



NEVADA DIVISION OF
WATER RESOURCES



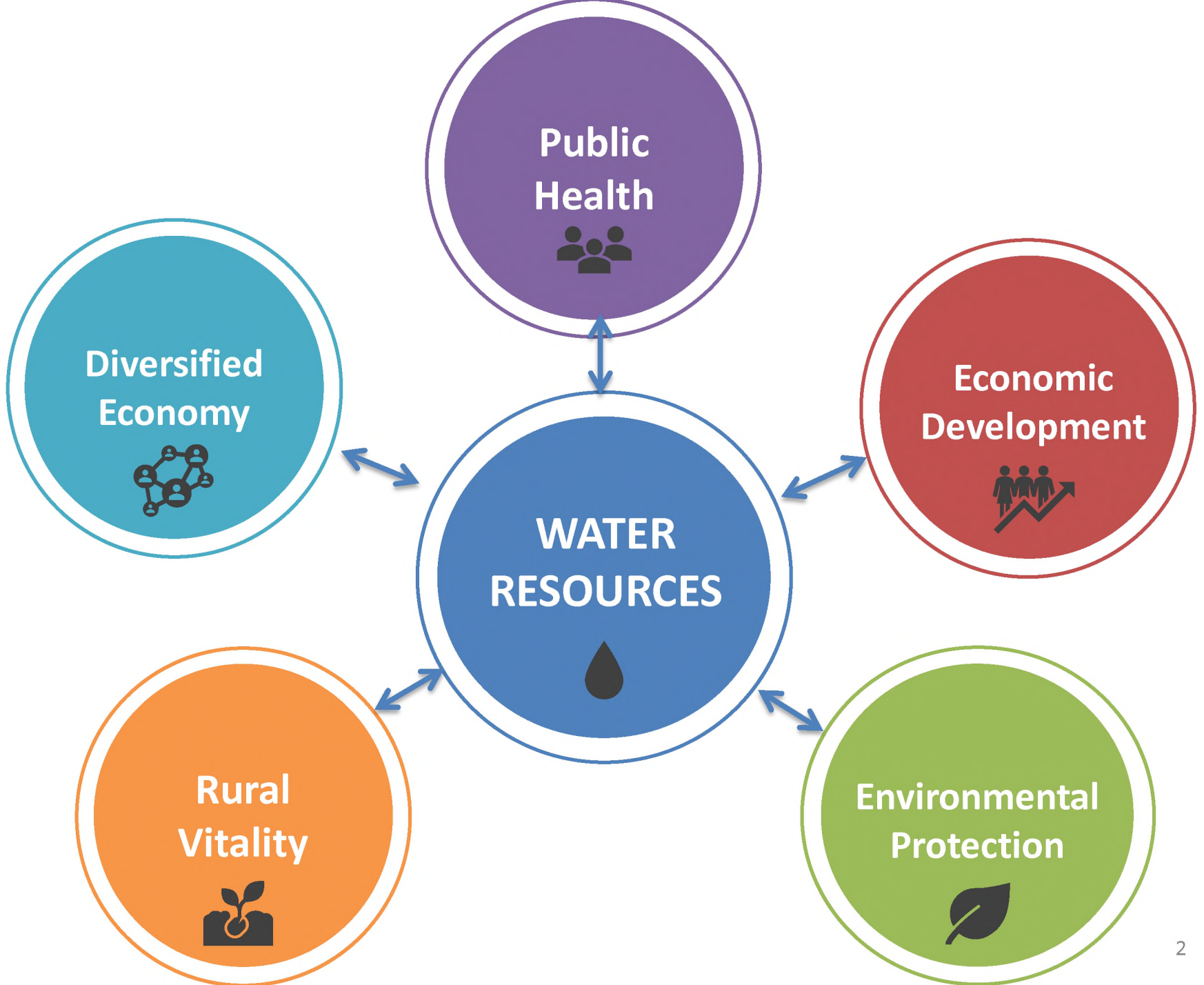
Nevada Department of
**CONSERVATION &
NATURAL RESOURCES**

Statewide Water Resource Management Issues

Joint Interim Standing Committee
on Natural Resources

March 21, 2022

Presented by:
Adam Sullivan, P.E.
State Engineer



Comparison among Groundwater Commitments, Pumpage, and Perennial Yield in Nevada Basins

GROUNDWATER APPROPRIATIONS & COMMITMENTS

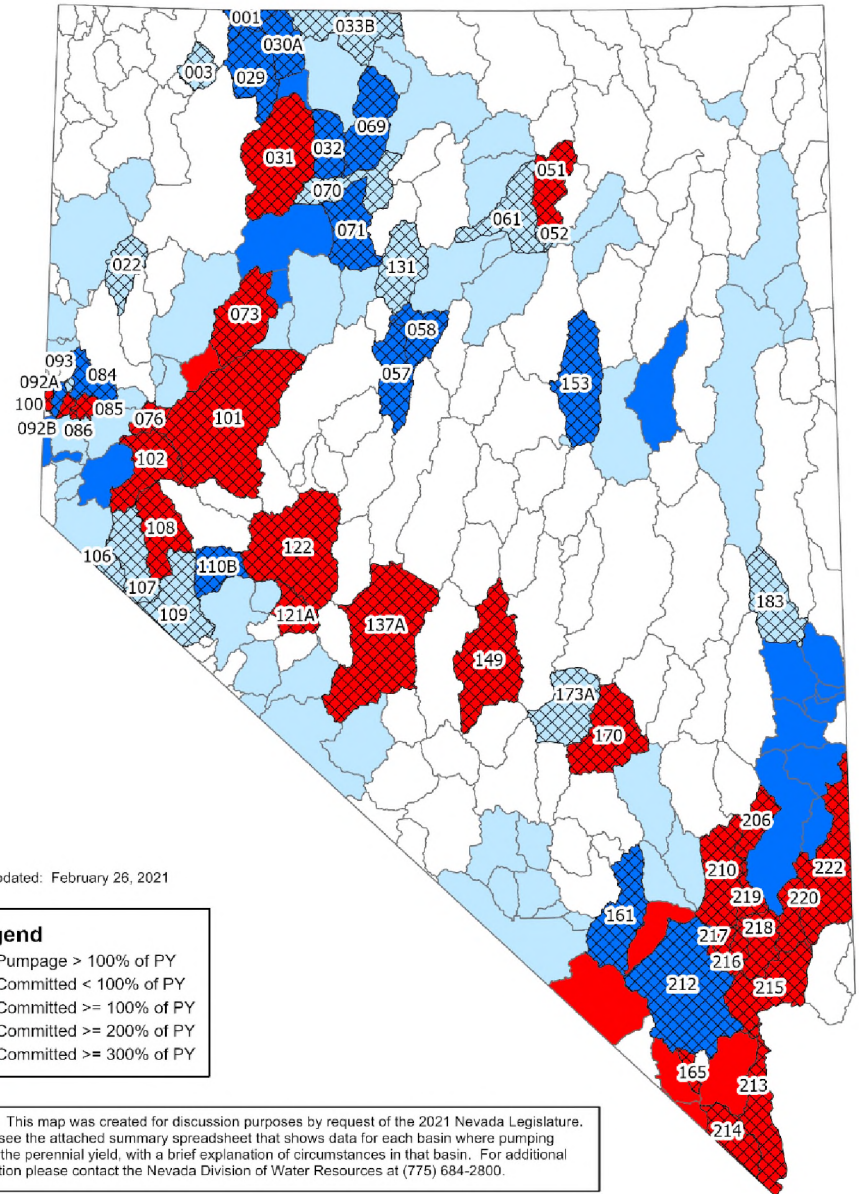
Comparison between
Groundwater Commitments
and Perennial Yield

Date Updated: February 26, 2021

Legend

-  Pumpage > 100% of PY
-  Committed < 100% of PY
-  Committed >= 100% of PY
-  Committed >= 200% of PY
-  Committed >= 300% of PY

NOTE: This map was created for discussion purposes by request of the 2021 Nevada Legislature. Please see the attached summary spreadsheet that shows data for each basin where pumping exceed the perennial yield, with a brief explanation of circumstances in that basin. For additional information please contact the Nevada Division of Water Resources at (775) 684-2800.

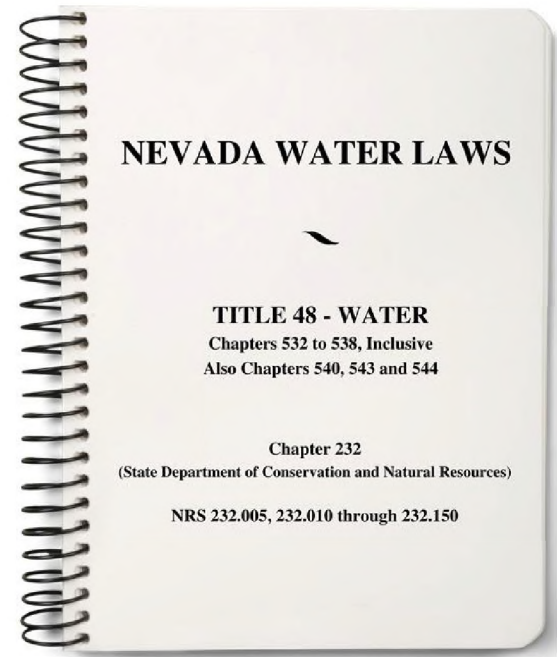




BASICS OF WATER LAW AND FOUNDATIONAL ROLE OF NDWR

»» Purpose: Sound policy in accordance with Nevada water law and best available science

»» As demands and complexities increase, NDWR's capacity to serve the public becomes limited



COMPLEX WATER MANAGEMENT ISSUES



Hydrologic connectivity between surface water and groundwater



Chronic decline in local groundwater levels



Assertions of conflict



Competing interpretations of hydrologic science



Increased litigation from State Engineer decisions

LIMITED STATUTORY TOOLS TO ADDRESS WATER SHORTAGE



Administrative cancellation, forfeiture, and abandonment of water rights



Curtailment by priority



Designation of Critical Management Areas



ADAPTIVE WATER MANAGEMENT

Recognizing the diversity of local conditions in consistent application of state water law



Incentives for water conservation



Application of conjunctive management principles



Clarity/guidance for adopting groundwater management plans

KEY NEEDS FOR NEVADA WATER RESOURCES

Make Nevada's water resources a financial and policy priority

ADDRESS NDWR CRITICAL FUNDING NEEDS



Responsibilities are ***foundational*** to every aspect of Nevada's governance, economy, and vitality



Critical staff shortage, preserving records, modernizing services

ACTIONS/INVESTMENTS NOW: SETUP FOR THE FUTURE

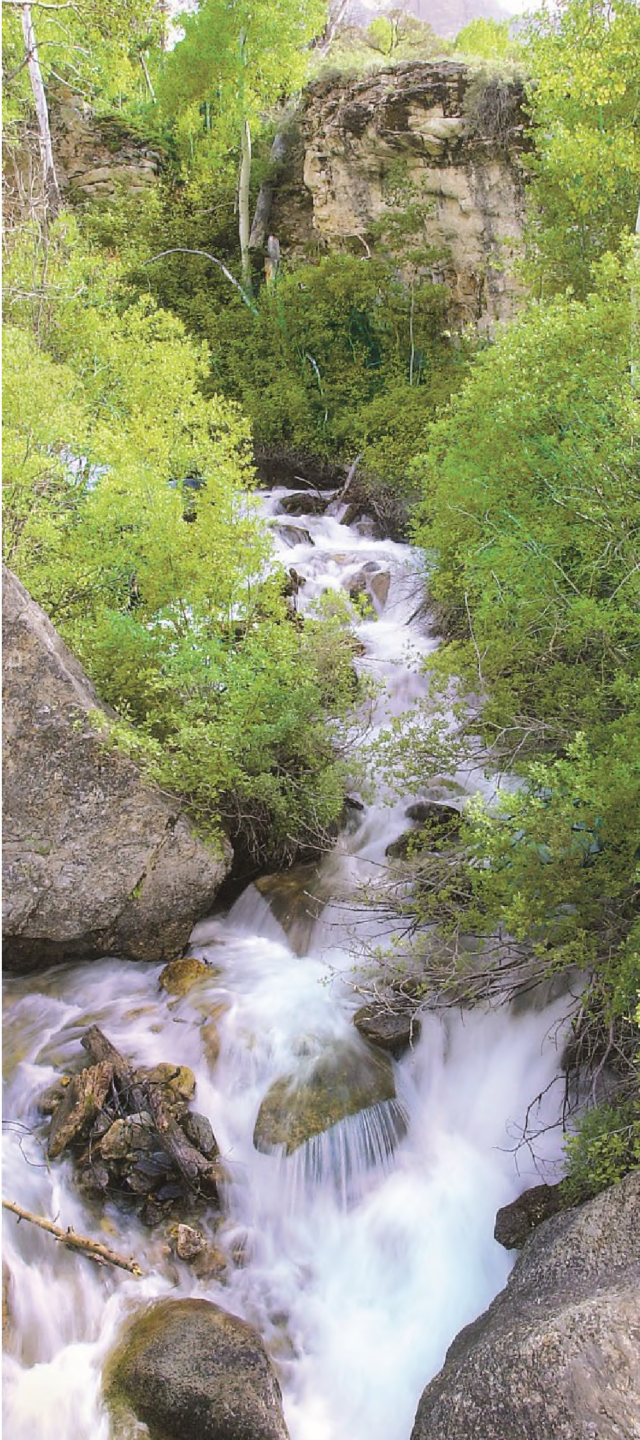


Update Science: Water Resource Availability



Reinforce NV water law to work better in today's realities

Questions?



Contact

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