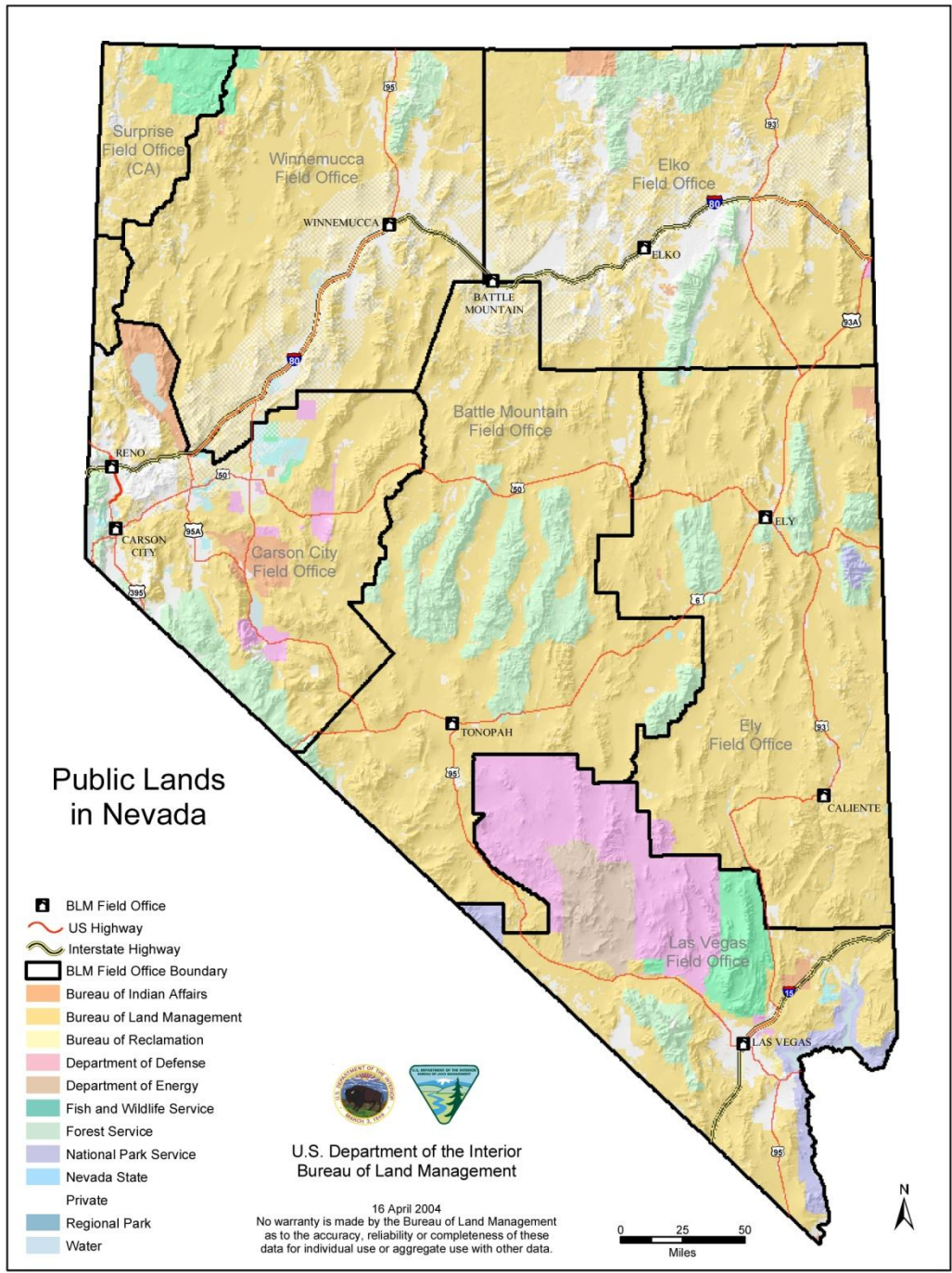


# **Perspectives on 3M Plans - Discussion**

**What is the Interest of Federal  
Agencies in Monitoring Water  
Resources Development?**

In Nevada, there is a sizable land base that is managed by various federal agencies for a variety of purposes, thus, it is not unusual for there to be a federal interest in a ground water development project in Nevada.



Approximately 83% of the land base in Nevada is under federal ownership.

# Examples of Federal Statutes Relating to Management of Natural Resources

- Endangered Species Act
- Federal Land Policy and Management Act
- National Parks Organic Act and legislation specific to certain National Parks
- National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act and legislation specific to certain National Wildlife Refuges
- Clean Water Act
- National Environmental Policy Act

## Purpose of Monitoring Plans

- Definition of monitoring- collection and analysis of repeated observations or measurements to evaluate changes in conditions and progress toward meeting a management objective.
- Thus, it is important to clearly identify the desired management objectives so the often limited budget for monitoring is used efficiently.
- Conversely, it can be expensive and time consuming to obtain the necessary data through monitoring to support the identified management goals.
- If either of these are compromised, it must be clear what effect that will have on the overall purpose of the monitoring plan, which may require an adjustment of the plan and/or its goals.

## Examples of Plan Objectives

--Avoid injury to water rights.

--Mitigate for reduced flow at springs.

--Mitigate for loss of habitat.

--Provide data and other information to support a regulatory process needed for project approval.

--Depending on the Management Objectives of the Plan, it may be important to establish an “early warning system.”

## **Examples of Other Issues Related to Monitoring Plans**

--Identifying Mitigation Measures in the Plan

--Uncertainty Issues.

--Use of ground water models.

--Hydrologic v. Biologic Monitoring

--Issues related to the nature and scope of the ground water system needing to be monitored and managed.