

BLM_NV_NVSO_GWProjects

From: Robert Hicks <bobooo17@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 08, 2011 2:36 PM
To: BLM_NV_NVSO_GWProjects
Subject: Comments on Snake Valley Water Plan
Attachments: BLM-Vegas Water.doc

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Penny Woods, Project Manager
BLM Nevada Groundwater Projects Office
P.O. Box 12000
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Dear Ms. Woods:

I am a fourth-generation Utahn. My great grandmother, who lived to be 108, came from Sweden when she was six. After she married, she and her husband went to Ibapah to teach the Gosiute Indians. Later, they homesteaded what was called the "Last Chance Ranch". While hauling hay in the summers of the 1960's for my Uncle (Jay Hicks) it was so dry that there was no water in the lower creek in the Ibapah valley. I witnessed how the wild mustangs, out of desperation, trembled in fear as they were forced to come into the corral for a drink of water.

In the early population of the 1900's, Nevada ground was established by homesteaders and miners. I believe Nevada has always been about 93 percent Federally owned. Those who established Las Vegas, which originally was a railroad stop (I think in the 1920's or 1930's), were more or less a transient population. Now, to think that the current transient population of Vegas can come up with the idea to dry up creeks, streams and seeps through the mountains and valleys of eastern Nevada in order to continue their growth and live in the brown, yellow haze of Las Vegas is absurd.

In reading all the newspaper articles and people's comments responding to this "water grab", one woman suggested that Vegas de-salt the ocean and trade Los Angeles's share of the Colorado River. At the time of this argument, \$3.5 billion was the cost of drilling the wells and running the pipeline. The other day the number had jumped to \$15 billion. So, my opinion is that if Phoenix, Los Angeles, and Las Vegas put their minds and dollars together they could come up with a better solution.

While traveling to Ely this August some friends and I could not figure out why all the water trucks were hauling water southwest of Ely. We thought they might be drilling for oil or some other project. We stopped and spoke with one of the truck drivers who was hauling water. From what he told us we got a clue as to what the environmentalists and the BLM make these companies do in order to keep the dust under control. We found out that the water being transported was for the power line's switching station. They were not allowed to build a road to keep the dust down. Neither could they put magnesium chloride on or grade the dirt that all these trucks were driving on 24 hours a day. This makes me believe that there is not enough water in the whole state of Nevada to keep the dust down and build this pipeline.

After watching the PBS documentary on Bishop, California and how the California Power & Water has destroyed this area, the Vegas water company is at it again. They are buying up ranches and water rights through eastern Nevada. The only rivers and surface water that Nevada has are the Humbolt in the Humbolt Sink, the Bruno River, and the Salmon Dam. The only surface water that Vegas could use goes to Idaho. In my opinion, it makes more sense to buy the water rights that run into Idaho and to run that pipeline to Las Vegas.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Hicks