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**Lahontan State Recreation Area
Nevada Division of State Parks**

Conservation Plan

2007

Public Water System ID #'s

NV0002028

NV0002133

NV0005021

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Introduction

Lahontan State Recreation Area has four water sources on the property. Two of the sources are wells, and two are springs. Water source types and locations are indicated in the table below, according to source number.

| Water Sources – Lahontan State Recreation Area | | |
|--|-------------------|-------------|
| Water Source # | Water Source Type | Coordinates |
| NV0002028N | spring | |
| NV0002028S | spring | |
| NV0002133B3 | well | |
| NV0005021B7 | well | |

At Lahontan Dam, sources NV0002028N and NV0002028S are filtered and chlorinated at a water treatment facility, and then stored in two above-ground tanks with capacities of 100,000 and 258,000 gallons.

The Lahontan Dam Unit accommodates approximately 120,000 visitors annually. Water use is typical of camping and park use and is available at: North Shore Marina, Overlook, River Camp, and the Day Use area at Lahontan Dam. Additionally, there is a RV dump station at the Overlook and Day Use areas. A minimal amount of water is used for landscape irrigation. Additionally, the Lahontan Dam water system provides water to an office building, maintenance shop, entrance station, and 4 staff residences.

Silver Springs Beach 3 (NV0002133B3) utilizes an above-ground storage tank with a capacity of 100,000 gallons. Silver Springs Beach 7 (NV0005021B7) utilizes a pressure tank system with a capacity of approximately 950 gallons. Both systems are chlorinated.

The Silver Springs Unit accommodates approximately 280,000 visitors annually. Water is available from the Beach 7 system at the Developed 7 campground, the Beach 7 shower/restroom building, and the Base Camp seasonal residence area. The Beach 3 system provides water to the Beach 3 shower/restroom building, Day Use/Boat Ramp area, and the Silver Springs RV dump station. Additionally, the Silver Springs water system provides water to the Ranger Station, maintenance shop, entrance station, and 1 staff residences.

There are water meters at each pump house. The water is not metered beyond that point.

Methods of Public Education

Increase Public Awareness of Limited Water in Nevada

All education/awareness is accomplished through appropriate park signage where applicable. Examples might include:

- In shower stalls – “In order to conserve both propane and water, please do not allow showers to run unless needed for bathing.”

- At dump stations – “In order to conserve water, please do not allow hoses to run and shut off water when finished.”

Encourage reduction of lawns and incorporate the use of arid climate plants

Public access to water is only for sanitation and consumption. Park staff maintain lawns and landscaping in order to ensure the best use of available water.

Conservation Measures/Management of Water

Public water use at Lahontan State Recreation Area is not significant and does not approach the capabilities of the water systems in place. Many visitors commonly fill RV's with potable water prior to coming to Lahontan, and only utilize water for hygienic purposes at public shower/restroom facilities or for sewage dumping at RV dump stations.

As existing facilities are updated or new facilities constructed, water conserving fixtures are utilized, such as low gpf toilets and pay showers. Current pay shower systems utilizing demand hot water systems have reduced water consumption by reducing the time individuals spend showering.

Current water facilities are being retrofitted with monitoring equipment that provides data to indicate irregular or abnormally high water use. All operations and maintenance staff are alert for leakage, and water system operators are alert to pressure and meter fluctuations. Appropriate measures will be immediately undertaken to correct any situations that might result in system water loss.

Daily:

- All park staff to remain observant for water leaks in facilities or in soil surrounding water system components

Weekly

- Monitor pressure gauges and metering devices to ensure normal function of systems
- Note unusually high water use and identify and repair causal factors

Monthly

- Record water use

Fall/Spring

- Winterize/dewinterize dump stations, flush toilets, and shower facilities to prevent frost damage and subsequent waste of water

Increase the use of effluent: N/A

All waste water is treated via septic systems and leach fields.

Drought Contingency

Periods of drought inadvertently generate water conservation measures at Lahontan State Recreation Area. During these periods, as reservoir levels drop, park visitation diminishes, directly reducing the amount of water utilized in park facilities.

The springs that supply the Lahontan Dam water system are influenced by surface water from Lahontan reservoir and the Truckee Canal. During severe drought periods, spring output may be diminished; however, the drop in park visitation results in decreased water use, which prevents the over-taxing of water source capabilities.

During periods of extreme drought, other necessary measures include:

- Suspension of irrigation of trees, shrubs, and turf areas
- Closure of shower facilities

System storage tanks are sufficient to provide water for extended periods. In the event of an extended power outage, facilities using water are closed until system are restored and operating levels of storage reached.

Evaluation of Plan Effectiveness

Plan effectiveness is best determined by comparison of water use totals from similar periods. Quarterly comparison of water consumed to previous similar periods, adjusted to changes in park visitation, will indicate plan effectiveness.

During periods of extreme drought:

- elimination of irrigation could result in the conservation of up to 30,000 gallons during the summer months
- closure of shower facilities could result in a savings of up to 700 gallons per day (12.5 gal/person @ 56 persons/day, and 126,000 total gallons April – September)

This water conservation plan is to be kept at Lahontan State Recreation Area and made available to any interested party.