# EXHIBIT 109

#### National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Walker Basin Restoration Program

#### DRI Decision Support Tool and WRID Leasing Program Initial Discussion: Scenario Planning and Monitoring Components convened by NFWF Reno, Nevada Desert Research Institute, CVRB Building Room 209

#### AGENDA

#### Introductions (10:00 - 10:30) Purpose of the Meeting and Review of Agenda

#### DRI Decision Support Tool (10:30 – 12:00)

- Presentation of DST (DRI)
- Discussion
- Potential uses of DST for Planning and Monitoring Purposes (DRI)
- Discussion

#### Lunch (provided, 12:00 - 12:30)

#### Updates (12:30 - 1:00)

• 2010 updates of relevant work by various entities

#### Transfers and Water Monitoring (1:00 – 2:00)

- NFWF program of investments (NFWF)
- WRID Leasing Program
- Brainstorming of Transaction and Flow Monitoring Needs
- Discussion

#### National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Walker Basin Restoration Program (WBRP)

Water Group Meeting on the DRI Decision Support Tool (DST) convened by NFWF Desert Research Institute, Reno, Nevada January 15,2010

### **Meeting Summary**

### Participants

- Steven Fulstone WRID board member
- Ken Spooner WRID manager
- Stephanie Byers U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Jim Thomas DRI
- Joy Giffin NFWF WBRP Associate Program Director
- Tim Minor DRI DST Team
- Kip Allander USGS hydrologist
- Tom Lopes USGS hydrologist
- Jim Shaw USBWC Federal Watermaster
- Karen Peterson USBWC attorney
- Andrew Purkey NFWF Water Program Director
- Bill Bettenberg Walker River Paiute Tribe (WRPT) attorney
- Peter Weisberg UNR Researcher
- Norm Harry WRPT Water Litigation Officer
- Chris Garner DRI DST Team
- Doug Boyle DRI DST Principal Investigator
- Gerry Emm WRPT Fisheries Director
- David Yardas NFWF Interim WBRP Director
- Wes Williams WRPT General Counsel
- Bruce Aylward Ecosystem Economics Director
- Erik Borgen Ecosystem Economics Associate

#### Introductions and Agenda

Jim Thomas provided an introduction and welcome to DRI

Bruce Aylward reviewed agenda and meeting objectives

- present model and potential uses
- will go as long as needed and as slow as necessary for everyone to ask questions and understand the capabilities
- group discussion of where the model should go, how its should be further developed, what data should be added

### Walker Basin Restoration Program

Andrew Purkey provided a brief overview of the WBRP, the NFWF Team and recent developments, including:

- NFWF has signed agreement with Reclamation to implement the Walker Basin restoration program
- NFWF received assignment of NSHE options package
- NFWF developing strategy to meet needs of legislation and community
- David Yardas now on staff as interim Program Director
- Joy Giffin on staff as local Assistant Program Director
- Consultant Roles
- Ecosystem Economics providing strategy assistance
- Mentor Law providing legal assistance
- Westwater Research providing water pricing expertise
- Additional consultants on options packages transitioning to NFWF from NSHE
- NFWF mentioned will be setting up local advisory council and initiating Conservation and Stewardship Fund
- Legislation calls for further research and the DST is one promising tool from the prior UNR/DRI research collaboration

### **Decision Support Tool (DST)**

Doug Boyle, Chris Garner and Tim Minor presented the DST including their presentation from the desert terminal lakes conference, which comprised of a powerpoint presentation and a movie showing the model components on a digital elevation model of the basin. Doug utilized the movie, pausing frequently, as a tool to discuss the development of the model and elicit questions from the meeting participants.

In explaining the current state of the DST, Doug emphasized that the DST Team is actively seeking public review of the model and it is important to note that the team has run no scenarios through the model other than the historic timeframe.

The DST is actually three models: one model handling the supply of water (PRMS-Precipitation Runoff Modeling System), one handling the groundwater component (MODFLOW), and one handling the delivery and return of water (MODSIM). Output from PRMS is input into MODFLOW, and then MODFLOW results are input into MODSIM. Often, there are tweaks that need to be made necessitating that MODSIM results be fed back to MODFLOW, which in turn must then go back into MODSIM.

As Doug went through his presentation and fielded questions, gaps limitations and areas for improvement were discussed. The primary gaps and limitations concerned missing data. There were questions about accuracy of each of the underlying the models and in each case, the accuracy of the models are limited by

the data that the team has available to them. Below is a summary of some of the limitations noted during the discussion:

- There is a need to further calibrate the PRMS models
- Water going in and out of Topaz Reservoir is unknown so Topaz operations are difficult to model
- Groundwater data from Antelope and Brideport vallery were not available and so only Smith and Mason valleys have MODFLOW models
- the East Walker was not explicitly included in the model
- Storage and Decree water deliveries provided to the team are only at ditch level, not at farm level
- Flood water available only on annual basis, so flood water deliveries are not highly accurate
- The lack of integration of the MODFLOW and MODSIM models makes it difficult to simply run a scenario

The other primary limitation/gap is spatial. Originally the plan was for the DST to cover the entire Walker Basin, modeling water movement from the headwaters of the Walker River downstream to Walker Lake. The DST team decided to only model downstream to the Wabuska Gage once they determined that the USGS (via the same funding source as the UNR/DRI Walker Basin Project) was engaged in a similar modeling effort covering the river from the Wabuska Gage downstream to Walker Lake. The DST team and the USGS met to collaborate and determined that their models could be integrated upon completion.

Questions about the DST's capabilities arose. The DST team explained that it is setup as a tool for comparative analysis, meaning that they could run a scenario without a lease/purchase and then run it again with a lease/purchase and compare the results. Additionally there was discussion surrounding the "time step" of the DST and its implications on how the model could be used. Currently, the DST uses a monthly time step, so it is more suited for planning purposes. If the DST were to be used for operational purposes, a daily time step would be more appropriate; however, a daily time step would introduce even greater error because of the underlying data limitations.

### **Discussion on Next Steps on DST**

The DST Team emphasized that they have yet to apply the model to answer a "what if" question. They felt it was inappropriate until there was a group of stakeholders to ask questions and guide the use of the DST. A discussion then ensued of how the groups in attendance could work with the DST team to (a) improve the model and (b) begin testing its use by asking questions of it. Many of the prior limitations of the model were discussed through the day and the DST Team agreed to write those up and provide an indication of what future improvements they could make under the continuation of the project.

The discussion then turned to what set of questions could be asked of the model so that the DST Team could proceed to use the model and develop their ability to run such comparisons and provide useful output information to stakeholders. The discussion led to the conclusion that at this point the model would be best run for some generic types of water transactions and not for specific acquisitions. It was also stressed that the model is just a tool that can help guide future decisions, not a tool that will make decisions. The group came with a number of initial comparisons for the team to work on:

- Do one ditch in each valley, Smith and Mason
  - Run for 100% of water rights in the ditch protected instream (results can be proportioned latter)
  - Run over whole 10 yrs
- Run for a high priority or low priority ditch (or water right if that is possible)
- Split ditch in half over course of a season (split season) with water on farm until July 1 or August 1 and then instream from then on; and the opposite (early season water instream and late season on farm)

The group agreed to meet again to discuss the DST Teams model improvements plan and to look at modeling results. The DST Team agreed that a meeting in two months was appropriate. A meeting was scheduled for March 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **USGS Update**

As a prelude to potentially sharing some of their work at a future meeting, Kip Allender and Tom Lopes of USGS gave a brief update of their ongoing/proposed work on Walker. With respect to work below Wabuska, USGS is currently modeling how surface water delivered to Wabuska affects water balance down to the lake. They are using GSFLOW for integration – but also using PRMS and MODFLOW. GSFLOW doesn't do water rights but should be able to handle the changing conditions at Walker Lake. Status of the work is that the basic framework built; and they are working on calibration and then will integrate with GSFLOW. October 2011 is the target completion date.

With respect to the water budget/conceptual hydrograph work, Part 1 is complete and the report is available. Part 2 of water budget work is scheduled to start next month, and will involve moving up the basin and installing more gages

NOTE: Next meeting is March 11<sup>th</sup>: 10:00 to 2pm at DRI.



National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Walker Basin Restoration Program

Water Group Meeting convened by NFWF Reno, Nevada Desert Research Institute, CVRB Building Room 209 March 11, 2010 - 10 am to 2 pm

#### AGENDA

- 10:00 10:15 Overview
  - Introductions
  - Purpose of the Meeting and Review of Agenda
- 10:15 11:00 Walker Basin Overview (USGS, Lopes/Allendar)
  - Presentation and discussion of USGS water balance research
  - Presentation of gauging plan
- 11:00 11:30 DST data inputs (DRI, Minor)
  - Review of GIS layers used for Hydrologic modeling
  - Example for one location in Mason Valley
- 11:30 12:00 Groundwater Modeling (DRI, Pohll)
  - Mason/Smith Valley MODFLOW
- 12:00 12:30 Lunch (provided)

#### 12:30 – 1:45 Model Scenarios (DRI, Boyle)

- Simulating water transfers using MODFLOW
- Transferring Mason Valley water rights to Wabuska using MODSIM/MODFLOW
- Further model development (2010 2011)
- 1:45 2:00 Wrap up

## Walker River Basin Study Summary of Findings



In Cooperation with the Bureau of Reclamation



**Presentation Overview**  Basin Hydrology -Summary • Water Budgets -Summary - Reports • Walker Part II - Objectives - Data collection - Results



### Sierra Nevada Headwaters





### **Bridgeport Valley and Reservoir**



## Antelope Valley and Topaz Lake



## Mason Valley





## Wabuska Gage





## Wabuska—Weber Reach





## Weber Dam





## Walker River at Walker Lake





Stream and Lake gages





## **Continuous Real-Time Data**





Daily observation at midnight elevation of reservoir water surface
Estimated daily observation at midnight elevation of reservoir water
Period of approved data

🔺 Equipment malfunction

---- Period of provisional data



## Variable Streamflow at Wabuska





### Mean Streamflow @ Wabuska





### Stream Salinity Smith Valley to Walker Lake





## Wells





## Smith Valley Groundwater





## Mason Valley Groundwater





### Declining Water Levels Smith and Mason Valleys



Depth to water, feet



## Mostly Declining Water Levels





Base from U.S. Geological Sarvey digital date, 1:24,000 and 1:100,000, 1978-85. Walker Lake average lake attitude of 2037.5 fr for November 2008; Projection: Universal Transverse

### Pumpage Increases in Dry Years Smith and Mason Valleys



Percent of 1971-2000 streamflow normal at Wabuska





### Wabuska—Cow Camp Little Stream Infiltration





## Lake Sediments = Little Infiltration



## Wabuska—Weber Reach





## Cow Camp Groundwater Seep





### Groundwater at Weber Reservoir



Date



### Little Dam—Walker Lake Groundwater





### **Groundwater and Streamflow**




#### Upward Gradient Double Spring and Lake



Date



#### Declining Water Levels Hawthorne Area







#### Little Dam—Lateral 2-A Most Stream Infiltration







#### Fluvial and Lake Sediments Schurz Area





#### Lateral 2-A—Near Mouth Stream Infiltration Limited





### In Search of GW Discharge





#### Stable Isotopes in Core and Water-Column Samples





### Little GW Discharge to Lake





# Sample Sites





# Cross Sections





## **Double Spring**





DISTANCE FROM NORTHERN BEDROCK CONTACT (FEET)



### Southern Lake





DISTANCE FROM WESTERN BEDROCK CONTACT (FEET)



### Northern Lake





DISTANCE FROM EASTERN BEDROCK CONTACT (FEET)



#### **Subsurface Flow Estimates**

Average hydraulic conductivity (K)

 near-stream aquifer 70 ft/d
 distant aquifer 10 ft/d

Darcy's Law

Q = KAI 5,000 AF/yr north of lake 2,200 AF/yr south of lake 2,700 AF/yr Double Spring







#### ET Results Lower Walker River Basin

- Total Net ET 169,000 AF/yr (net is in excess of precipitation)
  - 84% Walker Lake
  - 7% riparian areas
  - 4% shrubs, grassland, turf
  - 2% agriculture
  - 2% Weber Reservoir
  - 1% saltcedar (after beetles)
    - Beetles reduced saltcedar ET by 50%



### **Riparian ET from Streamflow**





### Summary of Hydrology

- 2/3 of streamflow during spring runoff
- 2/3 of years below, 1/3 above average streamflow
- Subsurface outflow through Adrian Valley, Wabuska lineament, Double Spring
- Gaining reaches
  - a) Smith Valley
  - b) Above Weber—Little Dam
  - c) Below Lateral 2-A-Walker Lake



### Summary of Hydrology

 Losing reaches a) Mason Valley b) Wabuska—Above Weber (little infiltration) c) Little Dam—below Lateral 2-A Little GW discharge to lake Lower Basin ET 1) Lake (>>) 2) Native vegetation 3) Ag ET 4) Little ET by saltcedar



#### 1971-2000 Average Streamflow (AF/yr)

#### **Headwater Inflows**

West Walker River 223,000 145,000 **East Walker River** 17,000 Sweetwater Mtns 2,000 East Fork **Total inflow** 387,000 Lower Basin Streamflow Wabuska gage 138,000 108,000 Lateral 2-A gage 105,000 Walker Lake



#### 1971-2000 Surface-Water Budgets

Component	Antelope Valley	Smith Valley	Bridgeport Valley	East Fork	Mason Valley
Inflow	221,000	201,000	142,000	131,000	269,000
Reservoir precipitation	2,000		3,000		
Total inflow	223,000	201,000	145,000	131,000	269,000
Reservoir evaporation	8,000		9,000		
Diversion	22,000	54,000	17,000	6,000	117,000
Infiltration, riparian ET	TSTE	TSTE	TSTE	3,000	14,000
Outflow	193,000	147,000	119,000	122,000	138,000
<b>USGS</b>			and the		

#### **Application Rates**

Diversion = Inflow – outflow – evaporation Diversion rate = Diversion/irrigated acres Application rate = Diversion + Precipitation rates

Area	Rate (ft/yr)
Antelope Valley	3.8
Smith Valley	3.8
Bridgeport	2.4
East Walker	4.8
Mason Valley	4.8
Reservation	7.0



# Wabuska—Lake Water Budget





Wabuska	-Schurz
Water	Budget

Inflow	
Walker River	138,000
Weber precipitation	200
Subsurface inflow	800
Total inflow (rounded)	139,000
Outflow	
Walker River	108,000
Weber evaporation	2,200
Net natural ET	12,500
Agricultural ET	2,300
Canal 2 diversion	9,300
Pumpage	200
Subsurface outflow	5,500
Total outflow (rounded)	140,000
Imbalance	-1,000
Percent	-1%



	Inflow	
Wabuska—Schurz	Subsurface inflow	800
Groundwater	Net infiltration	11,800
Budaet	Induced recharge	2,800
	Total inflow (rounded)	15,000
	Outflow	
	Net natural ET	10,300
	Pumpage	200
	Lineament outflow	100
	<b>Double Spring outflow</b>	2,700
	Subsurface towards lake	2,700
	Total outflow (rounded)	16,000
	Imbalance	1,000
<mark>≈USGS</mark>	Percent	7%

#### Schurz—Lake Water Budget

Inflow			
Walker River	108,000		
Canal 2 diversion	9,300		
Recharge	500		
Subsurface inflow	2,700		
Total inflow (rounded)	120,000		
Outflow			
Walker River	105,000		
Net natural ET	7,400		
Net agricultural ET	1,700		
Subsurface to lake	5,000		
Total outflow (rounded)	119,000		
Imbalance	1,000		
Percent	1%		



Schurz—Lake Groundwater Budget

Inflow			
Subsurface inflow	2,700		
Stream infiltration	3,000		
Natural recharge	500		
Induced recharge	8,100		
Total inflow (rounded)	14,000		
Outflow			
Riparian ET	1,000		
Saltcedar ET	1,800		
Phreatophytic ET	4,600		
Agricultural ET	500		
Discharge to lake	5,000		
Total outflow (rounded)	13,000		
Imbalance	1,000		
Percent	7%		



#### Walker Lake Water Budget

Inflow	
Walker River	105,000
Precipitation	14,600
Subsurface inflow	7,800
Local runoff	3,000
Total inflow (rounded)	130,000
Outflow	
Lake evaporation	157,400
Net ET	2,200
Diverted local runoff	2,000
Pumpage	100
Total outflow (rounded)	162,000
Storage change	-29,000
Imbalance	-3,000
Percent	2%



#### Water Budget to Maintain Lake Level

	Lake-Suitace Altitude (It)				
	3,952	3,965	3,986		
Dissolved solids (mg/L)	12,000	10,000	8,000		
Supplemental volume (AF)	700,000	1,200,000	2,000,000		
Inflow (AF/year)					
Walker River	105,000	105,000	105,000		
Other inflow	25,000	26,000	28,000		
Total inflow	130,000	131,000	133,000		
Outflow (AF/year)					
Evaporation	152,000	162,000	182,000		
Other outflow	4,000	4,000	4,000		
Total outflow	156,000	166,000	186,000		
Supplemental inflow	26,000	36,000	53,000		



### Summary of Water Budgets

- 387,000 AF/yr total streamflow
- 138,000 AF/yr streamflow at Wabuska
  64% diverted, infiltrated, ET, basin outflow
- 110,000 AF/yr at Lake
  - 105,000 streamflow + 5,000 GW discharge
  - 20% diverted, infiltrated, ET, basin outflow
- 700,000—2 million AF supplemental volume
- 26,000—53,000 AF/yr supplemental inflow



### Reports

- Bathymetry of Walker Lake (2007)
- Evapotranspiration (2009)
- Setting/Conceptual Model (2009)
- Water budget (2009) http://nevada.usgs.gov/walker/index.htm
  Precipitation estimates (2007) http://www.nvwra.org/journal/



Walker Part II (2010 through 2014) **Objectives** 1. Refine upper basin water budgets 2. Characterize seasonal, annual, and decadal changes in groundwater levels and storage 3. Characterize changes in irrigated land and native vegetation

4. Characterize changes in the quality of Walker Lake



#### **Data Collection**

- 24 stream gaging stations (15 new or continued gages)
- Measure infiltration along 11 stream reaches and 9 canals
- Lake stage and WQ station (vertical profiles of EC, T, pH, DO, fluorescence, turbidity)
- Bathymetry and accumulated sediment in Topaz Lake, Bridgeport, and Weber Reservoirs



#### SW Gages





### **Data Collection**

- Install monitoring wells in Wabuska— Schurz area
- Measure water levels in spring and fall from Antelope Valley to Hawthorne
- Monthly water levels in subset of wells
- Conduct aquifer tests
- Measure chloride in atmospheric deposition, streamflow, and groundwater for recharge estimates



#### **Data Collection**

- Map land-cover change in 5 year increments since 1972
- Monitor vegetation where changes are expected




National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Walker Basin Restoration Program (WBRP)

#### Water Group Meeting convened by NFWF Reno, Nevada, Desert Research Institute, CVRB Building Room 209 March 11, 2010 - 10 am to 2 pm

## **Meeting Summary**

#### Participants

- Tom Strekal BIA
- Steve Brown BIA
- Paul Hamai NRCE/BIA
- Elmer Bull NDOW
- Rick Felling NDWR
- Tom Gallagher, NDWR
- Kelvin Hickenbottom NDWR
- Mike Liquori, SWC/WRID
- Michelle Langsdorf MVCD/SVCD
- Glenn Bunch Walker Lake Working Group
- Lisa Heki U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Kip Allander USGS
- Tom Lopes USGS
- Jim Shaw USBWC Federal Watermaster
- Norm Harry WRPT
- Gerry Emm WRPT
- Jim Thomas DRI
- Doug Boyle DRI
- Anna Knust DRI
- Greg Pohll DRI
- Tim Minor DRI
- Chris Garner DRI
- Joy Giffin NFWF
- David Yardas NFWF
- Bruce Aylward Ecosystem Economics
- Erik Borgen Ecosystem Economics

I. USGS Presentation - Tom Lopes discussed the hydrology of Basin, the basin water budget and the new gages being added to the basin.

(PLEASE NOTE: One error was found in the overall water-budget table and one error in the groundwater budget table for the Wabuska-Schurz reach. The online report will be revised with these corrections.)

Points on general hydrology:

- lake has declined 150 ft since 1882
- Walker does not really have an "average" stream flow as flows are extremely variable from year to year
- 2/3 of flow occurs in spring runoff
- high salinity in groundwater in the area close to lake
- some groundwater exits basin e.g. flows toward Artesia Lake from Smith Valley
- pumpage increases in dry years
- Wabuska to Weber is a losing reach
- from Wabuska to Cow Camp riparian vegetation leads to ET losses during growing season
- below Weber to Little Dam is a gaining reach
- where lake sediments are deposited there is little infiltration/leakage
- Little Dam to Walker Lake is a losing reach

Highlights from Water Budget Calculations:

- data sets contained info from 1971 to 2000
- total inflow 387k acre ft/yr (include estimate of ungaged runoff) headwater
- 138k acre-ft makes it to Wabuska
- 108k makes it to the Lateral 2a gage
- 105k to Walker Lake
- based on water budgets, between 700,000 and 2 million acre-ft of supplemental volume is needed to be delivered to Walker Lake to get TDS levels between 12,000 and 8,000 mg/L
- Then, between 26,000 and 53,000 acre-ft per year will be needed to maintain those levels

Part II of USGS study includes ongoing data collection and new gages/new water quality monitoring station

II. DRI GIS Presentation - Tim Minor from DRI discussed the datasets used in the DST

Objective: to provide hydrologic, geographic and water rights data for the analysis of potential water rights acquisitions in the Walker

Geographic Data:

- admin (parcels, county, etc)
- ditches and drains
- agricultural fields (boundary and crop type)
- topography
- public land survey system township and range

Hydrologic Data:

- diversions
- wells

Water Rights

- surface & groundwater

Also:

- made use of an Aerial Photography Base Layer
- Digitizing ditches and drains took much time
- GW POUs and PODs many to many relationships required link table to be created
- HRUs explanation of spatial scale employed in model

GIS Role for next phase of project

- updating spatial data used in model
- updating water rights info

Question of total water used - whether it's incorporated in model based on types of water

- Reiteration that data is at the main point of diversion level
- III. DRI Groundwater Model Presentation Greg Pohll from DRI presented the Mason Valley Groundwater Model (a component of the DST)

Highlights and notes:

- Smith Valley GW Model is 2-dimensional model only, while the Mason Valley Model has 3 dimensions
- Focus Question: What is nature of the GW and SW exchange?
- Area of irrigated land is variable/dependent on the amount of water diverted and pumped as well as crop consumption needs for month based on the types of crops in the HRU

- Groundwater pumping records are not available for all irrigation wells and annual volumes for all groundwater pumped in the basin are only available for years 1995 to 2002. A regression between annual sum of streamflow at the Hudson and Strosnider gages and annual recorded groundwater withdrawals was developed to estimate pumping volumes. The annual, basin-wide pumping estimate was distributed to individual HRU's by area and consumptive use. The groundwater pumping was evenly distributed among all wells within an HRU.
- Question about groundwater exiting north into the mountains 4 points of exit on the model hypothesis that its extracted by evapotranspiration about 800 acre ft; USGS handled it a bit differently but seemed to have similar numbers
- More variability during drought less water
- Water balance comments river primary source of water into the basin river inflows make 84% but during drought river contribution drops to 66%
- Question on crop ET and non-agricultural ET crop ET came from NSE; phreatophytes from USGS
- Irrigated acres were varied to accommodate year to year variability
- Model was well calibrated to observed data
- IV. DRI DST Presentation Doug Boyle from DRI presented results from model runs simulating the movement/transfer of water to instream use using (a) the Mason Valley Modflow model and (b) the integrated Modflow/MODSIM model

Highlights and notes:

- a quick recap of how the DST consists of 3 models linked together PRMS/MODFLOW/MODSIM
- exploration of full set of water transactions from previous meeting was not possible, but instead provide results from two scenarios
  - 1) reduce diversion and supplemental pumping in the MV MODSIM model
  - 2) water right transfer in the full DST
- clarification that the (1) scenario does not reflect any watermaster behavior, the water put instream is assumed to be instream and not reallocated through the water rights system
- in the (2) scenario, MODSIM reallocates the water based on the model (which is calibrated and is a relatively good predictor of past watermaster behavior in allocating water by priority)

The results (see the powerpoint) suggest the following:

- Under (1) most of the water placed instream from ditches like West Hyland moves downstream to Wabuska
- Variations from ditch to ditch in how much water moves to Wabuska under (1) may reflect proximity to the river and to Wabuska
- In some cases the results suggest unexplained increases in water reaching Wabuska (at 3x what is left instream) – this may be related to HRUs where there are river pumps, but requires further investigation
- Scenario (2) shows more water going to the lake but causes a system "shortage" – this may reflect that the model was instructed to move West Hyland Rights to Wabuska – and in doing so it moved water that before the simulation was diverted by other HRUs

Next steps for the modeling include:

- Need to develop ability to unpack the "shortage" and explain components of changes in the water allocations in terms that stakeholders can understand
- $\circ~$  Need to repeat scenario (2) for the rest of the ditches in Mason Valley and Smith Valley
- Develop capability to easily move individual fractions
- Develop capability to incorporate storage water into the DST so that changes in water rights and responses will also incorporate adjustments in the storage regime

The next meeting was scheduled for May 13<sup>th</sup> to further explore use of the DST and bring in additional information/models to expand our understanding of water management in the basin



National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Walker Basin Restoration Program

Water Group Meeting convened by NFWF Reno, Nevada Desert Research Institute, Stout Conference Room A June 15, 2010 – 1:00 to 3:30 pm

#### AGENDA

1:00 -	1:15	Overview

- Introductions
- Purpose of the Meeting and Review of Agenda
- 1:15 1:45 Decree Discussion
- 1:45 2:00 Overview of Masini Sale
- 2:00 2:15 Break
- 2:15 2:45 DST Update
- 2:45 3:30 Monitoring Discussion

Wrap up



### National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Walker Basin Restoration Program

### Water Group Meeting convened by NFWF Reno, Nevada

June 15, 2010

#### **Meeting Summary**

#### **Participants:**

- Steve Brown BIA
- Paul Hamai NRCE/BIA
- Rick Felling NDWR
- Tom Gallagher NDWR
- Keith Conrad NDWR
- Adam Sullivan NDWR
- Mike Liquori SWC/WRID
- Glenn Bunch Walker Lake Working Group
- Stephanie Byers U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Tom Lopes USGS
- Jim Shaw USBWC
- Karen Peterson USBWC
- Norm Harry -WRPT
- Gerry Emm WRPT
- Jim Thomas DRI
- Doug Boyle DRI
- Tim Minor DRI
- Chris Garner DRI
- Susan Mortenson UNR
- Joy Giffin NFWF
- Bruce Aylward Ecosystem Economics
- Erik Borgen Ecosystem Economics

#### 1. Opening Remarks

Bruce Aylward recapped the purpose of the meetings and underlined the main theme: scientists, managers, transaction stewards partnering and sharing technical expertise over time.

#### 2. Closing of First Acquisition

#### 2.1 Acquisition Details

Joy Giffin from NFWF discussed the first water rights acquisition.

The acquisition closed May 13, 2010. The deal included surface and supplemental ground water rights appurtenant to approximately 646 acres of land; 7.745 cfs of natural flow decree water rights; 402.55 acre-feet of associated storage water rights; 2,585 acre-feet of supplemental ground water rights; and associated shares of stock in the West Hyland Ditch along the main Walker River in northern Mason Valley.

#### 2.2 Comments and discussion

- The deal is public knowledge, the total purchase price was \$6.11 million, which is approx. \$9500 an acre for fully reliable water, assuming reliability is 4 ft per acre.
- Priority dates of decree rights range from 1874-1906.
- NFWF is currently drafting a change application and working with various entities to determine when water will be called for. Will depend somewhat on historical use of water acquired.
- Consumptive use and/or instream flow quantities have not been determined
- We do not know yet if the NDOW 55% number (the amount of water NDOW was able to transfer to Walker Lake in the only previous instream transfer to have been completed in the basin) will be used. It was hypothesized that for a straight transfer, the transfer would likely be the consumptive use for alfalfa (not sure exactly what that is maybe 3.5 AF/acre) but NSEO may consider different crop types in future. If there is an application to transfer a portion of a water right where the crop has changed to a less consumptive use crop, then the net water savings could be transferred to Walker Lake, assuming it is a permanent transfer. Nothing under state law precludes split-duties, but issue hasn't been decided yet. An application for change would likely be what is needed to settle the questions.

#### 3. Walker River Decree Presentation

Jim Shaw, Chief Deputy Water Commissioner (a.k.a., Federal Water Master) for the Walker River Basin gave a presentation describing the decree, his position, and how water is managed in the basin.

Water rights in the Walker River Basin were adjudicated by the federal court, which continues to oversee changes to water rights in the basin. The U.S. Board of Water Commissioners (USBWC) manages distribution of Walker River water and is comprised of 6 board members, representing different geographic areas. The commissioners serve at the pleasure of the court. Before 1953 there was no professional staff.

This is the 9<sup>th</sup> season for Jim Shaw. His responsibility is to monitor river flows and reservoir operations on a daily basis. In delivering water, the Water Master determines the year of priority to be served on daily basis and must keep in mind that it takes 3 days to get water from either reservoir to the Wabuska gage. Jim manages the reservoirs using the WRID operation manual. The USBWC employs river riders and delivers water 6 days a week during irrigation season – meaning no adjustments on Sundays, the Water Master tries to keep river from "bouncing."

The USBWC annual budget is 350,000 and pays USGS 58,000 for gaging.

The Walker is a "non-navigable" river.

The C-125 decree settled claims of CA, NV and WRPT.

Bridgeport Valley has 31,000 acres of water righted. Individuals own reservoirs in CA nr Bridgeport. Bridgeport Reservoir has a 42,000 AF capacity with 57,000 AF annual fill/refill rights for WRID.

Antelope Valley has individually owned reservoirs as well.

Topaz Lake has a 59,000 AF capacity with a 85,000 AF fill-refill right for WRID.

The WRPT has the oldest right in the basin: 26.25 cfs for 180 days (1859 priority right).

The Decree was finalized in 1936 and amended 1940. The decree doesn't recognize CA riparian rights, even though it covers CA acreage.

For delivery of water, the Water Master relies on USGS gaging stations including E Walker nr Bridgeport, the Bridgeport Reservoir gage (which provides lake elevation), Strosnider, West Walker river nr Coleville (lower gage), Topaz lake gage (for elevation), Hoye Bridge, Hudson and Wabuska. The Water Master uses a formula that includes natural flow and return flows where the sum equals the amount to be used to satisfy vested rights. After the Water Master delivers vested rights and allows for storage, then the excess is flood/permit water.

Jim made adjustments 45 times last year to ensure priorities were delivered properly.

In response to a question of how the changing decree has affected how farmer call for water, the Water Master indicated that some irrigators (especially row crop farmers) have begun calling for water more often so that they do not have to wait the one or two days for the delivery of the water, but much of the water just ends up in the drain.

Irrigators can combine and rotate decree as long as they have the same priority rights.

The Water Master only investigates formal complaints that are signed.

The only entity that is always on demand is WRPT.

Is there a penalty for using water when should not be? Misdemeanor in NV; CA is \$500/day

The Water Master sets priority for E, W and Main rivers. Whichever river has the lowest priority the main will have that priority.

Erratic flows on river make for difficult management.

The watermasters office does not keep on the farm level delivery records, the records reflect ditch level deliveries.

The decree court established the rules and regs for changes.

Farmers advise the ditchriders, WRID or the watermasters office to let them know how long they want the water delivered for.

2010 was the first time ever that NDOW called for Walker Lake flood rights.

The Water Master explained his stance that the system is not over-allocated – just that every drop of water is allocated.

#### 4. Update from Doug Boyle and DST team

Doug Boyle is taking a new position in the Geography Department at UNR but will continue to lead the DST team.

Chris Garner presented a demonstration of a "proof of concept" approach to visualize the system shortages that the last model run predicted (shutting down West Hyland ditch, stopping supplemental pumping and moving to Wabuska) – spatially and temporally. The animation made for a very practical/informative way to look at the change.

The demonstration elicited many questions, but the point of Doug's presentation was to show how the animations can create more discussion and will help explain the results of their efforts. The DST team will continue working on the modeling runs and visualization products over the summer and will be prepared to address many of the questions using the animation at the August meeting.

#### 5.

#### Monitoring

Bruce Aylward (Ecosystem Economics) began a discussion on how the group will be helpful with respect to monitoring. He indicated that now that initial transactions are underway and WRID will likely be running a leasing program next year, there are some issues to consider: who is delivering what where, whose water is it, what color is it, etc.

Bruce asked the group which entities are currently looking at flows. The responses were: USGS, BIA, USBWC, Mike Liquori on behalf of WRID, NSE (looking at surface and groundwater pumpage), USFWS.

Once transferred instream, who will be monitoring? USFWS, USGS, BIA, USBWC, Mike Liquori on behalf of WRID.

Which groups are taking their own measurements? BIA, USGS, NSE, USFWS, WRPT

NSE will specifically be monitoring land fallowing, and what is not being pumped – ie. supplemental groundwater. A discussion ensued regarding what fallowing requirements NSE will have and how supplemental wells would be affected. There was a concern that irrigator will split

a supplemental well. It was indicated that the NSE would not allow a transfer of supply well water to worse priority decree right.

The DST will help with ex post facto monitoring.

Most of the groups at the meeting will be doing monitoring from the perspective of their own groups interest; we need to try to create a program to coordinate.

There was a suggestion to look at monitoring from the perspective of compliance, effectiveness and validation of the model. A discussion developed on what each of compliance, effectiveness and validation mean.

There was a comment that a compliance system is already in place, though it is not transparent.

#### 6. Next Meeting

Next meeting: Last week in August or second week in September





#### National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Walker Basin Restoration Program

#### Water Group Meeting convened by NFWF Reno, Nevada Desert Research Institute, Stout Conference Room A August 26, 2010 – 10:00 to 1:00 pm

#### AGENDA

#### 10:00 - 10:15 Overview (Aylward)

- Introductions
- Purpose of the Meeting and Review of Agenda

#### 10:15 – 11:00 Updates on Recent Activities

- NFWF Update
- DST Update
- USGS Update
- Others

#### 11:00 – 11:30 Nevada State Engineer presentation on METRIC (NDWR)

- Overview of METRIC
- NSEO intended use of METRIC for monitoring

#### 11:30 – 12:00 METRIC Presentation (Huntington/Minor)

- METRIC tool prepared for NSEO
- 12:00 12:30 Lunch (Provided)
- 12:30 -1:00 Wrap Up





#### Water Modeling Group Meeting Reno, Nevada Desert Research Institute, Stout Conference Room B October 26, 2010 – 10:00 to 2:00 pm

#### AGENDA

#### **10:00 – 10:30 Overview (Aylward)**

- Introductions
- Purpose of the Meeting and Review of Agenda
- Updates
  - o NFWF
  - Water Report (Watermaster)
  - Open Invitation

#### 10:30 – 11:00 Water Rights Change Application Process (NDWR)

• Presentation on the Change Application Process

#### 11:00 – 12:00 Decision Support Tool (DST Group)

- Developments
- Scenario results
- 12:00 12:30 Lunch (Provided)

#### 12:30 -1:30 USGS Water Model (USGS)

• Presentation and discussion of water model from wabuska to the Lake

#### 1:30 – 2:00 Wrap Up and Next Meetings (Aylward)

# Getting More Water to Walker Lake

# Successfully Navigating the Water Right Process

Presented for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Walker Basin Restoration Program

> Thomas K. Gallagher, P.E., Water Rights Section Chief

- Proposals to get more water to Walker Lake will involve purchases and leases of existing water rights in the Basin and transferring them downstream.
- We will look at what will be required in order to effect those transfers and we will start first with some water law basics.

Fundamentals of Western States Water Law – Nevada Style

- Water belongs to the public and may be appropriated for beneficial use only as provided by Nevada law.
- Beneficial use of the water ultimately becomes the limit and extent of the water right and defines it.

Fundamentals of Western States Water Law – Nevada Style

The water right is an appurtenance to specific lands upon which the water was placed to beneficial use.

This appurtenance or incidental right is attached to the principal property right and passes in possession with it, unless it is specifically withheld in the deed. Fundamentals of Western States Water Law – Nevada Style

The water right can only be severed from that place of use by an application to change the place of use.

The change application requires a supporting map that shows the entire water right place of use and that portion being stripped or removed.

- Title on the application to change must be consistent with the portion of the base water right to be changed.
- The source of water on the application to change must be consistent with the base water right to be changed.

- The amount of water on the application to change is related to the duty of water associated with the acreage being stripped.
- For example, if we are stripping 300 acres of water righted ground that has a 4 acre foot per acre duty of water, then the change application is moving 1,200 acre feet of water to the new manner and place of use.

- Typically, there is also a diversion rate in cubic feet per second associated with the right being changed, so the 1,200 acre foot example also has a pro rated diversion rate with it.
- The application then describes the existing and proposed points of diversion by survey to an established corner.

- The application then describes the proposed and existing place of use of the water right being changed.
- In the Walker Basin, much of the water righted lands are described in the Decree as lying within a certain legal description of land, but the area was never carefully mapped.
- □ If the change application proposes to move only a portion of the Decreed right, we will have to see on the supporting map where all of the base water right is appurtenant, and then what portion of that area is to be stripped.

- If the change application proposes to move all of the Decreed right, we will still have to see on the supporting map what specific lands are being legally dried up.
- The remainder of the application is straightforward, fill-in-the-blanks, and there is also a "Remarks" section where we encourage the applicant to make the intent of the proposed change abundantly clear.

Now we can review an example application to see what it and the supporting map looks like, taken from a similar type of change application for the Stillwater Wildlife Refuge.

TEMPORAL	RY
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Application Application T

#### APPLICATION FOR PERMISSION TO CHANGE POINT OF DIVERSION, MANNER OF USE AND PLACE OF USE OF THE PUBLIC WATERS OF THE STATE OF NEVADA HERETOFORE APPROPRIATED

|--|

Date of filing in State Engineer's Office DEC 1 1 2007

Returned to applicant for correction \_

Corrected application filed

Map filed JUL 2 3 2003 under 70208-T

The applicant United States of America, Fish and Wildlife Service

1000 Auction Road	rPO Bax	of Fallon City or Town	
Nevada 89406 Sate and Z	ip Cole	, hereby make(s) application for	permission to change the
Point of diversion	F Place of use	Manner of use	id of a portion

of water heretofore appropriated under (identify existing right by Permit, Certificate, Proof or Claim Nos. If Decreed, give title of Decree and identify right in Decree.)

Permit No. 61129 and United States of America v. Orr Ditch Co. in Equity No. A-3, Claim No. 3: United States of America v. Alpine Land and Reservoir Co., No. D-183-BRT; both in the United States District Court of Nevada.

The source of water is <u>Truckee and Carson Rivers</u>
 Note of stream, lake, underground, sping or other source.
 The amount of water to be changed <u>2,436.85 acre-feet (815.00 acres @ 2.99 acre-feet per acre)</u>
 Becord fee, serie feet Ore econd feet opair 40.83 palors per mante.
 The water to be used for <u>Maintenance of Wetlands for Recreation and Wildlife/Storage</u>
 Ingetion, power, ming, commercial, etc. If for stock, data matter and kind of aximals. Multilenit to one major use
 The water heretofore used for <u>As decreed</u>
 If for stock, state matter and kind of aximals.
 The water is to be diverted at the following point (Describe as being within a 40-acre subdivision of public vervey and by course and datanees to a fixed section corner. If on unaryous last, it should be stated.)
 Labortan Dam, being within the SW 1/4 SE 1/4, Section 33, T19N, R26E, M.D.B & M.

 The existing point of diversion is located within (Ppoint of diversion is not damped, do not answer.) No change.

#### 27 October 2010

Nevada Division of Water Resources

; <sup>;</sup> ,	Proposed place of use (Describe by legal addivision. If fir inigition, state earther of acces to be inigated.) All Federally-owned or controlled lands within the approved boundary of Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge, as described in Exhibit "A" and supporting map filed with Permit No. 65700.	
8.	Existing place of use (Describe by legal subdivisions. If changing place of use and/or manner of use of imigation permit, describe example to be removed from imigation.) See Exhibit "B", attached hereto, and supporting map filed with Permit No. 70206T. Portions of Truckee-Carson Irrigation District Serial Nos. 980, 980-2, 980-4, 980-5, 980-6, 980-8, 980-9, and 980-10.	
- 9. 10 11	Proposed use will be from <u>As decreed</u> to <u>Month and Day</u> of each year.     Month and Day     Section of proposed works. (Under the provision of NRS 535.010 you may be required to submit plans and specifications of your diversion or storage works.)(State memory in which water is to be diverted, i.e. diversions structure, discher, pro-	
12 13 14 15	2. Estimated cost of works N/A 3. Estimated time required to construct works N/A 4. Estimated time required to complete the application of water to beneficial use N/A 5. Provide a detailed description of the proposed project and its water usage (use attachments if necessary). The proposed use should be temporary in nature, or the requested change should be the result of an unforeseen occurrence: (rates to prove statistic description registers description registers description registers description and the requested change should be the result of an unforeseen occurrence: (rates to prove statistic description registers description registers description registers description registers description registers description and the requested change should be the result of an unforeseen occurrence: (rates to prove statistic description registers descript	
16 	Miscellaneous remarks:     Applicant expressly reserves the right to transfer in a later proceeding: 0.51 af/ac for each of the <u>B15.00 acres from which the 2.99 at/ac per acre are to be transferred by this application.     (775) 423-5128     Home No.     Ichard grimes@fws.gov     Event     NV Realty Office, US Fish &amp; Wildlife Service     Organy Name     1000 Auction Road </u>	
A		

# 76523T

#### Exhibit "A"

 The proposed place of use is Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge, consisting of all Federallyowned or Federally-controlled lands within:

Township 21 North, Range 32 East, Mount Diablo Meridian

Sections: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, and 34

Township 21 North, Range 31 East, Mount Diablo Meridian

Sections: All

Township 20 North, Range 32 East, Mount Diablo Meridian

Sections: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 29 and 30

Township 20 North, Range 31 East, Mount Diablo Meridian

Sections: All

Township 19 North, Range 31 East, Mount Diablo Meridian

Sections: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33

Township19 North, Range 30 East, Mount Diablo Meridian

Section 13: all those portions of the NE¼ NE¼, SE¼ NE¼, NE¼ SE¼, and SE¼ SE¼ lying east of Stillwater Slough

Section 24: NE¼ NE¼, NW¼ NE¼, NE¼ NW¼, SE¼ NW¼ and SW¼ NE¼ Nevada Division of Water Resources

27 October 2010

#### Exhibit "B"

8. The existing place of use:

### Township 18 North, Range 29 East, Mount Diablo Meridian

Section 1:	33.30 acres in the SW1/4 SW 1/4	
Section 2:	32.20 acres in the SW1/4 SE 1/4	(includes 5.70 acres from 61129)
	36.00 acres in the SE 1/4 SE1/4	(includes 8.10 acres from 61129)
Section 4:	6.10 acres in the NE1/4 NE1/4	
	22.10 acres in the SW1/4 NE 1/4	(includes 5.50 acres from 61129)
	25.60 acres in the NW1/4 SE1/4	(includes 6.00 acres from 61129)
	3.00 acres in the NE1/4 SE1/4	
	30.50 acres in the SW1/4 SE1/4	(includes 17.80 acres from 61129)
	26.70 acres in the SE1/4 SE1/4	(includes 5.20 acres from 61129)
Section 9:	1.60 acres in the SE1/4 NE1/4	
Section 10:	0.60 acres in the NW1/4 NW1/4	(includes 0.40 acres from 61129)
	27.30 acres in the NE1/4 NW1/4	(includes 27.30 acres from 61129)
	0.70 acres in the SW1/4 NW1/4	
	22.30 acres in the SE1/4 NW1/4	(includes 22.30 acres from 61129)
	27.30 acres in the NW1/4 NE1/4	(includes 27.30 acres from 61129)
	32.70 acres in the SW1/4 NE1/4	(includes 32.70 acres from 61129)
Section 11:	1.00 acres in the NE1/4 NW1/4	
	14.50 acres in the NW1/4 NE1/4	
	22.90 acres in the NE1/4 NE1/4	
	14.80 acres in the NE1/4 SW1/4	
	36.90 acres in the NW1/4 SE1/4	(includes 3.80 acres from 61129)
	38.70 acres in the NE1/4 SE1/4	(includes 6.70 acres from 61129)
	17.70 acres in the SW1/4 SE1/4	(includes 2.20 acres from 61129)
	33.30 acres in the SE1/4 SE1/4	(includes 1.40 acres from 61129)
Section 25:	2.20 acres in the NW1/4 NW1/4	
	23.40 acres in the SW1/4 NW1/4	

Nevada Division of Water Resources

### Exhibit "B", continued

Section 26:

37.10 acres in the NE1/4 SW1/4 35.10 acres in the SE1/4 SW1/4 37.70 acres in the NW1/4 SE1/4 38.10 acres in the NE1/4 SE1/4 35.90 acres in the SW1/4 SE1/4

A total of 815.00 acres.

(includes 172.40 acres from 61129)



27 October 2010

Nevada Division of Water Resources

61129 vRMA



27 October 2010

Once the application and map are reviewed, a notice is prepared and sent to the local newspapers for publication for five weeks for public comment, if any.

Now let's review the entire process and then entertain any questions.



Questions?

□Visit our web page at <u>http://water.nv.gov</u>





Walker Basin Restoration Program

#### Water Modeling Meeting January 13, 2010, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm Desert Research Institute, Stout Conference Room A Reno, Nevada

#### AGENDA

#### 10:00 - 11:00 Overview (Aylward)

- Introductions
- Purpose of the Meeting and Review of Agenda
- Updates
  - o NFWF
    - Acquisitions
    - Stewardship/Grants
  - o Water Report
  - o Open Invitation

#### 11:00 - 12:00 (Boyle/Aylward)

- Discussion of various definitions including:
  - o Consumptive Use
  - o Points of Non-Diversion
  - o Etc.
  - Monitoring
    - o Wabuska Gage

#### 12:00 - 12:30 Lunch Provided

#### 12:30 - 1:45 (Boyle)

DST Model

- o Closure on current scenario
- o Scenarios with current Model
- o Phase II
  - Updating the model
  - Assumptions
  - Timeline
- o Storage water

#### 1:45-2:00 Closing (Aylward)

- Next Meeting Date
- Topics for next meeting
- Wrap Up



National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Walker Basin Restoration Program

Water Group Meeting convened by NFWF Reno, Nevada January 13, 2011

### **Sign-In Sheet**

#### **Participants:**

- Kim Tisdale NDOW
- Kris Urquhart NDOW
- Paul Hamai NRCE/BIA
- Mike Collopy UNR
- Rick Felling NDWR
- Jim Shaw USBWC
- Karen Peterson USBWC
- Anna Gering NFWF
- Louis Provencher TNC
- David Yardas NFWF
- Joy Giffin NFWF
- Steve Brown BIA
- Anita Lahey USFWS
- Stephanie Byers USFWS
- Karie Wright NDOW
- Glenn Bunch WLWG
- Adam Sullivan NDWR
- Jon D. McMasters WRPT
- Dwight Smith Interflow/Tribe
- Gerry Emm WRPT
- Tim Minor DRI
- Doug Boyle UNR
- Chris Garner UNR
- Tom Gallagher NDWR
- Mike Liquori WRID/Sound Watershed
- Steven A. Fulstone WRID


National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Walker Basin Restoration Program

Water Group Meeting convened by NFWF Reno, Nevada July 22, 2011

## **Sign-In Sheet**

#### **Participants:**

- Bruce Aylward Ecosystem Economics
- Greg Pohll DRI
- Alyssa Burt WRPT
- Ariel Richardson WRPT
- Gerry Emm WRPT
- Lilly Bobb WRPT
- Lareina Jim WRPT Interm
- Jon McMasters WRPT
- Sara Twiss WRPT
- Michael Cameron TNC
- Marlene Bunch WLWG
- Steve Brown BIA
- Erik Borgen Ecosystem Economics
- Joy Giffin NFWF
- David Yardas NFWF
- Anita Lahey USFWS
- Doug Boyle UNR
- Chris Garner UNR
- Paul Hamai NRCE/BIA
- Dwight Smith Interflow/Tribe
- Mike Liquori WRID/Sound Watershed
- Rick Felling NDWR
- Jim Thomas DRI
- Mike Collopy UNR
- Kip Allander USGS



Walker Basin Restoration Program

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Walker Basin Restoration Program

Water Group Meeting convened by NFWF Reno, Nevada January 11, 2012

## **Sign-In Sheet**

### **Participants:**

- Joy Giffin NFWF
- Caryn Huntt DeCarlo BOR
- Dwight Smith Interflow/Tribe
- Glenn Bunch WLWG
- Tom Gallagher NDWR
- Steve Tomac NFWF
- Jamie Morin NFWF
- Chris Mixson NFWF
- Matt Spaulding BIA
- Derek Bloomquist USFWS
- William Bettenberg WRPT
- C. Eugene Franzoy WRPT
- Adam Sullivan NDWR
- Tim Minor DRI
- Bruce Aylward Ecosystem Economics
- Chris Garner UNR
- Michael Cameron TNC
- Scott Bassett UNR
- Mike Liquori WRID/Sound Watershed
- Stephanie Byers USFWS
- Jim Thomas DRI
- Mike Collopy UNR
- Greg Pohll DRI
- Elmer Bull NDOW

### Seminar on Walker Basin Models Tuesday April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 9:00 – 5:00 US Geological Survey (USGS) Offices 2730 North Deer Run Road, Carson City, NV

Audience: Participants/Protestants in Water Rights Change Application No. 80700 (NFWF-Walker Basin Restoration Program) and Walker Basin Water Group members

## 9:00am - 10:15am Walker Basin Hydrology Water Budgets (Kip Allander on behalf of Tom Lopes, USGS)

In 2009 USGS issued three reports on Walker Basin hydrology and water budgets entitled "Evapotranspiration from the lower Walker River Basin"; "Hydrologic setting and conceptual hydrologic model of the Walker River Basin"; and "Water budgets of the Walker River basin and Walker Lake". These reports summarize 4 years of research into the ground and surface water hydrology of the Basin. Tom Lopes, the principal author of the study, will present the findings of the study. These USGS scientific studies will help participants understand how water moves through the basin from headwaters to Walker Lake. Those wishing to come to the meeting with questions may preview an earlier powerpoint on this topic that was presented to the Walker Water Group in March of 2010 (www.walkerbasin.org)

#### 10:30am - noon Hydrological Model of the "lower" Walker Basin (Kip Allander, USGS)

In 2012 USGS will publish its GSFlow model that covers groundwater and surface water interactions of the "lower" Walker Basin, which encompasses the basin from the Wabuska gage on down to Walker Lake and includes the drainage basin south of Walker Lake in Mineral County. This model is instrumental in understanding how water acquired from irrigators in the upper basin will be conveyed through the river, Weber Reservoir and on down to the lake. Kip Allander, the principal author of the study will present the data, assumptions and mechanics of the model as well as some example scenarios. As the model is not yet published only preliminary model runs can be presented at this time. Those wishing to come to the meeting with questions may preview an earlier powerpoint on this topic that was presented to the Walker Water Group in July of 2011 (www.walkerbasin.org)

1:30pm – 5pm

## Decision Support Tool for the "upper" Walker Basin (Mike Collopy UNR and Jim Thomas DRI)

Since 2009, the Desert Research Institute and the University of Nevada Introduction to the DST (Doug Boyle, UNR) have collaborated on a Decision Support Tool (DST) for the "upper" Walker Basin, i.e., the basin above the USGS Wabuska Gage. The DST integrates a rainfall-runoff in the headwaters of the basin with groundwater models of Smith and Mason valley (MODFLOW) and a surface water rights distribution model (MODSIM) for the East, West and Main Walker Rivers. In late 2011 the DST team completed Version 2.0 of the model, and in early 2012 the data layers were updated to reflect the last two years of data collection. The model is designed to allow the simulation of different scenarios for water rights. The model and its updates have been presented a number of times to the Walker Basin Water Group, which has made a number of requests of the DST team for future modeling scenarios. The DST Team is also using the model to inform discussions and development of

NFWF's Walker Basin Restoration Program. Copies of earlier presentations to the Walker Basin Water Group can be found at (www.walkerbasin.org)

A draft agenda for the DST presentation is as follows:

- 1. Geographic Information and the DST (Tim Minor, DRI)
- 2. MODFLOW Groundwater Models of Mason and Smith Valleys (Greg Pohl, DRI and Chris Garner, UNR)
- 3. MODSIM Water Distribution Model of the Walker Basin above Wabuska (Doug Boyle and Chris Garner, UNR)
- 4. DST Version 2.0 Calibration and Interpretation of Initial Simulation Results (Doug Boyle, UNR)



National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Walker Basin Restoration Program

Model Seminar convened by NFWF Carson City, Nevada April 17, 2012

## **Sign-In Sheet**

### **Participants:**

- Glenn and Marlene Bunch WLWG
- Tami Thompson MBK Engineers/WRID
- Lee Bergfeld MBK Engineers/WRID
- Marc Van Camp MBK Engineers/WRID
- Gordon DePaoli Woodburn & Wedge/WRID
- Nico DePaoli Woodburn & Wedge/WRID
- Mark Bevington Maven Engineering
- Marlene Begay WRPT
- Greg Pohll DRI
- Chris Facque NFWF
- Stephanie Byers USFWS
- Jim Snyder WRID
- Steven A. Fulstone WRID
- Ken Spooner WRID
- Tim Minor DRI
- Dale Ferguson Woodburn & Wedge/WRID
- Doug Busselman NV Farm Bureau
- Gerry Emm WRPT
- Dwight Smith Interflow
- Chuck Savard USGS
- David Yardas NFWF
- Joy Giffin NFWF
- Gary Garms Self
- Chris Fichtel TNC
- Eweda Martinez WRPT
- Jon McMasters WRPT
- Bruce Aylward Ecosystem Economics
- Steve Tomac NFWF
- Mike Liquori WRID/Sound Watershed
- Paul Hamai NRCE/BIA

- Lisa Heki USFWS
- Doug Boyle UNR
  Linda Wimberly DRI
  Chris Garner UNR
  Rick Felling NDWR

#### FACT SHEET NFWF CHANGE APPLICATION No. 80700

In May 2010, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) purchased 646 acres of water rights on the West Hyland ditch from the L &M Limited Family Partnership (L&M) on behalf of the Walker Basin Restoration Program (Program). The final transaction included 7.745 cfs of natural flow decree water rights; 402.6 AF of apportioned supplemental storage water rights; and 646.16 acres of associated supplemental groundwater rights. Under agreements negotiated prior to closing, NFWF pays annual water rights assessments to the West Hyland Ditch Company, the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID), and the US Board of Water Commissioners (USBWC).

In March 2011, NFWF filed an application with the Nevada State Engineers Office (NSEO) to change the place and manner of use of the acquired natural flow decree water rights .<sup>1</sup> The application was given number 80700.

#### The application requests:

- a) a change in the place at manner of use of the entire 7.745 cfs of acquired natural flow decree rights
- b) a change from Irrigation to Wildlife Purposes in accordance with NRS Chapter 533,
- c) that the water be left in the Walker River at the Yerington Weir instead of being diverted, and
- d) that the place of use be changed from irrigated lands on the West Hyland Ditch to the Walker River at and below the Yerington Weir all the way to and including Walker Lake.

#### The application does not request a change in:

- a) the existing point of diversion, or
- b) the season of use of the water.

#### The application further states that:

- a) the amount approved for non-diversion will not conflict with existing rights,
- b) NFWF will withdraw/cancel the 646.16 acres of associated supplemental groundwater rights as a condition of exercise once the application has been finally approved by the NSEO and the Federal Decree Court, and
- c) NFWF intends to negotiate an agreement with the Walker Paiute Tribe and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to move water through the reservation reach of the lower Walker River to Walker Lake.

#### NFWF wishes to emphasize that:

- a) water under this application will remain in the Walker Basin system for the benefit of Walker Lake, and
- b) the associated storage water rights are managed by WRID and any future applications to change those rights to the Walker River and Walker Lake will be done through the process set forth in WRID Regulation #14.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> NFWF continues to acquire water rights and will file additional applications on those water rights at a future date.

### 9<sup>th</sup> Water Group Meeting Thursday April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 9:00 to 11:00 US Geological Survey (USGS) Offices 2730 North Deer Run Road, Carson City, NV

9:00 -9:15 Introductions and Agenda (Aylward, Ecosystem Economics)

#### 9:15 -9:45 USGS Streamflow (USGS)

Presentation by USGS surface water team on accuracy of USGS streamflow data and what can be done to improve the streamflow record.

#### 9:45 -10:45 Decision Support Tool Scenarios (Collopy, UNR and Thomas, DRI)

Presentation by Doug Boyle (UNR) of DST Version 2.0 initial simulation results for NFWF Water Rights Change Application No. 80700 involving 7.745 CFS @ the West Hyland Ditch POD plus associated supplemental ground water.

#### 10:45 – 11:00 Questions, Discussions, Next Steps



National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Walker Basin Restoration Program

Water Group Meeting convened by NFWF Carson City, Nevada April 19, 2012

## **Sign-In Sheet**

### Participants:

- Greg Pohll DRI
- Rick Felling NDWR
- Tami Thompson MBK Engineers/WRID
- Gordon DePaoli Woodburn & Wedge/WRID
- Nico DePaoli Woodburn & Wedge/WRID
- Mike Liquori WRID/Sound Watershed
- Caryn Huntt DeCarlo BOR
- Kip Allander USGS
- Steve Berris USGS
- Chris Garner UNR
- Tim Minor DRI
- Jim Shaw USBWC
- Joy Giffin NFWF
- Doug Boyle UNR
- Chuck Savard USGS
- Dwight Smith Interflow
- Gerry Emm WRPT
- Jon McMasters WRPT
- Jim Snyder WRID
- Dale Ferguson Woodburn & Wedge/WRID
- Gary Garms Self
- Tom Gallagher NDWR
- Cathy Wilson BIA
- George Benesch Lyon County
- David Yardas NFWF

## Accuracy of I.S. Geological Survey Streamflow Data

Steve Berris Nevada Networks Chief USGS Nevada Water Science Center Snberris@usgs.gov 775-887-7693



The USGS measures stream stage and produces a continuous record of discharge by making periodic discharge measurements



Published Accuracy of Streamflow Records are categorized according to the following ranks:

- Excellent 95% of daily discharges within 5% of true value
- Good 95% of daily discharges within 10% of true value
- Fair 95% of daily discharges within 15% of true value
- Poor Daily discharges have less than "fair" accuracy





## Here is a conceptual model how uncertainty varies in a discharge record:



## Accuracy of Streamflow Records

- Accuracy corresponds to the quality of the collected data and the computed record
- <u>Collected Gage-Height Data</u>
  - Quality of gage-height data / application of corrections to gage-height record
  - Computed Flow Record
    - Measurement accuracy
    - Stability of control / application of shifts
    - Measurement frequency and timeliness



## USGS has strict accuracy standards for collected stage data

**Reference Gage** Accuracy = +/-.01 ft or 0.2 % of effective range. **Collected gage**height data compared with outside reference gage **≈USGS** 



## Datum at gages is regularly verified using guidelines established at USGS Headquarters.

## Datum controlled to nearest 0.015 ft

Every 1 to 3 years, we run levels to verify gages have not moved from established datum





## Gage-height record is corrected using information gained during site visits.

Datum corrections: Surveys detect outside reference gage off datum Gage-height corrections: **Inspections** detect gage instrumentation not in agreement with gages



Flow Record: The relation between stage and discharge is regularly refined using periodic discharge measurements and other information noted during site visits.

- Development
  - Requires wide range of flow measurements
  - Reviewed and approved by Office Chief
- Calibration
  - Measurements define subtle changes in channel control features that affect stage-discharge relation
  - Shifts defined by the measurements to correct stage-discharge relation





Flow Record: Discharge measurements are made using guidelines by USGS Headquarters.





The uncertainty of discharge measurements is determined using ISO and USGS standards.

ISO uncertainty – International Standard (published)

- Accuracy of instrument
- Number of verticals
- Uncertainty in widths and depths
- Number of velocity measurements in verticals
- Statistical Calculation USGS (unpublished)
  - Accuracy of instrument
  - Uncertainty of depth and changes in depths between verticals
  - Variations of velocity and changes in velocity between verticals
  - Uncertainty in widths



# Here is an example of uncertainty assigned to a measurement using an acoustic Doppler velocity meter (ADV).





## The USGS is making more measurements using hydroacoustic instruments.





Using hydroacoustic current meters has allowed us to make more accurate and frequent measurements at some gages.

- Streamflow measurements are made quicker
- Measurements are more accurate during rapidly varying flow conditions
- No moving parts
- Safer measuring conditions
  - Measure much higher number of velocities in the stream cross-section



# Here is an example of the type and quantity of information available using hydroacoustic measurements.





We regularly make check measurements to ensure accurate discharge values.

 Check measurements routinely made for verification of instrument and measurement accuracy





## Flow Record:

Shifting Controls on Stage-Discharge Relations

- The "Control" controls the stage of water in a gage pool for a given flow
- Ideally, but rarely stable so that for any given flow, the gage height is the same.





Here is another example of how the control can change the stagedischarge relationship.





## Flow Record **Shifting controls on Stage-Discharge Relations** Shifting controls due to: 1. channel scour and fill 2. growth/removal of vegetation or algae 3. accumulation/removal of debris Shift applied to gage-height record to adjust temporary stage/discharge relation to the base rating "Shifts" used until evidence of permanent change in rating is documented

Again, frequent discharge measurements are required to refine the stage-discharge record to provide accurate discharge values.







# Shorter periods between discharge measurements can increase accuracy of the streamflow record.





## So using the conceptual model for uncertainty, here's what we do to produce accurate records.



Base Condition

Larger Measurement Uncertainty:

Verify instrument performance!
Make check msrmts!

Larger Process Uncertainty

More frequent Visits/Measurements -Visit/measure more often!

## Flow Records: Uncertainty



GAGE HEIGHT, IN FEET

 With uncertainty, published data has error bands, but with standard tested practices, little bias occurs over time USGS project to develop methods to evaluate and publish uncertainty of every data value



**BOHAROSO** 

East Walker River					
Gage Number	Gage Name	Parameter	Schedule	Remarks	
10289500	Green Ck nr Bridgeport	Continuous Discharge	6-weeks	Re-started Oct 2004	
10290300	Upper Twin Lake nr Bridgeport	<b>Discrete</b> Stage	Monthly		
10290400	Lower Twin Lake nr Bridgeport	<b>Discrete</b> Stage	Monthly		
10290500	Robinson Ck at Twin Lakes Outlet nr Bridgeport	Continuous Discharge	6-weeks	Re-started Oct 2009	
10291500	Buckeye Ck nr Bridgeport	Continuous Discharge	6-weeks	Re-started Oct 2009	
10292500	Bridgeport Res nr Bridgeport	Continuous Stage	6-weeks		
10293000	E Walker R nr Bridgeport	Continuous Discharge	6-weeks		
10293048	Sweetwater Ck at Hwy 338 nr Bridgeport	Continuous Discharge	6-weeks	Re-started Oct 2009	
10293050	E Walker R blw Sweetwater Ck nr Bridgeport	Continuous Discharge	6-weeks	Re-started Apr 2011	
10293500	E Walker R abv Strosnider Ditch nr Mason	Continuous Discharge	6-weeks		
10295000	E Walker R nr Mason	Continuous Discharge	6-weeks	Started Sep 2010	



West Walker River					
Gage Number	Gage Name	Parameter	Schedule	Remarks	
10296000	W Walker R blw L Walker R nr Coleville	Continuous Discharge	6-weeks		
10296500	W Walker R nr Coleville	Continuous Discharge	6-weeks	Discharges greater than 600 cfs rated poor.	
10296700	W Walker R blw Topaz Canal Div nr Topaz	Continuous Discharge	6-weeks	Started Aug 2010	
10296750	Topaz Canal blw Div W Walker R nr Topaz	Continuous Discharge	6-weeks	Started Aug 2010	
10297000	Topaz Lake nr Topaz	Continuous Stage	6-weeks		
10297010	Topaz Canal blw Topaz Lake nr Topaz	Continuous Discharge	6-weeks	Started Jul 2010	
10297500	W Walker R at Hoye Bridge nr Wellington	Continuous Discharge	6-weeks		
10298600	W Walker R blw Smith Vly Div nr Wellington	Continuous Discharge	6-weeks	Started Sep 2010	
10299100	Desert Ck nr Wellington	Continuous Discharge	6-weeks		
10299300	Red Canyon Ck nr Wellington	Continuous Discharge	6-weeks	Started Jul 2010	
10300000	W Walker nr Hudson	Continuous Discharge	6-weeks		
10300200	W Walker R at Hwy 208 Bridge nr Mason	Continuous Discharge	6-weeks	Started Oct 2010	



Lower Walker River					
Gage Number	Gage Name	Parameter	Schedule	Remarks	
10300600	Walker R nr Mason	Continuous Discharge	6-weeks	Re-started Sep 2010.	
10301100	Walker R at E Bridge St nr Yerington	<b>Discrete</b> Discharge	6-weeks		
10301120	Walker at Miller Ln nr Yerington	Continuous Discharge	6-weeks	Started July 2010. Sandy channel subject to shifting.	
10301500	Walker R nr Wabuska	Continuous Discharge, Temperature, Specific Conductance	6-weeks (Nov to Mar) Bi-weekly (Apr to Oct)	Sandy channel subject to shifting.	
10301600	Walker R abv Weber Res nr Schurz	Continuous Discharge	6-weeks (Nov to Mar) Bi-weekly (Apr to Oct)	Streamflow can bypass primary channel during moderate to high discharges. Bypass streamflow is not measured and is not accounted for in the computed streamflow record.	
10301700	Weber Res nr Schurz	Continuous Stage	6-weeks		



Lower Walker River					
Gage Number	Gage Name	Parameter	Schedule	Remarks	
10301720	Walker R at PT Site blw Weber Res nr Schurz	Discrete Discharge	Bi-weekly (Apr to Oct)		
10301742	Canal No. 2 abv Little Dam nr Schurz	Continuous Discharge	Monthly (Apr to Oct)		
10301745	Walker R abv Little Dam nr Schurz	Continuous Discharge	6-weeks	Re-started Oct 2004	
10301755	Canal No. 1 blw Little Dam nr Schurz	Continuous Discharge	Monthly (Apr to Oct)		
10302002	Walker R at Lateral 2-A Siphon nr Schurz	Continuous Discharge, Temperature, Specific Conductance, Discrete pH	6-weeks (Nov to Mar) Bi-weekly (Apr to Oct)		
10302005	Walker R at Powerline Crossing nr Schurz	Discrete Discharge, temperature, conductance, and pH	Bi-weekly (Apr to Oct)		
10302025	Walker R nr Mouth at Walker Lake	Continuous Discharge, discrete, temperature, conductance, and pH	6-weeks (Nov to Mar) Bi-weekly (Apr to Oct)	Started Oct 2004, re-started Jul 2010	
10288500	Walker Lake nr Hawthorne	Continuous Stage	6-weeks	Started Oct 2004	


#### Accuracy U.S. Geological Survey Streamflow Data

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#### Walker River Basin Decision Support Tool (DST) Version 2.0

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Change Application Scenario



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# Water Right Transfer vs. Nondiversion



### West Hyland Scenario

#### Investigate impacts of a water right transfer (MODSIM)

- Full transfer of West Hyland ditch water rights to Wabuska
- Disable supplemental pumping for West Hyland HRU
- Determine volume of West Hyland water rights that would be met at Wabuska
- Identify the change in transportation losses
- Identify system shortage associated with change in transportation losses



#### Scenario Results





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#### Amount and Location of System Shortage (All Years)

#### West Hyland Transfer

System Shortage





#### Scenario Results





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## Baseline Transportation Loss (1998)





## Scenario Transportation Losses (1998)





#### Amount and Location of System Shortage (1998)





# Water Right Transfer vs. Nondiversion



## NFWF Change Application

- Summary
  - 646.16 Acres of West
    Hyland HRU
  - 7.745 CFS of Decree Rights
  - Claim Numbers: 23, 23A, 35, 44, 67, 89
  - Priority Dates: 1874, 1877, 1880, 1881, 1887, 1888, 1891, 1894, 1896, 1900, 1901, 1904, 1906





#### Surface Deliveries & Supplemental Pumping





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## NFWF Change App. Scenario

- Summary of DST Representation of the Change Application
  - The change app. parcels are removed from the DST modeling grid (i.e. fallowed) & supplemental pumping is disabled for the parcels.
  - The fraction of the diversion serving the change application parcels is calculated. This amount (x) represents the simulated decree, storage and flood delivery to the West Hyland diversion for the change app parcels.
  - (x) is subtracted from the original West Hyland diversion time series and applied to a new time series demand object at Wabuska called WR\_Transfer.
  - The water rights for West Hyland and WR\_Transfer Demand are adjusted to reflect the transfer of water rights.
  - The transferred water is delivered to the West Hyland diversion and allowed to flow down to the Wabuska gauge.



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### Very Preliminary Scenario Results



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## Very Preliminary Scenario Results





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