

IN THE OFFICE OF THE STATE ENGINEER  
OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

#1312

ORDER

DESIGNATING AND DESCRIBING THE WINNEMUCCA LAKE  
VALLEY HYDROGRAPHIC BASIN (06-080) WITHIN PERSHING,  
WASHOE, AND CHURCHILL COUNTIES, NEVADA

WHEREAS, the State Engineer is empowered to make such reasonable rules and regulations as may be necessary for the proper and orderly execution of the powers conferred by law.<sup>1</sup>

WHEREAS, Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 534.030 provides that if after due investigation the State Engineer determines that administration of a basin is justified, the State Engineer shall designate the area by basin, or portion therein, and make an official order describing the boundaries by legal subdivision as nearly as possible.

WHEREAS, there is reserved land within the Winnemucca Lake Valley Hydrographic Basin. The reserved land encompasses approximately 22 percent of the hydrographic basin.<sup>2</sup> The State Engineer has no record of water use or appropriation within the reserved land.

WHEREAS, the Nevada Division of Water Resources estimates that 3,300 acre-feet of water annually is available as the perennial yield from the Winnemucca Lake Valley Hydrographic Basin.<sup>3</sup>

WHEREAS, groundwater committed is the sum of all permitted, certificated, decreed, reserved, relinquished, revocable, and unadjudicated vested claims to groundwater rights. The committed groundwater appropriations of record in the Office of the State Engineer total 305.85 acre-feet annually; however, this value does not include any quantity of water used within the portion of reserved land.

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<sup>1</sup> NRS 532.120.

<sup>2</sup> Percentage of area was calculated using areas of land, as defined by the polygon data, depicting American Indian and Alaska Native Land Area Representations, provided by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, BIA AIAN National LAR. (2.1), from the total area for the hydrographic basin.

<sup>3</sup> C.P. Zones, *Ground-Water Resources of Winnemucca Lake Valley, Pershing and Washoe Counties, Nevada*, Geological Survey Water-Supply Paper 1539-C, (State of Nevada, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and United States Geological Survey), 1961.

<sup>4</sup> Nevada Division of Water Resources' Water Rights Database, Hydrographic Basin Summary, Winnemucca Lake Valley Hydrographic Basin (080), accessed August 14, 2020, official records in the Office of the State Engineer, available at <http://water.nv.gov/undergroundactive.aspx>.

**WHEREAS**, domestic wells that are exempt from the permitting process represent an additional commitment of 2 acre-feet annually per well. There are 3 domestic wells recorded in the Winnemucca Lake Valley Hydrographic Basin, which total 6.0 acre-feet annually.<sup>5</sup> However, there may be additional domestic wells within the reserved lands that are not on record with the Office of the State Engineer.

**WHEREAS**, the amount of groundwater reserved by NRS 533.0241 is 262.82 acre-feet annually.<sup>6</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the total committed groundwater resource is 574.67 acre-feet annually.<sup>7</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the State Engineer finds that the current committed groundwater appropriations and unrecorded water usage may exceed the perennial yield.

**WHEREAS**, as required under NRS 534.030, a public hearing in the matter of the designation of the Winnemucca Lake Valley Hydrographic Basin was held in Sparks, Nevada, on February 27, 2020, to take testimony concerning whether administration is justified.

**WHEREAS**, the State Engineer finds that conditions warrant the designation of the Winnemucca Lake Valley Hydrographic Basin (06-080), located within Pershing, Washoe, and Churchill Counties, Nevada, based on testimony received at the hearing and other data and information available to the State Engineer, under the provisions of NRS Chapter 534.

**NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, pursuant to NRS 534.030, the following described areas of land are designated as in need of additional administration:<sup>8</sup>

**T.24N., R.23E., Mount Diablo Base and Meridian (M.D.B.&M.)**

All of Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26 and those portions of Sections 5, 8, 16, 17, 21, 27, 28, 34, 35, and 36 within the Winnemucca Lake Valley drainage basin.

**T.24N., R.24E., M.D.B.&M.**

All of Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 28, 29, 30, 37, 38, 39, 5A, 17A, and 19A and those portions of Sections 25, 26, 27, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36 within the Winnemucca Lake Valley drainage basin.

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<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> See map of the Winnemucca Lake Valley Hydrographic Basin, official records in the Office of the State Engineer.

**T.24N., R.25E., M.D.B.&M.**

Those portions of Sections 6, 7, 17, 18, 19, and 30 within the Winnemucca Lake Valley drainage basin.

**T.25N., R.23E., M.D.B.&M.**

All of Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 33, 34, 35, and 36 and those portions of Sections 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 29, 30, and 32 within the Winnemucca Lake Valley drainage basin.

**T.25N., R.24E., M.D.B.&M.**

All of Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35 and those portions of Sections 1, 2, 11, 13, 14, 24, 25, and 36 within the Winnemucca Lake Valley drainage basin.

**T.25N., R.25E., M.D.B.&M.**

That portion of Section 31 within the Winnemucca Lake Valley drainage basin.

**T.26N., R.22E., M.D.B.&M.**

Those portions of Sections 1, 12, 13, 24, 25, and 36 within the Winnemucca Lake Valley drainage basin.

**T.26N., R.23E., M.D.B.&M.**

All of Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36 and that portion of Section 31 within the Winnemucca Lake Valley drainage basin.

**T.26N., R.24E., M.D.B.&M.**

All of Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35 and those portions of Sections 25 and 36 within the Winnemucca Lake Valley drainage basin.

**T.26N., R.25E., M.D.B.&M.**

Those portions of Sections 6, 7, 18, 19, and 30 within the Winnemucca Lake Valley drainage basin.

**T.27N., R.22E., M.D.B.&M.**

Those portions of Sections 25 and 36 within the Winnemucca Lake Valley drainage basin.

**T.27N., R.23E., M.D.B.&M.**

All of Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36 and those portions of Sections 5, 8, 17, 18, 19, and 30 within the Winnemucca Lake Valley drainage basin.

**T.27N., R.24E., M.D.B.&M.**

All Sections.

**T.27N., R.25E., M.D.B.&M.**

All of Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, and 30 and those portions of Sections 4, 9, 10, 16, 20, 21, 29, 31, and 32 within the Winnemucca Lake Valley drainage basin.

**T.28N., R.23E., M.D.B.&M.**

All of Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 33, 34, 35, and 36 and those portions of Sections 3, 4, 9, 10, 16, 21, 28, 29, and 32 within the Winnemucca Lake Valley drainage basin.

**T.28N., R.24E., M.D.B.&M.**

All of Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36 and that portion of Section 1 within the Winnemucca Lake Valley drainage basin.

**T.28N., R.25E., M.D.B.&M.**

All of Sections 19, 30, and 31 and those portions of Sections 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 20, 29, 32, and 33 within the Winnemucca Lake Valley drainage basin.

**T.29N., R.23E., M.D.B.&M.**

All of Sections 12, 13, 24, 25, and 36 and those portions of Sections 1, 2, 11, 14, 23, 26, 33, 34, and 35 within the Winnemucca Lake Valley drainage basin.

**T.29N., R.24E., M.D.B.&M.**

All of Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 37, and 38 and those portions of Sections 4, 15, 22, 27, 34, 35, 36, and 39 within the Winnemucca Lake Valley drainage basin.

**T.30N., R.23E., M.D.B.&M.**

That portion of Section 36 within the Winnemucca Lake Valley drainage basin.

**T.30N., R.23.5E., M.D.B.&M.**

Those portions of Sections 29, 31, and 32 within the Winnemucca Lake Valley drainage basin.

**T.30N., R.24E., M.D.B.&M.**

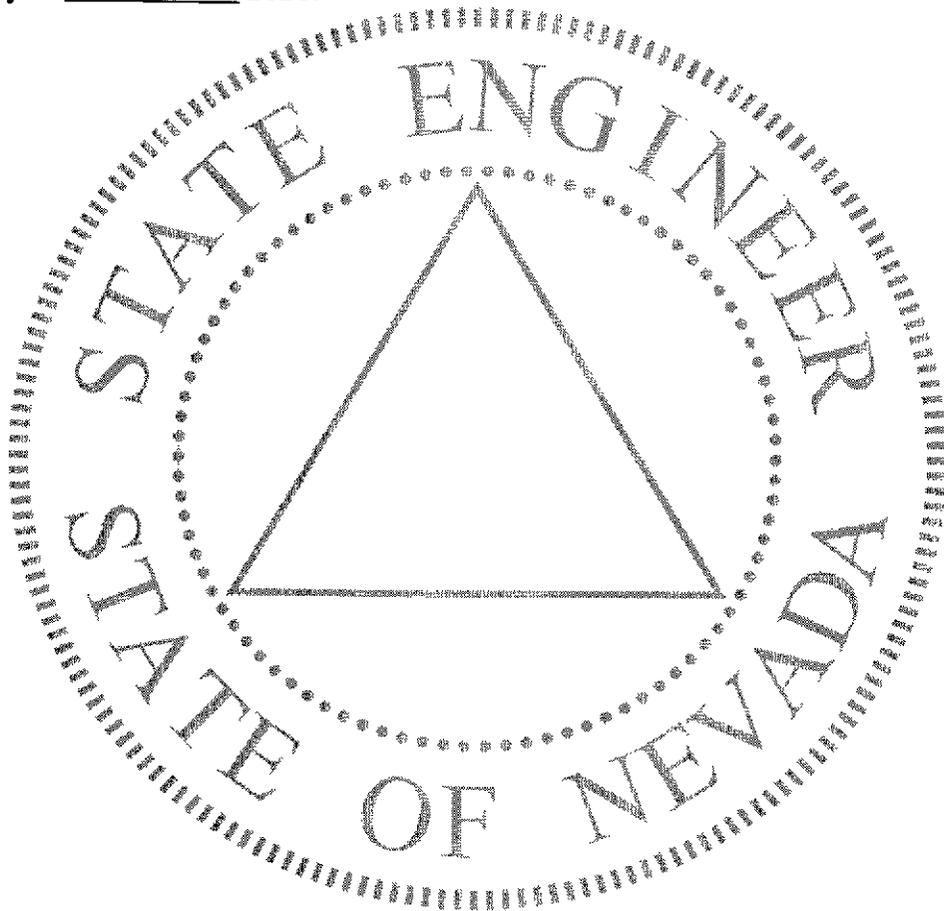
All of Sections 29, 31, and 32, and those portions of Sections 19, 20, 21, 28, 30, and 33 within the Winnemucca Lake Valley drainage basin.

**AND IT IS FURTHER ORDERED**, those areas of land, as defined by the polygon data, depicting American Indian and Alaska Native Land Area Representations provided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, are excluded.<sup>9</sup>

  
TIM WILSON, P.E.  
State Engineer

Dated at Carson City, Nevada this

28th day of August 2020.



<sup>9</sup> U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs. BIA AIAN National LAR. (2.1). BIA Branch of Geospatial Support, December 8, 2018. Accessed on January 22, 2020. <https://biamaps.doi.gov/dataDownload/index.html>. This dataset is being used for the purpose of natural resource management.