

# 7. Glossary and Index

## 7.1 Glossary

**A-Weighted Decibel (dBA).** A frequency-weighted decibel scale that approximates the relative sensitivity of human hearing to different frequency bands of audible sound.

**Air Basin.** A regional area, defined for air quality management purposes based on considerations that include the constraints of topographic features on meteorology and pollutant transport patterns, and political jurisdiction boundaries that influence the design and implementation of air quality management programs.

**Ambient Air.** Outdoor air in locations accessible to the general public.

**Ambient Air Quality Standards.** A combination of air pollutant concentrations, exposure durations, and exposure frequencies that are established as thresholds above which adverse impacts to public health and welfare may be expected. Ambient air quality standards are set on a national level by the US Environmental Protection Agency. Ambient air quality standards are set on a state level by public health or environmental protection agencies as authorized by state law.

**Animal Unit Month.** An Animal Unit Month or AUM is the amount of forage needed to sustain one cow and her calf, one horse, or five sheep or goats for a month.

**Aquatic.** Living or growing in or on the water.

**Best Management Practice (BMP).** A suite of techniques that guide, or that may be applied to, management actions to aid in achieving desired outcomes

**Biological Control.** The use of natural enemies (e.g., insects, goats) to retard growth, prevent re-growth and seed formation of a target weed.

**Carson Desert.** A desert in the Lahontan Basin and the desert valley of the Churchill County desert region.

**Carson Lake and Pasture.** This contains approximately 30,000 acres of pasture and wetlands, located eight miles southeast of Fallon, Nevada. It is Reclamation withdrawn land managed under agreements with the Nevada Department of Wildlife and the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District for wildlife habitat, public use, and grazing. It is recognized as an important area for wildlife, especially shorebirds and waterfowl, and is designated as a component of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network.

**Carson Sink.** A playa in the northeastern portion of the Carson Desert that was formerly the terminus of the Carson River.

**Chemical Control.** Application of herbicides to control invasive species/noxious weeds and/or unwanted vegetation.

**Criteria Pollutant.** An air pollutant for which there is a national ambient air quality standard (carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, sulfur dioxide, inhalable particulate matter, fine particulate matter, or airborne lead particles).

**Critical Habitat.** Habitat designated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service under Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act and under the following criteria: 1) specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the species at the time it is listed, on which are found those physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species and that may require special management of protection; or 2) specific areas outside the geographical area by the species at the time it is listed but that are considered essential to the conservation of the species.

**Cultural Resources.** Locations of human activity, occupation, or use. Cultural resources include archaeological, historic, or architectural sites, structures, or places with important public and scientific uses and locations of traditional cultural or religious importance to specific social or cultural groups.

**Cumulative Effects.** The direct and indirect effects of a proposed project alternative's incremental impacts when they are added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions, regardless of who carries out the action.

**Decibel (dB).** A generic term for measurement units based on the logarithm of the ratio between a measured value and a reference value. Decibel scales are most commonly associated with acoustics (using air pressure fluctuation data); but decibel scales sometimes are used for ground-borne vibrations or other types of measurements.

**Disposal.** A transaction that leads to the transfer of title to public lands from the federal government.

**Easement.** Right afforded a person or agency to make limited use of another's real property for access or other purposes.

**Emergency Stabilization.** Emergency stabilization action to stabilize and prevent unacceptable degradation to natural and cultural resources, to minimize threats to life or property resulting from the effects of a fire, or to repair/replace/construct physical improvements necessary to prevent degradation of land or resources.

**Endangered Species.** Any species of animal or plant in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range and so designated by the Secretary of Interior in accordance with the 1973 Endangered Species Act.

**Environmental Justice.** The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. The US EPA has this goal for all communities and persons. It will be achieved when everyone enjoys the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.

**Erosion.** Detachment or movement of soil or rock fragments by water, wind, or gravity. Accelerated erosion is much more rapid than normal, natural, or geologic erosion, primarily as a result of the influence of surface-disturbing activities of people, animals, or natural catastrophes.

**Fernley Sink.** Next to the west side of Lahontan Valley, this is a playa between Lovelock and Fernley.

**Fire Intensity.** Technically calculated as the energy release per unit length of flame front. Generally, fire intensity is a component of fire behavior and refers to the heat of the fire. Fire intensity is measured as the fire burns. A high intensity fire would be more difficult to suppress than a low intensity fire.

**Fire Regime Condition Class.** This describes the degree of fire regime departure from the natural or historic regime. Assessing it can help guide management objectives and set priorities for treatments.

**Fire Severity.** The effect of fire. Severity is reflected in killed vegetation or soil damage. Fire severity is determined after the fire. A high intensity fire may not have severe fire effects. High severity fire could result in soil erosion, sediment in water, landslides, and weed infestation. Often, low severity fire is desirable for removing dead fuels.

**Fire Suppression.** Fire control activities concerned with controlling and extinguishing a fire, starting at the time the fire is discovered.

**Flood zone.** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides maps of flood hazards from river flooding. The standard flood zone is defined as area subject to inundation by the 1 percent-annual-chance flood event (i.e., “100 year flood”).

**Geothermal Energy.** Heat from the earth can be used as an energy source in many ways, from large and complex power stations to small and relatively simple pumping systems. This heat energy is known as geothermal energy.

**Greenhouse gases.** Compounds in the atmosphere that absorb infrared radiation and reradiate a portion of that back toward the earth's surface, thus trapping heat and warming the earth's atmosphere.

**Grimes Point.** This area was first visited by Native Americans 8,000 years ago or more. Visitors today can view examples of petroglyphs (prehistoric rock art) along a short, self-guided interpretive trail, originally constructed by the Youth Conservation Corps and named Nevada's first National Recreation Trail in 1978.

**Groundwater.** Water beneath the land surface, in the zone of saturation.

**Habitat.** A specific set of physical conditions that surround a single species, a group of species, or a large community. In wildlife management, the major components of habitat are considered to be food, water, cover, and living space.

**Historic Property.** Any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion on the National Register. This term includes artifacts, records, and remains which are related to such district, site, building, structure, or object [16 USC. Section 470(w)(5)].

**Hydrologic Unit Code.** The United States is divided and subdivided into successively smaller hydrologic units, which are classified into four levels: regions, subregions, accounting units, and cataloging units. The hydrologic units are arranged from the smallest (cataloging units) to the largest (regions). Each hydrologic unit is identified by a unique hydrologic unit code, consisting of two to eight digits and based on the four levels of classification in the hydrologic unit system.

**Indian Trust Assets.** Legal interests in property, physical assets, or intangible property rights held in trust by the United States for Indian tribes or individual Indians.

**Invasive Species.** An exotic species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health (Executive Order 13122, 2/3/99).

**Leasable Mineral.** Those minerals or materials designated as leasable under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920: coal, phosphate, asphalt, sulfur, potassium and sodium minerals, and oil and gas. Geothermal resources are also leasable under the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970.

**Locatable Mineral.** Minerals or materials subject to claim and development under the Mining Law of 1872, as amended. Generally includes metallic minerals, such as gold and silver, and other materials not subject to lease or sale, such as some bentonites, limestone, talc, and some zeolites. Whether a particular mineral deposit is locatable depends on such factors as quality, quantity, mineability, demand, and marketability.

**Mechanical Vegetation Treatment.** Includes mowing, chaining, chopping, drill seeding, and cutting vegetation to meet resource objective.

**National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).** The primary federal law providing for the protection and preservation of cultural resources. The NHPA established the National Register of Historic Places, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the State Historic Preservation Officers.

**National Register Of Historic Places.** A listing of architectural, historical, archaeological, and cultural sites of local, state, or national significance, established by the Historic Preservation Act of, 1966, and maintained by the National Park Service.

**Naval Air Station Fallon.** NAS Fallon is the Navy's premier air-to-air and air-to-ground training facility. It is southeast of the city of Fallon in western Nevada.

**Newlands Project.** Formerly the Truckee-Carson Project, this was one of the first Reclamation projects. It covers lands in the west-central Nevada counties of Churchill, Lyon, Storey, and Washoe. Water for the project comes from Lake Tahoe, which lies on the California-Nevada border, the Truckee River which drains Lake Tahoe, and the Carson River.

**No Surface Occupancy (NSO).** Use or occupancy of the land surface for fluid mineral exploration or development and surface-disturbing activities is prohibited to protect identified resource values. Areas identified as NSO/No Surface-disturbing Activities are open to oil and gas leasing, but surface-disturbing activities cannot be conducted on the surface of the land.

**Off-Road Vehicle.** Any motorized vehicle capable of, or designed for, travel on or over land, water, or other natural terrain, excluding: (1) any nonamphibious registered motorboat; (2) any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while being used for emergency purposes; (3) any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the an officer or otherwise officially approved; (4) vehicles in official use; and (5) any combat or combat support vehicle when being used for national defense.

**Ozone.** A compound consisting of three oxygen atoms. Ozone is a major constituent of photochemical smog that is formed through chemical reactions in the atmosphere involving reactive organic compounds, nitrogen oxides, and ultraviolet light. Ozone is a

toxic chemical that damages various types of plant and animal tissues and which causes chemical oxidation damage to various materials. Ozone is a respiratory irritant, and appears to increase susceptibility to respiratory infections. A natural layer of ozone in the upper atmosphere absorbs high energy ultraviolet radiation, reducing the intensity and spectrum of ultraviolet light that reaches the earth's surface.

**Particulate Matter.** Solid or liquid material having size, shape, and density characteristics that allow the material to remain suspended in the atmosphere for more than a few minutes.

**Payments in Lieu of Taxes.** Federal payments to local governments that help offset losses in property taxes due to nontaxable Federal lands within their boundaries.

**PM<sub>10</sub> (inhalable particulate matter).** A fractional sampling of suspended particulate matter that approximates the extent to which suspended particles with aerodynamic equivalent diameters smaller than 50 microns penetrate to the lower respiratory tract (tracheo-bronchial airways and alveoli in the lungs). In a regulatory context, PM<sub>10</sub> is any suspended particulate matter collected by a certified sampling device having a 50% collection efficiency for particles with aerodynamic equivalent diameters of 9.5 to 10.5 microns, and an maximum aerodynamic diameter collection limit less than 50 microns. Collection efficiencies are greater than 50% for particles with aerodynamic diameters smaller than 10 microns and less than 50% for particles with aerodynamic diameters larger than 10 microns.

**PM<sub>2.5</sub> (fine particulate matter).** A fractional sampling of suspended particulate matter that approximates the extent to which suspended particles with aerodynamic equivalent diameters smaller than 6 microns penetrate into the alveoli in the lungs. In a regulatory context, PM<sub>2.5</sub> is any suspended particulate matter collected by a certified sampling device having a 50% collection efficiency for particles with aerodynamic equivalent diameters of 2.0-2.5 microns, and an maximum aerodynamic diameter collection limit less than 6 microns. Collection efficiencies are greater than 50% for particles with aerodynamic diameters smaller than 2.5 microns and less than 50% for particles with aerodynamic diameters larger than 2.5 microns.

**Prescribed Fire Treatments.** Any fire ignited by management actions to meet specific objectives. A written, approved fire management plan must exist, and NEPA requirements (where applicable) must be met before the fire is started.

**Raptor.** Bird of prey with sharp talons and strongly curved beaks, such as hawks, owls, vultures, and eagles.

**Right-of-Way.** Land authorized to be used or occupied for the construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of a project, pursuant to a right-of-way authorization.

**Riparian.** Situated on or pertaining to the bank of a river, stream, or other body of water. Normally describes plants of all types that grow rooted in the water table or sub-irrigation zone of streams, ponds, and springs.

**Salable Mineral.** Minerals that may be sold under the Material Sale Act of 1947, as amended, such as common varieties of sand, stone, gravel, and clay.

**Sedimentation.** Deposition of particles and/or clumps of particles of sand, clay, silt, and plant or animal matter carried in water.

**Seismicity.** A factor of how prone an area is to earthquakes.

**Spawning Area.** An area where aquatic animals such as bivalve mollusks, fishes, and amphibians deposit their eggs.

**Special Status Species.** Federal- or state-listed species, candidate or proposed species for listing, or species otherwise considered sensitive or threatened by state and federal agencies.

**Special Use Area.** A designation used to protect public health and safety, protect and preserve cultural and natural resources, protect environmental and scenic values, scientific research, the security of Reclamation facilities and avoid conflict among visitor use activities per 43 CFR 423.

**Special Use Permit.** A permit that authorizes the use of Reclamation land for a purpose not specifically authorized under other regulation or statute.

**Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).** A written procedure or set of written procedures providing direction for consistently and correctly performing routine operations. These written procedures set forth methods expected to be followed during the performance of the particular task.

**Threatened Species.** Any species or significant population of that species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Includes only those species that have been recognized and listed as threatened by federal and state governments.

**Total Maximum Daily Load.** TMDL is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a water body can receive and still safely meet water quality standards.

**Traditional Cultural Property.** Defined generally as a property that is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places because of its association with cultural

practices or beliefs of a living community that (a) are rooted in that community's history and (b) are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community.

**Trespass.** Any unauthorized use of public land.

**Truckee-Carson Irrigation District.** The TCID is a quasi-municipal corporation organized in accordance with Chapter 539 of the Nevada Revised Statutes (Irrigation Districts). Under its state grant of authority, among other powers, the TCID is authorized to acquire, construct, operate, and control facilities and structures relating to the distribution of irrigation waters. The TCID is further authorized to contract with the US government in the exercise of its powers, including the operation and maintenance of reservoirs, canals, dams, and power plants. The TCID is under contract with the Bureau of Reclamation to provide water delivery, operation, and maintenance for the Newlands Federal Reclamation Project in Churchill, Lyon, Storey, and Washoe Counties.

**Vernal Pool.** A sensitive, ephemeral wetland vegetative community with predominantly low-growing ephemeral herbs. Germination and early growth occur in winter and early spring, often while plants are submerged, and pools dry out by summer.

**Visual Resources.** The visible physical features on a landscape, (topography, water, vegetation, animals, structures, and other features) that make up the scenery of the area.

**Watershed.** Topographical region or area delineated by water draining to a particular watercourse or body of water.

**West Nile Virus.** The main route of human infection with West Nile virus is through the bite of an infected mosquito. The virus can infect humans, birds, mosquitoes, horses, and some other mammals.

**Wetlands.** Permanently wet or intermittently water-covered areas, such as swamps, marshes, bogs, potholes, swales, and glades.

**Wildfire.** An unplanned, unwanted wildland fire, including unauthorized human-caused fires, escaped wildland fire use events, escaped prescribed fire projects, and all other wildland fires where the objective is to put the fire out.

**Wildland-Urban Interface.** The line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuel.



## 7.2 Index

- 303(d) list, 3-28, 3-29
- Acquired lands, 2-25
- Adaptive management, 4-4
- Air quality, 1-10, 2-6, 3-4, 3-77, 4-5, 4-6, 4-7, 4-8, 4-9, 4-10, 4-12, 4-13, 4-15, 4-18, 4-19, 4-21, 4-25, 4-26, 4-29, 4-31, 4-34, 4-35, 4-36, 4-37, 4-41, 4-44, 4-48, 4-52, 4-57, 4-61, 4-68, 4-75, 4-78, 4-80, 4-83, 4-87, 4-88, 4-91, 4-94, 4-97, 4-102, 4-104, 4-108, 4-114, 4-116, 4-118, 4-122, 4-123, 4-124, 4-125, 4-128, 4-130, 4-131, 4-132, 4-134, 4-138, 4-139, 4-140, 4-142, 4-143, 4-144, 4-146, 4-149, 4-153, 4-156, 4-166, 4-168, 4-172, 4-180, 4-196
- Alternatives, Alternative A (No Action), 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-6, 2-7, 2-8, 2-12, 2-13, 2-14, 2-15, 2-16, 2-17, 2-18, 2-21, 2-22, 2-23, 2-24, 2-25, 2-26, 2-32, 2-33, 2-34, 2-35, 2-36, 2-37, 4-7, 4-12, 4-13, 4-14, 4-19, 4-20, 4-21, 4-25, 4-29, 4-30, 4-35, 4-36, 4-37, 4-38, 4-39, 4-44, 4-47, 4-48, 4-57, 4-58, 4-59, 4-60, 4-61, 4-64, 4-65, 4-66, 4-68, 4-78, 4-79, 4-80, 4-81, 4-82, 4-83, 4-84, 4-88, 4-94, 4-95, 4-96, 4-97, 4-98, 4-100, 4-104, 4-105, 4-106, 4-108, 4-109, 4-110, 4-113, 4-114, 4-115, 4-116, 4-117, 4-118, 4-124, 4-125, 4-126, 4-127, 4-128, 4-129, 4-131, 4-133, 4-134, 4-135, 4-136, 4-138, 4-139, 4-140, 4-141, 4-143, 4-151, 4-152, 4-153, 4-154, 4-155, 4-156, 4-157, 4-158, 4-165, 4-166, 4-167, 4-168, 4-170, 4-171, 4-172, 4-180, 4-181, 4-182, 4-184, 4-185, 4-186, 4-188, 4-191
- Alternatives, Alternative B (Proposed Alternative), 1-20, 2-2, 2-3, 2-6, 2-7, 2-11, 2-12, 2-13, 2-14, 2-15, 2-16, 2-17, 2-18, 2-19, 2-20, 2-21, 2-22, 2-23, 2-25, 2-26, 2-28, 2-29, 2-30, 2-31, 2-32, 2-33, 2-34, 2-35, 2-36, 2-37, 2-38, 4-7, 4-8, 4-9, 4-10, 4-13, 4-14, 4-15, 4-16, 4-19, 4-20, 4-21, 4-25, 4-26, 4-27, 4-29, 4-30, 4-31, 4-33, 4-36, 4-37, 4-38, 4-39, 4-44, 4-45, 4-46, 4-47, 4-48, 4-49, 4-50, 4-61, 4-62, 4-63, 4-64, 4-65, 4-66, 4-67, 4-68, 4-69, 4-70, 4-71, 4-72, 4-80, 4-81, 4-82, 4-83, 4-84, 4-85, 4-88, 4-89, 4-93, 4-96, 4-97, 4-98, 4-99, 4-100, 4-104, 4-108, 4-109, 4-110, 4-111, 4-115, 4-116, 4-117, 4-118, 4-119, 4-120, 4-121, 4-125, 4-127, 4-128, 4-129, 4-132, 4-135, 4-136, 4-139, 4-140, 4-141, 4-144, 4-146, 4-147, 4-153, 4-154, 4-155, 4-156, 4-157, 4-158, 4-159, 4-160, 4-161, 4-168, 4-169, 4-170, 4-171, 4-172, 4-173, 4-174, 4-175, 4-176, 4-184, 4-191
- Alternatives, Alternative C, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-6, 4-8, 4-9, 4-10, 4-15, 4-16, 4-21, 4-22, 4-23, 4-26, 4-27, 4-30, 4-31, 4-32, 4-33, 4-37, 4-38, 4-39, 4-48, 4-49, 4-50, 4-51, 4-68, 4-69, 4-70, 4-71, 4-72, 4-73, 4-82, 4-83, 4-84, 4-85, 4-86, 4-88, 4-89, 4-90, 4-100, 4-108, 4-109, 4-110, 4-111, 4-118, 4-119, 4-120, 4-121, 4-128, 4-129, 4-134, 4-

- 140, 4-141, 4-146, 4-147, 4-158, 4-159, 4-160, 4-161, 4-172, 4-173, 4-174, 4-175, 4-176, 4-181, 4-184, 4-191
- Archaeological resource, 4-40
- Birds, migratory, 1-12, 3-47, 3-56
- Birds, waterfowl, 1-9, 3-22, 3-33, 3-45, 3-47, 3-48, 3-49, 3-52, 3-56, 3-57, 3-63, 3-69
- Candidate species, 3-51, 3-52, 4-178, 4-185
- Cheatgrass, 3-62, 3-75
- Clean Water Act (CWA), 1-10, 1-17
- Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), 4-39
- Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), 1-3, 4-3, 5-1, 5-3
- Cultural resource, 4-39, 4-40, 4-41, 4-92, 4-195
- Dust, 4-75, 4-91
- Effect, 4-39, 4-41
- Effect, Long-term, 4-196
- Effect, Short-term, 4-196
- Endangered Species Act (ESA), 1-11, 1-17, 3-51, 3-52, 4-178
- Endangered species, 4-70, 4-113, 4-115, 4-117, 4-120, 4-164, 4-167, 4-169, 4-174
- Environmental justice, 2-3, 2-5, 2-37, 3-87, 4-1, 4-6, 4-7, 4-9, 4-12, 4-13, 4-15, 4-18, 4-19, 4-21, 4-24, 4-25, 4-26, 4-29, 4-31, 4-34, 4-35, 4-36, 4-37, 4-41, 4-44, 4-48, 4-52, 4-57, 4-61, 4-68, 4-75, 4-78, 4-80, 4-82, 4-87, 4-88, 4-94, 4-100, 4-102, 4-104, 4-108, 4-114, 4-116, 4-118, 4-123, 4-124, 4-125, 4-128, 4-130, 4-131, 4-132, 4-134, 4-138, 4-139, 4-140, 4-142, 4-143, 4-144, 4-146, 4-151, 4-161, 4-162, 4-163, 4-164, 4-165, 4-166, 4-167, 4-168, 4-169, 4-170, 4-171, 4-172, 4-173, 4-174, 4-175, 4-176, 4-191
- Erosion, 4-39, 4-41
- Executive Order, 4-40
- Fallon, 1-1, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6, 1-18, 1-19, 3-1, 3-2, 3-4, 3-6, 3-8, 3-9, 3-10, 3-13, 3-15, 3-19, 3-22, 3-23, 3-25, 3-32, 3-34, 3-42, 3-43, 3-45, 3-46, 3-55, 3-58, 3-62, 3-65, 3-67, 3-69, 3-70, 3-73, 3-75, 3-78, 3-79, 3-80, 3-81, 3-88, 3-89, 3-90, 4-11, 4-86, 4-87, 4-88, 4-179, 4-180, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4
- Fernley, 1-1, 1-3, 1-4, 2-37, 3-4, 3-6, 3-7, 3-8, 3-9, 3-15, 3-16, 3-19, 3-34, 3-40, 3-48, 3-62, 3-64, 3-67, 3-69, 3-79, 3-81, 3-85, 3-88, 3-89, 3-90, 4-131
- Fire/fuels management, 4-196
- Forage, 4-90, 4-91, 4-92, 4-196
- Fugitive dust, 3-4, 4-6, 4-8, 4-9, 4-10, 4-75, 4-91, 4-196
- Geothermal, 1-20, 2-5, 2-7, 2-8, 2-28, 3-16, 3-17, 3-32, 3-47, 3-72, 3-73, 3-81, 3-83, 4-6, 4-7, 4-9, 4-12, 4-13, 4-15,

- 4-18, 4-20, 4-21, 4-24, 4-25, 4-26, 4-35, 4-36, 4-42, 4-58, 4-61, 4-68, 4-78, 4-80, 4-83, 4-94, 4-97, 4-104, 4-105, 4-109, 4-112, 4-113, 4-114, 4-115, 4-116, 4-117, 4-118, 4-119, 4-131, 4-135, 4-139, 4-140, 4-152, 4-154, 4-159, 4-164, 4-166, 4-167, 4-168, 4-170, 4-171, 4-173, 4-175, 4-178, 4-179, 4-184, 4-185, 4-186, 4-188, 4-189, 4-190
- Grazing, 4-41, 4-90, 4-91, 4-92
- Indicators, 4-41
- Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT), 3-53, 4-53, 4-56, 4-58, 4-60, 4-61, 4-63, 4-64, 4-66, 4-67, 4-70, 4-71
- Lake Tahoe, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6, 3-5, 3-19, 3-21, 3-23, 3-39
- Leasing, geothermal, 2-7, 4-6, 4-7, 4-9, 4-13, 4-15, 4-18, 4-20, 4-21, 4-24, 4-25, 4-26, 4-35, 4-42, 4-58, 4-78, 4-80, 4-83, 4-94, 4-97, 4-104, 4-105, 4-114, 4-116, 4-119, 4-131, 4-135, 4-139, 4-140, 4-164, 4-166
- Leasing, oil and gas, 3-16
- Long-term effect, 4-196
- Minerals, 2-2, 2-5, 2-7, 2-9, 2-10, 2-11, 3-16, 3-18, 3-32, 3-35, 3-47, 3-55, 3-65, 3-67, 3-72, 4-7, 4-9, 4-14, 4-15, 4-20, 4-21, 4-24, 4-25, 4-26, 4-27, 4-30, 4-32, 4-36, 4-37, 4-45, 4-49, 4-61, 4-75, 4-105, 4-109, 4-112, 4-116, 4-117, 4-135, 4-162, 4-164, 4-165, 4-166, 4-167, 4-168, 4-169, 4-170, 4-171, 4-173, 4-174, 4-175, 4-180, 4-181, 4-184, 4-186, 4-189, 4-190, 4-191, 4-194
- Mining Law of 1872, 3-16
- Mining operations, 4-8, 4-9, 4-20, 4-21, 4-24, 4-25, 4-30, 4-32, 4-75, 4-91
- Mitigation, 4-195
- National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), 1-10
- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 1-3, 1-10, 1-15, 1-17, 1-18, 1-21, 2-3, 2-14, 2-15, 2-37, 3-71, 4-2, 4-3, 4-34, 4-35, 4-52, 4-53, 4-114, 4-142, 4-149, 4-165, 4-177, 4-179, 4-192, 4-194, 4-196, 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-5
- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), 1-12, 1-17, 2-16, 2-17, 3-36, 3-71, 4-39, 4-40, 4-47, 4-183, 5-4
- National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), 1-12, 3-36, 3-42, 3-43, 3-44, 3-45, 4-39, 4-40, 4-42, 4-44, 4-46, 4-47
- Newlands Project, 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-6, 1-7, 1-8, 1-15, 1-16, 1-17, 1-18, 1-19, 1-20, 1-21, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-6, 2-7, 2-16, 2-19, 2-25, 2-28, 2-35, 3-7, 3-12, 3-16, 3-19, 3-21, 3-27, 3-33, 3-37, 3-41, 3-42, 3-43, 3-44, 3-45, 3-51, 3-55, 3-58, 3-59, 3-60, 3-62, 3-65, 3-67, 3-68, 3-71, 3-72, 3-73, 3-75, 3-76, 3-77, 3-81, 3-82, 3-85, 3-86, 4-5, 4-6, 4-7, 4-9, 4-10, 4-11, 4-13, 4-18, 4-20, 4-21, 4-24, 4-25, 4-26, 4-28, 4-30, 4-32, 4-33, 4-36, 4-37, 4-38, 4-42, 4-43, 4-44, 4-45, 4-46, 4-47, 4-49, 4-50, 4-51,

- 4-66, 4-77, 4-78, 4-79, 4-80, 4-81, 4-82, 4-83, 4-84, 4-86, 4-87, 4-90, 4-92, 4-93, 4-94, 4-95, 4-96, 4-97, 4-98, 4-99, 4-100, 4-102, 4-103, 4-106, 4-108, 4-110, 4-112, 4-113, 4-114, 4-116, 4-124, 4-125, 4-126, 4-131, 4-133, 4-136, 4-162, 4-166, 4-168, 4-172, 4-175, 4-178, 4-180, 4-185, 4-186, 4-188, 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-5
- Off-road vehicle (ORV), 2-4, 2-34, 2-35, 3-82, 3-86, 4-10, 4-13, 4-19, 4-23, 4-28, 4-33, 4-56, 4-60, 4-72, 4-77, 4-79, 4-80, 4-82, 4-85, 4-94, 4-96, 4-124, 4-129, 4-130, 4-137, 4-143, 4-149, 4-150, 4-153, 4-157, 4-161, 4-167, 4-176, 4-183, 4-184, 4-186, 4-187, 4-189, 4-191, 4-192, 4-193
- Particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), 3-4, 3-5, 3-7
- Particulate matter, 4-75, 4-91
- Payments in lieu of taxes (PILT), 3-92, 3-94, 3-95
- Planning area (RMP planning area), 4-90
- Planning issue, 1-18, 1-19, 1-20, 2-1
- Plants, invasive, 3-63, 4-46, 4-123, 4-124, 4-125, 4-126, 4-128, 4-129, 4-194, 4-195
- Preferred alternative, 3-77, 4-180
- Prescribed fire, 4-75, 4-91
- Prime farmland, 3-15, 4-17
- private land, 4-90
- Public access, 2-31, 3-70, 3-82, 4-8, 4-10, 4-14, 4-15, 4-21, 4-23, 4-31, 4-33, 4-79, 4-82, 4-84, 4-96, 4-100, 4-111, 4-117, 4-118, 4-120, 4-128, 4-134, 4-136, 4-137, 4-161, 4-169, 4-171, 4-172, 4-175, 4-179
- Recharge, groundwater, 3-27
- Reclamation, 1-1, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6, 1-7, 1-8, 1-9, 1-12, 1-13, 1-15, 1-16, 1-17, 1-18, 1-19, 1-20, 1-21, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-6, 2-8, 2-9, 2-11, 2-12, 2-13, 2-14, 2-15, 2-16, 2-17, 2-18, 2-19, 2-20, 2-21, 2-22, 2-23, 2-24, 2-25, 2-26, 2-27, 2-28, 2-29, 2-30, 2-31, 2-32, 2-33, 2-34, 2-35, 2-35, 2-36, 2-37, 3-10, 3-13, 3-16, 3-18, 3-19, 3-21, 3-22, 3-27, 3-28, 3-31, 3-33, 3-36, 3-37, 3-40, 3-42, 3-43, 3-44, 3-45, 3-53, 3-55, 3-56, 3-57, 3-60, 3-63, 3-64, 3-65, 3-67, 3-69, 3-70, 3-71, 3-72, 3-73, 3-75, 3-76, 3-77, 3-78, 3-79, 3-80, 3-81, 3-82, 3-85, 3-86, 3-87, 3-92, 3-94, 3-95, 4-2, 4-3, 4-6, 4-7, 4-12, 4-13, 4-14, 4-15, 4-20, 4-22, 4-24, 4-26, 4-29, 4-30, 4-32, 4-35, 4-36, 4-37, 4-38, 4-40, 4-42, 4-46, 4-47, 4-48, 4-52, 4-53, 4-54, 4-59, 4-61, 4-66, 4-67, 4-71, 4-72, 4-78, 4-80, 4-81, 4-82, 4-83, 4-84, 4-86, 4-87, 4-88, 4-90, 4-92, 4-93, 4-95, 4-97, 4-98, 4-99, 4-100, 4-101, 4-102, 4-103, 4-104, 4-105, 4-106, 4-107, 4-108, 4-109, 4-110, 4-111, 4-112, 4-117, 4-118, 4-119, 4-120, 4-122, 4-127, 4-129, 4-130, 4-131, 4-132, 4-133, 4-134, 4-135, 4-136, 4-137, 4-138, 4-139, 4-140, 4-141, 4-143, 4-144, 4-145, 4-146, 4-147, 4-149, 4-150, 4-151, 4-152, 4-153, 4-155, 4-156, 4-157, 4-158, 4-160, 4-161, 4-162, 4-165, 4-166, 4-167, 4-169, 4-170, 4-171, 4-174, 4-175, 4-177, 4-178, 4-179, 4-180, 4-181, 4-182, 4-

- 183, 4-185, 4-187, 4-188, 4-189, 4-190, 4-191, 4-192, 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-5, 5-6
- Record of Decision (ROD), 4-178, 4-179
- Recreation, 1-3, 1-6, 1-7, 1-8, 1-9, 1-11, 1-17, 1-18, 1-20, 1-21, 2-3, 2-8, 2-9, 2-26, 2-28, 2-35, 2-36, 2-37, 3-10, 3-28, 3-33, 3-40, 3-54, 3-63, 3-67, 3-70, 3-79, 3-80, 3-85, 3-86, 3-93, 4-6, 4-7, 4-8, 4-9, 4-10, 4-12, 4-13, 4-14, 4-15, 4-16, 4-18, 4-20, 4-21, 4-22, 4-24, 4-25, 4-26, 4-28, 4-29, 4-30, 4-31, 4-32, 4-33, 4-34, 4-35, 4-36, 4-37, 4-39, 4-41, 4-43, 4-48, 4-57, 4-61, 4-65, 4-67, 4-72, 4-73, 4-74, 4-77, 4-78, 4-82, 4-85, 4-87, 4-88, 4-94, 4-96, 4-98, 4-100, 4-103, 4-106, 4-108, 4-110, 4-111, 4-112, 4-114, 4-117, 4-118, 4-119, 4-120, 4-121, 4-123, 4-124, 4-131, 4-133, 4-134, 4-136, 4-137, 4-138, 4-139, 4-140, 4-143, 4-144, 4-146, 4-148, 4-149, 4-150, 4-151, 4-152, 4-153, 4-154, 4-155, 4-156, 4-157, 4-158, 4-159, 4-160, 4-161, 4-162, 4-163, 4-164, 4-165, 4-166, 4-167, 4-168, 4-169, 4-170, 4-171, 4-172, 4-173, 4-174, 4-175, 4-176, 4-180, 4-182, 4-183, 4-184, 4-185, 4-186, 4-187, 4-188, 4-190, 4-191, 4-193, 4-194, 4-196
- Renewable energy, 1-20, 2-5, 3-72, 4-112, 4-113, 4-116, 4-117, 4-118, 4-120, 4-164, 4-170, 4-171, 4-188
- Resource Management Plan (RMP), 4-196
- Rights-of-way (ROW), 4-112, 4-128, 4-178, 4-179
- Route, 4-196
- Sand and gravel, 3-18
- Sensitive species, 1-18, 1-20, 4-70, 4-76, 4-178
- Short-term effect, 4-196
- Socioeconomic(s), 2-5, 2-37, 3-87, 4-6, 4-7, 4-9, 4-12, 4-13, 4-15, 4-18, 4-19, 4-21, 4-24, 4-25, 4-26, 4-29, 4-31, 4-34, 4-35, 4-36, 4-37, 4-41, 4-44, 4-48, 4-52, 4-57, 4-61, 4-68, 4-75, 4-78, 4-80, 4-82, 4-87, 4-88, 4-90, 4-94, 4-100, 4-102, 4-104, 4-108, 4-114, 4-116, 4-118, 4-123, 4-124, 4-125, 4-128, 4-130, 4-131, 4-132, 4-134, 4-138, 4-139, 4-140, 4-142, 4-143, 4-144, 4-146, 4-162, 4-163, 4-164, 4-165, 4-166, 4-167, 4-168, 4-169, 4-170, 4-171, 4-172, 4-173, 4-174, 4-175, 4-176, 4-191, 5-6
- Soils, 1-6, 1-18, 3-3, 3-13, 3-15, 3-21, 3-51, 3-60, 3-61, 3-71, 3-72, 4-17, 4-18, 4-19, 4-20, 4-21, 4-22, 4-23, 4-24, 4-27, 4-29, 4-30, 4-31, 4-32, 4-33, 4-42, 4-49, 4-51, 4-62, 4-74, 4-75, 4-77, 4-78, 4-80, 4-83, 4-94, 4-97, 4-116, 4-125, 4-173, 4-181, 4-182, 4-193, 4-194, 4-195, 4-196
- Special status species, 2-3, 2-4, 2-21, 3-71, 4-1, 4-53, 4-54, 4-55, 4-56, 4-57, 4-58, 4-59, 4-60, 4-61, 4-62, 4-63, 4-64, 4-65, 4-66, 4-67, 4-68, 4-69, 4-70, 4-71, 4-72, 4-73, 4-76, 4-92, 4-149, 4-160, 4-180, 4-183, 4-184, 4-185, 4-186, 4-187, 4-189, 4-190, 4-194

- State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), 2-17, 2-18, 3-44, 4-47, 4-183, 5-4
- Surface water, 3-81
- Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL), 3-28, 3-29, 3-30, 3-31
- Travel management, 4-28
- Treatment, vegetation, 4-41, 4-52, 4-196
- Utility corridor, 2-26, 4-65, 4-106, 4-133, 4-136, 4-139, 4-140, 4-141
- Vegetation, 2-4, 2-20, 3-33, 3-49, 3-58, 3-59, 3-60, 3-62, 3-73, 3-75, 3-76, 4-1, 4-8, 4-10, 4-20, 4-22, 4-31, 4-33, 4-46, 4-49, 4-54, 4-64, 4-65, 4-70, 4-74, 4-75, 4-76, 4-78, 4-79, 4-80, 4-81, 4-82, 4-83, 4-84, 4-92, 4-95, 4-98, 4-106, 4-109, 4-113, 4-115, 4-117, 4-120, 4-124, 4-125, 4-126, 4-128, 4-133, 4-135, 4-144, 4-145, 4-147, 4-150, 4-155, 4-160, 4-167, 4-170, 4-174, 4-180, 4-185, 5-7
- Vegetation, invasive species/noxious weed, 1-11, 2-21, 2-23, 3-63, 4-1, 4-74, 4-76, 4-80, 4-96, 4-123, 4-126, 4-127, 4-133, 4-167, 4-174, 4-185, 4-187
- Vegetation, Riparian, 2-14, 2-19, 2-21, 3-48, 3-49, 3-50, 3-52, 3-53, 3-55, 3-58, 3-61, 3-71, 4-8, 4-9, 4-20, 4-21, 4-25, 4-26, 4-28, 4-29, 4-30, 4-32, 4-45, 4-53, 4-54, 4-55, 4-56, 4-57, 4-58, 4-60, 4-62, 4-64, 4-65, 4-66, 4-67, 4-70, 4-71, 4-72, 4-74, 4-76, 4-77, 4-79, 4-80, 4-81, 4-82, 4-91, 4-92, 4-97, 4-105, 4-116, 4-132, 4-135, 4-149, 4-154, 4-155, 4-169
- Water quality standards, 3-28, 3-29
- Water quality, 1-8, 1-20, 2-3, 2-4, 2-12, 2-13, 2-14, 2-15, 2-19, 3-28, 3-29, 3-31, 3-53, 3-55, 3-65, 3-71, 4-28, 4-29, 4-30, 4-32, 4-42, 4-45, 4-46, 4-53, 4-55, 4-57, 4-76, 4-81, 4-83, 4-87, 4-91, 4-95, 4-97, 4-105, 4-143, 4-145, 4-149, 4-154, 4-166, 4-182
- Water, groundwater, 1-6, 3-13, 3-16, 3-21, 3-22, 3-23, 3-27, 3-28, 3-29, 3-32, 3-73, 3-81, 3-84, 4-24, 4-28
- Water, rights, 1-1, 1-15, 3-27, 3-55, 3-65, 4-29, 4-86, 4-87, 4-186
- Water, surface water, 3-22, 3-23, 3-27, 3-28, 3-49, 3-81, 3-83, 3-84, 3-85, 4-29, 4-30, 4-31, 4-32, 4-33, 4-43, 4-44, 4-48, 4-182
- Watershed, 1-20, 3-19, 3-22, 3-27, 3-28, 3-29, 3-31, 4-28, 4-91, 4-182
- wetlands, 1-10, 3-31, 3-48, 3-56, 3-63, 3-64, 4-70
- Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), 3-78

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