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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Updated in May, 2018 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"

J. Allen Overton. Jr.
President
American Mining Congress



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



Is Our Account Overdrawn?





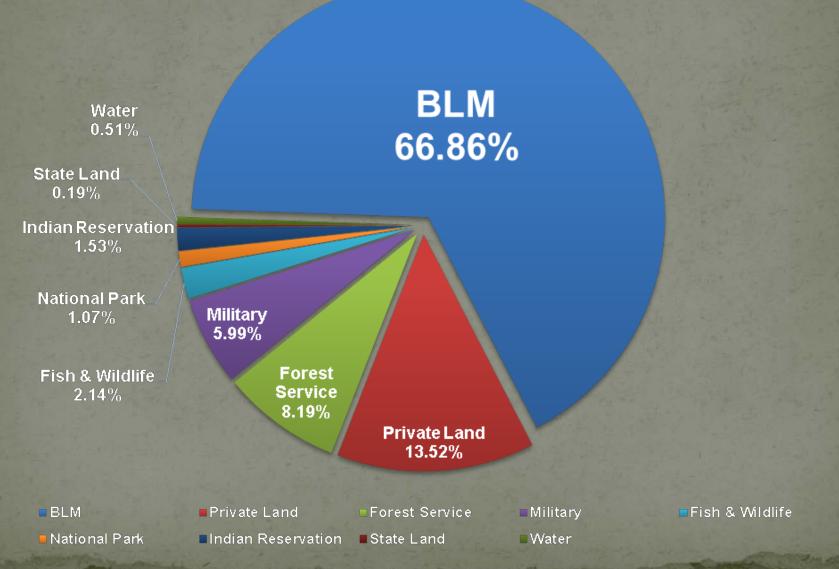




NEVADA Statistics

- 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?



Who Manages/Owns Nevada Lands?

Land Status	Acres	% of Nevada
BLM	46,977,225	66.86%
Private Land	9,497,542	13.52%
Forest Service	5,756,387	8.19%
Military	4,212,128	5.99%
Fish & Wildlife Service	1,503,388	2.14%
National Park Service	750,709	1.07%
Bur. of Indian Affairs	1,076,574	1.53%
State Land	132,334	0.19%
Water	358,033	0.51%

Acres (Millions)

10

8

6

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1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010



Acres (Millions)

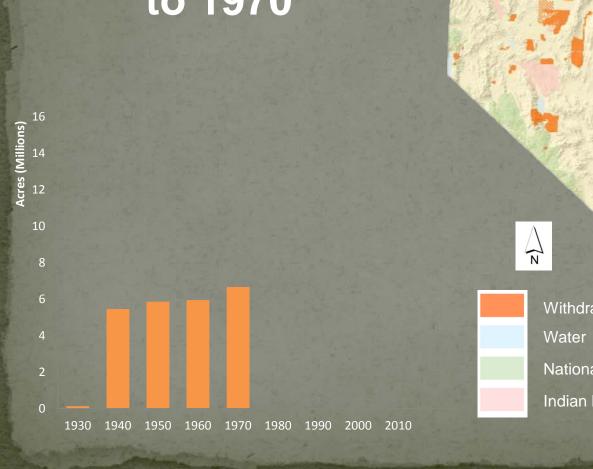


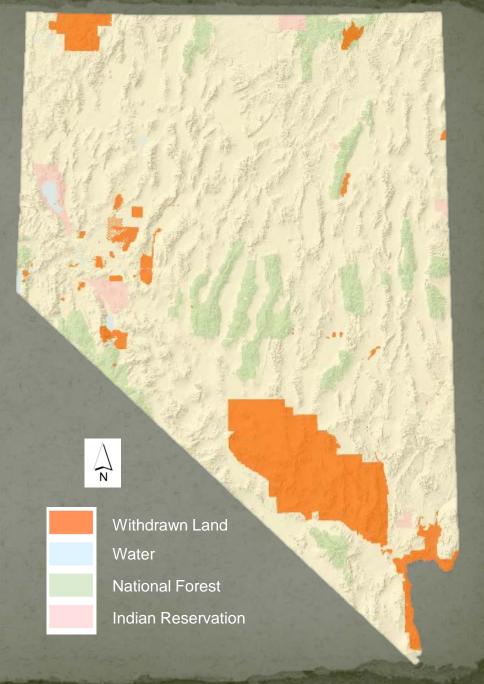
Acres (Millions)

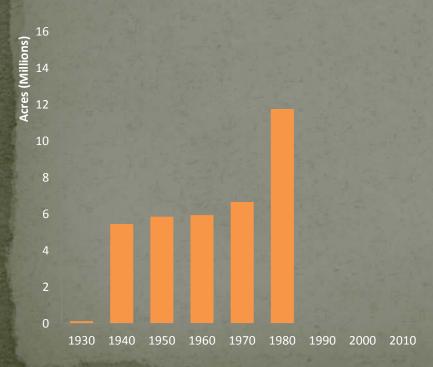


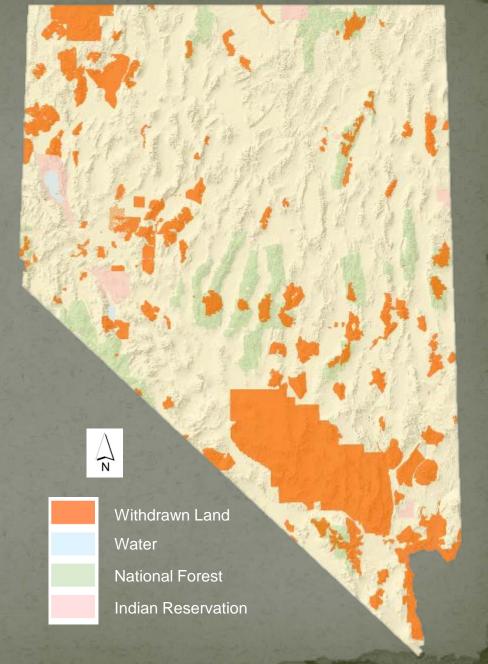
Acres (Millions)

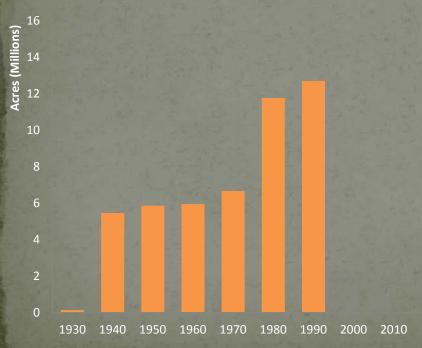




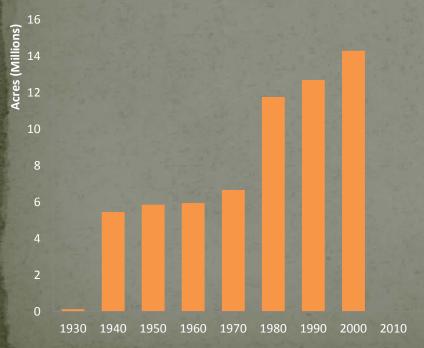


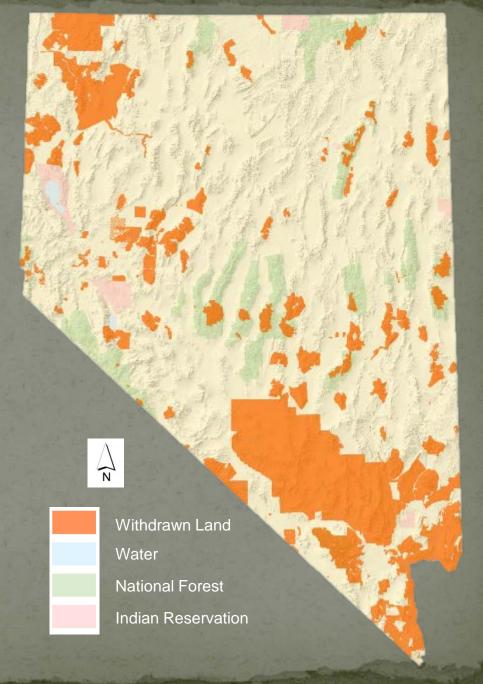


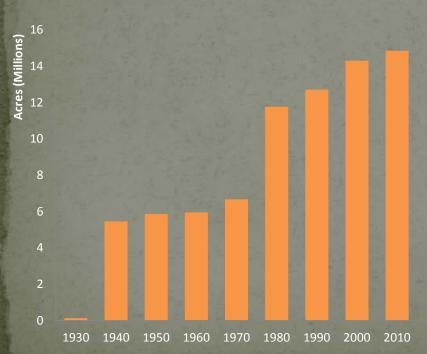














Nevada **Land Withdrawal** Status through 2010

Withdrawn Lands

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

Fish & Wildlife Areas

Military Areas

National Conservation Areas

National Parks & Recreation Areas

Research Natural Areas

Nevada State Parks

Urban Interface Withdrawals

Wilderness Areas

Instant and Wilderness Study Areas

Wildlife Management Areas

Non-Withdrawn Lands

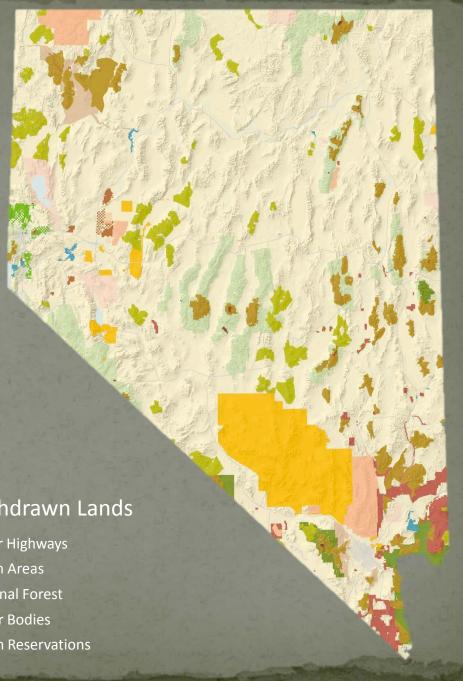
Major Highways

Urban Areas

National Forest

Water Bodies

Indian Reservations



Total Land Area Withdrawn through 2010

Year	Acres	% of Nevada
>1930	132,247	0.19%
-1940	5,460,598	7.77%
-1950	5,861,114	8.34%
-1960	5,951,860	8.47%
-1970	6,672,218	9.50%
-1980	11,767,565	16.75%
-1990	12,701,336	18.08%
-2000	14,299,822	20.35%
-2010	14,848,842	21.13%

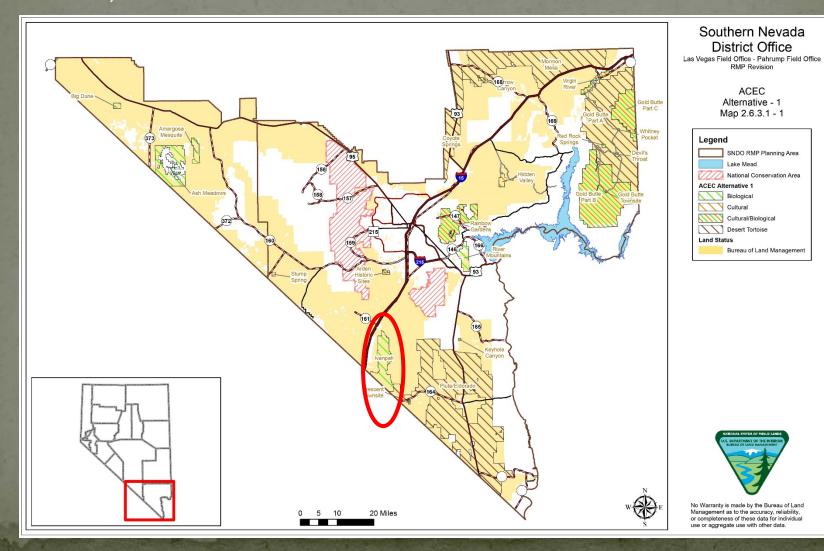
Wilderness

-Act

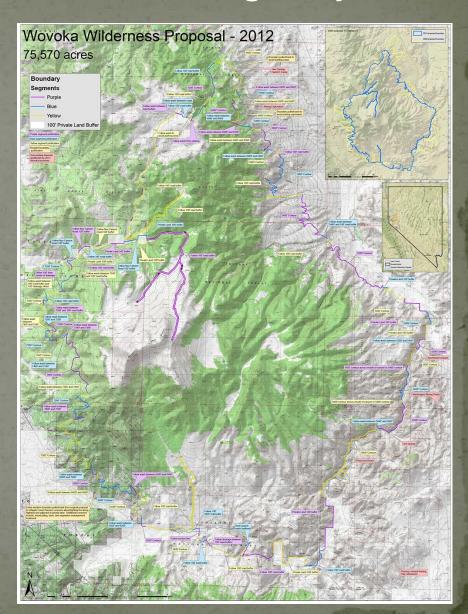
-FLPMA

←Wilderness Designations

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



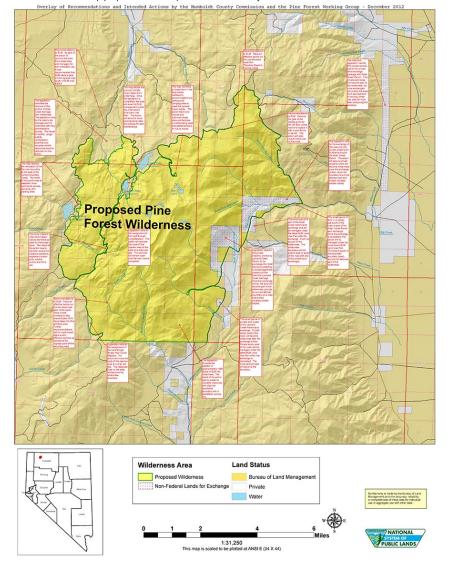
- Wovoka Wilderness (USFS; 2014):
 - 48,981 acres



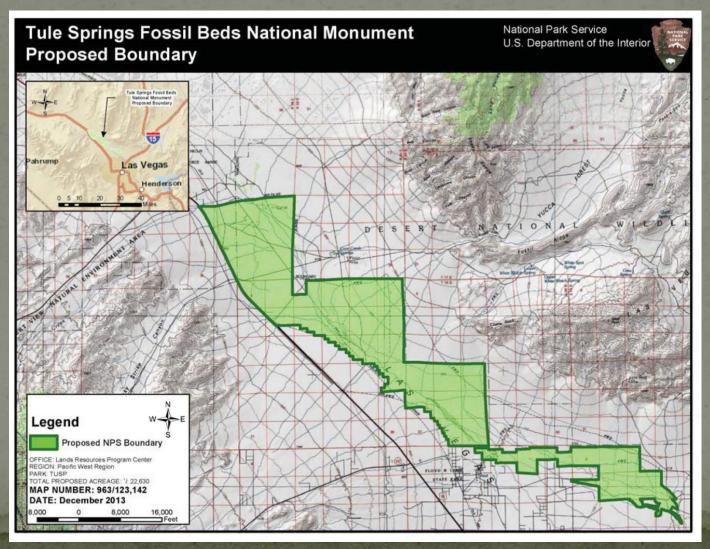
- Pine Forest RangeWilderness (BLM; 2014):
 - 24,015 acres
 - Release of 25,650 acres from Blue Lakes and Alder Creek WSA
 - Net 1,635 Acres released in WSA to Wilderness conversion

Proposed Pine Forest Wilderness Area

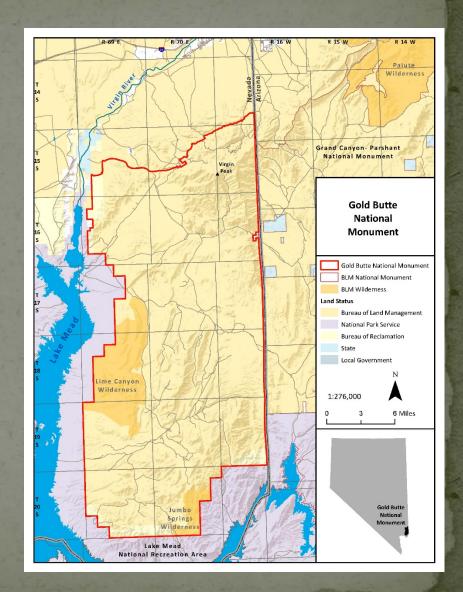
This map prepared at the request of Senator Harry Reid and Senator Dean Heller.



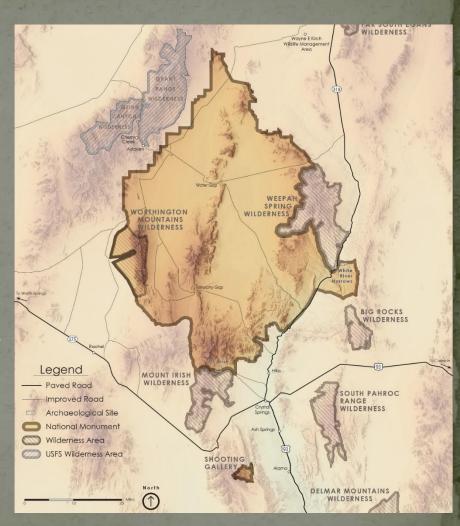
- Tule Springs National Monument (2014)
 - 22,650 acres



- 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



- Basin & Range National Monument (2015)
 - 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



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
 - Gold Butte National Monument (2016): 296,941 acres
 - 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

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Total Land Area Withdrawn through May, 2018

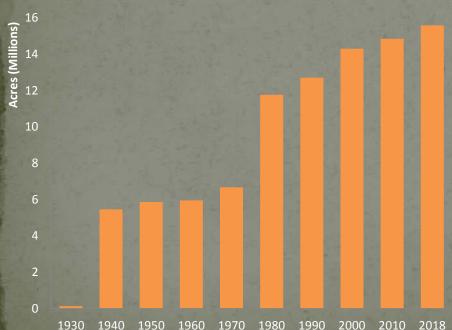
(not inclusive of proposed withdrawals)

Year	Acres	% of Nevada	
>1930	132,247	0.19%	
-1940	5,460,598	7.77%	
-1950	5,861,114	8.34%	
-1960	5,951,860	8.47%	100
-1970	6,672,218	9.50%	
-1980	11,767,565	16.75%	
-1990	12,701,336	18.08%	
-2000	14,299,822	20.35%	
-2010	14,848,842	21.13%	
-2018	15,642,626	22.26%	

-Wilderness

←FLPMA

-Wilderness Study Areas





Pine Forest

Nevada **Land Withdrawal Status** through May, 2018

Legend

Withdrawn

State or County Land

Department of Defense

Department of Energy

Fish and Wildlife

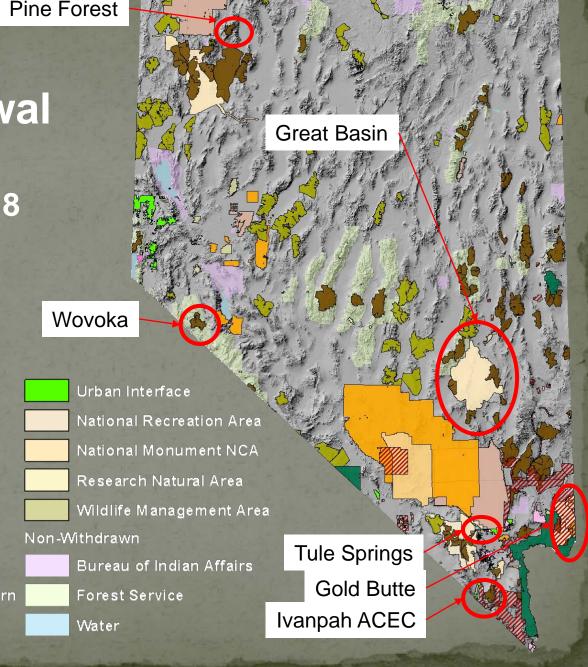
National Park

Regional Park

Area of Critical Environmental Concern

Wilderness

Wilderness Study Area





Total Land Area Withdrawals through May, 2018

Land Use	Acres	% of Total Withdrawn	% of Nevada
Wilderness ₁	2,469,729	15.79%	3.51%
Wilderness/National Monument & National Conservation Area	500,244	3.20%	0.71%
Wilderness/National Park & Recreation Area	78,492	0.50%	0.11%
Wilderness/Research Natural Area	25,477	0.16%	0.04%
Wilderness/Research Natural Area/National Park & Recreation Area	3,987	0.03%	0.01%
Wilderness/Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	142,550	0.91%	0.20%
Wilderness/National Conservation Area/Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	405	0.00%	0.00%
Instant & Wilderness Study Areas ₂	2,646,911	16.92%	3.77%
Instant & Wilderness Study Area/National Park & Recreation Area	59,862	0.38%	0.09%
Instant & Wilderness Study Area/Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	4,439	0.03%	0.01%
Urban Interface ₁₀	254,811	1.63%	0.36%
Urban Interface/Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	752	0.00%	0.00%
Research Natural Area₄	13,415	0.09%	0.02%
National Monument & National Conservation Area ₃	1,267,308	8.10%	1.80%
National Monument & National Conservation Area/Areas of Critical Environmental			
Concern	297,213	1.90%	0.42%
National Monument & National Conservation Area/State Park	528	0.00%	0.00%
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern ₅	948,414	6.06%	1.35%
Military Area ₆	3,366,658	21.52%	4.79%
Military Area/National Wildlife Range & Refuge	845,464	5.40%	1.20%
National Wildlife Range & Refuge ₇	1,556,144	9.95%	2.21%
Wildlife Management Area ₈	98,255	0.63%	0.14%
National Park & Recreation Area ₉	929,928	5.94%	1.32%
State Park	131,640	0.84%	0.19%
Totals	15,642,626	100.00%	22.26%
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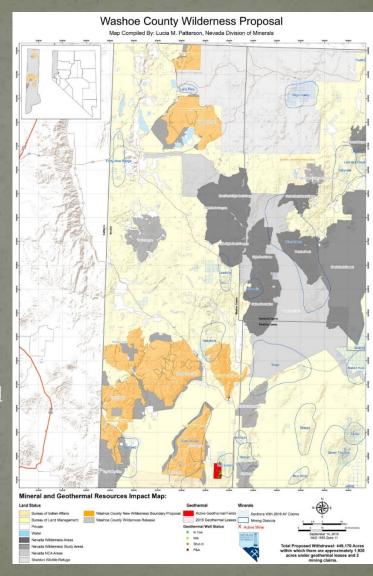
*see slide notes for sources

Total Land Area Withdrawals through 2018 (Major Categories)

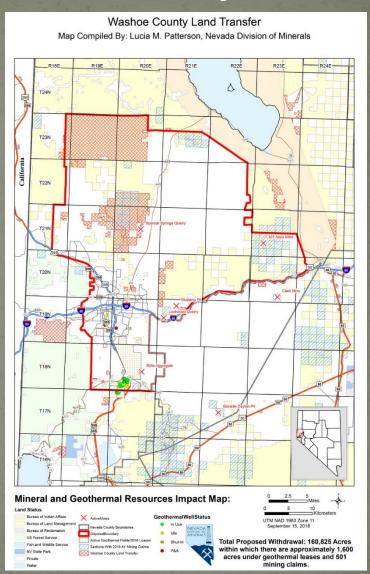
Land Use	Acres	% of Total Withdrawn	% of Nevada
Military ₁	4,212,122	26.93%	5.99%
Wilderness₂	3,220,885	20.59%	4.58%
Instant & Wilderness Study Area₃	2,711,212	17.33%	3.86%
National Wildlife Range & Refuge₄	1,556,144	9.95%	2.21%
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern₅	948,414	6.06%	1.35%
National Park & Recreation Area ₆	929,928	5.94%	1.32%
National Monument & National Conservation Area ₇	1,565,049	10.01%	2.23%
Urban Interface ₈	255,563	1.63%	0.36%
Wildlife Management Area ₉	98,255	0.63%	0.14%
State Park ₁₀	131,640	0.84%	0.19%
Research Natural Area ₁₁	13,415	0.09%	0.02%
Totals	15,642,626	100.00%	22.26%

- 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.

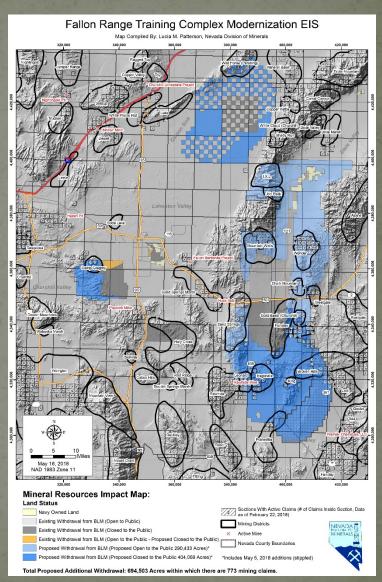
- Washoe County Wilderness Proposals
 - 600,421 acres currently designated
 WSA
 - 369,576 acres of WSA to be released
 - 147,516 acres of new wilderness (mostly from WSA)
 - 83,329 acres converted to NCA (mostly from WSA)
 - Net 111,721 acre release of preexisting withdrawn land
 - Additional proposed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



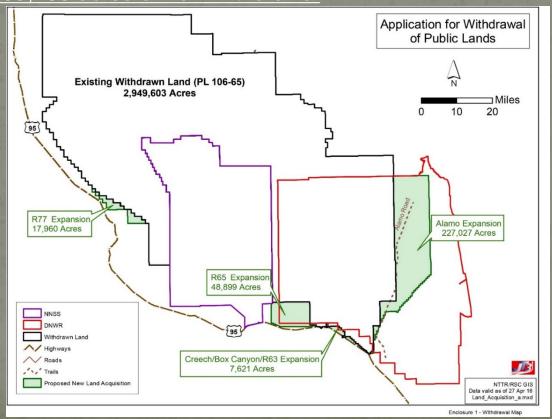
- Washoe County Land Transfer
 - 8,735 acres converted from BLM/USFS to private



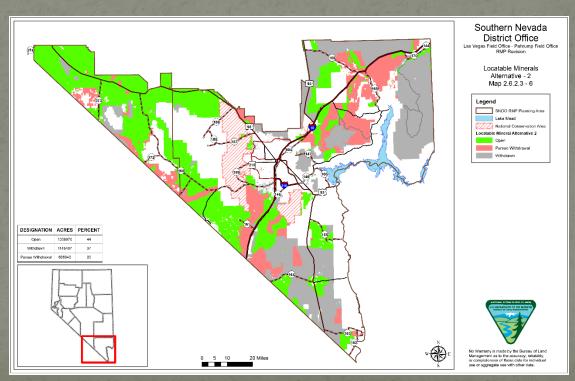
- Fallon Range Training Complex Modernization Expansion
 - 649,504 acres of new withdrawal



- 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



- 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



https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/planAndProjectSite.do?methodName=renderDefaultPlanOrProjectSite&projectId=2900; accessed 30 May, 2018. Map provided by BLM Southern Nevada District Office.

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

- 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%

Proposed Nevada Land Withdrawals May, 2018

Legend

Washoe Proposed WSA Release

Washoe Proposed Wilderness

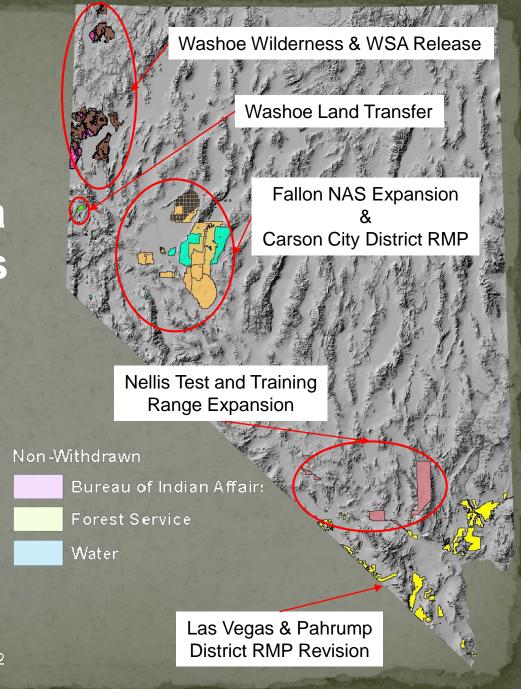
Washoe Land Transfer

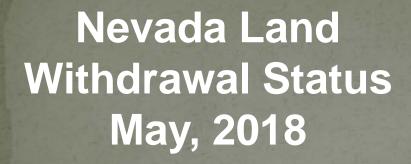
Fallon Range Training Complex

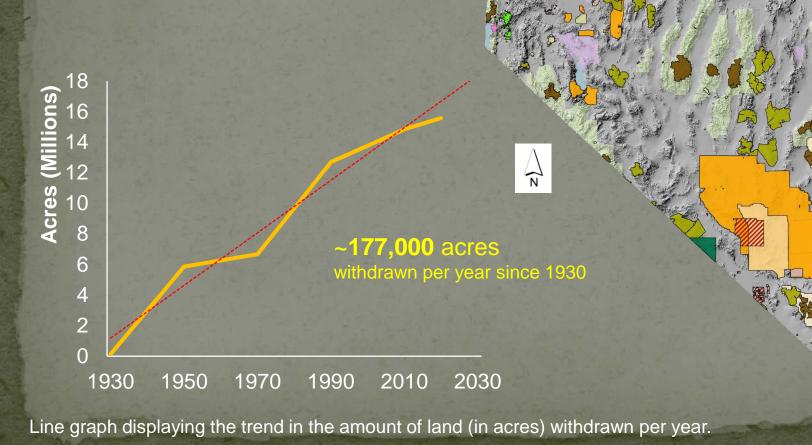
Nellis Test and Training Range

Carson City RMP Alternative-E

Las Vegas & Pahrump RMP Alternative-2



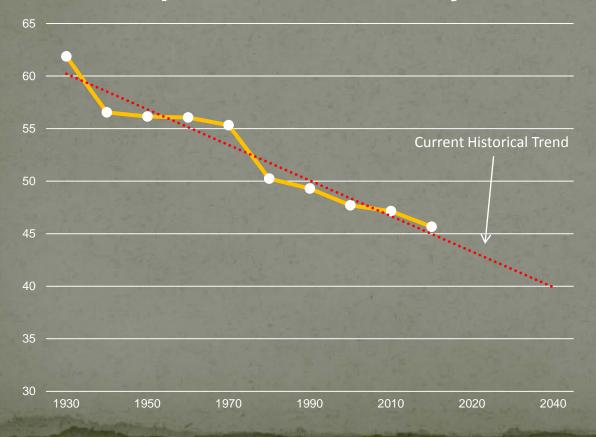




Current Historical Trend

(Summary Result)

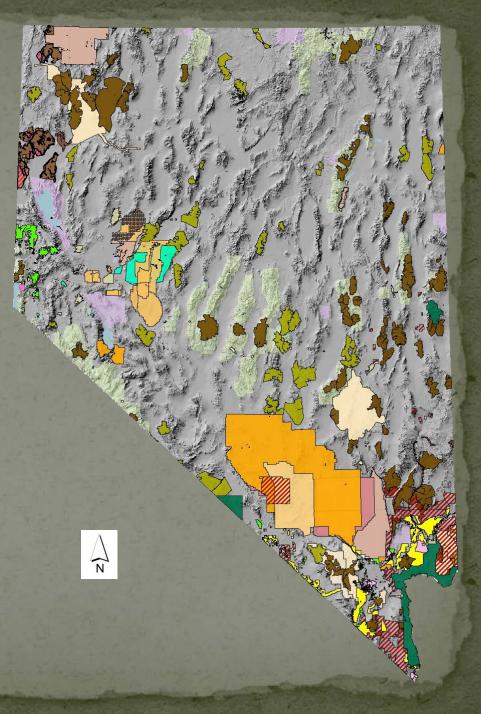
Available Federal Lands Open to Mineral Entry



Acres (Millions)

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



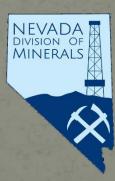
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