

Nevada's Evolving Public Trust

Nevada Water Resources Association
Annual Conference 2014



The Public Trust

By the law of nature these things are common to mankind—the air, running water, the sea and consequently the shores of the sea.

Institutes of Justinian, II.1.1



Mono Lake, California



Mono Lake Location and Tributaries



Significant drawdown due to LAW&P Diversions

States applying the public trust to water rights

- North Dakota
- California
- Hawaii
- Idaho



Lawrence v. Clark County

Is Nevada next?

NRS 533.025

The water of all sources water supply within the boundaries of the state whether above or beneath the surface of the ground belongs to the public.