

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Humboldt Project Conveyance

Final Environmental Impact Statement



U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
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Humboldt Project Conveyance

Environmental Impact Statement Draft () Final (X)

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Bureau of Reclamation, Lahontan Basin Area Office
Carson City, Nevada

Cooperating Agency: Pershing County Water Conservation District
Lovelock, Nevada

1. Abstract:

The United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation has prepared this Environmental Impact Statement to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed Humboldt Project Conveyance. The proposed title conveyance is authorized under Title VIII of Public Law 107-282, Humboldt Project Conveyance Act. The Act directs the Secretary of the Interior to convey the right, title, and interest in and to the lands and features of the Humboldt Project, including all water rights for storage and diversion, to the Pershing County Water Conservation District, the State of Nevada, Pershing County and Lander County.

The Draft EIS was issued January 28, 2005. Responses to comments received from interested organizations and individuals on the Draft EIS are addressed in the Final EIS. No decision will be made on the proposed action until 30 days after the release of the Final EIS. After the 30-day waiting period, Reclamation will complete a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD will state the action that will be implemented and will discuss all factors leading to the decision.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has prepared this Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed Humboldt Project Conveyance, commonly known as the “Humboldt Project Title Transfer.” The Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) is directed under Title VIII of Public Law 107-282, Humboldt Project Conveyance Act to convey all right, title, and interest in and to the lands and features of the Humboldt Project (Project), including all water rights for storage and diversion, to the Pershing County Water Conservation District (PCWCD *or* District), the State of Nevada (State), Pershing County and Lander County.

The proposed title transfer is also subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Memorandum of Agreement between PCWCD and Reclamation dated May 6, 2004; H. R. 2754, Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill dated December 1, 2003; the Memorandum of Agreement between PCWCD and Lander County dated January 24, 2000; the Conceptual Agreement between PCWCD and the State of Nevada dated October 18, 2001; and the Letter of Agreement between Pershing County and the State of Nevada dated April 16, 2002.

The Project, which is located in north central Nevada, is a Reclamation storage project. Authorized in 1933, the Project includes federal lands that were withdrawn from the public domain and dedicated to the Project (withdrawn lands), and lands that were purchased by the federal government for dedication to the Project (acquired lands). The Project includes three primary features – Humboldt Sink, Rye Patch Dam and Reservoir, and the Battle Mountain Community Pasture (Community Pasture). The Humboldt Sink is comprised of approximately 32,650 acres of withdrawn lands in Pershing and Churchill counties and is located approximately 10 miles south of the City of Lovelock. The Rye Patch Dam and Reservoir, also in Pershing County, includes approximately 8,460 acres of withdrawn lands and approximately 12,340 acres of acquired lands along the Humboldt River approximately 22 miles upstream of Lovelock. The Community Pasture, located in Lander County, encompasses approximately 30,000 acres of acquired pasture lands located in or near the unincorporated town of Battle Mountain.

PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of this action is to transfer the Project from federal ownership to the PCWCD, the State of Nevada, Lander County and Pershing County. The action is needed to comply with Title VIII of Public Law 107-282, which directs the Secretary to transfer title of the Humboldt Project to the above named entities.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ALTERNATIVES

Two alternatives are evaluated in this EIS: (1) the No Action Alternative, under which all interests the United States holds in the Humboldt Project would remain in federal ownership; and (2) the Proposed Action under which Reclamation would transfer title to all interests the United States holds in the Humboldt Project to the PCWCD, the State of Nevada, Lander County and Pershing County.

PROPOSED ACTION

The Proposed Action would transfer approximately 83,530 acres of federal lands associated with the Humboldt Project to PCWCD, the State of Nevada, Pershing County and Lander County. Timing of participation in the title transfer by the various entities is contingent upon available funding. Transfer of the various components of the Humboldt Project may occur in phases at different times.

Under the Proposed Action, Reclamation withdrawn lands within the Humboldt Sink would transfer to the State of Nevada and Pershing County. In accordance with the Humboldt Project Conveyance Act and related agreements, the State of Nevada would receive title to approximately 31,660 acres of withdrawn land in the Humboldt Sink. The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) would continue to operate and maintain these lands as part of the Humboldt Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Pershing County would receive approximately 990 acres of land for future expansion of the Derby Airfield.

The Proposed Action would transfer all acquired lands in the Rye Patch Reservoir area to PCWCD. All withdrawn lands below the reservoir high water mark would transfer to the PCWCD. All withdrawn lands above the reservoir high water mark would transfer to the State. State Parks would continue to operate and maintain the recreation facilities at the Rye Patch State Recreation Area.

The PCWCD would maintain a minimum operational pool of 3,000 acre-feet in Rye Patch Reservoir to sustain the fishery. As a result of the Proposed Action, PCWCD's operations policy will cause a reduction or cessation of all releases when the reservoir reaches a minimum of 3,000 acre-feet of storage.

The PCWCD would be responsible for updates to the Standing Operating Procedure Emergency Action Plan as required by the State of Nevada, Safety of Dams Program.

The Proposed Action would transfer acquired lands within the Battle Mountain Community Pasture from Reclamation to PCWCD, the State of Nevada, and Lander County. PCWCD would receive title to approximately 22,500 acres within the Community Pasture and plans to continue its management and operation as livestock pasture.

The State of Nevada would receive title to approximately 5,850 acres of land in the Community Pasture for purposes of creating a wetland. PCWCD would continue to maintain and operate the land transferred to the State as a pasture until such time as development of a wetland begins. Wetland development would depend on the acquisition of water rights by the State of Nevada or other private entities wishing to pursue such actions.

The State of Nevada would assume responsibility for operation and maintenance of Slaven Diversion Dam near the east end of the Community Pasture in conjunction with other beneficial uses of the facility when it is needed to divert water to develop the proposed wetland. After title to the facility is transferred to the State and before it is needed for diversion of water to the developed wetland, PCWCD would continue to operate and maintain the dam and appurtenant structures.

In addition, Lander County would receive title to approximately 1,100 acres of Community Pasture lands. Proposed uses for these lands include expansion of the county's industrial area, county fairgrounds and maintenance facilities, and a new primitive park and access easements along the Humboldt River. The access easement would be subject to certain restrictions including maintaining the easement area in its natural state, day use only, and activities limited to foot traffic only.

NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Under the No Action Alternative, the title transfer would not occur and the lands and associated water rights and improvements associated with the Humboldt Project would continue to be held by the United States under the existing contracts with PCWCD. The lands would continue to be operated by PCWCD, NDOW, and State Parks according to the purposes for which the Project was authorized, subject to applicable agreements and contracts.

If the title transfer were not to occur, Reclamation may choose to prepare a Resource Management Plan

(RMP) to guide future decisions for Project lands. Preparation and implementation of an RMP is subject to Congressional funding (USBR 2003a).

Under the No Action Alternative, federal lands within the Humboldt Sink would continue to be managed by NDOW for the operation and maintenance of the Humboldt WMA via a tri-party contract between United States and PCWCD. Proposed transfer of lands to Pershing County within the Humboldt Sink would not occur. However, Pershing County could pursue land acquisition or airport expansion through a separate action or enter into a tri-party lease to use the lands with Reclamation and PCWCD.

Under the No Action Alternative, Humboldt Project lands at Rye Patch Dam and Reservoir would not transfer to PCWCD and the State of Nevada. The lands would continue to be operated by PCWCD, according to the purposes for which the Project was authorized; NDOW and State Parks could continue to operate lands subject to applicable agreements and contracts between Reclamation, PCWCD and the State.

Reclamation would be required to perform safety inspections of Rye Patch Dam and prepare Comprehensive Facility Reviews on a bi-annual basis. In addition, Reclamation would be required to update the Standing Operating Procedure Emergency Action Plan in compliance with the Safety of Dams Program.

Under the No Action Alternative, Project lands within the Community Pasture would continue to be operated by PCWCD for grazing purposes. The proposed transfer of lands within the Community Pasture to PCWCD, the State of Nevada, and Lander County would not occur. The State of Nevada would not receive Project lands for wetlands development. Lander County would not receive title to the four parcels totaling approximately 1,100 acres. However, Lander County could pursue land acquisition through a separate action or enter into a tri-party lease to use the lands with Reclamation and PCWCD.

Table EX-1 summarizes and compares the environmental impacts that would result from implementation of the Proposed Action and No Action alternatives. More detailed analysis on the impacts associated with each resource or issue listed in the table is presented in **Chapter 3, Affected Environment / Environmental Consequences**.

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**TABLE EX-1
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS**

Resource	No Action Alternative	Proposed Action / Preferred Alternative
Land Resources and Use	<p>The United States would continue to hold title pursuant to its contract(s) with PCWCD. PCWCD would continue to manage the lands according to the purposes for which the Project was authorized, subject to applicable agreements and contracts with the State and Reclamation.</p> <p>Reclamation may choose to prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) pursuant to its contract(s) with PCWCD to guide future land resources decisions for Project lands. Preparation and implementation of an RMP is subject to Congressional funding.</p>	<p>Reclamation lands would be transferred to PCWCD, State of Nevada, and Pershing and Lander Counties. Subsequent to the title transfer, receiving entities could sell or commercially develop the lands they receive under the Proposed Action. However, with the exception of parcels going to Pershing and Lander Counties, such action is unlikely.</p> <p>Land transferred to PCWCD and the State of Nevada are not anticipated to be commercially developed, as this would depart significantly from these entities' basic missions. PCWCD's primary purpose is to provide irrigation water to its constituents. NDOW's primary purpose is the management of wildlife habitat within the State of Nevada, and State Parks' purpose is the management of recreational resources in the State.</p>
Surface Water	<p>No change to existing condition. Lands and associated water rights and improvements would continue to be held by the PCWCD patrons, PCWCD and the United States.</p> <p>Under the No Action Alternative, PCWCD would not be subject to the minimum operational pool criteria.</p>	<p>With the exception of the proposed minimum operational pool criteria, impacts to surface water storage and use would not change. PCWCD has agreed to maintain a minimum operational pool of 3,000 acre-feet in Rye Patch Reservoir to sustain the fishery. As a result of the Proposed Action, PCWCD's operational policy will cause a reduction or cessation of all releases when the reservoir reaches a minimum of 3,000 acre-feet of storage. Impacts to surface water use on other Project lands would not change.</p> <p>Under the Proposed Action, the State of Nevada would receive title to approximately 5,850 acres of land in the Community Pasture for wetland development. These lands do not have water rights. Water rights acquisition for wetland development would be the responsibility of the receiving entity.</p>
Groundwater	No change to existing condition	Under the Proposed Action, impacts to groundwater in the Humboldt Sink and Rye Patch Reservoir would be the same as those under the No Action Alternative. Lands within the Battle Mountain Community Pasture, proposed to be transferred to Lander County for industrial development, may require the use of groundwater. The Battle Mountain Water and Sewer Department would be responsible to supply any additional Municipal and Industrial (M&I) water to lands acquired for such purposes. At this time, the Battle Mountain Water and Sewer Department does not anticipate restrictions on acquiring water supplies for additional M&I use.

TABLE EX-1 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS		
Resource	No Action Alternative	Proposed Action / Preferred Alternative
Water Use	No change to existing condition	Same as No Action
Water Quality	No change to existing condition	Same as No Action
Water Rights	No change to existing condition.	Under the Proposed Action, water rights now held in the name of the United States would be transferred to PCWCD.
Geologic Resources	No change to existing condition	The title transfer would not affect geological resources on transfer lands. The legislation provides that all right, title, and interest in the lands is being conveyed at the time of transfer; there is no reservation of mineral rights to the United States. The transfer may impact access to mineral and geothermal leases.
Soil Resources	No change to existing condition	Increased public access along the Humboldt River in the Battle Mountain area may result in bank erosion or sedimentation in the river. However, given the limited population in the area, the effect is expected to be minor and similar to existing conditions.
Biological Resources	No change to existing condition. If title were retained by the United States, Reclamation would continue to comply with applicable laws/regulations addressing plant, fish, and wildlife resources. All Executive Orders, regulatory requirements for wetlands under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and applicable state laws and regulations regarding plant, fish, and wildlife management would continue to apply to the project.	Transferring lands out of federal ownership would mean that the Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance provisions applicable only to federal agencies would no longer apply. However other protective sections of the ESA such as Section 9 and Section 10 would apply. All regulatory requirements for wetlands under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and all state laws and regulations regarding fish and wildlife management would continue to apply to the project, regardless of ownership.
Hazardous Materials and Dam Safety	No change to existing conditions	Title to the Rye Patch Dam would transfer to the PCWCD. Reclamation would no longer have the responsibility for activities related to its Safety of Dams Program. The dam safety regulatory responsibility would formally transfer to the State of Nevada, and the dam safety ownership responsibilities would transfer to the PCWCD. Liability for the structure and its operation would become the sole responsibility of the PCWCD.

TABLE EX-1 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS		
Resource	No Action Alternative	Proposed Action / Preferred Alternative
Recreation	<p>No change to existing conditions. State Parks would continue to manage the Rye Patch State Recreation Area under substantially the same form of tri-party agreement it had in the past with Reclamation and PCWCD.</p> <p>Proposed recreational enhancements by Lander County for the development of a primitive day-use and parking area adjacent to the Humboldt River, a dedicated easement along the river, and expansion of the Livestock Events Center would not occur.</p>	<p>Reclamation lands currently operated as part of the Humboldt WMA would transfer from federal ownership to the State of Nevada, with a small portion transferred to Pershing County for airport expansion at Derby Field.</p> <p>State Parks would manage Rye Patch State Park Recreation Area, and would enter into a cooperative agreement for the management of public recreational activities on PCWCD lands and waters within the area.</p> <p>Lander County would receive title to approximately 1,100 acres of Community Pasture lands for the development of a primitive day-use and parking area adjacent to the Humboldt River, a dedicated easement along the river, and expansion of the Livestock Events Center.</p> <p>Upon conveyance of the lands and facilities, receiving entities shall no longer be eligible to receive any future Reclamation benefits with respect to the Humboldt Project, except those benefits that would be available to other non-Reclamation districts.</p>
Socioeconomic	No change to existing conditions. The counties would continue to receive payment in-lieu of tax (PILT) payments based on annual calculations.	<p>Project lands would be removed from Lander, Pershing and Churchill Counties' PILT payment calculation. For those lands being transferred to PCWCD and the State of Nevada, the land would be exempt from the collection of property tax.</p> <p>Commercial development of lands transferred to Pershing and Lander Counties may be subject to future property taxes and additional sales tax revenues. Local assessment of property for tax purposes is usually higher than the PILT formulation.</p>
Environmental Justice	No change to existing conditions	Lander County may develop an industrial park adjacent to the existing sewage treatment facility. The parcel is located north of lands owned by the Battle Mountain Band of the Te-Moak Tribe. Any development would be subject to county regulations.

**TABLE EX-1
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS**

Resource	No Action Alternative	Proposed Action / Preferred Alternative
Cultural Resources	No change to existing conditions. Cultural Resources on federal lands would remain under federal control and subject to the federal protections provided by the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Archeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), and Executive Order 13007	<p>Upon transfer, Cultural Resources located on lands proposed to be transferred would lose federal protection provided by the NHPA, ARPA, NAGPRA, and Executive Order 13007. Senate Bill 81 (SB 81), a new cultural resources statute was enacted in the last session of the Nevada legislature (Date of Enactment: May 31, 2005). SB 81 authorizes the Office of Historic Preservation of the Department of Cultural Affairs to enter into agreements with state agencies or political subdivisions regarding the preservation of historic or prehistoric sites. The State Historic Preservation Officer is developing regulations to implement SB 81. Once these regulations are developed, Reclamation will evaluate whether SB 81 could assist in compliance with 36 CFR 800, the implementing regulations for Section 106 of the NHPA.</p> <p>In order to comply with Section 106 of the NHPA, Reclamation would develop a sample strategy to identify cultural resources potentially affected by this undertaking. This process is defined in 36 CFR Part 800.4(b)(1), which states: “The agency official shall make a reasonable and good faith effort to carry out appropriate identification efforts, which may include background research, consultation, oral history interviews, sample field investigation, and field survey.”</p> <p>The means of resolving adverse effects to historic properties recorded within the title transfer areas are difficult to project at this time because the proposed inventory has not yet been completed. The total range and complexity of historic properties remain to be determined. A Programmatic Agreement would be developed among the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Reclamation, and consulting parties to describe responsibilities of recipient entities towards consideration of historic properties.</p> <p>The Record of Decision (ROD) for the EIS will identify any environmental commitments that must be met prior to transferring lands to the receiving entities, including compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA. When Reclamation has completed Section 106 on federally designated portions of the Humboldt Project (e.g., Rye Patch Area), transfer of those areas to the receiving entities may occur separately from the other portions.</p>
Indian Trust Assets	No change to existing conditions. No Indian Trust Assets are known in the project area.	No Indian Trust Assets are known to exist in the project area.

ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

µg/L	Micrograms per Liter
µs/cm	Microsiemens per Centimeter
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ARPA	Archeological Resources Protection Act
AST	Aboveground Storage Tank
ASTM	American Society for Testing and Materials
AUM	Animal Units per Month
bgs	Below Ground Surface
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
°C	Degrees Celsius
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
cfs	Cubic feet per second
CMP	Conceptual Management Plan
CRSC	Center for Remote Sensing and Cartography
DCNR	Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
DO	Dissolved Oxygen
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
°F	Degrees Fahrenheit
FAS	Federal Aid Secondary
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
GIS	Geographic Information System
IMACS	Intermountain Antiquities Computer System
KGRA	Known Geothermal Resource Area
LBAO	Lahontan Basin Area Office
MCE	Maximum Credible Earthquake
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level
mg/L	Milligrams per Liter
M & I	Municipal and Industrial
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
NDEP	Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
NDOW	Nevada Department of Wildlife
NDWP	Nevada Division of Water Planning
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
ng/L	Nanograms per liter
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NOI	Notice of Intent
NPDES	National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
NPS	National Park Service
NPU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NRS	Nevada Revised Statute

NvNHP	Nevada Natural Heritage Program
OCTA	Oregon-California Trail Association
PA	Programmatic Agreement
PCU	Platinum Cobalt Units
PCWCD	Pershing County Water Conservation District
PILT	Payment in Lieu of Taxes
P.L.	Public Law
PVA	Prospectively Valuable Area
Reclamation	U. S. Bureau of Reclamation
RMP	Resource Management Plan
ROD	Record of Decision
SAR	Sodium Adsorption Ratio
Secretary	Secretary of the Interior (U. S. Department of the Interior)
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
State Parks	Nevada Division of State Parks
TCP	Traditional Cultural Property
UNR	University of Nevada, Reno
USBR	U. S. Bureau of Reclamation
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
UST	Underground Storage Tank
WMA	Wildlife Management Area

HUMBOLDT PROJECT CHRONOLOGY

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DATE	DESCRIPTION
August 27, 1908	Humboldt-Lovelock Irrigation and Light & Power Company files application with State for 300 c.f.s. of Humboldt River floodwater
February 10, 1911	Humboldt-Lovelock Irrigation Light & Power Company files second application with State for 57,000 a.f. of Humboldt River floodwater
1913	Humboldt-Lovelock Irrigation Light & Power Company constructs Pitt and Taylor reservoirs and diversion channel (49,000 a.f. designed capacity, but actual capacity is close to 30,000 a.f.)
1919	Reclamation Service conducts preliminary investigation of reservoir sites and study of Humboldt River runoff
1923	Nevada State Engineer orders a general adjudication of the Humboldt River system
March 1, 1926	Lovelock Irrigation District organized for the primary purpose of exploring possible storage sites on the Humboldt River
March 5, 1927	Lovelock Irrigation District reorganizes as a quasi-governmental entity under the Nevada Irrigation District Act and changes its name to the Pershing County Water Conservation District
October 20, 1931	Hon. George A. Bartlett of Nevada Sixth Judicial District issues final decree establishing the water rights for the Humboldt River Basin
1932	State Engineer's Office publishes report regarding distribution of the waters of the Humboldt River
March 1933	Nevada Governor Belzar and representatives from all Nevada irrigation projects meet in Washington D.C. to lobby for a Humboldt River water control project
July 1933	Reclamation engineer L. J. Foster publishes his report on Humboldt River Basin investigations conducted from 1932-1933
August 24, 1933	Public Works Administration approves allotment of \$2 million for creation of Humboldt Project
January 15, 1934	Contract between PCWCD and Aldous family to purchase Aldous ranch (voided by expiration of time)
January 27, 1934	Contract between PCWCD and Filippini Ranching Company to purchase Argenta ranch and Muleshoe ranch (voided by expiration of time)
March 9-23, 1934	PCWCD files transfer application Nos. 9729-35 with State Engineer's Office
July 15, 1934	Land and Water Rights Purchase Contract between PCWCD and the Aldous family providing for PCWCD's purchase of Aldous ranch
July 25, 1934	Amended and Supplemented Land and Water Rights Purchase Contract between PCWCD and Filippini Ranching Company providing for PCWCD's purchase of Argenta and Muleshoe ranches
October 1, 1934	Contract Ilr-774 between USA and PCWCD for acquisition of water rights and construction of Rye Patch Dam and maximum loan of \$1,500,000 to be repaid over 40-year period
October 8, 1934	State Engineer's Office approves PCWCD's initial Battle Mountain water rights transfer for use on PCWCD lands (Application No. 9729-35)
November 17, 1934	Agreement and Assignment between PCWCD, Reclamation and Filippini Ranching Company assigning to the Bureau of Reclamation the PCWCD's rights under the July 25, 1934 purchase contract between PCWCD and Filippini Ranching Company

HUMBOLDT PROJECT CHRONOLOGY	
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December 12, 1934	Agreement and Assignment between PCWCD, Bureau of Reclamation and Aldous family assigning to the Bureau of Reclamation the PCWCD's rights under the July 15, 1934 purchase contract between PCWCD and the Aldous family
January 14, 1935	Extension Agreement among PCWCD, Bureau of Reclamation, and Aldous family extending time for performance of purchase agreement terms and conditions
January 17, 1935	Warranty Deed executed by Aldous family conveying the Aldous Ranch to United States of America for \$33,500 · 15,000 acres · 4154.06 a.f.
January 26, 1935	Warranty Deed executed by Filippini Ranching Company conveying Argenta and Muleshoe Ranches to United States of America for \$181,000. · 16,000 acres less 640 ac to T.S. Cattle Co. and Hibernia S&L Soc. and less 300 ac to W.E. Licking · Together with all water, water rights, ditches and ditch rights appurtenant
February 5, 1935	Warranty Deed from Ellison Ranching Co. to United States of America · 18,000 acres · 15,379.22 a.f.
February 7, 1935	Deed from Russell Land and Cattle Co. to United States of America · Conveyance of water only · 562.18 a.f. · 3.645 c.f.s.
March 2, 1935	Deed from Louis G. and Katherine V. Hammond to United States of America · 1,350 acres · 2,988.29 a.f.
March 4, 1935	Warranty Deed from Zebulon and Celina Silve to United States of America · 800 acres · 1,282.87 a.f.
March 4, 1935	Instrument unknown from John G. Taylor Inc. to United States of America (#9731) · 7,000 ac. · 6084.06 a.f.
March 4, 1935	Instrument Unknown from Bains to United States of America · 1,800 acres · 2,626.27
March 4, 1935	Deed and Assignment from John G. Taylor to United States of America (#10065) · 1154.84 acres · 1657.57 a.f. · 9.385 c.f.s.
October 8, 1935	Hon. H. W. Edwards issues a supplemental decree on the Humboldt River Basin, which taken with the Bartlett Decree constitutes the Humboldt River Decree
November 1, 1935	Secretary of Interior, Harold L. Ickes finds the Humboldt Project feasible
November 6, 1935	President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Humboldt Project approval
June 1, 1936	Rye Patch Dam construction completed with a design capacity of 170,000 a.f.
September 8, 1936	PCWCD executes deeds to USA assigning all of its interest in the Humboldt Project water rights permits then on file under its name (Nos. 9716, 9729-9735, and 9821)
January 4, 1937	State Engineer's Office approves USA's transfer of Russell Land & Cattle Company Battle Mountain area water rights to PCWCD lands (Application No. 10065)
June 1, 1937	State Engineer's Office approves USA's transfer of John G. Taylor, Inc. water rights

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	from Valmy area to PCWCD lands (Application No. 10065)
November 26, 1938	The Humboldt River Adjudication finalized by order of the Nevada Supreme Court, when it affirmed the Humboldt River Decree halting all future challenges
January 21, 1939	Battle Mountain Water Collection and Development System construction completed
January 17, 1940	Termination of 5-year use by W. E. Licking of Big Field and Lone Tree Field on Aldous Ranch
June 21, 1940	USA acquires Pitt Ranch (1,630 acres) and 28,475 shares Class A stock of Humboldt Lovelock Irrigation Light & Power Co. and 2,000 shares of stock of Old Channel Ditch Co. by warranty deed for \$75,000. This purchase unifies the Lovelock Valley irrigators and allows Rye Patch to fill for the first time due to prior concern that full fill would have inundated the HLIL&P Co. facilities
December 31, 1940	Secretary of Interior gives notice to PCWCD requesting it to assume care, operation, and maintenance of all project works and property, effective January 16, 1941
Spring 1941	First deliveries of stored water from Rye Patch Reservoir begin
August 8, 1941	Contract Ilr-774 between USA and PCWCD supplemental to October 1, 1934 contract nullifying excess land provision; assigning operation and maintenance of Pitt Ranch to PCWCD as of January 1, 1942, and providing allocation of profits from ranch; and reamortizing repayment obligation over a 35-year period to end on October 1, 1977
January 26, 1946	Termination of consecutive leases of Argenta and Muleshoe ranches to Filippini Ranching Co. (1935-1942), T. S. Cattle Co. (1942-1944), and Hibernia Savings & Loan Society (1944-1946)
1951	PCWCD begins leasing Filippini Ranch from the USBR for Community Pasture grazing
1953	PCWCD enters into 30-year lease with USBR for both Filippini and Aldous ranches for Community Pasture grazing
October 6, 1955	Contract No. 14-06-200-429 between USA and PCWCD for rehabilitation and betterment of the Battle Mountain Collection System loaning district a maximum of \$123,000 to be repaid at 5 percent over 20 years to replace Upper Slaven Dam, and to make dike, channel, and irrigation ditch improvements
1955-1957	Rehabilitation and betterment work undertaken and completed
September 14, 1962	Contract Ilr-774 Supplemental No. 2 between USA and PCWCD supplementing October 1, 1934 and August 8, 1941 contracts by deferring balance of 1962 payment (\$33,902.68) and amortizing over remaining repayment period of 15 years
April 22, 1966	Letter from W.T. Grissom, Bureau of Reclamation Regional Procurement and Property Officer to Fred H. Johnston, Bureau of Reclamation Chief of Real Property Division Utilization and Disposal Service indicating that Bureau of Reclamation has no objection for transfer of 160-acre tract in Battle Mountain area to Lander County for sewage disposal bed, provided that current market value is determined and credited against PCWCD repayment obligation on Community Pasture acquired lands
1970 - 1979	PCWCD acquires title to each of the six main canal companies within the Lovelock Valley, unifying operations under PCWCD administration.
June 15, 1971	Interim Management Agreement for Rye Patch Reservoir Recreation Area among USA, PCWCD, and Nevada State Park System (terminated by 5/5/77 agreement)
August 22, 1975	Contract No. 14-06-200-8194A between USA and PCWCD for rehabilitation and betterment of Rye Patch Dam in increasing height of dam by 3 feet and loaning

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	District a maximum of \$600,000 (\$287,000 actually spent) to be repaid over a 20-year period following completion of work and calling for application of revenues from government-leased lands to be credited to this debt after prior debts have been satisfied
May 5, 1977	Management Agreement (Contract No. 14 06 200 8273A) between USA, PCWCD and State of Nevada Parks Division for development, administration, operation, and maintenance of recreation at Rye Patch Reservoir for a renewable 25-year period
1978	PCWCD completes repayment of actual original project costs accrued as of December 31, 1936 of \$1,042,869.63, which included \$425,791 spent to acquire land and water rights
January 1, 1979	Lease Agreement between PCWCD and Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for lease of 40-acre parcel for park caretaker residence
September 17, 1982	Letter from Department of Interior Assistant Secretary, Gary Carruthers to Congressman Morris K. Udall, Chairman Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, opposing HR 5652, a bill "To authorize and direct the Secretary of Interior to convey real property to the Pershing County Water Conservation District" due to unfinished development of transfer guidelines by DOI
1983	Title transfer effort (H.R. 2551)
April 20, 1989	Lease for Community Pasture, Contract No. 9-07-20-L5086 between PCWCD and USA for 5-year period from January 1, 1989 to December 31, 1994 for \$6,300
February 20, 1991	Title transfer effort (H.R. 1038)
September 30, 1991	Nevada State Parks sends final draft of Rye Patch State Recreation Area Development Plan to PCWCD for review
November 22, 1994	Letter from PCWCD to Reclamation requesting 1-year extension of Community Pasture lease
January 20, 1995	Lease for Community Pasture between PCWCD and USA, Contract No. 5-07-20-L6392 for 1995 calendar year for \$6,300 less District operating expenses
1995	PCWCD hires rangeland consultant to develop ongoing grazing management plan for Community Pasture
August 7, 1995	Reclamation adopts the Framework for the Transfer of Title – Bureau of Reclamation Projects
January 31, 1996	Lease for Community Pasture between PCWCD and USA, Contract No. 5-07-20 L6549 for 1996 calendar year for \$6,300 less District operating expenses
February 29, 1996	Contract No. 6-07-20X0339 between USA and PCWCD for modification to Rye Patch Dam pursuant to the Safety of Dams Act. Total modification costs were approximately \$7.7 million. The contract required that PCWCD repay 15% of the total modification costs over an 8-year period (approximately \$1.1 million). In addition, PCWCD was required to develop a water conservation program
1996	Safety of Dams work completed. Rye Patch Reservoir filled to its present capacity of 213,000 a.f.
August 5, 1997	Lease for Community Pasture between PCWCD and USA, Contract No. 7-07-20 L6751 for 1997 calendar year for \$6,300 less District operating expenses
September 15, 1997	PCWCD request by letter that Reclamation enter into negotiations to transfer title to the Humboldt Project
February 12, 1998	Lease for Community Pasture between PCWCD and USA, Contract No. 8-07-20 L6872 for 1998 calendar year for \$6,300 less District operating expenses
February 26-27, 1998	Public title transfer scoping meeting in Battle Mountain, Lovelock, and Carson City

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March 17, 1998	Public title transfer scoping meeting in Reno
January 24, 2000	Lander County Board of Commissioners and the PCWCD Board of Directors draft a Conceptual Memorandum of Agreement to define the proposed transfer of lands from Reclamation to Lander County and PCWCD
October 18, 2001	State of Nevada signs a Letter of Conceptual Agreement between the State and PCWCD for the proposed title transfer
February 11, 2002	Lander County Board of Commissioners signs Conceptual Memorandum of Agreement to define the proposed transfer of lands from Reclamation to Lander County and PCWCD
April 16, 2002	Pershing County Board of Commissioners provide specific language requesting transfer of portions of the Humboldt Sink near Derby Airfield to Pershing County
November 6, 2002	Title VIII of Public Law 107-282, Humboldt Project Conveyance Act passed by Congress and signed into law
February 26, 2003	Reclamation publishes a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for the Humboldt Project Conveyance in the Federal Register [68 FR 8924]
January 14, 2004	Reclamation publishes a Notice of Public Scoping for the Humboldt Project Conveyance EIS in the Federal Register [69 FR 2157]
February 18, 2004	Public Scoping meeting held in Battle Mountain, Nevada
February 19, 2004	Interagency meeting held in Reno, Nevada
February 19, 2004	Public Scoping meeting held in Reno, Nevada
January 28, 2005	Reclamation publishes a Notice of Availability of the Humboldt Project Conveyance Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in the Federal Register [70 FR 4149]
March 14, 2005	Public Hearing for the DEIS – Lovelock, Nevada and Battle Mountain, Nevada
March 15, 2005	Public Hearing for the DEIS – Reno, Nevada

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