

Shoshone Ponds HMP/NATURAL AREA

Briefing/Chronology

1937: CIVILIAN Conservation Corps establishes camp at "The Cedars" approximately 40 miles southeast of Ely. Five wells drilled with ARTESIAN flow (Temperature range 63°-76°F) Corp. built swimming pool.

1970: Ely District BLM writes a wildlife habitat management plan to establish warm water refugium at "Shoshone Ponds" for endangered endemic fish. The cooperative plan is signed December 17, 1970 by BLM, University of Nevada-Las Vegas and Nevada Dept of Wildlife. PLAN designates 1240 Acres in central Spring Valley at the west base of Mt. Wheeler.

1970: BLM designates the same 1240 Acres as Shoshone Ponds NATURAL AREA on December 22, 1970. The area is excluded from the general mining laws but not from R+PP, mineral leasing or material sales laws.

1971: BLM contracts drilling of new well to depth of 441 feet, flow 25 gpm, completed 10-24-71. Wildlife workshop held at site by Jim Bakum.

1972: Three ponds constructed and fenced. Following introductions made:

- 16 - Pahump Killifish from Manse Spring (SW Nevada - Pahump Valley)
- 50 - Moapa Dace from Moapa River
- Pahumpat Bouy tails - Crystal + Ash Springs

Poss. exhibit? →

1975: Combination of Vandals and water problem result in extirpation of all ~~native~~ fish.

1976 Following Reintroductions occur:
50- Pahump Killifish (Empetrichthys latus) - Federally classified as endangered since 1967. Stocked from population at CORN Creek Springs introduced in NORTH POND

1977 42- Relic (Steptoe) DACE (Relictus solitarius) - Candidate T/E (Cat. 2) fish from ponds in Steptoe Valley introduced to South Pond

Inventory of Killifish estimate population at 392 fish (world population 3000 fish)

1979 3- Pahump at Bonytails found Dead in middle pond - no fish use this pond since
- Population estimate of Killifish is 2500 fish at Shoshone Ponds

1980 Inter agency team completes Pahump Killifish Recovery Plan - recommends security measures at Ponds.
- Population estimated at 1250 fish at Shoshone Ponds

1984 Population estimate of Killifish 1,000 at Shoshone Ponds

1985 NDOW estimates population at 400 Killifish at Shoshone Ponds other populations exist at CORN Creek Springs and Spring Mountains
Size 32 to 77 mm (1.3 - 3 inches)

(3)

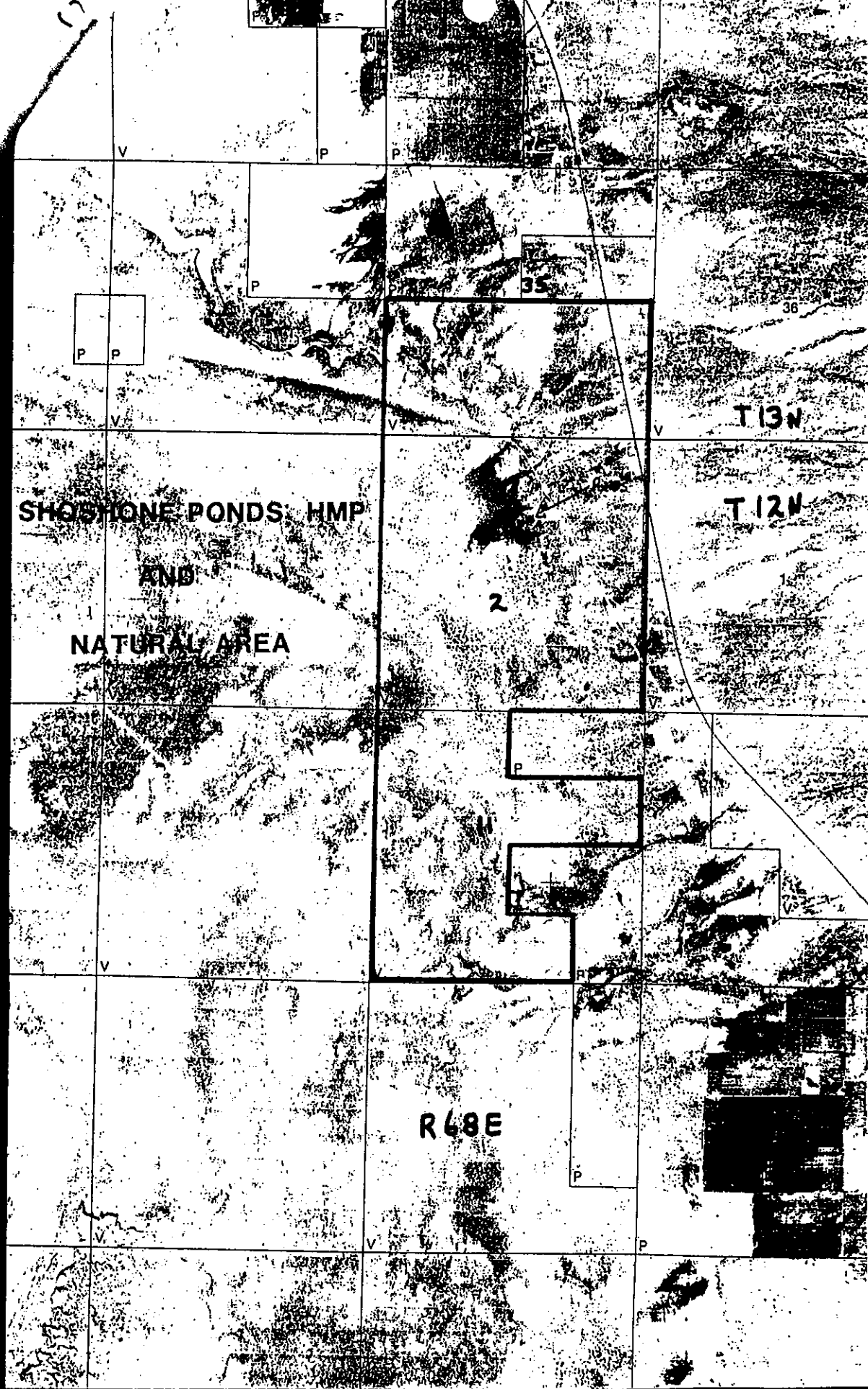
1986-87 BYU Parasitologist examines three killifish populations. If no significant differences, NDOW plan to intermix fish for genetic viability. Shoshone Ponds population appears clean.

Juniper trees which occur in central part of Spring Valley (and White River Valley) are called Swamp Cedar. - Variety of Rocky Mountain Juniper (Juniperus scopulorum) also may be some Utah Juniper (Juniperus osteosperma) mixed in. These are the common species on the bench and mountain areas. The swamp cedar appear to have adapted to higher water table. After unusually wet years of 1983-84 a number of swamp cedars in the Shoshone Ponds area have been killed.

directions

Turn off to Ponds located 8.64 miles after you turn off Hwy 95 on "Shoshone" road - first dirt road to your right after dirt road with stop sign.

M BARBER
3-9-87



SHOSHONE PONDS: HMP
AND
NATURAL AREA

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