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To nvgwprojects@blm.gov  
cc  
bcc  
Subject Attention Penny Woods - Snake Valley Aquafier

Hello Penny Woods,

I just wanted to comment on the BLM impact report regarding the Snake Valley Aquafier that is targeted for use by the city of Las Vegas. I strongly believe that if Las Vegas is allowed to pump water from this aquafier, it will be at the cost of rural Nevadans and the State of Utah. Not only will this have a deleterious affect on agriculture for communities that have little else to thrive on, it will also impact the 1.5 million people that live along the Wasatch Front in Utah. Not only will this extraction of water from the aquafier affect people living in an already precarious desert environment, but it will have a negative impact on wildlife and vegetation that require the aquafier to continue to live. This also has the potential to leave the Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge vulnerable to a loss of a precious water source.

I happen to live in the Salt Lake Valley. I spend a good deal of recreation time out in Utah's and Nevada's western deserts. One of my favorite places for solitude and a vast wilderness experience is out along the historic Pony Express Trail. I visit Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge at least twice every year. It is a hidden and little known wilderness gem, supporting a myriad of wildlife and aviary life you will not find anywhere else in the lower forty eight states. These wetlands are crucial for migrating birds that depend on the waters of the refuge for a safe sanctuary that has abundant food and shelter.

If Las Vegas has water issues, perhaps, the first thing they should do is enact strict water conservation laws and enforce them stringently. Perhaps, the enormous hotels and resorts should cut back on their lavish and extravagant water displays and fountains. This whole concept of trying to create a phony watery paradise in the middle of the desert is not only short sighted, but frankly, it is insane. Pirate ships in the desert? As a nation... have we gone mad? Why should Las Vegas be able to keep propping up a facade... an illusion of grandiosity and over indulgment at the expense of other hard working communities and delicate natural environs literally hundreds of miles away? Las Vegas generates enough revenue, that it can go in a different direction... perhaps, gleaning the positive aspects of the natural desert and the surrounding environment and applying them to their resorts and hotels in a sustainable manner. If Las Vegas has an issue with its desert environment... why did they build a city there in the first place? Believe it or not... the desert surrounding Las Vegas is not just a vast wasteland. It is abounding with absolute beauty and wonder. The city of Las Vegas needs change its mindset and embrace its surrounding natural environment instead of trying to diminish it and making it go away. This in itself, will go along way in reducing the cities water needs.

In closing, I implore you to stop Las Vegas from draining the Snake Valley Aquafier. Once that water, that has taken literally hundreds of thousands of years, if not millions of years to accumulate, is gone... it can never be replaced. If that is allowed to happen, then the surrounding lands, not only near Las Vegas, but in Eastern Nevada and Western Utah, will truly become a wasteland. And, do you know what? You can stop this from happening. Please be my hero

Penny Woods. Please be my hero and please be the hero of millions of other people that have relied on the Snake Valley Aquafier for at least one hundred and fifty years.

Thank You For Your Time And Attention,  
Jon Hager  
Riverton, Utah