

**U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation**

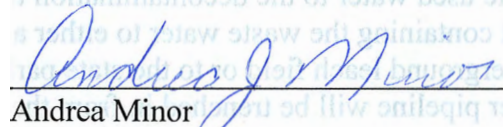
**Mid-Pacific Region
Lahontan Basin Area Office
Carson City, Nevada**

**Finding of No Significant Impact
and
Environmental Assessment**

**Lahontan State Recreation Area AIS Wash Station
Newlands Project, Nevada
LO-2013-1005**

March 2013

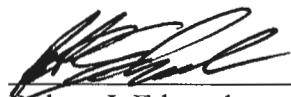
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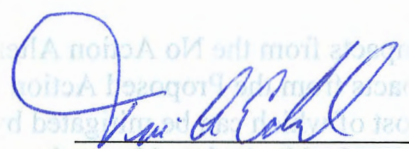
Recommended:


Robert J. Edwards
Resource Division Manager

Date:

3/7/2013

Approved:


Terri A. Edwards
Deputy Area Manager

Date:

3/7/2013

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Lahontan State Recreation Area AIS Wash Station
Newlands Project, Nevada
LO-2013-1005

I. Background, Proposed Action, and Purpose and Need

Nevada State Parks (State Parks) plans to construct a permanent pull-out area to use as an inspection and decontamination area for watercraft for aquatic invasive species (AIS). This will be located within Lahontan State Recreation Area (SRA), near the Silver Springs ranger station on Fir Avenue. The surface management is Reclamation, but State Parks is the managing partner for Lahontan SRA.

Both Reclamation and State Parks are members of the Northern Nevada Quagga Task Force (NNQTF), which is a coalition of numerous entities, under the leadership of the Nevada Department of Wildlife. One of the main goals of the NNQTF is to develop an inspection and decontamination program at several recreation areas in northern Nevada, including Lahontan SRA. Boater fees will help offset the costs of program. Reclamation provided grant funds to purchase the hot water decontamination units at Lahontan SRA, and State Parks will operate and maintain them.

The proposed project consists of a pull-through roadway with a concrete pedestrian divider adjacent to the pad. Within the pad area there will be a concrete apron with a drain to a sump pump to recycle used water to the decontamination unit. Trucks will periodically haul the wash unit containing the waste water to either a nearby existing RV dump site connected to an underground leach field or to the state parks shop with its own leach field. In addition, a water pipeline will be trenched in from the existing ranger station to the wash station.

Reclamation's action would be to approve this construction.

The primary purpose of the proposed action is to prevent the introduction of AIS into Lahontan Reservoir and the spread of any AIS from Lahontan to other water bodies via contaminated watercraft.

II. Summary of Impacts

This proposed project has more potential impacts from the No Action Alternative than from the Proposed Action Alternative. Impacts from the Proposed Action Alternative involve disturbance during construction, most of which can be mitigated by use of Best Management Practices (BMPs). Impacts from the No Action Alternative are related to the potential infestation of AIS at Lahontan Reservoir, as well as other area waterbodies, by not taking preventative action.

Biologic Resources/Soils: BMPs will reduce the impacts to the soil and vegetation. Vegetation will be permanently removed on site of the gravel pad. Impacts to wildlife will be short term and localized.

If AIS, including quagga mussels, were to become established in Lahontan Reservoir, there could be impacts to wildlife. By removing the bottom layer of the food web, quaggas have the potential to impact all species that depend on this ecosystem. Wildlife resources at risk include the fishery in the reservoir, as well as many species of waterfowl. The Lahontan SRA is part of the Carson River Delta Important Bird Area (IBA), designated by Lahontan Audubon Society. This IBA was recognized largely for its habitat values and encompasses the historic flood plain of the Carson River from Fort Churchill downstream to the river's delta at Lahontan Reservoir.

Increased water clarity allows more aquatic vegetation to become established, furthering altering the ecosystem and allowing aquatic weeds to clog intake structures and facilities.

Environmental Justice: Neither Alternative would disproportionately affect minority or low-income populations within the community.

Historic and Cultural Resources: This is the type of undertaking that has the potential to cause effects to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.3(a). Reclamation's efforts to identify historic properties consisted of an on-line records search on December 19, 2012, with the Nevada Cultural Resource Information System which indicated the entire project APE had been previously covered by an archaeological survey. This survey (18-15) is documented in *Archaeological Reconnaissance Report Morris Creek Diversion and Queen Valley Pipeline* (Brian C. Miller, Bureau of Land Management: 1981). No cultural resources were identified in the APE. Two prehistoric archaeological sites (sparse lithic scatters) were identified within a 0.25 mile radius. Neither would be affected by the proposed undertaking.

In a letter dated December 20, 2012, Reclamation initiated consultation with the Nevada State Historic Preservation officer (SHPO), inviting the SHPO's comments regarding our delineation of an APE and the appropriateness of our efforts to identify historic properties in that APE. Reclamation also requested the SHPO's concurrence that our finding of no historic properties affected was appropriate pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1). In a letter dated December 20, 2012, the SHPO concurred that Reclamation's delineation of an APE and level of effort to identify historic properties were appropriate, and concurred with our finding of no historic properties affected.

Indian Trust Assets: There are no trust resources within the project construction area, however the reservation, as well as individual Tribal members, receives delivery of irrigation water from the reservoir. Actual construction and installation of the wash station will have no impact to ITAs. Installation of the wash station may help to prevent infestation of the downstream delivery features, which could be an impact to ITAs.

Invasive species: Spread of terrestrial weeds will be minimized during construction by use of BMPs.

The spread of AIS would be minimized by the use of decontamination units at this location, both to and from Lahontan SRA. In 2011 samples tested positive for quagga veligers (juveniles) at Lahontan Reservoir. No confirmed positives have been found since then, but the reservoir is still considered “suspect”. It is yet unknown if an adult population will establish at Lahontan SRA, but there is consistent boater traffic arriving from Lake Mead, which likely results in continued inoculation from contaminated boats.

Recreation: Lahontan SRA is popular with numerous forms of recreationists, including campers, fishermen, wildlife watchers, water skiers, and boaters. Boaters will be inconvenienced initially until they become accustomed to inspections. Those that arrive “clean drain and dry”, or are Lahontan-only users, will be able to circumvent the decontamination process and will have shorter wait times.

Taking AIS prevention measures would allow existing types of recreation to continue. If quagga mussels were to become established in the reservoir, the impacts to the fisheries could be devastating and recreational fishing would suffer. Eventually the impacts to the ecosystem would affect the shorebird population, and bird watching would also be impacted. In areas infested with quagga and zebra mussels in the Great Lakes region, recreation has been impacted by smells of rotting mussels and by shells washing up, which cut feet.

Threatened and Endangered Species: Although there are no known threatened and endangered (T&E), or habitat for such, at LSRA or in the immediate vicinity, boaters are known to travel between Lahontan Reservoir and other area water bodies, including Pyramid Lake, which is home to the endangered cui-ui and the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT). Lahontan boaters also travel to Stampede and Boca Reservoirs, which are in the upper part of the Truckee River, whose terminus is Pyramid Lake. LCT are known to spawn in the Truckee River.

In addition, boaters in northern Nevada travel to Wildhorse Reservoir, through which the Owyhee River flows. The Owyhee is a tributary of the Snake River, which is the largest tributary of the Columbia River. These Pacific Northwest rivers and watersheds are home to many important fisheries, including T&E salmonid species.

The primary purpose of the proposed action is to prevent the introduction of AIS into Lahontan Reservoir and the spread of any AIS from Lahontan to other water bodies via contaminated watercraft. This action will help to prevent impacts to T&E species that inhabit those waters.

Wastes: Waste water at the station would be collected in a drain and pumped back to the unit, where it is filtered and reheated for reuse. After repeated use, the waste water would be transported off site to locations which drain to underground leach fields. These are not connected to the water table or able to access Lahontan Reservoir. No NDEP

permit is required as proposed. The potential for a spill exists, although unlikely if normal care is used. BMPs will be used to contain waste water at the station and in the event of a spill during transport.

Water Resources: There are no water resources in the vicinity of the proposed wash station or the waste water disposal sites. The installation of the wash station and subsequent decontamination of watercraft can help to maintain water quality in the reservoir by preventing the spread of AIS at this location and at other area reservoirs. Adult quagga mussels can clog intakes and structures in the dam as well as reduce flow within the irrigation delivery features. The proposed action has the potential to prevent increased operation and maintenance costs on Lahontan Dam and Newlands Project features, as well as other reservoirs and dams where contaminated boats may travel, such as Boca and Stampede.

Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments / Cumulative Impacts:

No irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources would occur under either alternative.

There would be no known cumulative effects to the human environment from the proposed action when combined with past actions and any known current or reasonably foreseeable future actions.

III. Comments Received on the EA

No substantive comments were received on the Draft EA.

IV. Findings

Reclamation prepared an environmental assessment on the impacts of allowing State Parks to construct the wash pad and install a water line. The EA documents that compliance has occurred with the Endangered Species Act, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Indian Trust Assets, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Environmental Justice, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act.

The Lahontan Basin Area Office has found that the proposed action is not a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required for carrying out this action.

Following are the reasons why the impacts of the proposed action are not significant:

1. There would be no impact to Threatened or Endangered Species, but may prevent

potential impacts to populations off-site.

2. There will be short-term localized impacts to soils, vegetation, and wildlife, but the proposed action may prevent potential long-term impacts to area wildlife and recreation.

3. Implementing the proposed action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.

4. There will be no impact to Indian Trust Assets from the proposed action and may prevent a potential impact.

6. Historic or cultural resources: No cultural resources were identified in the APE. Two prehistoric archaeological sites were identified, but neither would be affected by the proposed undertaking. Reclamation requested the SHPO's concurrence that our finding of no historic properties affected was appropriate pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1).

In a letter dated December 20, 2012, the SHPO concurred that Reclamation's delineation of an APE and level of effort to identify historic properties were appropriate, and concurred with our finding of no historic properties affected.

V. Mitigating Measures / Resource Commitments

State parks must implement Best Management Practices in construction of the project and in handling waste water from the decontamination unit.

VI. Decision

My decision is to concur with the environmental assessment and allow Nevada State Parks to implement this project.

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

**FINAL Environmental Assessment
LO-2013-1005**

**Lahontan State Recreation Area AIS
Wash Station**



March 2013

Mission Statements

The mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to Indian Tribes and our commitment to island communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

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Figure 1. Map of Project Area

Figure 2. Site Map

Attachment 1. Site Map, Project Details

Attachment 2. Details of project

Attachment 3. Concurrence Letter from SHPO

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AIS	Aquatic Invasive Species
APE	Area of Potential Effect
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	Best Management Practices
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DOI	Department of the Interior
EA	Environmental Assessment
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
IBA	Important Bird Area
ITA	Indian Trust Assets
LCT	Lahontan Cutthroat Trout
NDOW	Nevada Department of Wildlife
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NNQTF	Northern Nevada Quagga Task Force
Reclamation	Bureau of Reclamation
Service	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SRA	State Recreation Area
State Parks	Nevada State Parks
T&E	Threatened and Endangered

Section 1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Nevada State Parks (State Parks) plans to construct a permanent pull-out area to use as an inspection and decontamination area for watercraft for aquatic invasive species (AIS). This will be located within Lahontan State Recreation Area (SRA), near the Silver Springs ranger station. In conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has prepared this Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate and disclose any potential environmental impacts associated with implementation of the installation of the pull-out area and wash station.

State Parks is the managing partner for Lahontan State Recreation Area and Rye Patch State Recreation Area. One of the objectives of the agreement is to provide safe and manageable recreation use and experiences of the area.

As a result of quagga mussels being found in Lake Mead in 2007, Reclamation began monitoring water bodies related to Reclamation facilities, including Rye Patch and Lahontan Reservoirs. The Northern Nevada Quagga Task Force (NNQTF) was formed from a coalition of entities, Tribes, as well as federal, state, and local agencies, under the leadership of the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW). Both Reclamation and State Parks are members of the task force.

One of the main goals of the NNQTF is to develop an inspection and decontamination program at several recreation areas in northern Nevada, including Lahontan and Rye Patch SRAs. This has been a cooperative effort between state agencies and Reclamation, aided by federal grant money from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, expertise from the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency and Lake Tahoe's inspection program. Boater fees will help offset the costs of program. Reclamation provided grant funds to purchase the hot water decontamination units at Lahontan SRA, and State Parks will operate and maintain them.

Visitors to Lahontan SRA have several areas to access the reservoir, some of which are uncontrolled. However, analysis by State Parks indicates that approximately 95% of visitors can be intercepted at two locations, the boat ramp near Lahontan Dam and the visitors' kiosk south of Silver Springs. The other access routes are rough dirt roads and are generally not used by people pulling large boats. The larger boats are likely to have closed compartments that can hold standing water and therefore are more likely to transport contaminated water.

Additional boat wash stations will be available near the other boat ramp, but these are outside the scope of this EA.

Boaters entering the SRA will be interviewed and the watercraft would be inspected for signs of AIS and standing water. Boaters will be either allowed to pass or directed towards the decontamination/ wash station. Suspect watercraft would be inspected and washed at 140 degrees for a time sufficient to kill adult quaggas. Bilge tanks and other areas of water storage will be flushed to remove any veligers present. The waste water would be collected and pumped back to the wash unit, where is filtered, heated and reused numerous times.

This EA describes the existing environmental resources in the Proposed Action area, evaluates the effects of the No Action and Proposed Action alternatives on the resources, and proposes measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects. This EA was prepared in accordance with NEPA, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and DOI Regulations (43 CFR Part 46). If analyses warrant, Reclamation will also prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), which will explain why the Proposed Action would not have any significant effects on the human or natural environment.

1.2 Need for the Proposal

The primary purpose of the proposed action is to prevent the introduction of AIS into Lahontan Reservoir and the spread of any AIS from Lahontan to other water bodies via contaminated watercraft.

Although other species are found in Nevada and California, quagga mussels are of greatest concern due to their ability to impact the facilities at Lahontan Dam and the power plant. Lahontan SRA is a day's drive from Lake Mead, which is infested with quagga mussels. Species that are found in Lahontan are at risk of spreading to other water bodies, including Lake Tahoe and Reclamation-managed facilities including Boca, Stampede and Prosser Dams. Conversely there are other species of concern that are not yet found in Lahontan but are found in other area waterbodies.

Invasive species have the potential to clog and damage water storage and delivery features, as well as the power plant at Lahontan Dam. Increased operations and maintenance costs are a likely result. As evidenced in other portions of the United States, infestations are capable of crashing entire ecosystems, so it is possible to lose the fisheries in the reservoir, as well as opportunities for enjoying the birds and other wildlife that use the area. Mussel infestations in other areas of the U.S. have made beaches unusable due to sharp shells and rotting mollusk odors.

1.3 Potential Resource Issues

This EA will analyze the affected environment of the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative in order to determine the potential impacts and cumulative effects to the following environmental resources:

- Biological Resources
- Environmental Justice
- Historical and Cultural Resources
- Indian Trust Assets
- Invasive Species
- Recreation
- Soils
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Water Resources
- Wastes

1.4 Resources Not Analyzed in Detail

Effects on several environmental resources were examined and found to be minor. Because of this, the following resources were eliminated from further discussion from this EA: Air Quality; Geology, Global Climate Change; Land Use; Noise; and Wetlands.

Section 2 Alternatives Including Proposed Action

2.1 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would consist of Reclamation not allowing State Parks to construct the wash pad. They would locate the wash station on lands not managed by Reclamation.

2.2 Other Alternatives Considered

Another alternative that would meet the need of this action would be to close Lahontan SRA to boating. This alternative was dropped from further consideration because of the popularity of the SRA with area residents and the management constraints of physically limiting access to the reservoir.

2.3 Proposed Action Alternative

Nevada State Parks plans to construct a permanent pull-out area to use as an inspection and decontamination area for watercraft for aquatic invasive species (AIS). This will be located within Lahontan State Recreation Area (SRA), near the Silver Springs ranger station on Fir Avenue.


The location is T18N, R25E, sec.32, SW¼ SE ¼ (Lat. N 39°22'40", Long. W 119°12'04"). The surface management is Reclamation, but the SRA is managed under agreement with State Parks. (See Map, Figure 1).

The nearest community is Silver Springs, located approximately 10 miles to the north of the project area. Fallon is approximately 25 miles, and Fernley 20 miles, from the project site.

Lahontan Basin Area Office
705 N. Plaza Street, Carson City, NV 89701

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Feet

Tracking No. LO-2013-1005
Nevada Division of State Parks
Labontan SRA AIS Wash Station
SWSE of Section 32, T. 18N, R. 25E
M.D.M., Lyon County, Nevada

March 2013

The proposed project consists of an aggregate base pull-through roadway with a two lane concrete pad (trailer parks in middle) and a bypass lane with additional space for parking the inspector's vehicle. There would be a concrete pedestrian divider adjacent to the gravel pad, along the existing road. The gravel area will be graded to a depth of no more than 16" to achieve a level surface. This area will be roughly a trapezoid shape, being approximately 400 ft long at its widest base along the road, 70 ft along its shorter side, and approximately 84 ft across from the road. (See Site Map, Project Details, Figure 2, and Attachment 1.)

Within the gravel pad area there will be a concrete apron with a drain to a sump pump to recycle used water to the decontamination unit. Trucks will periodically haul the wash unit containing the waste water to either a nearby existing RV dump site connected to an underground leach field or to the state parks shop with its own leach field.

Adjacent to the gravel area at the northwest corner there will be another gravel area, approximately 12' by 12', which will serve as the base for a shade structure for the employees at the wash station. The shade station will be "temporary" to prevent unauthorized camping.

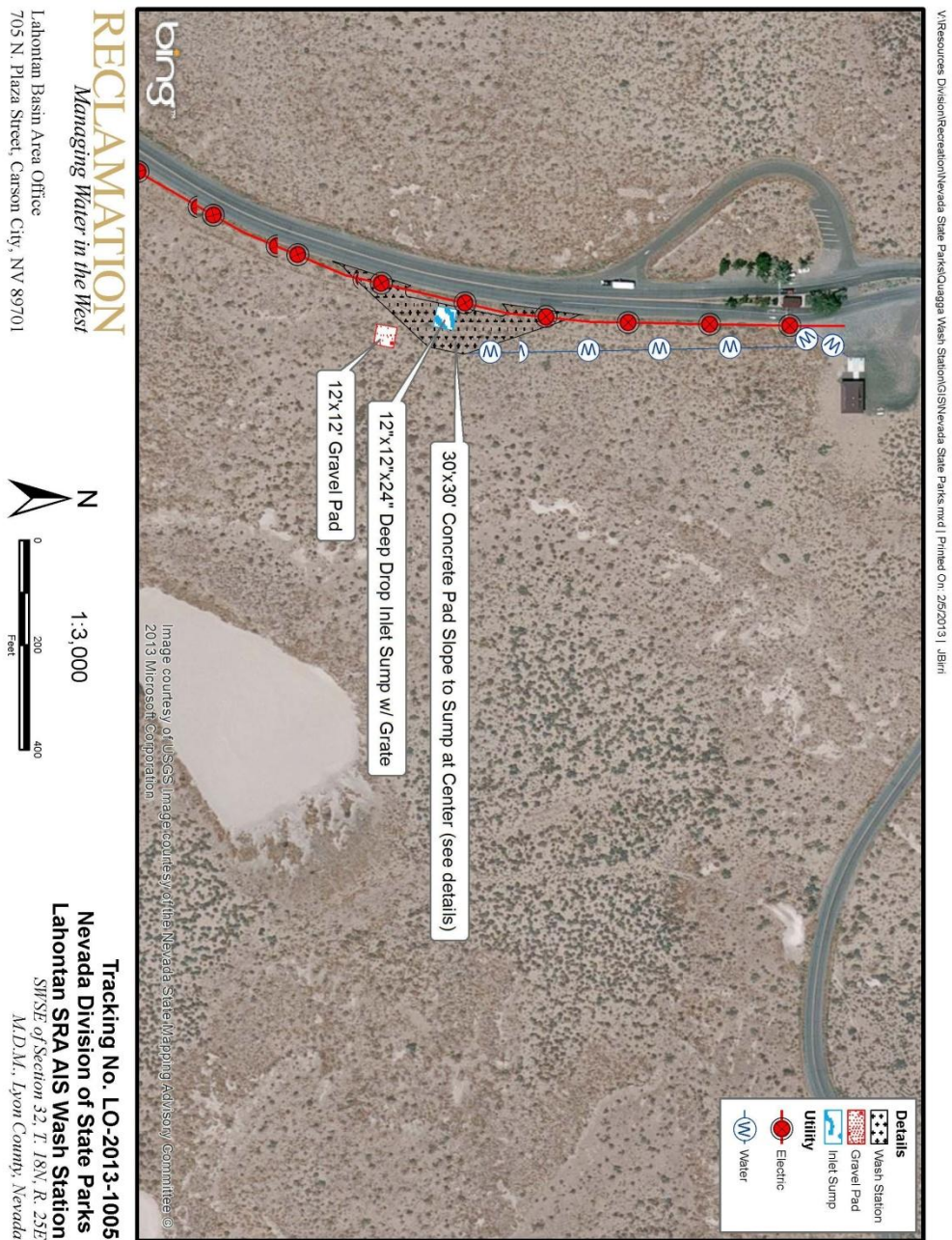


Figure 2 Site Map, Project Details

Materials used will be dirt, aggregate base course, water, concrete, steel reinforcing bars, a precast drop inlet basin with grate, ½” diameter polyethylene water line and fittings, ½” curb valves with boxes. (See Project Details, Attachment 2).

In addition, a water pipeline will be trenched in from the existing ranger station to the wash station, a distance of approximately 600’, to a depth of 36”. It will end at a hose bib adjacent to the gravel pad installed for refilling the trailer tank.

Reclamation’s action would be to approve this construction.

Section 3 **Affected Environment & Environmental Consequences**

This section identifies the potentially affected environmental resources and the environmental consequences that could result from the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative.

3.1 **Biologic Resources**

3.1.1 Affected Environment: The proposed site is located in a salt desert shrub community, predominant shrub species are shadscale, greasewood, Dalea, and Nevada ephedra, with minimal grass and forb species in the understory. Cheatgrass is a common species. Rubber rabbitbrush is found along the road. Wildlife species expected to be present would include coyote, black-tailed jackrabbit, whitetail antelope squirrel, and red-tailed hawk, as well as a variety of smaller birds and lizards.

Fish species present are discussed in Recreation 3.6.

The Lahontan SRA is home to many species of waterfowl and is part of the Carson River Delta Important Bird Area (IBA), designated by Lahontan Audubon Society. This IBA was recognized largely for its habitat values; the site constitutes the last best remnant of a cottonwood-willow riparian forest in northwestern Nevada. The IBA encompasses the historic flood plain of the Carson River from Fort Churchill downstream to the river's delta at Lahontan Reservoir. The exact birds seen near the Carson River Diversion Dam will vary by season, but it is generally a productive area throughout the year. Species spotted here include double-crested cormorants, American coots, mallards, redheads and other waterfowl, as well as both resident and migratory warblers, blue-gray gnatcatchers, ruby-crowned kinglets, black-billed magpies, killdeer and a variety of other shorebirds. Raptors are often seen hunting in the area. Nevada Partners in Flight species of concern found at this site include White-faced Ibis, Swainson's Hawk, Western Bluebird, and Wilson's Warbler. The riparian forest is also an important migration corridor, providing stopover habitat for Neotropical migrants. White pelicans are often seen foraging here from their nesting area on Pyramid Lake.

3.1.2 Environmental Consequences:

No Action: No vegetation or animal species will be removed or disturbed from the construction and installation of the wash pad and pipeline. No soils will be disturbed.

If AIS, including quaggas mussels, were to become established in Lahontan Reservoir, there could be impacts to wildlife. A single adult quagga mussel filters one liter of water per day, removing the plankton and algae that smaller organisms feed on, which in turn

feed larger fish and waterfowl. By removing the bottom layer of the food web, quaggas have the potential to impact all species that depend on this layer. Increased water clarity allows more aquatic vegetation to become established, furthering altering the ecosystem and allowing aquatic weeds to clog intake structures and facilities.

Proposed Action: BMPs will reduce the impacts to soil and vegetation. Vegetation will be permanently removed on site of the gravel pad. Impacts to wildlife will be short term and temporary.

Reducing the risk of AIS infestation would be beneficial to wildlife species in the area.

3.2 Environmental Justice/Socio-Economics

No significant changes in agricultural communities or practices would result from the Proposed Action. Accordingly, the Proposed Action would not have any significant or disproportionately negative impact on low-income or minority individuals within the project area.

3.3 Historic and Cultural Resources

Proposed Action:

This undertaking is to permit the construction by State Parks of an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) watercraft inspection station on Reclamation lands at Lahontan Reservoir in Lyon County, Nevada. This is the type of undertaking that has the potential to cause effects to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.3(a). Reclamation owns the lands surrounding Lahontan Reservoir and State Parks manages these lands for recreation purposes. The project will involve the construction of a gravel and concrete pullout and inspection station and a water pipeline connection on Fir Avenue just south of the Silver Springs Ranger Station. The area of potential effects (APE) covers approximately 0.9 acres.

Reclamation's efforts to identify historic properties consisted of an on-line records search on December 19, 2012, with the Nevada Cultural Resource Information System which indicated the entire project APE had been previously covered by an archaeological survey. This survey (18-15) is documented in *Archaeological Reconnaissance Report Morris Creek Diversion and Queen Valley Pipeline* (Brian C. Miller, Bureau of Land Management: 1981). No cultural resources were identified in the APE. Two prehistoric archaeological sites were identified within a 0.25 mile radius. Both of these sites (26Ly243 and 26Ly245) are sparse lithic scatters. Site 26Ly243 is located approximately 120 meters north and 26Ly245 is located approximately 300 meters east. Neither would be affected by the proposed undertaking. Examination of satellite images shows no built environment in the APE that may have required an assessment since the date of Miller's survey.

In a letter dated December 20, 2012, Reclamation initiated consultation with the Nevada State Historic Preservation officer (SHPO), inviting the SHPO's comments regarding our delineation of an APE and the appropriateness of our efforts to identify historic properties in that APE. Reclamation also requested the SHPO's concurrence that our finding of no historic properties affected was appropriate pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1). In a letter dated December 20, 2012 (See Attachment 3), the SHPO concurred that Reclamation's delineation of an APE and level of effort to identify historic properties were appropriate, and concurred with our finding of no historic properties affected.

As the SHPO has concurred with our finding of no historic properties affected, Reclamation's Section 106 responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act for this undertaking have been fulfilled.

No Action:

Under this alternative, no construction would occur and there would be no impact to cultural or historical resources.

3.4 Indian Trust Assets

3.41 Affected Environment:

The Fallon Reservation is 25 miles from Lahontan Reservoir (Lahontan Dam) but approximately 36 miles from the project site. The reservation, as well as individual Tribal members, receive delivery of irrigation water from the reservoir.

3.42 Environmental Consequences:

No Action: Infestation of the reservoir by AIS may have an impact to delivery systems, including those to the Reservation, possibly resulting in negative impacts to Indian Trust Assets (ITAs).

Proposed Action: Installation of the wash station may help to prevent infestation of the reservoir, downstream delivery features, and the lower Carson River. Actual construction and installation of the wash station will have no impact to ITAs.

3.5 Invasive Species

3.5.1 Affected Environment

Cheat grass is the most common terrestrial weed species found in the area of the proposed wash station. Whitetop, tamarisk, and Russian olive are found along the Carson River and in many of the Newlands Project features. Eurasian water milfoil is known to be present in the Truckee Canal and likely in Lahontan Reservoir.

Reclamation has been monitoring for quagga mussels since 2009. In 2011 samples tested positive for quagga veligers (juveniles) at Lahontan Reservoir. No confirmed positives have been found since then. It is yet unknown if an adult population will establish at

Lahontan SRA. There is consistent boater traffic arriving from Lake Mead, and this likely results in continued inoculation from contaminated boats.

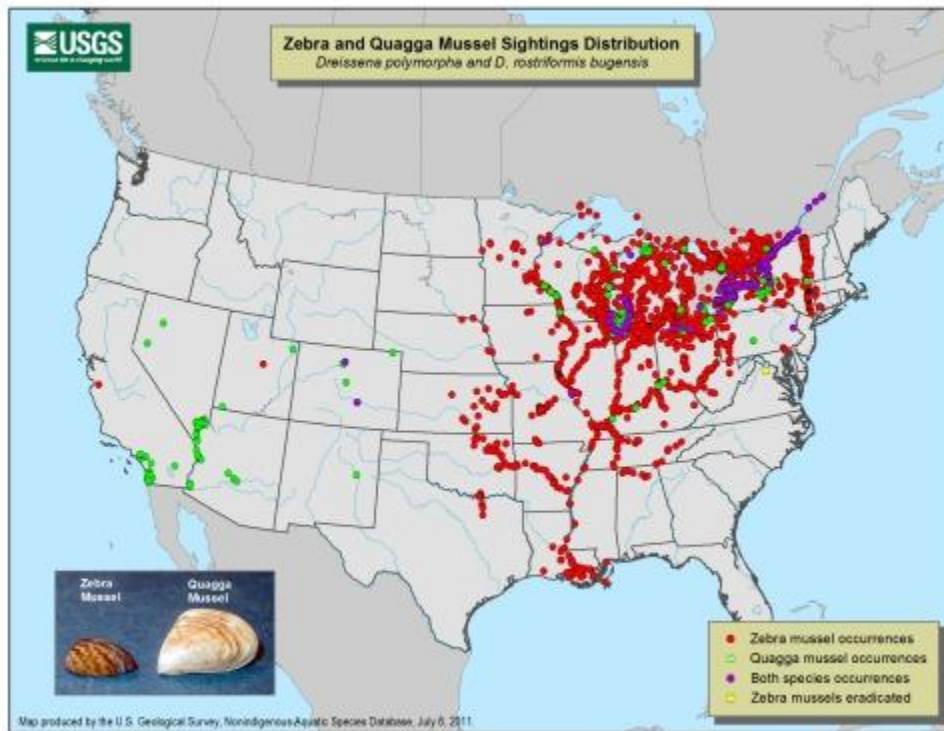


Figure 3 Distribution Map

In addition there are species found in other area waters that not found in LSRA (e.g. curly leaf pondweed in Lake Tahoe). These have the potential to be transported into Lahontan Reservoir.

3.5.2 Environmental Consequences

No Action: If boats are not stopped & decontaminated on their way in to the reservoir, they may result in aquatic invasive species, including quagga mussels, becoming established in Lahontan Reservoir and downstream waters. Conversely, not decontaminating boats on the way out may cause spread of invasive species to other area waters. Vehicles and boat trailers may be carrying terrestrial weed species that can spread to camping and recreation sites within the LRA.

Proposed Action: Spread of weeds will be minimized during construction by use of BMPs. The spread of weeds, both terrestrial and aquatic, from boat trailers would be minimized, as the trailers will also be decontaminated in the process of cleaning watercraft.

The spread of AIS would be minimized by the use of decontamination units at this location, both to and from Lahontan SRA.

3.6 Recreation

3.6.1 Affected Environment: Lahontan SRA is popular with numerous forms of recreationists, including campers, fishermen, wildlife watchers, water skiers, and boaters. Memorial and Labor Day weekends may see as many as 15,000 people each day.

The reservoir is popular with fishermen, who fish for walleye, white bass, the hybrid wiper, catfish, trout and other game fish.

The SRA is popular with bird watchers due to its variety and abundance of bird species and its inclusion as an IBA. Mule deer and other terrestrial species inhabit the SRA, and it is a popular place to view wild horses that water at the reservoir from adjacent BLM lands.

State Parks anticipates that they may inspect 200 boats per day, although by July this may be down to 100, as boaters learn to arrive “clean, drain, and dry”. Memorial Day weekend may see 500 boats/day. Eventually NDOW and State Parks hopes to implement a banding program that allows “in and out privileges” for Lahontan-only boaters. A band will be attached to the boat and trailer as the boat leaves the SRA. If the band is unbroken, evidence that the boat has not been launched elsewhere in the meantime, the boater can launch at Lahontan without an inspection and will have a band replaced upon leaving. Boaters that arrive “clean, drain and dry” will also be allowed to short cut the lines, thereby enforcing this behavior to properly clean watercraft after using.

Boater interviews conducted at Lake Tahoe and at Boca and Stampede Reservoirs show that there is significant traffic between these waters and LSRA.

Signs will be installed on the highways near the park entrances to warn boaters of upcoming inspections.



Figure 4. Watercraft and campers at Lahontan SRA

3.6.2 Environmental Consequences:

No Action: Boaters will continue to be allowed unrestricted access to Lahontan Reservoir via this access point. If quagga mussels were to become established in the reservoir, the impacts to the fisheries could be devastating and recreational fishing would suffer. Eventually the impacts to the ecosystem due to mussels would affect the shorebird population, and bird watching would also be impacted. In areas infested with quagga and zebra mussels in the Great Lakes region, recreation has been impacted by shells washing up, which cut feet. The smell of rotting mussels has also been an impact.



Figure 5 Fish and quagga shells on Great Lakes beach

Proposed Action: Boaters will be inconvenienced initially until they become accustomed to inspections. Those that arrive “clean drain and dry”, or are Lahontan-only users, will be able to circumvent the decontamination process and will have shorter wait times.

Taking AIS prevention measures would allow existing types of recreation to continue.

3.7 Soils

3.7.1 Affected Environment: The proposed area is an association of several soil types, all of which are either eolian or lacustrine deposits, and are mostly sandy in texture. They range from non-saline to slightly saline and are well-drained. None are classified as prime farmland.

3.7.2 Environmental Consequences:

No Action: No impacts would occur.

Proposed Action: The soil would be disturbed during construction of the gravel pad and installation of the water line. BMPs would be implemented to minimize disturbance and subsequent erosion of bare ground.

3.8 Threatened and Endangered Species

3.8.1 Affected Environment: There are no known threatened and endangered (T&E), or habitat for such, at LSRA or in the immediate vicinity. However, boaters are known to travel between Lahontan Reservoir and other area water bodies, including Pyramid Lake,

which is home to the endangered cui-ui and the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT). Lahontan boaters also travel to Stampede and Boca Reservoirs, which are in the upper part of the Truckee River, whose terminus is Pyramid Lake. LCT are known to spawn in the Truckee River.

In addition, boaters in northern Nevada travel to Wildhorse Reservoir, through which the Owyhee River flows. The Owyhee is a tributary of the Snake River, which is the largest tributary of the Columbia River. These Pacific Northwest rivers and watersheds are home to many important fisheries, including T&E salmonid species.

3.8.2 Environmental Consequences:

No Action: There is no direct impact to T&E species from not constructing the wash station. However, indirect impacts, by not preventing the potential spread of AIS from Lahontan Reservoir could include impacts to T&E fish in the Truckee River and Snake River systems.

Proposed Action: The primary purpose of the proposed action is to prevent the introduction of AIS into Lahontan Reservoir and the spread of any AIS from Lahontan to other water bodies via contaminated watercraft. This action will help to prevent impacts to T&E species that inhabit those waters.

3.9 Wastes

3.9.1 Affected Environment: The decontamination unit is designed to filter and reuse the water. Waste water at the station would be collected in a drain and pumped back to the unit, where it is filtered and reheated for reuse. This waste water potentially contains live veligers or other organisms (e.g. seeds, vegetative parts), as well as possible petroleum or other wastes from the boats and trailers. After repeated use, this water can no longer be reused and must be disposed. In this case the waste water will be transported to either the RV dump station at the Silver Springs entrance station or to the state park shop, located about 1.5 miles east. Both drain to underground leach fields. The RV dump station can handle waste water on weekdays, but on busy weekends when many campers would be using that facility, waste water would need to be hauled to the shop system.

The leach field is not connected to the water table or able to access Lahontan Reservoir.

No NDEP permit is required as proposed.

3.9.2 Environmental Consequences:

No Action: None, as the wash station will not be constructed at its proposed site, and liquid will not be transported off site.

Proposed Action: The potential for a spill exists, although unlikely if normal care is used. BMPs will be used to contain waste water at the station and in the event of a spill during transport.

3.10 Water Resources

3.10.1 Affected Environment: Lahontan Reservoir is part of the Newlands Project and provides storage for the Carson River, which flows through the reservoir, and for water from the Truckee River, which flows in via the Truckee Canal. Water leaves via Lahontan Dam into the Carson River and is then distributed to Project irrigation features.

There are no water resources in the vicinity of the proposed wash station or the waste water disposal sites. Distance from the wash station to Lahontan Reservoir varies depending on water levels in the reservoir, ranging from as little as half a mile to many miles.

Water at the decontamination station will be reused numerous times, so use of clean water will be minimized.

3.10.2 Environmental Consequences:

No Action: The water in Lahontan Reservoir and downstream Carson River, including irrigation delivery features are at risk if AIS is introduced at Lahontan Reservoir. Water quality can be impacted if AIS were to be established in the reservoir. Adult quagga mussels can clog intakes and structures in the dam as well as reduce flow within the irrigation delivery features. Recommended safe flows within the Truckee Canal have been impacted by Eurasian water milfoil.

Proposed Action: The installation of the wash station and subsequent decontamination of watercraft can help to maintain water quality by preventing the spread of AIS at both this location and at other area reservoirs. Preventing the introduction of AIS can reduce operation and maintenance costs on Lahontan Dam and Newlands Project features, as well as other reservoirs and dams where contaminated boats may travel, such as Boca and Stampede.

3.11 Cumulative Effects

According to the CEQ regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA, a cumulative impact is defined as *the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions*. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

There are no adverse impacts associated with implementing the Proposed Action, and therefore there are no cumulative effects to consider.

3.12 Commitment of Resources

State Parks is responsible for providing Reclamation with any subsequent site plans. They are responsible for ensuring that all BMPs are adhered to and any other requirements are met.

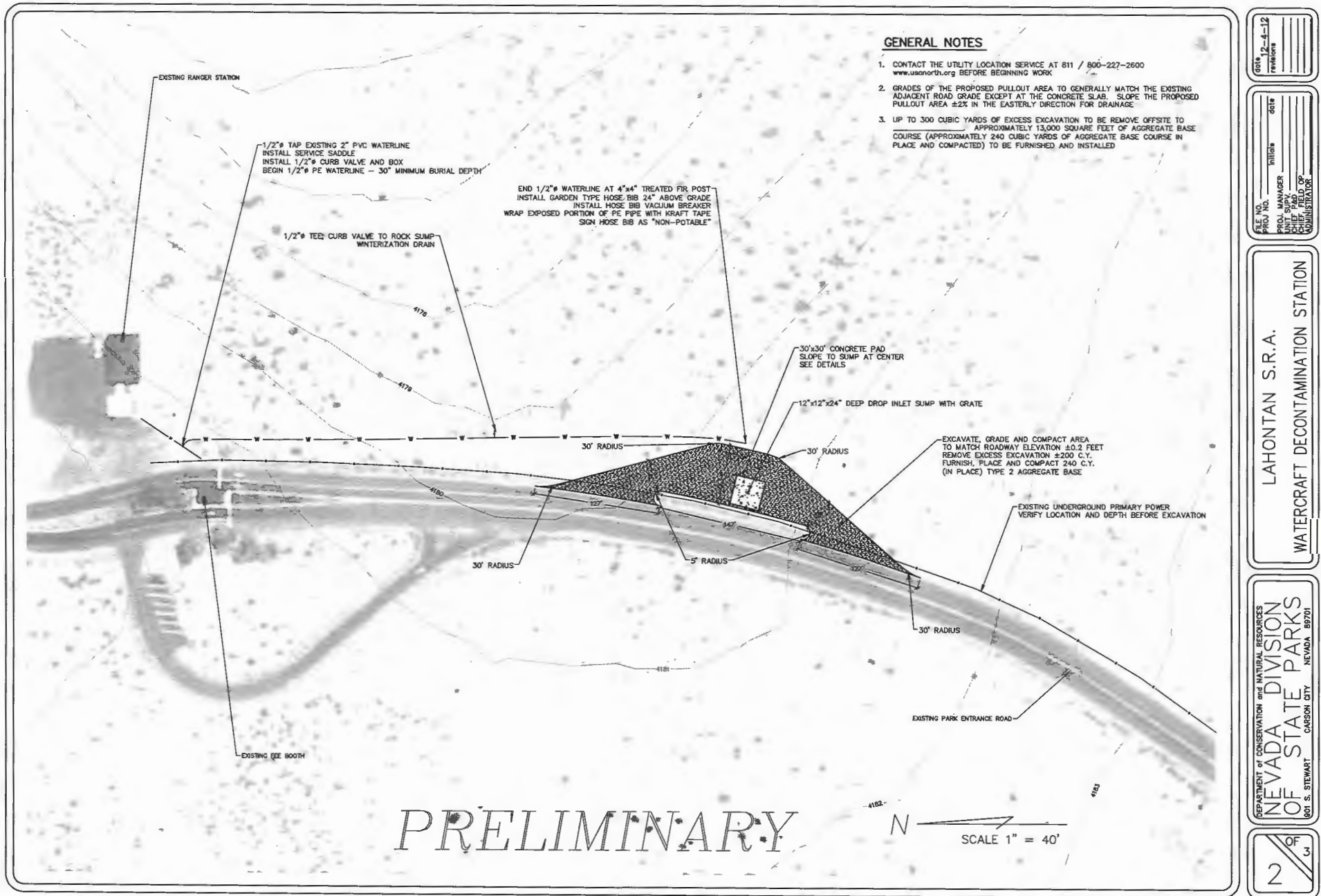
Section 4 Consultation and Coordination

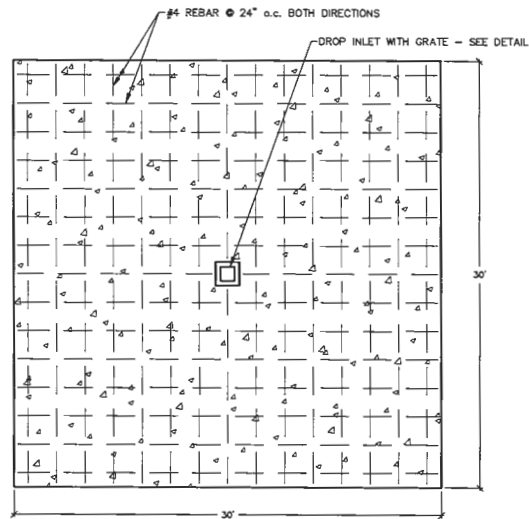
4.1 Public Review Period

Reclamation intends to sign a Finding of No Significant Impact for this project, and will make the EA available for public review and comment. Additional analysis will be prepared if substantive comments identify impacts that were not previously analyzed or considered.

Section 5 List of Preparers

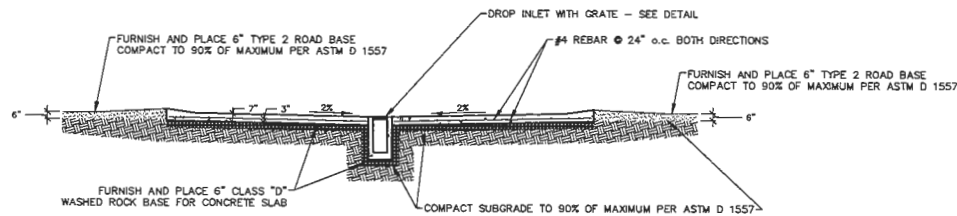
Anthony Beauregard, Nevada State Parks
Eric Johnson, Nevada State Parks
Andrea Minor, Bureau of Reclamation
Jennifer Birri, Bureau of Reclamation





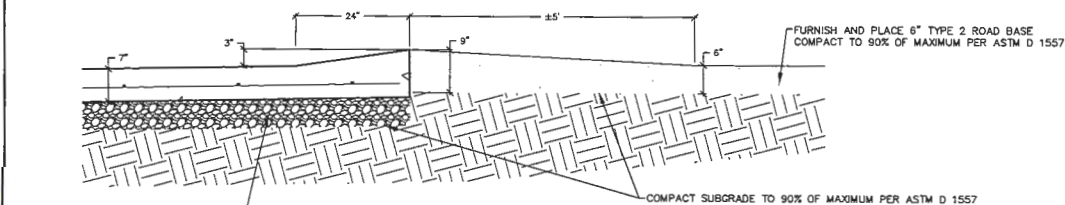
CONCRETE SLAB - PLAN VIEW

SCALE 1" = 4'



CONCRETE SLAB - CENTERLINE CROSS SECTION

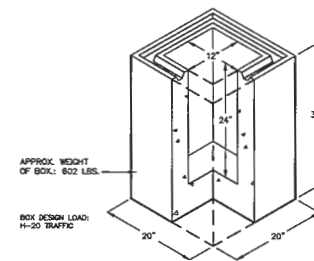
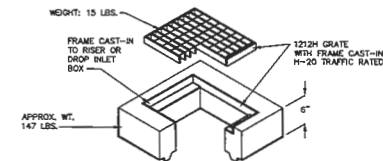
SCALE 1" = 4'



CONCRETE SLAB - EDGE DETAIL

SCALE 1" = 1'

NOTE: CUT GRATE BARS TO FIT VACUUM HOSE AS NECESSARY



NOT TO SCALE

DROP INLET WITH CAST-IN FRAME AND GRATE

PRELIMINARY

GSB	12-5-12
REVISIONS	

FILE NO.	INTGIB	GSB
PROJ. NO.	PROJ. MANAGER	
UNIT SUPPLY	UNIT SUPPLY	
CHECK	CHECK	
ADMINISTRATOR	ADMINISTRATOR	

LAHONTAN S.R.A.
WATERCRAFT DECONTAMINATION STATION

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
NEVADA DIVISION
OF STATE PARKS
901 S. STEWART CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701

ATTACHMENT 3

LEO M. DROZDOFF, P.E.
Director
Department of Conservation and
Natural Resources

RONALD M. JAMES
State Historic Preservation Officer

BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA



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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

December 20, 2012

Anastasia T. Leigh
Regional Environmental Officer
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento CA 95825-1898

RE: Lahontan State Recreation Area Silver Springs Watercraft Decontamination
Station, Lyon County (Undertaking #2013-2459).

Dear Ms. Leigh:

The Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) reviewed the subject undertaking. The SHPO concurs with the Bureau of Reclamation's determination that the area of potential effect identified for the undertaking should be adequate to identify any historic properties that could be affected.

The SHPO concurs with the Bureau of Reclamation's determination that the identification efforts are adequate for the purposes of the undertaking.

The SHPO concurs with the Bureau of Reclamation's determination that the proposed undertaking will not pose an effect to historic properties.

If you have any questions concerning this correspondence, please feel free to contact me at (775) 684-3443 or by e-mail at rlpalmer@shpo.nv.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Palmer", written over a circular stamp.

Rebecca Lynn Palmer, Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: David Morrow, Nevada State Parks.