



"Lois Ports"  
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To <nvgwprojects@blm.gov>  
cc  
bcc  
Subject SNWA DEIS public comments

**Penny Woods**  
**BLM Project Manager**  
**PO Box 12000**  
**Reno, NV 89520**  
**[nvgwprojects@blm.gov](mailto:nvgwprojects@blm.gov)**

**Dear Ms. Woods:**

**Our family has explored and studied the areas included in the DEIS for the Groundwater Development Project for almost three decades. We have been assessing the presence and status of the many mountainsnail (*Oreohelix sp.*) species**

native to this area. We notice that there has been no mention of terrestrial snails in this draft in spite of the fact that *Oreohelix nevadensis* is currently included on the Nevada BLM list of sensitive species. According to BLM Manual 6840.06C the goal is to "ensure that actions authorized, funded, or carried out do not contribute to the need for a species to become listed." There are many other species of this genus which need to be further evaluated as to their status. These are endemic species and like the springsnails require water resources which will be

impacted by any drawdown of water in these areas.

The effects from the project would alter both mountain and valley ecosystems to the detriment of all flora and fauna in the region. Lois' s family first moved into this area in the late 1800's and it has been an integral part of their traditions. Several generations have enjoyed the beauty and recreation of this part of eastern Nevada. We have been taking our own grandchildren exploring throughout this area and we would hope it would be there for their grandchildren to enjoy. If

SNWA is allowed to take down the limited water contained in this area the impacts will be the end of this area as we know it.

Las Vegas problems should stay in Las Vegas and not be allowed to affect other areas of the state which have not been encroached on by excessive population growth without regards to the consequences.

The BLM must choose the No Action Alternative, and deny the Right of Way for this project. To do otherwise would violate its public

trust responsibilities.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Ports  
Professor Emeritus, Great Basin  
College

and Lois K. Ports  
retired Elementary Educator  
Elko Co., NV

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