Nevada Land Withdrawals from Mineral Entry
A Historical Perspective

May, 2018 update

University of Nevada, Reno

Modified from original study in 2011 by:
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“Unbelievable as it may seem, an area larger than that encompassing 25 of the 27 states east of the Mississippi River is no longer accessible even for mineral exploration, not to mention development for mining”

President
American Mining Congress

1975
PUBLIC LANDS EXCLUDED FROM MINERAL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE MINING LAW

LEGEND:
- WITHDRAWN & REORGANIZED
- LIMITED
- OPEN

Is Our Account Overdrawn?
NEVADA Statistics

- Became Territory of the United States in 1848 as part of the Treaty with Mexico following the Mexican-American War
- Part of Utah Territory originally then became Nevada Territory in 1860
- Established as the 36th state of the Union October 31, 1864 – Population @ 50,000
- Total Area: 70,264,320 acres, 7th largest state
Who Manages/Owns Nevada Lands?

- BLM: 66.86%
- State Land: 0.19%
- Indian Reservation: 1.53%
- National Park: 1.07%
- Military: 5.99%
- Fish & Wildlife: 2.14%
- Forest Service: 8.19%
- Private Land: 13.52%
- Water: 0.51%

Data from BLM Public Land Statistics Publication, Vol. 201, May, 2017 (BLM/OC/ST-17/001+1165; P-108-6)
## Who Manages/Owns Nevada Lands?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Status</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>% of Nevada</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BLM</td>
<td>46,977,225</td>
<td>66.86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Land</td>
<td>9,497,542</td>
<td>13.52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forest Service</td>
<td>5,756,387</td>
<td>8.19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military</td>
<td>4,212,128</td>
<td>5.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish &amp; Wildlife Service</td>
<td>1,503,388</td>
<td>2.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Park Service</td>
<td>750,709</td>
<td>1.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bur. of Indian Affairs</td>
<td>1,076,574</td>
<td>1.53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Land</td>
<td>132,334</td>
<td>0.19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>358,033</td>
<td>0.51%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nevada Land Withdrawals to 1930
Nevada Land Withdrawals to 1940

withdrawn land
water
national forest
indian reservation
Nevada Land Withdrawals to 1950
Nevada Land Withdrawals to 1960
Nevada Land Withdrawals to 1970

- Withdrawn Land
- Water
- National Forest
- Indian Reservation
Nevada Land Withdrawals to 1980

*Map depicting to 1990*
Nevada Land Withdrawals to 1990

Withdrawn Land
Water
National Forest
Indian Reservation

Acres (Millions)

Nevada Land Withdrawals to 2000

Map showing land withdrawals from 1930 to 2010 with color codes for Withdrawn Land, Water, National Forest, and Indian Reservation.
Nevada Land Withdrawals through 2010
## Total Land Area Withdrawn through 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>% of Nevada</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt;1930</td>
<td>132,247</td>
<td>0.19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-1940</td>
<td>5,460,598</td>
<td>7.77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-1950</td>
<td>5,861,114</td>
<td>8.34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-1960</td>
<td>5,951,860</td>
<td>8.47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-1970</td>
<td>6,672,218</td>
<td>9.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-1980</td>
<td>11,767,565</td>
<td>16.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-1990</td>
<td>12,701,336</td>
<td>18.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-2000</td>
<td>14,299,822</td>
<td>20.35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-2010</td>
<td>14,848,842</td>
<td>21.13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Recent Withdrawals: Jan, 2011 through May, 2018

- Ivanpah ACEC (Silver State South ROD; 2013)
  - 31,857 acres  Case File: NVN 085801

Southern Nevada District Office
Las Vegas Field Office - Pahrump Field Office
RMP Revision

ACEC
Alternative - 1
Map 2.6.3.1 - 1

Legend
- SNDO RMP Planning Area
- Lake Mead
- National Conservation Area
- ACEC Alternative 1
  - Biological
  - Cultural
  - Cultural/Biological
  - Desert Tortoise

Land Status
Bureau of Land Management

No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.
Recent Withdrawals: Jan, 2011 through May, 2018

- Wovoka Wilderness (USFS; 2014):
  - 48,981 acres
Recent Withdrawals: Jan, 2011 through May, 2018

- Pine Forest Range Wilderness (BLM; 2014):
  - 24,015 acres
    - Release of 25,650 acres from Blue Lakes and Alder Creek WSA
    - Net 1,635 Acres released in WSA to Wilderness conversion
Recent Withdrawals: Jan, 2011 through May, 2018

- Tule Springs National Monument (2014)
  - 22,650 acres
Recent Withdrawals: Jan, 2011 through May, 2018

  - 704,000 acres
    - 15,075 acres already within Mt. Irish ACEC
    - 30,623 acres already within Worthington Mountains Wilderness
    - Net 658,302 acres withdrawn outside of preexisting withdrawals
Gold Butte National Monument (2016)

- 296,941 acres
  - 293,539 acres already within ACEC
  - Net 3,402 additional acres withdrawn outside of original ACEC
  - Remaining portions of Gold Butte/Virgin River ACECs still in place
Recent Locatable Mineral Withdrawals Summary

- **National Monuments:**
  - Tule Springs Fossil Beds (2014): 22,650 acres
  - Basin and Range (2015): 704,000 acres
    - 15,075 acres already within ACEC area (Mt. Irish ACEC)
    - 30,623 acres already within Wilderness (Worthington Mountains Wilderness)
    - Net 658,302 additional acres withdrawn
    - 293,539 acres already within ACEC (multiple)
    - Net 3,402 additional acres withdrawn

- **BLM & USFS Wilderness Areas:**
  - Pine Forest Range Wilderness (BLM; 2014): 24,015 acres
    - 25,650 acres released from WSA
    - Net release of 1,635 acres
  - Wovoka Wilderness (USFS; 2014): 48,981 acres

- **Areas of Critical Environmental Concern**
  - Ivanpah (Silver State South ROD; 2014): 31,857 acres

*Notable withdrawals listed; this list is not exhaustive
## Total Land Area Withdrawn through May, 2018
(not inclusive of proposed withdrawals)

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<td>-2018</td>
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Nevada Land Withdrawals to May, 2018
Nevada Land Withdrawal Status through May, 2018

Legend

Withdrawn
State or County Land
Department of Defense
Department of Energy
Fish and Wildlife
National Park
Regional Park
Area of Critical Environmental Concern
Wilderness
Wilderness Study Area

Urban Interface
National Recreation Area
National Monument NCA
Research Natural Area
Wildlife Management Area

Non-Withdrawn
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Forest Service
Water

Pine Forest
Great Basin
Wovoka
Tule Springs
Gold Butte
Ivanpah ACEC
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Use</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>% of Total Withdrawn</th>
<th>% of Nevada</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wilderness&lt;sub&gt;1&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td>2,469,729</td>
<td>15.79%</td>
<td>3.51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilderness/National Monument &amp; National Conservation Area</td>
<td>500,244</td>
<td>3.20%</td>
<td>0.71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilderness/National Park &amp; Recreation Area</td>
<td>78,492</td>
<td>0.50%</td>
<td>0.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilderness/Research Natural Area</td>
<td>25,477</td>
<td>0.16%</td>
<td>0.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilderness/Research Natural Area/National Park &amp; Recreation Area</td>
<td>3,987</td>
<td>0.03%</td>
<td>0.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilderness/Areas of Critical Environmental Concern</td>
<td>142,550</td>
<td>0.91%</td>
<td>0.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilderness/National Conservation Area/Areas of Critical Environmental Concern</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instant &amp; Wilderness Study Areas&lt;sub&gt;2&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td>2,646,911</td>
<td>16.92%</td>
<td>3.77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instant &amp; Wilderness Study Area/National Park &amp; Recreation Area</td>
<td>59,862</td>
<td>0.38%</td>
<td>0.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instant &amp; Wilderness Study Area/Areas of Critical Environmental Concern</td>
<td>4,439</td>
<td>0.03%</td>
<td>0.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Interface&lt;sub&gt;10&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td>254,811</td>
<td>1.63%</td>
<td>0.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Interface/Areas of Critical Environmental Concern</td>
<td>752</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Natural Area&lt;sub&gt;4&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td>13,415</td>
<td>0.09%</td>
<td>0.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Monument &amp; National Conservation Area&lt;sub&gt;3&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td>1,267,308</td>
<td>8.10%</td>
<td>1.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Monument &amp; National Conservation Area/Areas of Critical Environmental Concern</td>
<td>297,213</td>
<td>1.90%</td>
<td>0.42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Monument &amp; National Conservation Area/State Park</td>
<td>528</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Areas of Critical Environmental Concern&lt;sub&gt;5&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td>948,414</td>
<td>6.06%</td>
<td>1.35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Area&lt;sub&gt;6&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td>3,366,658</td>
<td>21.52%</td>
<td>4.79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Area/National Wildlife Range &amp; Refuge</td>
<td>845,464</td>
<td>5.40%</td>
<td>1.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Wildlife Range &amp; Refuge&lt;sub&gt;7&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td>1,556,144</td>
<td>9.95%</td>
<td>2.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife Management Area&lt;sub&gt;8&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td>98,255</td>
<td>0.63%</td>
<td>0.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Park &amp; Recreation Area&lt;sub&gt;9&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td>929,928</td>
<td>5.94%</td>
<td>1.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Park</td>
<td>131,640</td>
<td>0.84%</td>
<td>0.19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td>15,642,626</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>22.26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*see slide notes for sources*
## Total Land Area Withdrawals through 2018 (Major Categories)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Use</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>% of Total Withdrawn</th>
<th>% of Nevada</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Military&lt;sup&gt;1&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>4,212,122</td>
<td>26.93%</td>
<td>5.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilderness&lt;sup&gt;2&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>3,220,885</td>
<td>20.59%</td>
<td>4.58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instant &amp; Wilderness Study Area&lt;sup&gt;3&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>2,711,212</td>
<td>17.33%</td>
<td>3.86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Wildlife Range &amp; Refuge&lt;sup&gt;4&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>1,556,144</td>
<td>9.95%</td>
<td>2.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Areas of Critical Environmental Concern&lt;sup&gt;5&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>948,414</td>
<td>6.06%</td>
<td>1.35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Park &amp; Recreation Area&lt;sup&gt;6&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>929,928</td>
<td>5.94%</td>
<td>1.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Monument &amp; National Conservation Area&lt;sup&gt;7&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>1,565,049</td>
<td>10.01%</td>
<td>2.23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Interface&lt;sup&gt;8&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>255,563</td>
<td>1.63%</td>
<td>0.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife Management Area&lt;sup&gt;9&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>98,255</td>
<td>0.63%</td>
<td>0.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Park&lt;sup&gt;10&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>131,640</td>
<td>0.84%</td>
<td>0.19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Natural Area&lt;sup&gt;11&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
<td>13,415</td>
<td>0.09%</td>
<td>0.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,642,626</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.00%</strong></td>
<td><strong>22.26%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. The Military total includes portions of the National Wildlife Range & Refuge.
2. The Wilderness total includes portions of the National Conservation Area, Research Natural Area, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, and Wildlife Management Area. Some portions of National Parks are included, though some are not.
3. The Instant & Wilderness Study Area includes portions of the National Park and Recreation Area and the Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.
4. The National Wildlife Range and Refuge total is only that area not included in the Military Area.
5. The Areas of Critical Environmental Concern total is only that area not included in the Wilderness Area, the Instant and Wilderness Study Area, the Urban Interface Area, Fish and Wildlife Refuge Area and the National Conservation Area.
6. The National Park and Recreation Area total is only that area not included in the Wilderness Area and the Instant and Wilderness Study Area.
7. The National Conservation Area total includes portions of the Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and State Park Area.
8. The Urban Interface Area total includes portions of the Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.
9. The Wildlife Management Area total is only that area not included in any other withdrawn areas.
10. The State Park Area total is only that area not included in the National Conservation Area or Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.
11. The Research Natural Area total is only that area not included in other withdrawn areas.
Proposed Land Withdrawals as of May, 2018

- Washoe County Wilderness Proposals
  - 600,421 acres currently designated WSA
    - 369,576 acres of WSA to be released
    - 147,516 acres of new wilderness (mostly from WSA)
    - 83,329 acres converted to NCA (mostly from WSA)
    - Net 111,721 acre release of preexisting withdrawn land
  - Additional proposed wilderness outside of WSAs
    - Burro Mountain & Granite-Banjo - 27,010 acres new withdrawal

https://www.washoecounty.us/csd/planning_and_development/conservation-act.php; accessed 30 May, 2018
Proposed Land Withdrawals as of May, 2018

- **Washoe County Land Transfer**
  - 8,735 acres converted from BLM/USFS to private

https://www.washoe county.us/csd/planning_and_development/conservation-act.php; accessed 30 May, 2018
Fallon Range Training Complex Modernization Expansion

- 649,504 acres of new withdrawal

https://frtcmodernization.com; accessed 30 May, 2018
Nellis Test and Training Range (NTTR)
- 301,000 acres across all proposed alternatives
  - 265,811 acres within previously withdrawn lands (Desert National Wildlife Refuge)
  - Net 35,189 acres of new withdrawal

Proposed Land Withdrawals as of May, 2018

- Las Vegas and Pahrump Field Office Draft Resource Management Plan – Alternative 2 (most restrictive)
  - 608,942 acres to be withdrawn
    - 41,320 acres already within other areas of locatable-mineral withdrawal
    - Net 567,622 acres of new withdrawal

Proposed Land Withdrawals as of May, 2018

Proposed Locatable Mineral Withdrawals Summary

- Washoe County Economic Development and Conservation Act:
  - Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) and National Conservation Areas (NCAs): 257,855 acres
    - 174,526 acres designated wilderness
    - 83,329 acres designated NCA
    - 369,576 acres of WSA released
    - Net 111,721 acre release of preexisting withdrawn land
  - Washoe County Economic Development and Conservation Act:
    - 8,735 acres converted from BLM/USFS to Private.

- DOD Expansions:
  - Nellis Test and Training Range (NTTR): 301,016 acres
    - Includes acreage for all proposed alternatives
    - 265,811 acres within previously withdrawn lands (Desert Refuge)
    - Net 35,205 acres of new withdrawal
  - Fallon Naval Air Station: 649,504 acres

Continued on next slide
Proposed Land Withdrawals as of May, 2018

- Resource Management Plan Revision:
  - Carson City RMP Revision, Alternative E (BLM Preferred): 470,603 acres withdrawn
    - 197,322 acres already within other areas of locatable-mineral withdrawal
    - Net 273,281 acres of new withdrawal
  - Las Vegas and Pahrump Field Office RMP Revision, Alternative 2: 608,942 acres withdrawn
    - *largest locatable-mineral-withdrawal alternative, no specified BLM preferred alternative as of May, 2018*
    - 41,320 acres already within other areas of locatable-mineral withdrawal
    - Net 567,622 acres of new withdrawal

Net total proposed locatable-mineral-withdrawal acreage: 1,310,905 acres
Net increase as a percentage of current withdrawal acreage: 8.38%
Net proposed withdrawn acreage as a percentage of Nevada: 1.87%

*Notable withdrawals listed; this list is not exhaustive
Nevada Land Withdrawal Status
May, 2018

Line graph displaying the trend in the amount of land (in acres) withdrawn per year.

~177,000 acres withdrawn per year since 1930

Map showing the land withdrawal status in Nevada.
The chart to the left depicts the decrease in federal lands open to locatable mineral entry by decade. Since 1930, approximately 1,770,000 acres of land are withdrawn each decade.
Current and Proposed Locatable Mineral Withdrawals as of May, 2018
Nevada Land Withdrawals from Mineral Entry
A Historical Perspective

May, 2018 update

University of Nevada, Reno

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