTRICT RMP PLANNING FACT SHEET *Riparian and Wetlands*

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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.

RIPARIAN CORRIDORS AND WETLANDS

Riparian-wetland areas are some of the most productive and important ecosystems found on public lands. These areas are also the most frequently overused component of Nevada rangelands, riparian areas have attracted a great deal of management attention. Generally, if riparian areas function properly, all land users will benefit. Because of this, there is a large focus on riparian restoration, including enhancement of water quality, habitat for all wildlife; including special status species, forage for livestock, and water for agriculture. By focusing on the physical functioning of riparian areas, with proper management of uses within the potential and capability of individual settings, BLM can strive to avoid the conflict of differing land uses.



Eldorado Canyon, a healthy riparian vegetation community

Resource Advisory Council Standards and Guidelines provide sideboards for management actions. Riparian and wetland areas exhibit a properly functioning condition as indicated by:

- Sinuosity, width/depth ratio, and gradient are adequate to dissipate stream flow without excessive erosion or deposition;
- Riparian vegetation is adequate to dissipate high flow energy and protect banks from excessive erosion; and
- Plant species diversity is appropriate to riparian-wetland systems.

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Current Riparian Conditions

In photos A and B on the right: the channel in photo A is within a fence enclosure and appears to be recovering from past erosion events that created a wide shallow channel. It is covered by vegetation and appears stable. Downstream of the enclosure, photo B, shows bare ground on the stream banks and active head cuts in the channel. The riparian characteristics noted in photo A are missing in photo B.



POTENTIAL RIPARIAN AND WETLAND ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED INCLUDE:

Once PFC is achieved how should planned management work toward desired conditions?

How should riparian and wetland areas be managed to maintain and achieve Proper Functioning Conditions (PFC)? For example, what are other feasible management practices in addition to fence enclosures? How about the size of fence enclosures?

What measurable criteria are appropriate for proper functioning riparian and wetland areas for multiple uses?

Should CCD identify critical riparian and wetland areas? If so, what set criteria should trigger management change or treatment?

For more information on outreach and education workshops, inventory, and monitoring protocols and other technical materials associated with riparian and wetland resource management, please visit website:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/programs/nrst/index.php>

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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