



# **Nevada State Natural Resources**

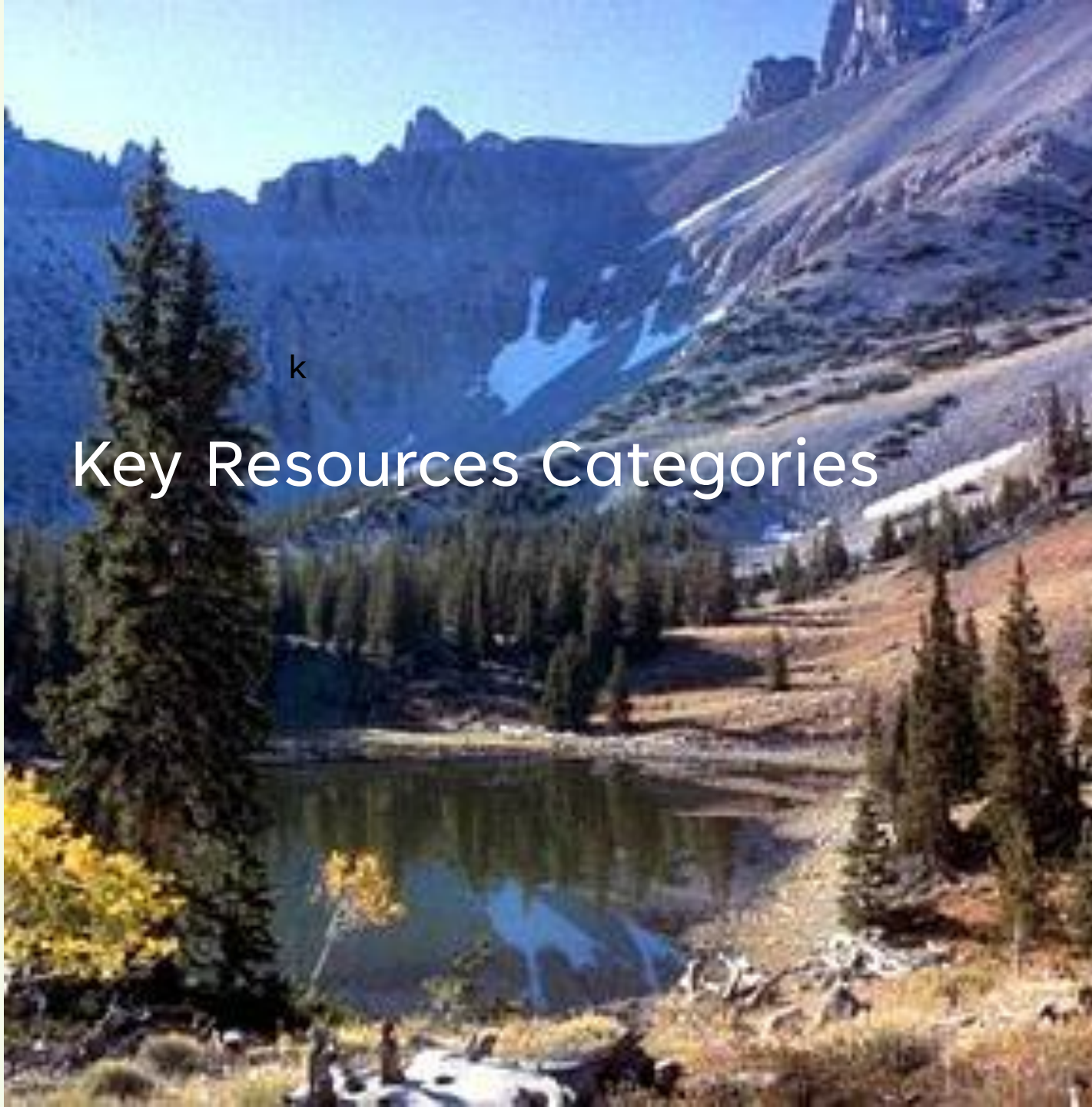
Protecting, managing, and enhancing Nevada's natural, cultural, and recreational resources for generations to come





## **The Silver State's Natural Wealth**

Nevada, known as the "Silver State," is home to diverse and abundant natural resources that have shaped its history, economy, and culture. From vast mineral deposits to precious water resources, expansive public lands to diverse wildlife habitats, Nevada's natural resources are both a source of pride and a responsibility for careful stewardship. The Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, with over 900 employees, works tirelessly to protect, manage, and enhance these invaluable assets.



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## Key Resources Categories

**Minerals**

**Water**

**Wildlife**

**Public Lands**

**Conservation**



GOLD, SILVER, LITHIUM AND CRITICAL  
MINERALS  
NEVADA IS THE TOP GOLD-PRODUCING  
STATE IN THE U.S. AND HOME TO THE  
ONLY OPERATING LITHIUM MINE IN  
NORTH AMERICA.

# Mineral Resources



Nevada's mineral wealth has been legendary since the discovery of the Comstock Lode in the 1850s, which put Nevada on the global mining stage. Today, Nevada remains a powerhouse in mineral production, contributing significantly to both the state and national economy.

## **Gold and Silver**

Nevada is the top gold-producing state in the United States and ranks among the world's largest gold producers. In 2018, Nevada produced over 5.5 million ounces of gold with reserves of approximately 143 million ounces.

## **Lithium and Critical Minerals**

Nevada hosts the Silver Peak Mine in Esmeralda County—the only operating lithium mine in North America. The state is also a significant producer of molybdenum, diatomite, barite, and other critical minerals.

## **Economic Impact**

The mining industry recorded approximately \$8.8 billion in total commodity value in 2022, providing high-paying jobs and supporting local communities throughout Nevada.

WATER IS NEVADA'S MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE. AS THE DRIEST STATE IN THE NATION, NEVADA FACES UNIQUE CHALLENGES IN MANAGING LIMITED WATER SUPPLIES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF GROWING POPULATIONS, AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY, AND ECOSYSTEMS

# Water Resources



- **Major Water Sources**
- The Colorado River provides approximately 90% of Southern Nevada's water supply through Lake Mead. Lake Tahoe, a world-famous 22-mile-long alpine lake, serves as a critical water source and recreational destination. The Truckee River flows 120 miles from Lake Tahoe through Reno to Pyramid Lake.
- **Water Management**
- The Nevada Division of Water Resources employs the best available science to guide responsible water management decisions, administering programs including water rights adjudications, dam safety, drought management, and water planning.
- **Drought and Conservation**
- The Colorado River Basin is experiencing the worst drought in recorded history. Nevada has implemented permanent conservation measures and continues to innovate in water efficiency and sustainable use.

NEVADA'S DIVERSE LANDSCAPES  
SUPPORT AN INCREDIBLE ARRAY OF  
WILDLIFE SPECIES AND HABITATS. THE  
NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE  
MANAGES NEARLY 900 DIFFERENT  
SPECIES OF FISH, BIRDS, MAMMALS,  
AMPHIBIANS, AND REPTILES  
THROUGHOUT THE SILVER STATE



## Wildlife and Habitats

- **Iconic Species**
- Nevada is home to the Greater Sage-Grouse, Desert Bighorn Sheep, Mule Deer, Pronghorn Antelope, and the Mountain Bluebird (Nevada's state bird). These species, along with hundreds of others, contribute to Nevada's rich biodiversity.
- **Sagebrush Ecosystems**
- Nevada supports the second-largest area of remaining sagebrush habitat in the United States. These ecosystems are critical for species such as sage-grouse, mule deer, pronghorn, and countless other wildlife.
- **Forests and Aquatic Resources**
- Nevada's forests include pinyon-juniper woodlands at mid-elevations. Aquatic habitats range from high mountain lakes and streams to low-elevation rivers and reservoirs, supporting diverse fishing opportunities.

## PUBLIC LANDS AND RECREATION

Over 80% of Nevada is public land, providing unparalleled access to outdoor recreation and wildlife habitat. This vast public estate includes national forests, Bureau of Land Management lands, national parks and monuments, state parks, and wildlife refuges.

- **State Parks**

The Nevada Division of State Parks manages numerous parks throughout the state, featuring natural lakes and man-made reservoirs, including the world-famous Lake Tahoe and smaller gems like Echo Canyon Reservoir.

- **Recreation Opportunities**

Hunting opportunities for big game and upland birds are exceptional. Fishing enthusiasts can choose from mountain streams, desert reservoirs, or world-class trophy fisheries. Boating on Lake Tahoe and Lake Mead attracts millions annually.

- **Off-Highway Vehicles**

Nevada's open spaces provide outstanding opportunities for off-highway vehicle recreation. The OHV Program manages use to balance recreation with resource protection

- **Outdoor Access**

The Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation works to ensure sustainable and equitable access to outdoor experiences for all Nevadans and visitors.

# CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

PROTECTING NEVADA'S NATURAL RESOURCES REQUIRES COORDINATED EFFORTS ACROSS MULTIPLE AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS, WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, TRIBES, AND PRIVATE STAKEHOLDERS.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

ENSURING CLEAN AIR AND WATER THROUGH MONITORING, POLLUTION PREVENTION, AND HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT.

## **NATURAL HERITAGE**

MAINTAINING COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION ON RARE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES, UNIQUE HABITATS, AND NATURAL COMMUNITIES.

## **HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

PROTECTING CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES FROM ANCIENT NATIVE AMERICAN SITES TO HISTORIC MINING TOWNS.



## CLIMATE CHANGE AND FUTURE CHALLENGES



- Nevada faces significant challenges related to climate change, including rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, increased wildfire risk, and impacts on water supplies. The state is actively addressing these challenges through science-based management, innovative technologies, and collaborative partnerships. Managing wildfire and forest health, ensuring water security, and balancing resource use with conservation are central to Nevada's approach to sustainable resource management

# NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

THE NDCNR CONSISTS OF 12 DIVISIONS AND PILLAR PROGRAMS COLLECTIVELY FOCUSED ON PUTTING SCIENCE INTO ACTION TO ADVANCE A HEALTHY, SUSTAINABLE, VIBRANT FUTURE FOR ALL NEVADANS.

- **Division of Environmental Protection**
- **Division of Water Resources**
- **Division of State Parks**
- **Division of Forestry**
- **Division of State Lands**
- **Division of Natural Heritage**
- **Division of Outdoor Recreation**
- **State Historic Preservation Office**
- **Conservation Districts Program**
- **Sagebrush Ecosystem Program**
- **Off-Highway Vehicles Program**
- **Conserve Nevada Program**



# Protecting Nevada's Natural Heritage

- Nevada's natural resources are extraordinary in their diversity, abundance, and importance. From the gold and silver that built the state's economy to the water that sustains life in the desert, from the wildlife that embodies the spirit of the West to the public lands that offer freedom and adventure, these resources define Nevada. Through dedicated management, scientific expertise, and collaborative partnerships, Nevada is working to ensure that its natural heritage remains vibrant and productive for generations to come.

[Learn more about Nevada's Natural Resources](#)

## ABOUT US

### The Natural Resources Committee

Information about Nevada's natural resources, managed by the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.





- Information about Nevada's natural resources, managed by the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.
- **Resources**
- [NDCNR Website](#) – Coming soon
- [Division of Water Resources](#) - TBD
- [Department of Wildlife](#) - TBD
- [State Parks](#) - TBD
- **Contact**
- For more information about Nevada's natural resources, visit the official state agency websites or contact your local conservation office. Coming soon
- © 2025 Nevada State Natural Resources. Educational resource about Nevada's natural heritage.

A wide-angle photograph of a Nevada desert landscape. In the foreground, there is a vast, flat expanse of dry, yellowish-brown scrubland with small, low-lying green bushes. In the middle ground, a range of rugged, brown mountains stretches across the horizon. The sky above is a deep blue, filled with scattered, fluffy white clouds. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day.

# **Thank You & Welcome to Nevada State Assembly**

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