Nevada Rivers

02/08/21 LB

Interstate Rivers

Colorado River Watershed
Colorado River – International Water terminates in the Sea of Cortez
Virgin River & Tributaries (Muddy River, Meadow Valley Wash)

Columbia River Watershed – Snake River to Columbia terminates in the Pacific Ocean
Owyhee River, Bruneau River, Salmon Falls Creek, plus tributaries

Great Basin Watershed
Truckee River terminates in Pyramid Lake
Carson River terminates in the Carson Sink (Stillwater)
Walker River terminates in Walker Lake

From	To	Main	Plus Tributaries
CA	NV	Smoke Creek	Rush
		Truckee River	Dog, Sunrise
NV	CA	Truckee River	Bronco, Gray
CA	NV	WF Carson River	
		EF Carson River	
NV	CA	EF Carson River	Bryant
CA	NV	WF Walker	Desert,
		EF Walker	Rough, Bodie
NV	CA	Amargosa (Intermittent)	
OR NV	NV OR	Twelvemile	 Horse
OR	NV	Quinn	Kings, McDermitt, Sage
NV	ID	Owyhee	SF Owyhee, Little Owyhee
NV	ID	Bruneau	Sheep, Jarbidge River, Buck, Pole, Flat, Deer
NV ID	ID NV	Salmon Falls Creek	NF Salmon Falls Shoshone, Chimney, Wilson, Shack, Bear
ID NV UT	NV UT NV	Goose	Piney, Trout, Jay Hardesty, Pole
NV	UT	Thousand Springs Creek	
NV	UT	Snake Creek, Big Wash, Lexington	
UT NV	NV UT	Beaver Dam Wash	
UT	NV	Virgin River	
AZ NV	NV CA	Colorado River	

Major Rivers	1st Tributary	2nd Tributary	3rd Tributary
Humboldt River 290 miles HW: Jarbidge Mtns Term: Humboldt Sink	Bishop Creek Trout Blasingame	Burnt	
	Mary's River	West Mary's River EF Mary's River Short Chimney T Hanks Hot Springs	 Currant Conner's
HW: East Humboldt Mtns	Starr Creek	Boulder, Herder	Ackler, Deering
	Winter Creek		
HW: Ruby Mtns	Lamoille Creek	Secret John Day Rabbit	Soldier
HW: Independence Mtns	NF Humboldt River	Peterson McAfee Fourmile Forman Pie Beaver	 Walker, Dell Gance Cabin
HW: Ruby Mtns	SF Humboldt River	Tenmile Dixie Huntington	Spring Willow Cottonwood Smith, McCutcheon, Gilbert, Corral
HW: Independence Mtns	Susie Creek		
HW: Independence Mtns	Maggie Creek	Simon Cottonwood Jack Spring N Haskell Beaver	
HW: Cortez, Simpson Park, Sulphur Spring Range	Pine Creek	Trout Horse	
HW: Sheep Creek Range	Rock Creek	Willow	Nelson
HW: Santa Rosa Mtns	Little Humboldt River	Martin SF Little Humboldt NF Little Humboldt	 Duck Stocks Groundhog Cottonwood
HW: Toiyabe Mtns	Reese River	Indian Stewart Clear Marysville Washington Big	

Truckee River 121 miles HW: Sierra NV Mtns Term: Pyramid Lake	Gray Bronco Sunrise Dog Hunter		
	Steamboat	Evans Thomas Whites Galena Browns Winters Ophir Franktown Musgrove McEwen	Jones
Carson River 131 miles HW: Sierra NV Mtns Term: Carson Sink	West Carson River East Carson River Clear Creek	 Bryant Indian	
Walker River 152 miles HW: Sierra NV Mtns Term: Walker Lake	West Walker River East Walker River	Desert Sweetwater Rough	 Green Bodie
Colorado River **1,450 miles** HW: Rocky Mtns (CO) Term: Sea of Cortez Virgin River HW: Colorado Plateau Meadow Valley Wash HW: Wilson Creek Range Muddy River HW: Warm Springs Beaver Dam Wash HW: Clover Mtns Las Vegas Wash HW: Spring Mtns	Virgin River Muddy River Las Vegas Wash	Beaver Dam Wash Meadow Valley Wash Cold Deer	 Camp Valley Clover

Rivers in NW NV			
Twelvemile HW: Warner Mtns (CA) Term: Greaser Res (OR)	NF Twelvemile (CA, OR) Fifteenmile (CA) Horse		
Quinn River HW: Trout Cr Mtns (OR) Santa Rosa Mtns Term: Black Rock Desert	McDermitt Kings EF Quinn Leonard	Sage	
Thousand Creek HW: Idaho Canyon Range Term: Continental Lake	Virgin Big Spring Rincon		
Mahogany Creek HW: Black Rock Range Term: Summit Lake	Pole		
Wall Canyon Creek HW: Badger Mtns	Cottonwood		
High Rock Creek HW: Massacre Range Term: High Rock Lake	Little High Rock Willow Mahogany		
Mud Meadow Creek HW: Black Roch Range Term: Mud Meadow Res.	Soldier Slumgullion Fly		
Smoke Creek HW: Cherry Mtn (CA) Term: Smoke Creek Desert	Rush Creek		
Rivers in NE NV			
Owyhee River HW: Tuscarora Mtns, Wild Horse Range Term: Snake, Columbia, Pacific Ocean	SF Owyhee Skull Fawn Slaughterhouse California Haystack Van Duzer Allegheny Badger Beaver Hendricks Penrod Deep Jacks, Clear, Hanks	Little Owyhee Bull Run Wilson Deep Big Cottonwood Cyn Hot Niagra Burns Harrington Taylor's Canon Indian Miller	Willow

Bruneau River HW: Bruneau Plateau & Jarbidge Mts Term: Snake, Columbia, Pacific Ocean	Sheep Jarbidge Deep McDonald Meadow Copper Seventysix Annie Willow	Merritt EF Jarbidge Buck Deer Bear Pine	Robinson
Salmon Falls Creek HW: Jarbidge Mtns Term: Snake, Columbia, Pacific Ocean	Shoshone Cottonwood Trout Meadow Jakes SF Salmon Falls NF Salmon Falls	Cedar Cow Dry Canyon Cottonwood Camp Sun Wilson Bear	 Knoll Poll Chimney Shack
Goose Creek HW: Trout Cr Mtn (ID) Term: Little Goose Creek Reservoir (ID)	Piney Little Goose Spring Trout Jay Hardesty Bluff	Fall Pole	
Thousand Springs Creek HW: Snake Mtns Term: Dake Reservoir (UT)	Rock Spring		

Rivers in Central NV			
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Duck Creek HW: Schell Creek Range Term: Goshute Lake	Berry		
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White River HW: White Pine Range Term: Nesbitt Lake	Ellison Sunnyside Big Spring Wash		
Hot Creek HW: Hot Creek Range Term: Echo Canyon Reservoir	Fish Lake Valley Moore's Station Wash Tybo Twin Springs Slough		
Rivers in Southern NV			
Pahranagat Creek HW: Ash & Crystal Springs Term: Pahranagat Lake			
Amargosa River HW: Pahute Mesa Term: Death Valley (CA) Intermittent	Carson Slough (Ash Meadows)		

401 Certification

Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 — Water Quality Certification

Activities requiring a federal permit must "certify" that the proposed work will not violate state water quality standards.

Clean Water Act USC 33 1341—Section 401(a)(1) - "Any applicant for a Federal license or permit to conduct any activity including, but not limited to, the construction or operation of facilities, which may result in any discharge into the ***navigable waters***, shall provide the licensing or permitting agency a certification from the State in which the discharge originates or will originate .... that any such **discharge will comply** with the applicable provisions of sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of this title...."

Quick Links:

- EPA Clean Water Act
- Clean Water Act, Section 401 Certification
- Clean Water Act, Section 404
- U.S. Army Corps Sacramento District Regulatory Program
- Nevada 401 Water Quality Certification Status for current Nationwide Permits
- State Authority and Public Notices

Most projects requiring State certification fall into two broad Federal program categories:

1. Activities requiring a Federal permit to allow discharges of dredged or fill material to waters of the United States, including oceans, lakes, streams, wetlands, and other water bodies. These permits are issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) under CWA Section 404. **Activity examples include but are not limited to sediment dredging or gravel mining, channelization, levee construction, filling wetlands for development, culvert installation and river restoration.**
2. Projects involving construction of hydroelectric dams, power plants, and other facilities requiring Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licenses.

The State may respond to this type of application in three ways:

1. Waiver - Under Federal law the State may waive its certification authority if it takes no action on an application within a "reasonable time" not to exceed one year. For Section 404 permit projects, the Corps has defined "reasonable time" to be 60 calendar days, starting with receipt of a complete application by the State, but may extend this period up to one year on a case-by-case basis. Waivers carry no conditions, and are, in some ways, equivalent to certification without conditions.
2. Certification - Certification is based on a finding that the proposed Section 404 discharge will comply with all pertinent water quality standards. In order to allow certification, special conditions may be required by the State in order to remove or mitigate potential impacts to water quality standards. Such conditions must ultimately be included in the Federal Section 404 permit.

3. Denial - The State has the option to deny certification if it is unable to find that the project will comply with water quality standards or other applicable requirements. If a project is denied certification, a Section 404 permit for it cannot be issued by the Federal government. In some instances denial is necessary due to failure by the applicant to meet a procedural requirement or the ability to meet water quality standards. Once the deficiency is addressed, the application for water quality certification may be reconsidered.

The application is provided below in two file formats, these **are not** online forms:

- Application — 401 Water Quality Certification (Word Format)
- Application — 401 Water Quality Certification
- Guidance for 401 Applications (How to fill out the application)

Applications and attachments can be submitted via email to: Birgit Widegren- bwidegren [at] ndep.nv.gov

An application for 401 certification of a Section 404 activity should include:

- Contact Information and Project Description
- Map which clearly identifies waterbodies that will be impacted by activity
- Best Management Practices (BMPs) that will control erosion and sediment
- Amount of fill to be discharged, dredge removed or linear feet of channel impacted
- Electronic photos of project site
- NDEP 401 Application Addendum*

***New Federal Rules and Regulations become effective September 11, 2020 that impact the 401 Water Quality Certification Process**

Pursuant to new Federal Rules and Regulations effective September 11, 2020 that address the 401 Water Quality Certification process, additional information is required to be submitted to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection.

In addition to completion of the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection's Clean Water Act §401 Water Quality Certification Application Form and pertinent attachments, the Project Proponent must also complete and submit the **NDEP 401 Application Addendum** found above.

The new federal rules and regulations further require the applicant to request a **Pre-Filing Meeting** at least 30 days prior to submittal of the application and pertinent attachments, including the Addendum. Although conducting a Pre-Filing meeting is optional, requesting a Pre-Filing Meeting is required by the new federal rules and regulations.

For more information contact:

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Water Quality Planning
901 South Stewart Street, Suite 4001
Carson City, Nevada 89701-5249
Birgit Widegren, Environmental Scientist IV
775-687-9550 bwidegren [at] ndep.nv.gov

US Army Corps of Engineers
Nevada Northern Office
300 Booth Street, Room 3060
Reno, Nevada 89509
775-784-5304

US Army Corps of Engineers
Nevada Southern Office

WIKIPEDIA

List of rivers of Nevada

List of rivers in Nevada (U.S. state).

Contents

By drainage basin

This list is arranged by drainage basin, with respective tributaries indented under each larger stream's name.

Great Basin

- Amargosa River
- Carson River
- Humboldt River
  - Little Humboldt River
  - Reese River
  - South Fork Humboldt River
    - Huntington Creek
  - North Fork Humboldt River
  - Marys River
- Quinn River
  - Kings River
- Thousand Springs Creek
- Truckee River
- Walker River

- East Walker River
- West Walker River

Pacific Ocean

Columbia watershed

- *Columbia River (OR)*
  - *Snake River (ID)*
    - Owyhee River
      - South Fork Owyhee River
        - Little Owyhee River
    - Bruneau River
      - Jarbidge River
    - Salmon Falls Creek

Colorado watershed

- Colorado River
  - Muddy River
    - Meadow Valley Wash
    - White River
  - Virgin River

Alphabetically

- Amargosa River
- Bruneau River
- Carson River
- Colorado River
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- Humboldt River
- Huntington Creek
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- Little Humboldt River
- Little Owyhee River
- Marys River
- Meadow Valley Wash

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- Owyhee River
- Quinn River
- Reese River
- Salmon Falls Creek
- South Fork Humboldt River
- South Fork Owyhee River
- Thousand Springs Creek
- Tongue Wash
- Truckee River
- Virgin River
- Walker River
- West Walker River
- White River

See also

- List of Lake Tahoe inflow streams
- List of rivers in the Great Basin
- List of rivers of the United States

External links

- Nevada Streamflow Data from the USGS (http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nv/nwis/current/?type=flow)

References

- USGS Geographic Names Information Service (http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnispublic/)
- USGS Hydrologic Unit Map - State of Nevada (1974)

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ENVIRONMENTALISTS SEE REGULATORY, FUNDING GAPS AMID CLEAN WATER ACT ROLLBACK

DANIEL ROTHBERG

JUNE 14TH, 2020 - 2:00AM

Hiking near a snow-speckled mountain on a late spring day, it's not hard to find water running through a narrow stream. Come back several months later, and that stream might be empty.

In Nevada, most waterways work this way. Roughly 90 percent of the state's streams are intermittent or ephemeral, running at only certain times of the year in response to snowmelt or precipitation, according to data compiled by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP).

It's a fact throughout the West, from Arizona to New Mexico. Many streams are seasonal.

Scientists say these streams, despite running irregularly, are important for ecosystem health in arid areas. They connect waterways, replenish groundwater supplies and support wildlife. That's one reason many environmentalists are concerned about a Clean Water Act rollback, set to go into effect later this month, that would exclude most of these streams from federal protection.

In 1972, Congress passed the Clean Water Act, giving the federal government the authority to protect and regulate water. But for years, states, activists and industry have argued over its scope. And the new rule offers a narrower interpretation of

the federal government's role.

Although the Clean Water Act will still protect heavily used waterways in Nevada, including the Colorado River and the Truckee River, it excludes many wetlands and most seasonal streams.

As a result, the rule has set off a flurry of legal challenges from environmental groups. And in recent months, several Democrat-led Western states, including Colorado, California and New Mexico, have sued the Trump administration to challenge the final rule.

Nevada has not joined those suits. In comments submitted last year, NDEP described it as a "considerable improvement" over the Obama-era rule it replaced. Still, state regulators say they are evaluating the new rule's total effect, and they expect to have to adjust existing permitting programs. They argue any gaps in protecting water quality will be addressed under state law.

But several environmental groups say it is too early to tell.

Joro Walker, a lawyer with the Western Resource Advocates, questions whether Western states have the enforcement resources to enforce the rules as the federal government steps back.

"The practical aspect of this is incredibly important," said Walker, who works in the Mountain West. "If the state is not equipped, having great law doesn't really matter if you can't enforce it."

The regulatory gap

As the state's environmental agency, NDEP is responsible for enforcing the state's water quality standards. Jennifer Carr, the agency's deputy director, said that the division is still mapping out how many streams and wetlands would lose federal

protection under the Clean Water Act.

Whatever the volume, the state expects to assume more regulatory responsibility.

"We have all the authorities in place that are needed to permit any sort of discharge activity in the state of Nevada, whether it's federally jurisdictional or not," Carr said in an interview.

Like many states, Nevada has a permit program for maintaining water quality when developers seek to discharge water into streams or groundwater. But when it comes to modes of development that seek to dredge and fill wetlands protected under the Clean Water Act, the permitting process is done with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. That is expected to change.

"The fine points of whether or not a specific existing program needs a little bit of enhancement or refinement is one of the things that we're working through at this point in time," Carr added.

The new rule redefines which wetlands are protected under the federal law. With more wetlands eliminated from federal jurisdiction, it's likely that the state would have to issue more permits on its own. Carr said it is "one of the real, more specific examples" where the agency might need to adjust an existing program for developers applying for a state "Working in Waterways permit."

Regulators do not process many Clean Water Act wetland permits each year, Carr said. Over the past 12 years, she said the state has worked on about 16 wetland permits and five spring permits. She also noted that the majority of discharge permits, issued under the Clean Water Act over the past 12 years, have been for waters that remain protected under the new rule.

In other cases, the new rule calls into question whether even some larger rivers fall under the Clean Water Act. As part of the rulemaking, the Trump administration

approved a more narrow federal definition of what the Clean Water Act protects as Waters of the United States, or WOTUS.

The rule does not include all interstate waters. Instead, it ties protection to whether a waterway was traditionally navigable for commerce. This issue could leave the Walker River, which rises in northern California and runs through western Nevada, without federal protection, Carr said.

State regulators, she added, are "looking very closely at the Walker River and what its ultimate jurisdictional status might be," but Carr noted that it would still be protected under state law.

With a more narrow WOTUS definition, environmentalists are concerned about shifting much of the responsibility for protecting water quality to state agencies, with often limited resources.

"If you're Nevada and all of the sudden 99 percent of streams, rivers and washes are [not] protected, that's a huge assumption of responsibility that you're going to have to undertake," said Brett Hartl, government affairs director for the Center for Biological Diversity.

In many cases, federal funding for state-led compliance is tied to the amount of water, within a state boundary, that is protected by the Clean Water Act. As federal protection is removed for mapped streams, wetlands and other rivers, it could translate to less federal funding.

Carr said NDEP has raised this concern with EPA, which has said that it will keep funding stable in the short-term. She said the state agency will be working with EPA on the long-term formula.

Where pollution comes from

The state regularly evaluates the conditions of federally-protected waters in a triennial report. That document examines whether protected waters meet the standards of "beneficial use" for aquatic life, fish consumption, irrigation, municipal supply, recreation and livestock watering.

In the most recent assessment, published in April, NDEP concluded that only about 30 percent of roughly 700 waterbodies met that threshold. NDEP reported that there was "insufficient" data to draw conclusions about 34 percent of the waterbodies examined. And about 35 percent of waters were not meeting the standards established for at least one of the potential uses.

The public review, however, only provides a snapshot of water quality in the state. It focuses on Nevada's heavily used rivers. But the report does not include information for ephemeral and intermittent streams, which account for about 90 percent of the state's waterways.

And of the waterbodies assessed, the report assessed about 43 percent of year-round streams, 69 percent of lakes and reservoirs and about 41 percent of fresh wetlands.

Across the state, the leading cause of impaired water is elevated phosphorus levels, which can be caused by fertilizers, agriculture, stormwater and the disposal of home items.

Phosphorus accounts for about 21 percent of impaired water. Temperature accounts for another roughly 13 percent, what NDEP said could result from the destruction of shaded vegetation around a waterway.

The majority of impaired waters — about 57 percent — failed to meet standards set out for the protection of aquatic life. About 16 percent do not meet standards for recreations with contact.

Table ES-2. Number and Percentage of Impairments by Beneficial Use

Beneficial Use Code	Beneficial Use	No. of Impairments by Beneficial Use*	% of Total Impairments by Beneficial Use
AQL	Protection of Aquatic Life	391	57.2%
FC	Fish Consumption (Hg)	40	5.8%
IRR	Irrigation	50	7.3%
MDS	Municipal/Domestic Supply	83	12.1%
RWC	Recreation with Contact	109	15.9%
WLS	Watering of Livestock	11	1.6%

* Note: There may be multiple impairments per waterbody for each beneficial use, so the total number of impairments is ***not*** the same as the total number of impaired waterbodies.

A table in NDEP's triennial report. (Nevada Division of Environmental Protection)

This pollution is not always a result of direct discharges into streams. Many of the impairments noted in the report stem from what is known as nonpoint source pollution.

That type of pollution arises when indirect sources, such as runoff or rainfall pick up chemicals and nutrients, carrying them to a lake or a river. That makes nonpoint source pollution often challenging to regulate.

"It's a big issue," said Paul Comba, chief of NDEP's Bureau of Water Quality Planning.

Comba said the state has worked on addressing nonpoint source pollution through streambank restoration, moving cattle to specific access points and educating the general public. The state has also developed 55 site-specific plans, approved by the EPA, that establish a maximum level of pollutants that can be discharged to a river or lake and still meet water quality standards.

The state is also working to update it's antidegradation standards, which require