APPENDIX H

WINNEMUCCA RMP SOCIOECONOMIC REPORT

US Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management
Winnemucca Field Office, Nevada

October 2006

Winnemucca Resource Management Plan

Socioeconomic Report

SOCIOECONOMIC REPORT

WINNEMUCCA FIELD OFFICE
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Prepared for

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

Acronym or Abbreviation	Full Phrase
AUM	animal unit month
BEA	Bureau of Economic Analysis
Black Rock NCA	Black Rock Desert – High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area
BLM	United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management
DETR	Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation
EPS	Economic Profile System
NDOW	Nevada Department of Wildlife
PILT	payments in lieu of taxes
planning area	Winnemucca Field Office RMP planning area
REIS	Regional Economic Information System
RMP	resource management plan
SCORP	Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
UCED	University Center for Economic Development
US	United States
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
US Forest Service	United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service
WFO	United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Winnemucca Field Office

SECTION 1
INTRODUCTION

The United States (US) Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Winnemucca Field Office (WFO), is preparing a resource management plan (RMP) to update or revise for public land within its jurisdiction. The Winnemucca RMP will replace the current land use plans for the WFO, the Paradise-Denio and Sonoma-Gerlach Management Framework Plans (BLM 1982a, 1982b), which were approved in 1982. The purpose of this economic report is to document the economic conditions of the RMP planning area and to provide an overview of how current BLM management activities contribute to the regional economy.

1.1 LOCATION

The planning area in the RMP encompasses all lands, regardless of ownership, within the WFO boundary and includes Churchill, Humboldt, Lyon, Pershing, and Washoe Counties. However, RMP decisions will apply only to the approximately 7.2 million acres (10.2 percent of Nevada's total acreage) of public land administered by the BLM. This acreage excludes the Black Rock Desert – High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area (Black Rock NCA), which is managed by the WFO BLM under a separate RMP that received approval in 2003. Also excluded are private, state, Indian reservations, and public lands not administered by the BLM.

The planning area is in the northwestern part of Nevada. The area is bordered on the west by Washoe County and portions of the Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation, on the north by the Oregon state line, on the east by Elko County and portions of Lander County, and on the south by Churchill County. The planning area lies entirely within the territory of the Northern Paiute people and includes several Indian reservation lands, including the Lovelock Paiute Tribe (Lovelock reservation), Fort McDermitt, Battle Mountain, Summit Lake, and Winnemucca Colony Reservations.

Figure 1-1 depicts the Winnemucca RMP planning area and Table 1-1 provides land ownership and acreage with the WFO planning area. WFO-managed land is throughout Pershing County, most of Humboldt County, the northern portion of Churchill County, a small eastern portion of Washoe County, and a small northern portion of Lyon County. Much of the BLM-administered land consists of scattered tracts intermingled with State of Nevada, private, tribal, and US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (US Forest Service) lands.

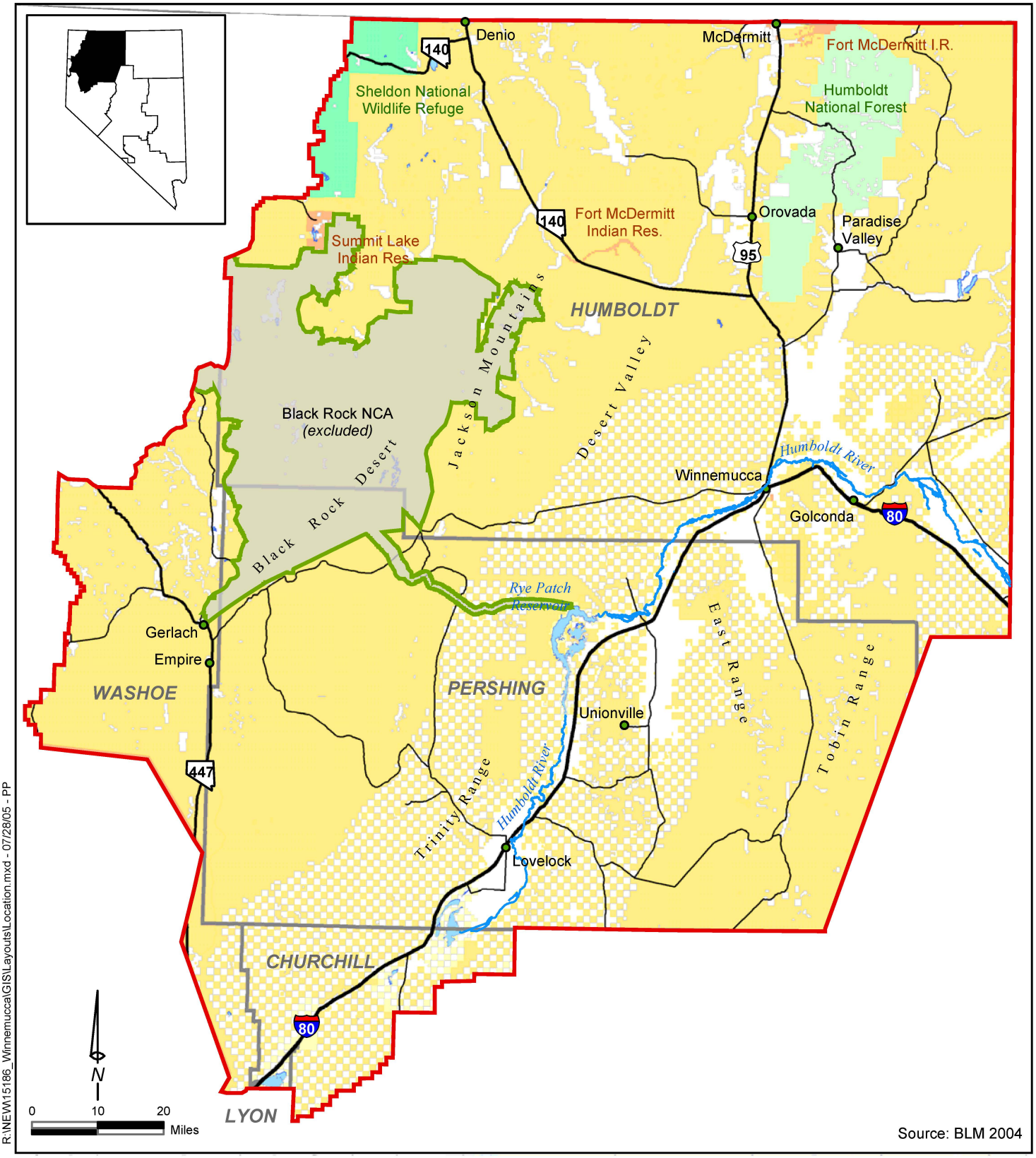
Table 1-1
WFO RMP Planning Area
Land Ownership and Acreage

Land Ownership	Acreage
BLM	*8,220,708
State of Nevada	70
Private	2,365,236
Forest Service	275,285
Fish & Wildlife Service	106,151
Bureau of Reclamation	66,561
Bureau of Indian Affairs	22,298
Department of Defense	18

Source: BLM 2005a

*Acreage includes WFO BLM-administered Black Rock NCA;
*WFO-BLM RMP acreage is 7,205,564.

Most of the WFO planning area is managed by the BLM. Although the WFO planning area boundary covers five counties, there are no WFO BLM-administered lands within Lyon County. About 2,800 acres of BLM-administered lands in Lyon County underwent recent land tenure adjustments, resulting in a change of ownership. A detailed description of ownership acreages by county is provided in Section 2.2.4.



Legend

- Field Office Boundary
- County Boundary
- Interstate
- Major Highway
- Other Road
- River
- Water
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Forest Service
- Nevada State
- Private

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management for use of the data for purposes not intended by BLM.

Planning Area Socioeconomic Report

Northwestern Nevada

Figure 1-1

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1.2 SOCIOECONOMIC RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The demographics and the economies of the five planning area counties are affected by public land uses within the planning area. Similarly, social structure and values within the counties influence the demand for recreation and other opportunities provided by the public lands, as well as the acceptability of proposed land management decisions. For these reasons, demographic, economic, and social data are presented for all five counties. It is important to note that, because WFO BLM-managed land covers approximately 19.2 percent of Washoe County primarily in its eastern portion, it is anticipated that land management decisions would affect mainly the eastern edge of the county, particularly the city of Gerlach, would be affected by the proposed land management decisions in Washoe County.

1.2.1 Definition of Resource and Content of This Report

Socioeconomic resources include demographic information on population, housing, and schools; economic figures concerning employment, income, and earnings; and social values. Each of these socioeconomic characteristics is discussed in Section 2. Population figures include the number of residents in the area, population growth trends, and distribution by age and gender. Housing includes numbers of units, ownership, and vacancy rate. School enrollment and capacity are important considerations in assessing the effects of potential growth on publicly supplied infrastructure. Employment data includes current data and trends in labor sectors, labor force, and unemployment. Income information provides a measure of the relative health of the economy, the potential demand for public services and assistance, and the significance of different economic sectors. In addition, a description of land ownership patterns is presented to identify the counties that are likely to be the most affected by funding through federal payments to states and counties in lieu of taxes. A more detailed description of important economic influences within each county follows this discussion. A summary of the relationship between the BLM's land management and the linked local economic sectors is presented in Section 2.2.5, followed by a description of the social values within the five-county region.

Section 3 addresses tribal interests within the planning area, followed by issues related to environmental justice and the protection of children, in accordance with Executive Orders 12898 and 13045, and as required by the National Environmental Policy Act. Section 4 presents a summary of the regional demographic, economic, and social conditions as they relate to the BLM's management of planning area public lands.

1.2.2 Socioeconomic Indicators

Indicators are factors that measure the effects of different resource management alternatives in the RMP and whether or not there is a change (and how big the change is) from current conditions. Socioeconomic

indicators will be analyzed in the Winnemucca RMP and environmental impact statement.

SECTION 2
SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS

2.1 DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

The project area is predominantly rural in character. Project area communities include regional cities, rural towns, and outlying rural areas. Winnemucca and Lovelock are regional cities that provide services, shopping, and diverse amenities for leisure and recreation. The region's rural towns, such as Denio, Empire, Gerlach, Goldconda, Imlay, and McDermit have smaller populations. The presence of services, hospitals, affordable housing, schools, shopping, and recreation are directly related to where the counties' populations reside. The employment base for most of these communities are mining, agriculture, industrial, gaming and tourism.

2.1.1 Population

Nevada's population has risen 66.3 percent in the last decade, while the population of the planning area has grown an average of 35.8 percent. Between 1995 and 2000, approximately 466,123 people moved into Nevada, while another 232,189 people moved out of Nevada, resulting in a net migration of 233,934 newcomers. The largest inflow and outflow was from and to California (US Census Bureau 2005).

Table 2-1 displays population trends from 1990 to 2000 and percent change over the ten-year period in the five counties analyzed. In 2000, the three largest county populations in the planning area were in Washoe (339,486), Lyon (34,501), and Churchill (23,982) Counties, which represent increases of 33.3 percent, 72.5 percent, and 33.7 percent, respectively, from their 1990 populations. Lyon County was the only county that exceeded the state average of 66.3 percent over the ten-year period, representing the largest percentage change in population. The lowest occurred in Humboldt County, with a 33.4 percent increase, due to high rates of out-migration (US Census Bureau 2005).

Table 2-1
County Population Totals and Median Ages (1990-2000)

County	1990	2000	1990-2000 Change	1990-2000 Percent Change	Median Age (2000)
Churchill	17,938	23,982	6,044	33.7%	34.7
Humboldt	12,844	16,106	3,262	33.7%	33.4
Lyon	20,001	34,501	14,500	72.5%	38.2
Pershing	4,336	6,693	2,357	54.4%	34.4
Washoe	254,667	339,486	84,819	33.3%	35.6
Planning Area	309,786	420,768	110,982	35.8%	35.3
Nevada	1,201,833	1,998,257	796,424	66.3%	35.0

Source: US Census Bureau 2005
Note: Decade years represent April 1 census data, not mid-year estimates

From 1990 to 2000, the population of all five counties had grown an average of approximately 35.8 percent to 420,768 people. Lyon, Washoe, and Churchill Counties had the highest median ages (38.2, 35.6, and 34.7 respectively) compared to the other counties. The median age of the population in all five counties in 2000 was 35.3. This was just slightly greater than Nevada's state average median age of 35.0.

Churchill County's population is influenced by its proximity to employment centers outside the county, providing residences for workers with jobs primarily in Carson City, Fernley (Lyon County), and the Reno–Sparks area (Washoe County). Population fluctuations in Humboldt and Pershing Counties are most likely due to trends in the mining and farming industries. Mining replaced farming as the dominant economic sector in Humboldt County's economy, affecting employment, personal income, and other regional economic sectors. Most of Lyon County's growth is occurring at manufacturing sites in Fernley and along the lower Carson River where present day "bedroom" communities (for Carson City) have taken the place of nineteenth century mining camps and milling sites. While a significant portion of the county's population lives within this Dayton area, many of these persons hold jobs and are counted as being employed in Carson City. Population trends in Washoe County are heavily influenced by the Reno-Sparks area gaming industry, the most dominant industry in Washoe County in terms of jobs, payrolls, personal incomes, and its direct and indirect effects on other sectors of the county's economy (Nevada Division of Water Resources, undated).

Growth is projected to continue increasing in the planning area, as shown in Table 2-2, at approximately 40.6 percent, slower than Nevada's anticipated growth at 50.3 percent. The largest growth is expected in Lyon County

Table 2-2
County Population Projections

County	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2000-2020 Population Change	2000-2020 Percent Change
Churchill	23,982	26,876	29,489	32,053	34,565	10,583	44.1%
Humboldt	16,106	15,943	15,212	14,286	14,025	-2,081	-12.9%
Lyon	34,501	45,317	54,385	62,547	69,469	34,968	101.4%
Pershing	6,693	7,010	7,040	7,012	7,063	370	5.5%
Washoe	339,486	385,887	415,402	442,878	466,546	127,060	37.4%
Planning Area	420,768	481,033	521,528	558,776	591,668	170,900	40.60%
Nevada	1,998,257	2,448,201	2,806,940	3,125,677	3,412,147	1,005,630	50.3%

Source: Nevada State Demographer's Office 2004

(101.4 percent), followed by Churchill County (44.1 percent), Washoe County (37.4 percent), and Pershing County (5.5 percent). Humboldt County is projected to experience a population loss of 12.9 percent (Nevada State Demographer's Office 2004).

The anticipated population increases may occur for a variety of reasons. Areas are experiencing industrial expansion, including growth in hard rock mining (Nevada Concrete Company), power plants (Granite Fox) and the development of renewable energy such as geothermal and wind projects. Other influencing factors include affordable housing, proximity to metropolitan areas such as the Reno/Sparks area, and the ease of access to an airport, an interstate highway, and/or the railroad.

Historic trends in the agricultural and mining sections are likely the cause of Humboldt County's past population decreases, however, increase retirees, mining activity (including mine expansion and new mines), geothermal development and industrial diversification such as a new trailer manufacturing plant combined with affordable housing could result in populations increases.

All five counties' largest populations were under 20 years of age, with Churchill and Humboldt Counties representing the largest percentages (31 and 34 percent, respectively. The baby boomers accounted for second largest populations in all five counties, with ages ranging from 40 to 54. The smallest population for all five counties was children under the age of five years old, with Pershing and Lyon Counties having the smallest percentage of population under five (6.5 percent each) and Churchill and Humboldt Counties having the largest population of children under five (8.0 percent each). The percent of population over 65 ranged from approximately 7.5 to 13.7 percent, with Lyon and Churchill Counties having the largest population

over 65 (13.7 and 11.9 percent) and Humboldt County having the lowest population over 65 (7.5 percent) (US Census Bureau 2005).

The average ratio of men to women in the planning area counties was similar to the state's percentage of 50.9 to 49.1, as the percentages of male to female ranged from 52.4 to 47.6 in Humboldt County to 50.2 to 49.8 in Churchill County. Pershing County was an exception with the ratio of men to women measurably higher (61.4 to 38.6 percent) than the average, due to the higher percentage of men in the prison in the county (US Census Bureau 2005).

2.1.2 Housing

Table 2-3 shows housing occupancy type and vacancy for the five planning area counties in 1990 and 2000, when all counties experienced an increase of over 25 percent in total number of housing units. Lyon County had the largest increase (63.7 percent) in the number of housing units, and Pershing County had the lowest increase (25.2 percent). The growth in the number of housing units in all counties occurred as a result of population growth. Growth that occurs in urban areas surrounded by public lands may increase pressure on the BLM to dispose of public lands that are otherwise difficult to manage for multiple uses (BLM 2000a). All counties in the planning area, with the exception of Lyon, experienced a lower percentage increase in the number of housing units than did the state, which experienced an increase of 59.5 percent.

Table 2-3
County Housing Estimates (1990-2000)

County	1990			2000			Housing Units Percent Change
	Housing Units	Vacancy Rate	Persons per Household	Housing Units	Vacancy Rate	Persons per Household	
Churchill	7,290	1.7%	2.62	9,732	2.6%	2.64	33.5%
Humboldt	5,044	1.7%	2.76	6,954	3.9%	2.77	37.9%
Lyon	8,722	2.8%	2.58	14,279	3.1%	2.61	63.7%
Pershing	1,908	1.9%	2.65	2,389	3.5%	2.69	25.2%
Washoe	112,193	1.8%	2.43	143,908	2.0%	2.53	28.3%
Planning Area	135,157	1.98%	2.61	35,452	3.0%	2.65	37.7%
Nevada	518,858	2.3%	2.52	827,457	2.3%	2.64	59.5%

Source: Nevada State Demographer's Office 2004

In 2000, Humboldt and Pershing Counties had the highest vacancy rate (3.9 and 3.5 percent), and Washoe County had the lowest vacancy rate (2.0 percent). In general, the average vacancy rate for the planning area in 2000 was 3.0 percent, with vacancy rates increasing in all counties between 1990 and 2000, and vacancy rates remaining the same for the state at 2.3 percent.

In 2000, the average number of persons per household in the planning area was 2.65, which was just slightly higher than that of the state average of 2.64. The average household size in each of the five planning area counties ranged from 2.53 persons in Washoe County to 2.77 persons in Humboldt County (US Census Bureau 2005). Despite the growth in the number of housing units in all of the planning area counties from 1990 to 2000, the average number of persons per household increased in all counties, as well as statewide.

Table 2-4 shows housing affordability for the five planning area counties. A rating of 100 or higher under the Housing Affordability Index indicates that the median family can afford the median house. Housing for all counties within the planning area has become more affordable in the last decade.

Table 2-4
Housing Affordability (1990-2000)

County	1990			2000		
	Housing Unit: Median Value	% of Median Income necessary to buy house	Housing Affordability Index	Housing Unit: Median Value	% of Median Income necessary to buy house	Housing Affordability Index
Churchill	$110,145	21%	117	$117,100	18%	141
Humboldt	$98,814	17%	146	$117,400	16%	157
Lyon	$99,736	22%	113	$119,200	19%	133
Pershing	$86,298	18%	142	$82,200	13%	199
Washoe	$146,113	24%	102	$161,600	21%	119
Planning Area	$108,221	20.4%	124	$119,500	17.4%	149.8

Source: US Census Bureau 2005

The median value of housing units for all but Pershing County increased from 1990 to 2000. The largest increase occurred in Lyon County, which increased almost $20,000 over a ten year period. The second largest increase was Humboldt County, followed by Washoe and Churchill Counties. In Pershing County, the median value of housing units decreased from $86,298 in 1990 to $82,200 in 2000 ($37,300 lower than the planning area average), yet the housing affordability index increased the greatest (from 142 to 199).

2.1.3 Education

Five school districts serve the five planning area counties. The 147 schools within these districts had a total enrollment of 76,641 students during the 2001-2002 school year. Of the five counties, Washoe, Lyon, and Churchill Counties had the highest kindergarten through 12th grade student enrollment,

with 3,244, 378, and 236 students, respectively. Pershing and Humboldt Counties had the smallest kindergarten through 12th grade student enrollment of 66 and 208 students. Washoe County School District, the largest school district in the planning area, includes sixty-four elementary schools (grades kindergarten/prefirst through 6), twelve middle schools (grades 7 and 8), two junior-senior high schools, fourteen high schools (grades 9 through 12), and ten alternative/other schools (for example, charter schools [kindergarten through 6th grade], detention centers, and alternative education schools) (National Center for Education Statistics 2005).

Of the five counties, Washoe County had the largest population (almost 24 percent) 25 years and older with a college degree, which is about ten percent higher than the US median (approximately 15 percent). Churchill and Humboldt Counties were close to the US median at 17 and 14 percent. Lyon and Pershing Counties had the lowest percentage in the planning area (11 and 9 percent) and fell below the US median (US Census 2000).

2.2 ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

2.2.1 Employment and Economy

Table 2-5 shows employment data for all planning area counties in 2000. The three largest counties, Washoe, Lyon, and Churchill, had unemployment rates ranging from 5.0 to 6.9 percent, while, on average, the planning area counties had an average unemployment rate of approximately 7.3 percent, larger than the state's 6.2 percent average. Humboldt and Pershing Counties had the highest unemployment rates in the planning area in 2000, 8.3 percent and 7.6 percent.

Table 2-5
County Employment Statistics (2000)

Location	Employed Persons	Unemployed Persons	Unemployment Rate
Churchill County	10,288	641	5.9%
Humboldt County	7,017	636	8.3%
Lyon County	15,399	1,137	6.9%
Pershing County	2,268	187	7.6%
Washoe County	171,723	8,956	5.0%
Planning Area	209,223	11,770	7.3%
State of Nevada	933,280	61,920	6.2%

Source: US Census Bureau 2005

As shown in Table 2-6, between 1990 and 2000, employment sector growth for the entire planning area increased in services (41.6 percent), government (39.1 percent), construction (33.4 percent), transportation/utility/information (28.4 percent), manufacturing (27.9 percent), and finance/insurance/real estate (20.7 percent).

Table 2-6
County Employment by Industry Sector and Average Sector Growth

Sector (Total Planning Area Percent Change)	Churchill County	Humboldt County	Lyon County	Pershing County	Washoe County	Total Planning Area
Agriculture/Forestry/Fishing/Mining (-33.7%)						
1990	728 (10.1%)	1,850 (28.9%)	895 (10.4%)	675 (34.7%)	2,993 (2.1%)	8,540 (5.1%)
2000	632 (6.1%)	1,726 (24.6%)	777 (5.0%)	517 (22.8%)	1,292 (0.8%)	5,665 (2.7%)
Construction (33.4%)						
1990	810 (11.3%)	620 (9.7%)	898 (10.5%)	132 (6.8%)	9,519 (6.8%)	12,195 (7.3%)
2000	958 (9.3%)	559 (8.0%)	1,464 (9.5%)	95 (4.2%)	13,008 (7.6%)	16,270 (7.8%)
Manufacturing (27.9%)						
1990	492 (6.8%)	275 (4.3%)	1,271 (14.8%)	91 (4.7%)	10,438 (7.4%)	12,656 (7.5%)
2000	854 (8.3%)	252 (3.6%)	1,892 (12.3%)	177 (7.8%)	12,903 (7.5%)	16,184 (7.7%)
Transportation/Utility/Information (28.4%)						
1990	517 (7.2%)	384 (6.0%)	466 (5.4%)	116 (6.0%)	11,995 (8.5%)	13,620 (8.1%)
2000	877 (8.5%)	542 (7.7%)	1,196 (7.8%)	182 (8.0%)	14,528 (8.5%)	17,493 (8.4%)
Trade (-2.6%)						
1990	1,341 (18.7%)	1,193 (18.6%)	1,530 (17.8%)	359 (18.4%)	29,364 (20.9%)	34,175 (20.4%)
2000	1,559 (15.2%)	963 (13.7%)	2,615 (17.0%)	218 (9.6%)	27,693 (16.1%)	33,282 (15.9%)
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate (20.7%)						
1990	374 (5.2%)	162 (2.5%)	274 (3.2%)	32 (1.6%)	8,993 (6.4%)	9,870 (5.9%)
2000	343 (3.3%)	103 (1.5%)	790 (5.1%)	46 (2.0%)	10,584 (6.2%)	11,909 (5.7%)

Table 2-6
County Employment by Industry Sector and Average Sector Growth *(continued)*

Sector (Total Planning Area Percent Change)	Churchill County	Humboldt County	Lyon County	Pershing County	Washoe County	Total Planning Area
Services (41.6%)						
1990	2,244 (31.2%)	1,501 (23.5%)	2,716 (31.6%)	411 (21.1%)	61,645 (43.8%)	69,000 (41.1%)
2000	3,989 (38.8%)	2,447 (34.9%)	5,470 (35.5%)	707 (31.2%)	84,268 (49.1%)	97,699 (46.7%)
Government (39.1%)						
1990	678 (9.4%)	415 (6.5%)	533 (6.2%)	131 (6.7%)	5,787 (4.1%)	7,710 (4.6%)
2000	1,076 (10.5%)	425 (6.1%)	1,195 (7.8%)	326 (14.4%)	7,447 (4.3%)	10,721 (5.1%)

Source: US Census Bureau 2005; Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) 2005

The services sector was the only sector that experienced growth in all five counties, with the greatest increase occurring in Humboldt County (63.0 percent). Between 1990 and 2000, services in Humboldt County increased from 23.5 percent of the job sector to 34.9 percent. Pershing County had the second highest increase of 36.7 percent (increasing from 21.1 percent in 1990 to 31.2 percent in 2000).

Over the ten-year period, employment declined in the trade and agriculture/forestry/fishing/and mining sectors, at -2.6 percent and -33.7 percent. This decline may be attributed to changes in the mineral development and agriculture production throughout Nevada. Gold prices reached their lowest level in mid-1999 at $252 per ounce. In real inflation-adjusted terms, this was the lowest level since 1972 when the US went off the gold standard (Nevada Mining Association 2003). These lower gold prices in the late 1990s lower gold prices caused many Nevada mines to scale back exploration and to scale back or temporarily close some operations.

2.2.2 Income and Earnings

As shown in Table 2-7, 2000 per capita personal incomes for the planning area counties, with the exception of Washoe County, remained below $26,000. Income in the planning area on average climbed to $25,142, which resulted in an average increase of 39.1 percent since 1990, but remained below the state average of $30,437 in 2000. In 2000, Washoe County had the highest per capita income ($36,100), and Pershing County had the lowest ($16,892) (BEA 2005).

Table 2-7
Per Capita Incomes

Location	1990	2000	Percent Change
Churchill County	$15,591	$25,053	60.7%
Humboldt County	$18,950	$24,700	30.3%
Lyon County	$16,641	$22,965	38.0%
Pershing County	$16,094	$16,892	5.0%
Washoe County	$23,067	$36,100	56.5%
Average Total	$18,069	$25,142	39.1%
State of Nevada	$20,346	$30,437	49.6%

Note: Figures calculated without taking into account the inflation rate.
Source: BEA 2005

Churchill County experienced the most significant growth in per capita income, a 60.7 percent increase, from $15,591 in 1990 to $25,053 in 2000. Per capita income in Washoe, Lyon, and Humboldt Counties increased by 30 percent or more (56.5, 38.0, and 30.3, respectively), while per capita income in Pershing County slightly only increased by 5.0 percent. In 2000, the

average per capita income growth level in the planning area counties (39.1 percent) was well below the state's level (49.6 percent).

Table 2-8 displays farm earnings for the planning area counties between 1990 and 2000. Over this ten-year period, farm earnings decreased in Churchill, Pershing, and Humboldt Counties, falling 16.0, 13.7, and 10.4 percent, respectively. Washoe County expereinced the largest increase in farm earnings of all the counties, 620.2 percent. Lyon County showed an increase of 22.2 percent. Planning area counties showed an average increase in farm earnings of 11.5 percent between 1990 and 2000, a somewhat slower rate than the state level, which increased 20.9 percent during the same period (BEA 2005).

Table 2-8
Farm Earnings 1990-2000 (in thousands of dollars)

Location	1990	2000	Percent Change
Churchill County	$11,066	$9,295	-16.0%
Humboldt County	$18,266	$16,366	-10.4%
Lyon County	$12,936	$15,813	22.2%
Pershing County	$5,930	$5,119	-13.7%
Washoe County	$1,173	$8,448	620.2%
Average Total	$9,874	$11,008	11.5%
State of Nevada	$80,533	$97,399	20.9%

Note: All state and local area dollar estimates are in current dollars (not adjusted for inflation).

Farm earnings: the net income of sole proprietors, partners, and hired laborers arising directly from the current production of agricultural commodities, livestock or crops. It includes net farm proprietors' income and the wages and salaries, pay-in-kind and other labor income of hired farm laborers, but specifically excludes the income of non-family farm corporations.

Source: BEA 2005.

Overall, with the exception of Washoe and Lyon Counties, which occupy only small portions of the planning area, this trend indicates a decrease in farm and agriculture-related earnings within the last decade, which has led to the growth of employment services and amenity-based industries within the planning area, as further discussed in Section 2.2.6, Community Economic Profile Workshop and Social Characteristics.

Table 2-9 displays private earnings by industry in 2003. To avoid disclosing confidential information, some numbers have been suppressed, however, the estimates for these items are included in the totals.

Table 2-9
Private Earnings 2003 (in thousands of dollars)

Private Sector	Churchill County	Humboldt County	Lyon County	Pershing County	Washoe County
Private Earnings	**293,732**	**256,302**	**364,590**	**51,853**	**8,881,111**
Forestry, fishing, related activities	4,105 (1.4%)	4,489 (1.8%)	2,954 (0.8%)	(D)	11,438 (0.1%)
Mining	(D)	108,818 (42.5%)	9,949 (2.7%)	(D)	44,693 (0.5%)
Utilities	10,087 (3.4%)	15,427 (6.0%)	6,027 (1.7%)	(D)	129,622 (1.5%)
Construction	26,136 (8.9%)	14,755 (5.8%)	46,835 (12.8%)	(D)	103,5043 (11.7%)
Manufacturing	26,721 (9.1%)	14,031 (5.5%)	100,996 (27.7%)	(D)	884,197 (10.0%)
Wholesale Trade	11,612 (4.0%)	7,698 (3.0%)	19,682 (5.4%)	(D)	602,745 (6.8%)
Retail Trade	35,115 (12.0%)	26,657 (10.4%)	52,978 (14.5%)	4,394 (8.5%)	789,345 (8.9%)
Transportation and warehousing	18,145 (6.2%)	13,792 (5.4%)	8,658 (2.4%)	1,538 (3.0%)	465,483 (5.2%)
Information	6,250 (2.1%)	2,753 (1.1%)	1,721 (0.5%)	316 (0.6%)	203,504 (2.3%)
Finance and Insurance	19,978 (6.8%)	3,808 (1.5%)	6,195 (1.7%)	465 (0.9%)	756,021 (8.5%)
Real estate and rental and leasing	8,976 (3.1%)	1,661 (0.6%)	4,112 (1.1%)	203 (0.4%)	194,558 (2.2%)
Professional and technical services	16,069 (5.5%)	(D)	(D)	(D)	810,650 (9.1%)
Management of companies and enterprises	217 (0.1%)	(D)	(D)	(D)	240,508 (2.7%)
Administrative and waste services	44,291 (15.1%)	4,279 (1.7%)	35,353 (9.7%)	(L)	324,625 (3.7%)
Educational services	(D)	(D)	(D)	0	43,790 (0.5%)
Health care and social assistance	(D)	(D)	(D)	972 (1.9%)	1,023,825 (11.5%)
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	11,437 (3.9%)	2,144 (0.8%)	12,705 (3.5%)	(D)	203,845 (2.3%)
Accommodation and food services	9,010 (3.1%)	16,918 (6.6%)	7,288 (2.0%)	(D)	900,439 (10.1%)
Other services, except public administration	10,625 (3.6%)	7,123 (2.8%)	12,833 (3.5%)	997 (1.9%)	216,780 (2.4%)
Government and government enterprises	**168,337**	**66,031**	**79,992**	**32,714**	**1,484,161**
Federal, civilian	32,855 (19.5%)	11,756 (17.8%)	3,880 (4.9%)	612 (1.9%)	276,163 (18.6%)
Military	68,257 (40.5%)	945 (1.4%)	2,578 (3.2%)	215 (0.7%)	25,894 (1.7%)
State and local	67,225 (39.9%)	53,330 (80.8%)	73,534 (91.9%)	29,008 (88.7%)	1,182,104 (79.6%)

Source: BEA 2005

In addition to private earnings, non-labor income also played an important role in each county. In 2002, non-labor income accounted for more than 30 percent of total income in all five planning area counties. The largest percentages of non-labor income occurred in Washoe and Lyon Counties (36.8 and 36.1 percent), and Humboldt County's proportion was the smallest (30.7 percent).

2.2.3 Land Ownership

Of the 70,275,800 acres of land in Nevada, the federal government owns 61,548,000 acres, or 87.6 percent, ranking Nevada first of the fifty states for percentage of lands in federal ownership (Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan [SCORP] 2003). Within the WFO planning area, approximately 78.4 percent of land is held in federal ownership, which includes BLM, US Forest Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and US Fish and Wildlife Service lands. About 75 percent of the planning area land is managed by the BLM WFO. Portions of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest lie within the northeastern part of Humboldt County, and portions of the Charles Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge lie in the eastern part of the county. The Black Rock NCA lies within the portions of Humboldt, Pershing and Washoe Counties. Humboldt County is likely to be the most directly affected by funding through federal payments to states and counties in lieu of taxes because this county has the highest percentage of federally owned and managed lands, followed by Washoe and Pershing Counties. As presented in Table 2-10, of the five counties, the BLM WFO administers the largest portion of BLM land in Humboldt and Pershing Counties and the smallest portion of land in Washoe County. The BLM does not manage any lands in Lyon County. In general, the US Forest Service and the BLM manage much of the federal public lands in the planning area. As such, the percentage of US Forest Service land is also included in Table 2-10 to provide context and scale.

Table 2-10
BLM and US Forest Service Land Management in Planning Area Counties

County	Total County Acres	Percent Total Federal Ownership	Total Acres Managed by the BLM WFO	Percent Managed by the BLM WFO	Total Acres Managed by the US Forest Service	Percent Managed by the US Forest Service
Churchill	3,170,167	79.6	188,603	5.9	0	0
Humboldt	6,169,180	81.5	4,353,340	70.6	275,285	4.5
Lyon	1,272,804	67.2	0	0	0	0
Pershing	3,861,416	75.7	2,904,342	75.2	0	0
Washoe	4,041,732	72.9	774,423	19.2	0	0
Total	18,515,299	45.9	*8,220,708	44.4	275,285	1.5

Source: BLM 2005a
*Acreage includes WFO BLM-administered Black Rock NCA

2.2.4 County Overviews

The following section provides a brief overview of the five counties whose borders cross the WFO planning area. The analysis discusses the entire county, regardless of ownership or planning area boundary.

The proposed Granite Fox power plant would be important to the economy to several of the counties listed below. However, this project is currently on hold and may not be developed.

Anticipated resonating effects from this project to local economies include an increasing demand for services and materials. Workers are expected to purchase items such as food, clothing, and gasoline locally during both the construction and operational phases. Restaurants and movie theatres would also see an increase in use. The demand for construction materials, such as concrete aggregates, fill material, and lumber are expected to increase, supporting the employees of the local construction supply industry. Of the new companies that have moved to Nevada over the past several years, the Granite Fox power plant project is expected to rank among the top in terms of overall economic impact (Coleman 2005).

Churchill County

Churchill County is the southernmost county in the planning area, bordered by portions of Washoe and Lyon Counties on the west, Pershing County on the north, Lander County on the east, and portions of Nye and Mineral Counties on the south. The northwestern portion of this county is within the planning area. The only urban area in Churchill County is the city of Fallon, and there is property proposed for development between Fernley and Fallon (near Hazen) to support the Granite Fox power plant project (Coleman 2005). The Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe and the US Naval Air Station Fallon are also within the county, as are wildlife refuge areas and portions of the Lahontan State Recreation Area (popular for camping, fishing and boating). Churchill County ranked eighth among the 17 Nevada counties in population in 2000 and tenth in area (Harris, Riggs, and Zimmerman 2001; BEA 2005).

A county with a diverse economy, or one that is not heavily specialized, is able to withstand employment fluctuations in individual industries. For this analysis, the specialization index is based on the employment share for each industry type as a portion of total employment. Using this methodology, Churchill County is classified as somewhat diverse economically (with an index of employment specialization of 735 versus a median of 961 for all US counties) (Census 2000). Naval Air Station Fallon is the main source of income for residents of Churchill County. Military personnel and naval base support account for more than 3,000 jobs in the local economy. Outside of the naval base, the major employers are the Churchill County School District, the Banner Churchill Community Hospital, Churchill County, SMI Joist, and

Wal-Mart, each of which maintains over 200 employees. Compared to the nation, the county supports a larger than average mining and agricultural community. Mining operations focus on gold and silver, and farms produce livestock, alfalfa hay, other hay, wheat, and barley. Churchill County is also the leading dairy producer in the state (Churchill Economic Development Authority 2005).

In 2000, the largest portion of Churchill County's population was under the age of 20 (31 percent), and the male/female ratio was even (Census 1990 and 2000). Per capita income for the county ($25,053) was lower than the state average ($30,437) and the national average ($30,906) (BEA 2005). Total full-time and part-time employment in Churchill County increased from 9,621 jobs in 1992 to 15,858 jobs in 2002, resulting in a net increase of 64.8 percent over the ten-year period (BEA Regional Economic Information System [REIS] 2002). In 2002, the largest three employment sectors in Churchill County were government, service industries, and trade, transportation, and utilities services. The smallest employment sectors in 2002 were mining and finance/insurance/real estate (University of Reno 2005). Labor income accounted for 69 percent of personal income in 2002. Non-labor income, which consists of dividends, interest, rent, and transfer payments, such as Medicare and retirement benefits, accounted for 31 percent of the total personal income in 2002 (BEA REIS 2002).

Churchill County encompasses 3,170,167 acres, approximately 4.5 percent of the state. The Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Reservation, Grimes Point, and the Hidden Cave, a Native American site, are also in the county. Federally owned land makes up 79.6 percent of the county, tribal land makes up 1.7 percent, state land makes up 3.2 percent, and local government and private land makes up 15.5 percent. The BLM WFO manages a total of 188,603 acres (5.9 percent) of Churchill County (BLM 2005a).

Humboldt County

Humboldt County is in the northern portion of the planning area, bordered by Elko County on the east, Lander County on the southeast, Pershing County on the south, Washoe County on the west, and Oregon on the north. In 2000, it ranked ninth among the 17 Nevada counties in population and fourth in area (Harris, Riggs, and Zimmerman 2001; BEA 2005). Humboldt County is sparsely populated, with most of its population living in the only incorporated city, Winnemucca. The most rapidly growing area of the county is Grass Valley, located adjacent to and immediately south of Winnemucca (Governet Network Services 2001). Other urban areas in the county include Denio, McDermitt, Orovada, Paradise Valley, and Golconda.

Economic diversity in Humboldt County is considered average (920 versus a median of 961 for the US counties), but the County's economy largely depends on resource industries of agriculture and mining, both dependent on

public lands (Census 2000). Humboldt is the third leading agricultural county in the state, producing mint, alfalfa, potatoes, and beef cattle (USDA 2005a). The mining sector produced over one mill ounces of gold in 2000 (Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology 2001). A mining dependent economy makes Humboldt County vulnerable to boom/bust cycles, leading to fluctuations in population and per capita income

In 2000, the largest portion of Humboldt County's population was under the age of 20 (34 percent), and the male/female ratio was nearly even (52 percent male and 48 percent female) (Census 1990 and 2000). Per capita income for the county ($24,700) was lower than the state ($30,437) and the nation ($30,906) (BEA 2005). Total full-time and part-time employment in Humboldt County increased from 8,400 jobs in 1992 to 8,969 jobs in 2002, resulting in a net increase of 6.8 percent over the ten year-period (BEA REIS 2002). The retail trade, services, and government sectors also employ large portions of the county. The smallest employment sectors were real estate and construction (University of Reno 2005).

Major employers are the Winnemucca Farms, Humboldt County School District, Newmont Mining, Getchell Gold, Winners Hotel and Casino, Humboldt County, and Wal-Mart (Nevada Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation [DETR] 2005). In Humboldt County, labor income accounted for 69 percent and non-labor income accounted for 31 percent of the total personal income in 2002 (BEA REIS 2002).

The landscape in Humboldt County consists mainly of north – south running mountain ranges separated with long valleys, including the Black Rock Range, Pine Forest, Jackson, Santa Rosa and Sonoma Ranges, and desert valleys (including a large part of the Black Rock Desert). The northwest portion of the county contains portions of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and the Santa Rosa Paradise Peak Wilderness, and the western portion of the county includes much of the Black Rock NCA. Varied outdoor recreational offerings include hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, mountain biking, and water sports.

Humboldt County encompasses 6,169,180 acres, approximately 8.8 percent of the state. Portions of the Fort McDermitt, Summit Lake, and Winnemucca Colony Reservations lie within Humboldt County. Federally owned land makes up 81.5 percent of the county, tribal land makes up 0.36 percent, local government and private land makes up 18.2 percent, and state land accounts for approximately 50 acres. The BLM WFO manages a total of 4,353,689 acres (70.6 percent) of Humboldt County (BLM 2005a).

Lyon County

Lyon County is in the extreme southwest portion of the planning area, bordered by Churchill County on the northeast, Mineral County on the

southeast, California on the south, small portions of Douglas and Carson City Counties on the west, and Storey County on the northwest. It ranks sixth among the 17 Nevada counties in population and ranks fourteenth in area (Harris, Riggs, and Zimmerman 2001; BEA 2005). Dayton, Fernley, and Silver Springs are the county's three largest cities. Increasing at the rapid rate of 72 percent from 1990 to 2000, Lyon County was the third fastest growing county in Nevada (Department of Conservation and Natural Resources 2005).

In 2000, the largest portion of Lyon County's population was under the age of 20 (29 percent), followed closely by the baby boomers or those between the ages of 40 and 54 (22 percent). The largest individual age category is the one ranging from 40 to 44 years old and since 1990, the population has gradually gotten older. The median age in 2000 is 38.2 years, up from 36.4 years in 1990. The male/female ratio was nearly even (51 percent male and 49 percent female) (Census 1990 and 2000). Per capita income for the county ($2) was lower than the state ($30,437) and the nation ($30,906) (BEA 2005).

Lyon County is slightly under the median in terms of economic diversity (762 versus a median of 961 for the US counties) (Census 2000). Lyon County's economy largely depends on the mining and agricultural industries, however manufacturing, retail trade, and construction also account for a large portion of the County's jobs and private earnings. Minerals that have been extracted from the county include gold, copper, gypsum, silver, and diatomite (Lyon County 2005). The county is also producing approximately 23 percent of the state's crops, including alfalfa, onion, garlic, grains and potatoes. Livestock production includes beef, sheep, dairy operations, and llama breeding (Northern Nevada Development Authority 2005). Mining and agriculture are prominent industries, but services, trade, and manufacturing are the largest employment sector. The government also provides substantial employment. Major employers are Lyon County School District, Amazon.com, Lyon County, and Quebecor World (DETR 2005). Labor income was 64 percent and non-labor income accounted for 36 percent of total personal income in 2002 (BEA REIS 2002).

Lyon County encompasses 1,272,804 acres, approximately 1.8 percent of the state. Lake Lahontan State Park, Dayton State Park (including the Carson River), and the Mason Valley Wildlife Management Area are in Lyon County. Federally owned land makes up 67.2 percent of Lyon County, state-owned land makes up 2.1 percent of surface ownership, tribal land makes up 4.0 percent, and local government and private land makes up 26.9 percent. The BLM WFO does not manage any land in Lyon County (BLM 2005a).

Pershing County

Pershing County lies in the middle of the planning area, bordered by Washoe County on the west, Churchill County on the south, Lander County on the

east, and Humboldt County on the north. It ranks eleventh among the 17 Nevada counties in population and eighth in area (Harris, Riggs, and Zimmerman 2001; BEA 2005). Lovelock is the county's largest city and contains about half of Pershing County's population (approximately 7,500 people) (Pershing County Library 2005).

Pershing County's economic diversity is roughly average in comparison to other US counties (872 versus a median of 961 for the US counties) (Census 2000). Mining, agriculture, and tourism heavily influence the local economy. Pershing County contains a wider variety of minerals than any similarly sized area in the world, with large deposits of iron ore, mercury, tungsten, and gypsum. Agricultural practices focus on alfalfa, wheat, barley, and oats. All farm operations depend on water from the Humboldt River, which is stored in the Rye Patch Reservoir 22 miles north of Lovelock. Approximately 39,000 acres of the Lovelock Valley are irrigated with water from the Rye Patch Reservoir (Pershing County Library 2005). The Rye Patch Reservoir is enjoyed by both locals and visitors for a variety of recreational activities including fishing, boating, water skiing, camping, and picnicking.

The Humboldt River corridor, which runs through the middle of Pershing County, was originally settled by the Northern Paiute people, dating to before the nineteenth century. Pershing County's history has made it a highly desirable place to visit. Within the county are the Lovelock Indian Caves, the Humboldt River Basin, Ancient Lake Lahontan, and portions of the California Trail (BLM 2003). Lovelock Paiute tribal lands occupy 20 acres in southwest Lovelock (Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada 1996).

In 2000, the largest portion of Pershing County's population was under the age of 20 (28 percent), followed closely by the baby boomers (22 percent). The largest individual age category is the one ranging from 35 to 39 years old and the age group that has grown the fastest, as a share of total population, is 40 to 44 years. The male/female ratio was more heavily weighted towards males (61 percent male and 39 percent female) due to the prison (Census 1990 and 2000). Per capita income for the county ($16,892) was much lower than the state ($30,437) and the nation ($30,906), also due to the presence of the prison (BEA 2005).

In 2002, more than half the jobs in Pershing County were in either government or mining sectors. Services, construction, and trade also accounted for a large majority. The smallest employment sectors were real estate, public utilities, and manufacturing (University of Reno 2005). Major employers include the State of Nevada, Coeur Rochester Incorporated, Florida Canyon Mining, Eagle-Picher Minerals, Pershing General Hospital, and Pershing County (DETR 2005). Labor income accounted for 64 percent and non-labor income accounted for 36 percent of total personal income in 2002 (BEA REIS 2002).

Nevada Cement Company, current located outside of Fernley in Lyon County, is expecting to mine limestone near the town of Lovelock, in Pershing County. This project is expected to provide between 100 and 140 jobs. Overall, the relocation of this company will provide a significant benefit to the local economy.

Pershing County encompasses 3,861,416 acres, approximately 5.5 percent of the state. Federally owned land makes up 75.7 percent of Pershing County, local government and private ownership account for 24.3 percent and state land accounts for approximately 20 acres. The BLM WFO manages a total of 2,904,342 acres (75.2 percent) of the county (BLM 2005a).

Washoe County

Washoe County is in the far west portion of the planning area, bordered by California on the west, Oregon on the north, Humboldt, Pershing, Churchill, and Lyon Counties on the east, and Storey and Carson City Counties on the south. It ranks second among the 17 Nevada counties in population and seventh in area (Harris, Riggs, and Zimmerman 2001; BEA 2005). Reno, the second largest city in Nevada, is in Washoe County, as well as Sparks and Incline Village, at Lake Tahoe (DETR 2005).

Rapidly growing Washoe County is considered one of the state's "urban" counties, along with Carson City, Clark, and Douglas. The county is on the eastern slopes of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and offers a variety of recreational opportunities provided by mountains, beaches (Lake Tahoe and Pyramid Lake), and open space, including portions of the Black Rock Desert (Washoe County 2005).

In 2000, the largest portion of Washoe County's population was under the age of 20 (28 percent), and the male/female ratio was practically even (51 and 49 percent) (Census 1990 and 2000). Per capita income for the county ($36,831) was higher than the state ($30,559) and the nation ($30,906) (BEA 2005).

Washoe County's economic diversity is slightly below average in comparison to other US counties (734 versus a median of 961 for the US counties) (Census 2000). The service sector, followed by trade, government, and construction, provides the most job opportunities in Washoe County. The smallest employment sector is mining. Major employers are the Washoe County Comptroller, International Game Technology, Washoe Medical Center, Integrity Staffing Solutions, City of Reno, and several hotel and casino operations (DETR 2005). Labor income was 63 percent and non-labor income accounted for 37 percent of total personal income in 2000 (BEA REIS 2002).

Washoe County encompasses 4,041,732 acres, approximately 5.8 percent of the state. Portions of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, the Pyramid Lake Reservation, and the Reno-Sparks Reservation are within Washoe County. An estimated 72.9 percent of Washoe County is owned by federal agencies, 0.40 percent is owned by the state, 8.8 percent is tribal land, and 17.9 percent is local government and private ownership. The BLM manages a total of 775,032 acres (19.2 percent) of the county's 2,701,562 acres (BLM 2005a).

2.2.5 Economic Influence of BLM-Managed Lands by Sector

Local economies realize direct and indirect benefits from a variety of activities on public lands, including visitor expenditures and the processing and harvesting of timber, minerals, and forage. The federal government redirects revenues collected from public lands back to the states in which they were collected. The BLM collects revenues from recreational and commercial activities that take place on the nearly 48 million acres of BLM-managed lands in Nevada. These revenues are collected from facilities, such as fees from campgrounds, from BLM recreation permits (special, competitive, organized group activity, and event use permits), timber sales, mining leases and mineral revenues, and grazing fees. Table 2-11 presents collections received (approximately $29 million) from specific activities on Nevada BLM-managed lands in 2002.

Table 2-11
Total Federal Collections from Nevada BLM-Managed Land and Minerals (2002)

Activity	Collection
Recreation and use fees	$2,021,103
Grazing fees	$2,014,727
Timber receipts, public domain	$4,451
Mining claim holding fees and service charges	$9,405,105
Mineral royalties, rents, and bonuses	$5,900,462
Miscellaneous receipts	$4,529,622

Source: BLM 2005b

How resource sectors on public lands influence the state and local economies in Nevada is discussed below. In the WFO planning area, sectors of influence include recreation, grazing, and mining. In 2004, forestry receipts collected from the WFO totaled about $250. Of that, about $185 was from Christmas tree sales and the balance was generated from firewood purchases. As evident from receipt totals, the forestry sector consitutes a small portion

of revenue source for the WFO, and is therefore, not discussed in detail (Johnson 2005a).

Recreation Sector

United States

Participation in outdoor recreation activities is practically universal throughout the United States, although involvement can vary due to factors such as region and income. A survey completed in 2003 for the American Recreation Coalition found that nine in ten Americans participated in an outdoor recreational activity over a twelve-month period. Of those respondents, 55 percent reported a visit to an area managed by a federal agency over the same twelve-month period (American Recreation Coalition 2004).

Table 2-12 presents an annual estimate of US participation in outdoor recreational activities based on a sample taken between July 1999 and July 2002.

Table 2-12
Percent and Number of People Ages 16 and Older in the US Participating in Outdoor Recreational Activities

Type of Outdoor Activity	Number of Participants (in millions)	Proportion of Participants
Participated in Any Type of Activity	290.9	98.5%
Trail/Street/Road Activities	192.4	90.3%
Traditional Social Activities (Family Gathering, Picnicking)	177.7	83.4%
Viewing and Photographic Activities	171.5	80.5%
Viewing and Learning Activities	154.7	72.6%
Driving for Pleasure Activities	142.6	66.9%
Swimming Activities	141.3	66.3%
Outdoor Adventure Activities	131.1	61.5%
Boating/Floating/Sailing Activities	88.0	41.3%
Fishing	77.6	36.4%
Snow and Ice Activities	62.2	29.2%
Outdoor Team Sports	43.9	20.6%
Hunting	27.5	12.9%

Source: US Forest Service and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville 2002

According to this sampling, 98.5 percent of the sampling pool participated in some type of outdoor recreation activity. The percentage of Americans participating in activities on trails, streets, and roads was 90.3, and the percentage participating in traditional social activities was 83.4 percent. The survey also revealed that the five most popular individual activities in the US include walking (86 percent), family gathering (76 percent), viewing natural

scenery (64 percent), visiting a nature center, nature trail, or zoo (62 percent), and picnicking (60 percent) (US Forest Service and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville 2002).

As the popularity of recreational activities continues to grow among Americans, so does the competing demand for use of federal lands. In 2003, 66.6 million people visited the 3,300 recreational sites maintained by the BLM in the US. In comparison, there were 279 million visits to the 388 National Park Service sites, including parks, monuments, and battlefields; 39 million visits to the 544 Fish and Wildlife Service wildlife refuges; and 90 million visits to the 308 Bureau of Reclamation sites (American Recreation Coalition 2004).

Beginning in 2001 and continuing more strongly in 2003, a long-time pattern of increasing outdoor recreation participation evolved into a downward trend. Data from 2003 shows that the decline in outdoor recreation participation is partially a result of the growth in the public's ownership and use of electronic communications and leisure options. Only one activity, driving for pleasure, showed a substantial increase between 2001 and 2003. Concerns about travel arising from the events of September 11, 2001, also are likely to have contributed to this decline, as well as several other factors, such as leisure time spent on the Internet and increased offerings through cable and satellite television channels. The decline in frequency of outdoor recreation participation has been especially apparent among young adults, a group that reports high access to the Internet (American Recreation Coalition 2004).

Data also show that there is an obvious disparity in outdoor recreation participation throughout various regions of the country. Residents of the Northeast and South are significantly less likely to participate in almost all forms of outdoor recreation than residents of the Midwest and the West. Midwestern residents exceed national participation rates for all types of outdoor recreational activities, and West residents' rates follow closely behind, falling below national rates in just a few activities. The West also had the lowest percentage of residents (six percent) reporting no outdoor recreation participation, which was less than half of the national rate (American Recreation Coalition 2004).

Additional survey data display a clear correlation among income, education, and higher participation in outdoor recreation. This correlation also was present in the 2003 research. Those with a college degree or higher reported greater participation in outdoor activities, compared with the national average or with those with a high school degree or less. Similarly, those with household incomes of $75,000 or more also reported greater outdoor recreation participation than those with household incomes below $30,000 (American Recreation Coalition 2004)

Nevada and the WFO Planning Area

Growth and expansion in Nevada's tourism and recreation industry have been a significant factor in Nevada's economy (Table 2-13). Nevada is the single most tourism-dependent state in the nation, ranked number one for per capita receipts generated from travel expenditures. Nevada ranked number two for total travel expenditures ($16,275.70 million), following only California, whose population exceeded 31 million in 2002, compared to Nevada's population of an estimated 1.4 million (Western States Tourism Council 2005).

Table 2-13
Tourism Dependency by State

	Travel Expenditures (millions $)			Population	Per Capita Receipts	
	Domestic	International	Total	(millions)	($)	Rank
Arizona	5,866.80	1,297.40	7,164.20	3.94	1,818.30	10
California	43,981.80	11,530.00	55,511.80	31.2	1,779.20	13
Colorado	6,396.20	501.2	6,897.40	3.57	1,932.00	8
Hawaii	6,178.80	5,679.50	11,858.30	1.17	10,135.30	2
Idaho	1,536.10	57	1,593.10	1.1	1,448.30	22
Montana	1,445.80	151.4	1,597.20	0.84	1,901.40	9
Nevada	14,484.90	1,790.80	16,275.70	1.39	11,709.10	1
New Mexico	2,836.90	107	2,943.90	1.62	1,817.20	11
Oregon	3,937.90	272.2	4,210.10	3.03	1,389.50	27
Utah	2,845.60	468.5	3,314.10	1.86	1,781.80	12
Washington	5,590.00	805.1	6,395.10	5.26	1,215.80	34
Wyoming	1,129.80	123.9	1,253.70	0.45	2,786.00	5

Source: Western States Tourism Council 2005

Its high desert region and over 300 mountain ranges and peaks make Nevada a highly desirable place to recreate. In 2004, the Leisure and Hospitality sector employed approximately 27 percent of Nevada's working population. The traveler accommodation industry is projected to be the fastest growing job sector, increasing from 203,700 employees in 2002 to an estimated 289,135 by 2012, resulting in a 41.9 percent increase over a ten-year period (DETR 2005). This projection is directly related to visitor numbers. Table 2-14 summarizes visitor volume in Nevada from 2003 through 2004.

From January 2003 to December 2004, the total number of visitors to Nevada increased from 48.6 million to 50.5 million, an increase of approximately four percent. The largest increases occurred in the spring, with February, March, and April increasing 4.8, 8.3, and 10.0 percent, respectively. The only month that the visitor population decreased was August (-2.4 percent). Total number of people visiting state and nearby national parks also

increased over that same two-year period, from 26.0 million to 26.1 million (Nevada Commission on Toursim 2005).

According to a statewide survey completed in 2001, approximately 84 percent of Nevadans participate in some type of outdoor recreation activity (DeLoney 2001). Table 2-15 lists the ten most popular outdoor recreation activities in Nevada in 2002 with Nevadans age 16 years or older, based on the 1999-2002 National Survey on Recreation and the Environment. The most popular activity was walking for pleasure, with 78.4 percent of Nevadans participating, followed by family gatherings (70.2 percent) and viewing or photographing natural scenery (56.6 percent) (SCORP 2003).

Table 2-14
Visitor Volume

Month	2003	2004	Percent Change
January	3,932,104	4,084,046	3.9%
February	3,785,986	3,969,395	4.8%
March	4,159,209	4,505,005	8.3%
April	3,994,373	4,392,480	10.0%
May	4,173,448	4,382,698	5.0%
June	4,092,173	4,128,505	0.9%
July	4,327,012	4,384,400	1.3%
August	4,452,907	4,346,794	(2.4)%
September	3,950,159	4,235,420	7.2%
October	4,230,163	4,460,887	5.5%
November	3,810,779	3,852,131	1.1%
December	3,694,924	3,807,705	3.1%

Source: Nevada Commission on Tourism 2005

Table 2-15
Ten Most Popular Outdoor Recreation Activities in Nevada in 2002

Activity	Percent Participating	Number of Participants
Walk for pleasure	78.4	1,336,806
Family gathering	70.2	1,196,987
View/photograph natural scenery	56.6	965,092
Picnicking	56.2	958,272
Visit nature centers	51.7	881,542
Sightseeing	48.5	826,978
Driving for pleasure	47.6	811,632
Swimming in outdoor pool	46.2	787,761
Attend outdoor sports events	41.9	514,441
View/photograph, other wildlife	40.8	695,685

Source: SCORP 2003

The main federal agencies that provide recreational opportunities throughout Nevada include the BLM, the US Forest Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service, with most recreational development occurring near urban areas. The BLM alone manages approximately 1.2 million acres of recreation-designated lands in Nevada, such as the Red Rock Canyon National Recreation Lands, Hickison Petroglyph Site, and Walker Lake's Sportsman's Beach (SCORP 2003). Additional recreation opportunities are made available by local and state agencies, such as the Nevada State Parks. Table 2-16 provides a summary of significant recreation sites in the WFO planning area and the provider.

Table 2-16
Recreation Sites Within the WFO Planning Area

Site	Agency
Black Rock Desert	BLM
Pine Forest	BLM
Water Canyon	BLM
High Rock Canyon	BLM
Lye Creek	US Forest Service
Gerlach-Empire Regional Park	Local
Lahontan Reservoir	Nevada State Parks
Rye Patch Reservoir	Nevada State Parks

Source: SCORP 2003

These sites provide a variety of recreational opportunities, including hiking, biking, climbing, water sports, and off-roading. According to Nevada's 2003 SCORP, the public attached the highest importance rating to protecting, maintaining, and increasing public access to public lands for the diversity of outdoor recreational users. In the 1992 SCORP, over ten years ago, this issue was ranked fifth. Many view federal lands as valuable opportunities for

outdoor recreation activities, as well as a means for economic growth (SCORP 2003).

The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) issues hunting and fishing licenses and permits. In the 2003-2004 season, the number of hunting permits issued to both residents and nonresidents totaled 37,570. During that same period, the estimated number of fishing permits issued was 95,884 (NDOW 2004a). Combined, the Onion Valley Reservoir, Humboldt River, Knott Creek Reservoir, Squaw Creek Reservoir, and Rye Patch Reservoir reported over 18,452 visitor days in 2004 (NDOW 2004b). Table 2-17 portrays hunting and fishing license sales for counties in the WFO planning area.

Table 2-17
County License Sales for Hunting and Fishing 2002-2003

County	Number of Hunting Licenses		Number of Fishing Licenses	
	Resident	Nonresident	Resident	Nonresident
Churchill	716	218	2,364	536
Humboldt	556	601	1,415	495
Lyon	470	104	2,327	564
Pershing	95	15	274	71
Washoe	5,391	895	13,802	2,032
County Total	7,228	1,833	20,182	3,698

Source: NDOW 2004

Combined, the five planning area counties sold over 9,000 hunting licenses and close to 25,000 fishing licenses from 2002 to 2003. Approximately 20 percent of those licenses were sold to residents outside Nevada, suggesting a sizeable number of recreationists traveling to Nevada from other states. Washoe County sold the largest number of hunting and fishing licenses, 6,286 and 15,834. Humboldt County sold the largest proportion of licenses to nonresidents, 51.9 percent of hunting licenses and 25.9 percent of fishing licenses. The fewest nonresident hunting and fishing licenses were sold in Pershing County (NDOW 2004).

In 2004, the Nevada Association of Counties surveyed its membership to gauge opinion regarding the economic benefits and costs associated with recreational activities on public lands. All respondents felt that there were additional costs incurred by counties in some form as a result of recreational use of public lands. Ninety-two percent of the respondents identified additional law enforcement costs, 86 percent identified road maintenance costs, and 81 percent identified search and rescue costs. Economic benefits derived from recreation on public lands included additional gas tax revenue and additional sales and room tax revenue. Overall, the majority of respondents felt that economic benefits outweighed the costs (62 percent

answered "yes," 22 percent answered "no," and the remaining 16 percent did not know) (Nevada Association of Counties 2004).

Table 2-18 displays the diverse activities enjoyed by recreationists, the estimated number of visitor days on lands or waters administered by the BLM, and the average expenditure information by activity. Recreation expenditure profiles for locals and non-locals were developed based on existing data sources and are conservative assessments; estimates are in 2001 dollars.

Table 2-18
Recreation Use in WFO Planning Area on BLM-Managed Lands
From October 2003 through September 2004

Recreation Activity	Annual Visitor Days (Local/Non-Local) [1]	Average District Expenditures Per Day (Local/Non-Local) [2]	Total Direct Expenditures[3]
Backpacking	1,084/510	$22.40/$39.16	$44,253
Bicycling	2,197/1034	$22.40/$39.16	$89,704
Camping	6,115/2,878	$15.19/$27.09	$170,852
Driving for Pleasure	6,497/3,058	$25.53/$49.58	$317,484
Fishing (freshwater)	4,302/2,025	$38.58/$70.84	$309,422
Environmental Ed.	307/144	$22.40/$39.16	$12,516
Horseback Riding	955/449	$22.40/$39.16	$38,975
Hunting[4]	7,503/3,531	$40.40/$79.59	$584,153
Hiking/Walking	1,565/737	$10.41/$38.69	$44,806
OHV Activities	6,673/3,140	$22.40/$39.16	$272,438
Picnicking	1,475/694	$15.19/$27.09	$41,206
Photography	2,172/1,022	$22.40/$39.16	$88,674
Racing	555/261	$22.40/$39.16	$22,653
Rock Hounding	1,429/673	$22.40/$39.16	$58,364
Viewing – Other	1,553/730	$22.40/$39.16	$63,374
Wildlife Viewing	583/274	$22.40/$39.16	$23,789
Winter Activities	2,997/1,412	25.47/44.02	$138,490
Other	2,060/970	$22.40/$39.16	$84,129
Total	**50,022/23,542**		**$2,405,283**

Based on information generated from the BLM's recreation database, the Recreation Management Information System, an estimated 73,500

[1] Resident and Non-resident ratios developed based on Black Rock-High Rock Final RMP/EIS (2003).
[2] Recreation expenditure profiles do not necessarily correspond directly to the specific types of recreation activities occurring within the WFO planning area. Average expenditures for each activity are based on the most applicable expenditure category. Average district expenditures are based on 2001 dollars provided in Black Rock-High Rock Final RMP/EIS.
[3] Total Direct expenditures by recreationists result in direct and indirect income effects to local proprietors and residents.
[4] Hunting totals are a combination of big game, small game, upland bird, and waterfowl.

recreational users visited the WFO planning area in 2004. The highest recreational use categories in the planning area were hunting, camping, driving for pleasure and OHV activities. Applying recreation expenditure estimates to the estimated number of days for each activity yields a total estimate of $2,405,283 (2001 dollars) for expenditures associated with recreational activities in the planning area; $1,281,201 for local visitors, and $1,124,081 for non-local visitors. This averages about $32.70 per person, per day.

Additionally, a variety of commercial, competitive, and organized group uses occur on BLM-administered lands, all of which are administered under the special recreation permit program. In 2003, the BLM collected $2,027,103 in Nevada from recreation fees and permits (BLM 2004). The Burning Man Festival is BLM's largest recreational use permit nationwide and is issued for over 25,000 people annually. Although it is administered through the Black Rock-High Rock NCA, it is issued through the WFO. In 2004, this recreational use permit generated approximately $707,400. A total of almost 37,000 participants were issued permits by the BLM within the WFO in 2004.

Mining Sector

The BLM manages approximately 47.8 million surface acres and 56.1 million acres of mineral estate underlying federal surface land in Nevada. It also manages approximately 250,000 acres of mineral estate underlying privately owned land (BLM 2000a). Nevada's mining industry directly employed approximately 8,800 people in 2003, and the industry is responsible for another 44,000 jobs related to providing the goods and services needed by the industry and its employees (Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology 2003). The average salary is over $63,000 a year, compared with a state average salary of $35,337 a year (Nevada Mining Association 2003). In Humboldt County, for example, the mining industry contributes a significant portion of private earnings to the county, approximately 42.5 percent (Table 2-9). Although much of the data is suppressed, the mining sector is also assumed to be a significant contributer in Pershing County, and to a lesser extent in Churchill County.

In 2003, mineral and energy production in Nevada was valued at $3.2 billion, a nearly nine percent increase from 2002. Nevada led the nation in the production of gold, barite, and diatomite and was the only producer of magnesite, lithium, and the specialty clays, sepiolite and saponite. Nevada produces other commodities, such as construction aggregate (sand, gravel, and crushed stone), lime, and cement (Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology 2003).

Nevada is the nation's largest gold producer, the third largest in the world. In 2003, Nevada gold mines produced 7.3 million ounces, which was valued at

nearly $2.7 billion (Figure 2-1). Contributions from the mining industry to the economies of Nevada and the US include jobs, commerce, taxes, improvements to infrastructure, and helping to lower the US trade deficit. Local economic contributions from mining include the construction of new homes, casinos and other businesses, schools, and roads, which in turn maintain demand for local sources of sand, gravel, cement, and other commodities, which are plentiful in the state (Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology 2003). Mining contributed $1.65 billion to Nevadans' personal incomes in 2003, an increase from $1.5 billion in 2002 (Nevada Mining Association 2003).

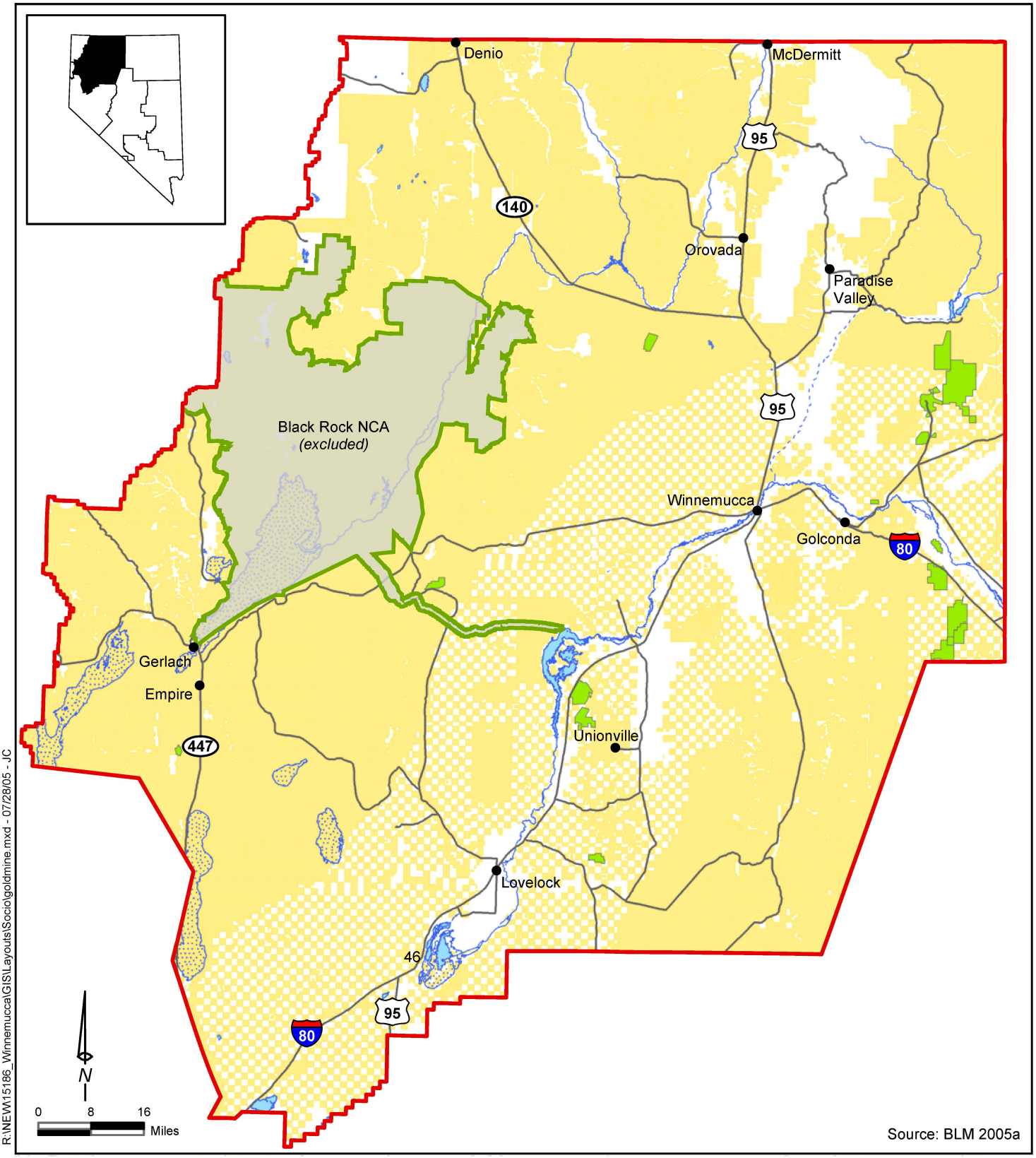
Nevada's silver production in 2003 totaled 10.4 million ounces. Silver production is a co-product or by-product of gold mining. In 2003 the Coeur Rochester Mine in Pershing County had a total silver production of nearly 5.6 million ounces. This one mine produced 55 percent of Nevada's silver in 2003. Nevada's production in 2003 accounted for 26 percent of the US total and 1.7 percent of the world total (Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology 2004).

Nevada's public lands provide a good source for salable minerals, such as sand, gravel, stone, and clay, which are sold to applicants at fair market value. Aggregate production reached an all-time high in 2003 as a result of Nevada's growing population and needs for construction materials for homes, schools, streets, airports, and other businesses. Furthermore, demand will likely remain high due to Nevada's thriving population (Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology 2004).

The mining industry was responsible for generating approximately 2,000 jobs within the five-county region. Table 2-19 lists average number of employees in the mining sector by county.

The BLM WFO administers leases and prospecting permits on acquired lands. There are 662 active mining claims (Figure 2-2) in the WFO planning area. These claims identify a particular parcel of Federal land, valuable for a specific mineral deposit or deposits. The right is restricted to the extraction and development of the mineral deposit as regulated by the BLM.

With the recent signing of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, which offers incentives to develop renewable energy, BLM is expected to see an increase in the development of renewable energy such as geothermal and wind. Geothermal provisions in the Act relating specifically to the BLM include 1) the BLM will hold competitive lease sales at least every two years, and 2) the BLM may lease multiple leases as a block if information indicates they could be produced as a unit (Geothermal Resource Council 2005).



Legend

- Winnemucca Field Office
- Black Rock NCA (excluded)
- Permitted Mine Locations
- Bureau of Land Management
- Water

Permitted Gold Mine Locations Socioeconomic Report

Northwest Nevada

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management for use of the data for purposes not intended by BLM.

Figure 2-1

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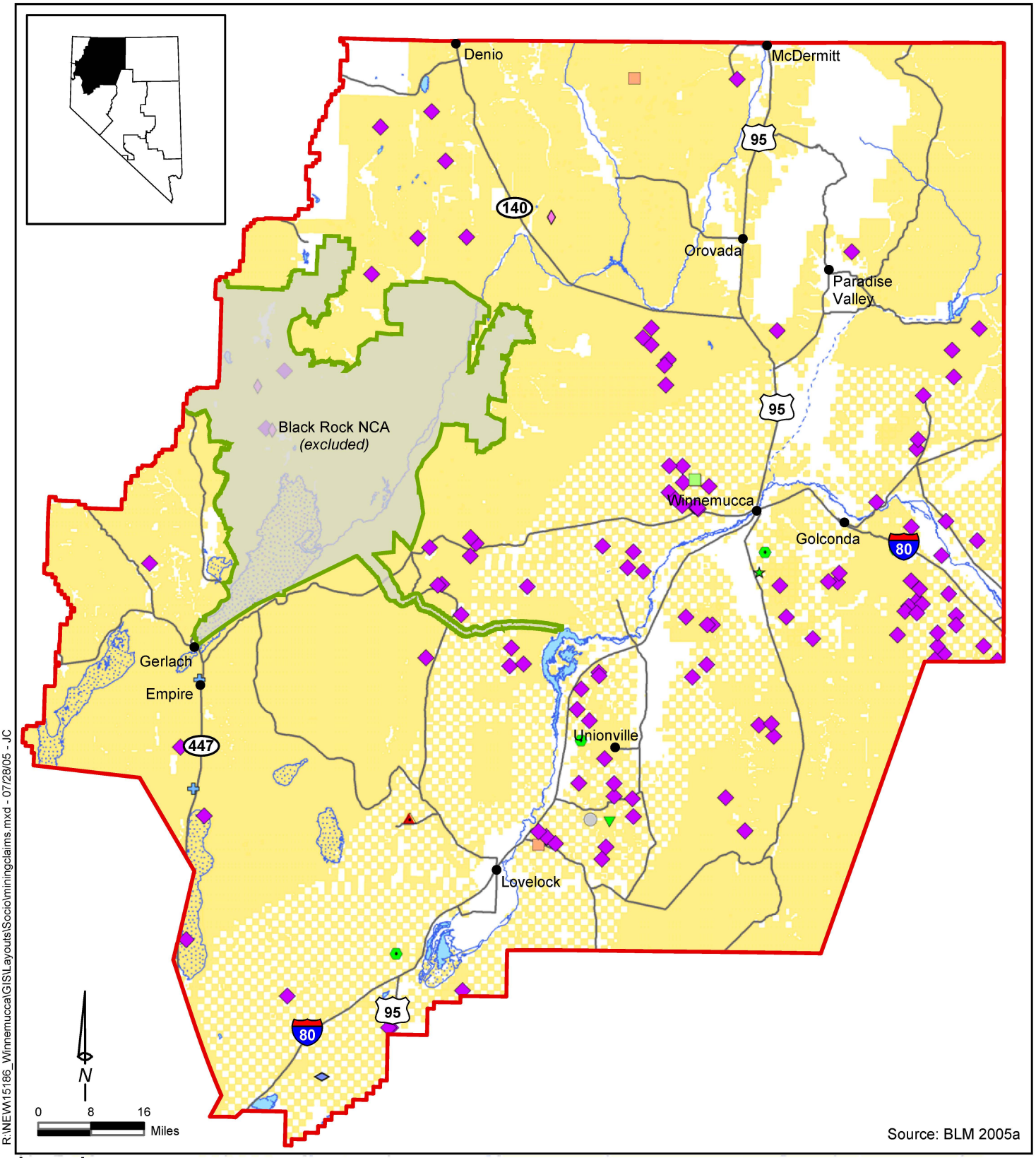

Legend

- Winnemucca Field Office
- Black Rock NCA (excluded)
- Bureau of Land Management
- Water

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management for use of the data for purposes not intended by BLM.

Commodity

- Aluminum
- Clay
- Clay, Bentonite
- Diatomite-S
- Feldspar-S
- Gemstone
- Gold
- Gypsum
- Limestone
- Magnesium, Dolomite
- Silver

Current Mining Activity Socioeconomic Report

Northwest Nevada

Figure 2-2

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Table 2-19
2001 County Employment in Mining

County	Average Number of Employees
Churchill	10
Humboldt	1,300
Lyon	120
Pershing	570
Washoe	*

Source: DETR 2003 (*Data suppressed)

Minerals Revenue Management, a branch of the Minerals Management Service under the Department of the Interior, manages all revenues associated with both federal offshore and onshore mineral leases. This program is one of the largest nontax revenue providers for the federal government (Minerals Management Service 2005). Annual collections and disbursements average approximately $6 billion. The revenues are generally shared among the states in which the federal lands are located and the federal government. Monthly, states receive 50 percent of the revenues associated with minerals located on federal public lands within their borders. States use the revenues to fund education, infrastructure improvements, road projects, public buildings, or general operations.

In fiscal year 2002, approximately $5.9 million was collected from mineral royalties, rents, and bonuses from BLM lands in Nevada, with about $9.4 million additional dollars collected from mining claim holding fees and service charges. Miscellaneous receipts, which primarily come from filing fees for applications, noncompetitive oil and gas leases, and rent of lands, totaled approximately $4.5 million. The BLM does not collect royalties on precious metals. The BLM made a direct financial transfer back to the state for nearly $29 million, close to $3.6 million of which came from royalties, rents, and bonuses (BLM 2003).

Federal mineral revenues were generated from all five planning area counties in 2001. Table 2-20 displays each county's contributing royalty value and amount disbursed back to the state. The five planning area counties' contributions constitute approximately one third (34.8 percent) of the state's total.

Minerals employment and labor income in the planning area in 2001 is presented in Table 2-21 for the five counties in which there is a mining industry. While the US Forest Service is responsible for managing surface land, the BLM manages subsurface minerals within the National Forests and works with the US Forest Service to manage subsurface minerals. The BLM

Table 2-20
Federal Mineral Revenue Disbursements
Identified by County of Origin (Fiscal Year 2001)

Location	Product	Royalty Value	Disbursed to State
Churchill County			
	Geothermal	$2,040,273.89	$1,202,136.94
	Hot water	$58,074.02	$29,037.01
	Oil	$11.10	$5.55
	Other revenues	$97,127.08	$48,563.54
	Rent	$101,123.50	$50,561.75
	Subtotal	**$2,296,609.59**	**$1,148,304.79**
Humboldt County			
	Rent	$5,252.00	$2,626.00
	Subtotal	**$5,252.00**	**$2,626.00**
Lyon County			
	Rent	$80.66	$20.17
	Subtotal	**$80.66**	**$20.17**
Pershing County			
	Other revenues	$2,896.50	$1,448.25
	Rent	$25,185.50	$12,592.75
	Subtotal	**$28,082.00**	**$14,041.00**
Washoe County			
	Geothermal	$92,178.36	$46,089.18
	Hot water	$1,813.00	$906.50
	Other revenues	$1,759.00	$879.50
	Rent	$11,836.37	$5,908.60
	Subtotal	$107,586.73	$53,783.78
State of Nevada Total		**$7,005,643.71**	**$3,502,534.52**

Source: Minerals Management Service 2005

Table 2-21
County Mineral Employment and Labor Income (2001)

County	Employment (Annual Average Jobs)	Employment as a Percentage of Labor Force	Labor Income (Annual Average Dollars)
Churchill	*	*	*
Humboldt	1,254	18%	$62,095
Lyon	76	<1%	$35,770
Pershing	384	16%	$46,399
Washoe	259	<1%	$96,873
Planning Area Total/Average	395	<1%	$48,227

*Indicates no employment or suppressed data.
Source: US Department of Labor 2005

itself manages sand and gravel mining on its lands. Due to the sensitivity of the industry, some information is suppressed to protect the limited number of employees and employers.

Although Washoe County shows the highest minerals-related labor income, no major mines in Washoe County are within the WFO planning area (Nevada Mining Association 2003). Humboldt County has the highest minerals-related labor income and employment, with major mines for gold and industrial minerals within the planning area. In Humboldt County, Placer Dome operators recently decided to reopen Turquoise Ridge at the Getchell Mine, which would continue to employ 65 contract miners in the presently active Getchell Mine and would employ 300 to 325 local personnel for Turquoise Ridge (Schlottmann 2004). Similarly, Pershing County, which also has a mining-dependent economy with major gold and industrial minerals mines (Nevada Mining Association 2003), employs the second largest number of minerals workers and reports the third highest minerals-related income.

Livestock Grazing/Rangeland Management

Livestock Grazing

Public rangelands provide habitat and forage for domestic livestock, wildlife, and wild horses and burros. Within the administrative boundary of the WFO livestock grazing occurs on approximately 103 grazing allotments that are leased by about 110 ranchers. The grazing allotments vary from less than 100 acres to over one million acres. Public rangelands support a variety of wildlife that is representative of those species found in Great Basin ecosystems. Large wildlife game present on public lands within the WFO include; mule deer, pronghorn antelope, and Bighorn sheep. Other species include upland game bird species (chukar, quail, sage grouse, & doves), cougar, assorted raptors, about 70 species of waterfowl and shorebirds, more than 240 species of neo-tropical migrant birds, and a number of invertebrate species. There are about 3,000 wild horses and about 291 burros found on 20 Horse Management Areas within the WFO.

Counties located within the administrative boundary of the WFO include; Humboldt, Washoe, Pershing, Lyon, and Churchill. Three of these counties are within the top five Nevada counties for agricultural sales and are important agricultural contributors (Table 2-22).

Table 2-22
Top Five Nevada Counties for Agricultural Sales 2002

	County	Percent of State Total Receipts	Million $
1	White Pine	17.0	76.0
2	Lyon	16.7	74.5
3	Humboldt	12.3	54.9
4	Churchill	11.3	50.6
5	Elko	10.1	45.3
State of Nevada Total			447.0

Source: USDA 2005

Livestock grazing on public land continues to be important to local economies within Nevada. As shown in Table 2-23, generally cattle and calf production in Nevada has remained relatively stable ranging from 152,915,000 lbs in 1994 to 171,335,000 in 2003. Gross income has gradually increased over time ranging from $132,388.000 in 1994 to $185,205,000 in 2003.

Table 2-23
Cattle and Calves: Production and Income, Nevada, 1994-2003

Year	Production	Marketings	Value of Production	Cash Receipts	Value Home Consumption	Gross Income
	-------000 Lbs-------			----------000$'s----------		
1994	152,915	176,000	113,009	130,640	1,748	132,388
1995	151,255	178,000	86,748	102,436	1,360	103,796
1996	154,715	166,000	74,089	81,017	1,150	82,167
1997	152,860	185,400	92,246	112,287	1,434	113,721
1998	153,700	187,000	94,333	114,870	1,762	116,632
1999	168,600	192,000	117,250	134,456	2,010	136,466
2000	170,550	202,000	141,061	167,758	2,414	170,172
2001	176,140	235,000	146,911	192,470	2,412	194,882
2002	171,090	119,000	123,866	142,471	2,097	144,568
2003	171,335	210,600	151,734	182,691	2,514	185,205

[1]Receipts form marketings and sale of farm slaughter
Source: USDA Nevada Agric. Statistics

Counties within the WFO administrative boundary reflect stabile cattle and calf inventories. Inventories of cattle and calves range from a low of 191,000 in 2004 to a high of 203,000 in 2001 (Table 2-24).

Table 2-24
Cattle and Calves: Inventory, January 1, by County, Nevada, 2004

County	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Churchill	40,000	39,000	38,000	38,000	43,000	41,000
Humboldt	66,000	67,000	70,000	66,000	66,000	63,000
Lyon	40,000	40,000	41,000	37,000	35,000	38,000
Pershing	29,000	28,000	28,000	26,000	25,000	23,000
Washoe	24,000	24,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	26,000
Planning Area Total	199,000	198,000	203,000	193,000	195,000	191,000

Source: USDA 2005b – Nevada Agricultural Statistics

Livestock Management

The BLM manages public land grazing by issuing grazing permits. The grazing fee for western public lands managed by BLM is set annually utilizing a formula based on the market value of beef. The fee set for 2004 was 1.43 per animal unit month (AUM). One AUM is equal to the amount of forage required to support one cow and one calf for one month (approximately 800 pounds of forage).

In Nevada, for fiscal year 2002, the BLM collected about $2,014,727 from grazing fees. Table 2-25 presents grazing fee receipts collected in 2004 within the planning area counties. Humboldt County generated the largest amount of grazing fee receipts ($319,032) with Churchill County generating the smallest ($2,696).

Table 2-25
Grazing Fees Collected for Livestock Permits Administered by the Winnemucca Field Office Planning Area Counties (Fiscal Year 2005)

County	Fiscal Year To Date Collections
Churchill	$2,696
Humboldt	$319,032
Pershing	$65,399
Washoe	$23,741
Total	$410,868

Source: BLM 2005

The BLM returns a portion of the funds received from grazing receipts to Nevada, which are displayed in Table 2-26. These payments are about 12.5 percent (Taylor Grazing Act Section 3 lands) of grazing fees collected. These funds are distributed to various grazing boards within the state.

Table 2-26
BLM Disbursement Funds to Nevada

County	Disbursements
Churchill	$337
Humboldt	$39,879
Pershing	$8,174
Washoe	$2,967
Total	$51,357

Source: BLM 2005

Presently, the WFO has allocated a total of 337,061 permitted livestock AUMs. In 1982 the active AUMs totaled 308,624* (based upon the average licensed use for the previous three years, 116,551 SG + 192,073 PD).

Since 1982 a net of 5,217 AUMs has been transferred from the WFO to other BLM field offices (7,375 transferred out of WFO administration minus 2,158 accepted by WFO for administration – See Table 2-27). In the

Table 2-27
WFO Grazing Allotments Administration Transferred – Since Completion of the Grazing EIS

WFO Allotment Name	Current BLM Administration Office	Number of WFO AUMs Transferred (3 year avg.)
Jakes Creek	Elko	276
Tall Corral (Merged with Little Humboldt Allotment	Elko	620
White House	Elko	48
Twenty Five	Elko	1,054
North Buffalo	Battle Mountain	**
South Buffalo (Includes old Buffalo Valley Allotment	Battle Mountain	**
Owyhee	Vale	599
Quinn River	Vale	292
McDermitt Creek	Vale	188
Zimmerman	Vale	2,010
Sand Hills	Burns	490
Grassy Basin	Burns	326
South Fork	Burns	360
Holloway Mtn.(Combined into Sand Hill Allotment Above	Burns	804
Totals		7,375

Source – Paradise-Denio & Sonoma-Gerlach Grazing EISs (1982) and BLM Rangeland Administration System

* Paradise-Denio Grazing Environmental Impact Statement (1981 page 1-2), Sonoma Gerlach Grazing Environmental Impact Statement (1981 page 1-2).

** North and South Buffalo Allotment AUMs were transferred prior to the Grazing EIS

meantime BLM administration has permitted a total of 337,061 AUMs. Comparing the 1982 total of 308,624 (3 year average) AUMs to the current permitted AUMs of 337,061, there has been an net increase of 28,437 AUMs.

Since the completion of the Sonoma-Gerlach – Paradise-Denio Grazing EISs, the WFO has also accepted administration responsibilities for grazing allotments outside the WFO administrative boundary. These allotments are identified in Table 2-28.

Table 2-28
Grazing Allotment Administration –
Acquired by WFO Since Completion of Grazing EIS

Allotment Name (Administered by WFO)	Past BLM Administration Office	AUMs
Little Owyhee (Elko Portion)	Elko	**
Bullhead (Elko Portion)	Elko	**
Home Station Gap	Battle Mountain	934
Hole in the Wall	Carson City	1,224
Pueblo Mtn.	Vale	**
Totals		2,158

Source: Paradise-Denio & Sonoma-Gerlach Grazing EIS (1982) – BLM Rangeland Administration System
** Transfer of AUMs occurred prior to Grazing EIS

Considering administration of livestock AUMs over time, combined with production, income and inventory data, livestock management on public lands administered by the WFO has contributed to stable and consistent market conditions for livestock producers.

Payments in Lieu of Taxes

Congress appropriates funds for payments in lieu of taxes (PILT) to eligible local governments each year. The BLM calculates the payment amounts using a formula based on population and the amount of federal land in a jurisdiction. These payments are in addition to federal revenues transferred to local governments under other programs, such as income generated from the use of public land for livestock grazing, timber harvests, and mineral receipts (BLM 2005b). Table 2-29 presents PILT payments received by the counties in the planning area in fiscal year 2003, 2004, and 2005.

Table 2-29
PILT Payments to Planning Area Counties (Fiscal Year 2003 and 2004)

County	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Churchill	$1,151,139	$1,183,436	$1,236,886
Humboldt	$818,863	$841,654	$859,218
Lyon	$1,173,056	$1,203,255	$1,229,798
Pershing	$561,467	$577,210	$536,472
Washoe	$1,817,966	$1,868,954	$1,908,625
Planning Area Total	**$5,522,491**	**$5,674,509**	**$5,770,999**
Nevada Total	**$13,132,942**	**$13,495,376**	**$13,732,723**

Source: BLM 2005b

Of the planning area counties, Washoe received the largest PILT payments, while Pershing County received the smallest PILT payments. In fiscal year 2004 and 2005 PILT payments received by the planning area counties totaled $5,674,509 and $5,770,999, constituting 42% of the statewide PILT payment totals.

2.2.6 Community Economic Profile Workshop and Social Characteristics

On June 7 and 8, 2005, the BLM, in conjunction with the Sonoran Institute, hosted two community-level socioeconomic workshops in Humboldt and Pershing Counties. The Sonoran Institute's economist, Dr. Rebecca Carter, facilitated the workshops, which were designed to help people understand the link between economic well-being and environmental health. About ten representatives of local government and various other sectors, such as mining, attended each workshop, in addition to BLM representatives. The workshops each lasted one full day and had identical formats.

Attendees were introduced to the Economic Profile System (EPS), jointly designed by the Sonoran Institute and the BLM, used to produce detailed socioeconomic reports on counties in the planning area. From inception, EPS was structured to help those who are not economists gather and easily interpret economic statistics. Attendees were provided with a demonstration on how to generate a community (or economic) profile, a CD containing a copy of the EPS program, and a workbook providing instructions for using the EPS.

Using the EPS, small groups discussed community trends by analyzing tables and figures provided in the profiles. Groups discussed population, employment and personal income by industry, average earnings, developing business sectors, and economic growth. Participants also developed visions for the future of their communities and discussed the role public lands could have to help achieve those community visions.

Humboldt County: The EPS profiles were used at the workshop to provide a basis of information to participants about Humboldt County. The EPS profiles provide a wide variety of informative data such as long-term trend analysis, changes in employment and personal income by sector, change of business establishments by type and size, and non labor-sources of income, like retirement and age-related income. Additionally, counties are compared to states and the nation. Through using the EPS profile, participants could identify some significant changes that had occurred over the last 30 years, which led to discussions about why some of those changes likely occurred. Table 2-30 provides a summary of major data themes and figures that are portrayed in detail throughout the EPS profile.

Table 2-30
Performance Comparison between Humboldt County and the US Median

	Humboldt County	US Median
Population Growth (Annualized rate, 1970 – 2002)	2.7%	0.7%
Employment Growth (Annualized rate, 1970 – 2002)	3.2%	1.4%
Personal Income Growth (Adjusted for inflation, annualized rate, 1970 – 2000)	3.5%	2.3%
Non-labor Income Share of Total in 2002	30.7%	39.2%
Median Age	33.4	37.3
Per Capita Income (2002)	$25,917	$23,528
Average Earnings Per Job (2002)	$35,502	$26,782
Education Rate (% of population 25 and over who have a college degree)	14.2%	14.5%
Employment Specialization	920.1	961.0
Ratio Rich/Poor	3.7	8.7
Housing Affordability	157	186
Change in Housing Affordability (1990 – 2000)	7.4%	10.3%
Government share of total employment	15%	15%
Unemployment in 2003	5.0%	5.8%

Source: US Census 2000; Bureau of Labor Statistics

Humboldt County is similar to the US median in many categories; however, there are a few notable differences. The US median population grew 0.7 percent over a 32 year period, and Humboldt County averaged 2.7 percent. Employment growth in the County was double the US median. Yet Humboldt County was below the average for non-labor income per percentage of total income in 2002. The ratio of the rich to poor, indicating the number of households that made under $30,000 for every household that made over $100,000, was also lower in Humboldt County compared to the US median. The County also maintained a lower unemployment rate in 2003 (5 percent for the County, compared to 5.8 percent for the US).

The population for Humboldt County increased 25 percent over a ten year span from 1990 – 2000 (Table 2-31). During that time, the Baby-Boom generation experienced the largest growth (68 percent) indicating that the retirement population in Humboldt County is growing. The male/female split is relatively equal and has remained fairly stable over the same ten year period.

Table 2-31
Population for Humboldt County (1990 – 2000)

	Total Number	Under 20 years	40 – 54 (Baby Boom in 2000)	65 years and Over	Median Age
2000	16,106	5,466	3,753	1,213	33.4
1990	12,844	4,203	2,239	934	30.6
10 Yr Change	3,262	1,263	1,514	279	2.8
10 Yr % Change	25	30%	68%	30%	9
Male/Female % Split	52/48	53/47	54/46	47/53	- -

Source: US Census 1990 and Census 2000

In the Humboldt County workshop, participants discussed that Nevada is the fastest growing state in the nation and they expressed a need for balance among various resource, service, and economic-related activities. They wanted to diversify job opportunities in the county, thereby lessening impacts from fluctuating mining and agricultural markets. They recognized a swing in the agriculture sector from ranching to crop production and overall noted an aversion to taking risks due to the volatile economic structure in the county.

Strengths that participants identified in Humboldt County included their transportation infrastructure (close proximity to interstate highway and railroad), cooperative government, and a high quality of life as it relates to open space and public lands. Weaknesses included Winnemucca's distance to a major airport, flat topography (viewed as a weakness due to limited recreation opportunities), and a lack of diverse job opportunities, especially heavy dependency on transformative industries, such as mining.

At the workshop, it was noted that the cessation of mining at the Lone Tree complex, currently scheduled for August 2006, will have a direct impact on the local economy. The new Phoenix plant is scheduled to open the first quarter of 2006, but it will be in Lander County. Most employees will have the opportunity to relocate to the new plant, but this transition will result in changes for the workers, including commute times and distances, with the possibility that they will have to move. In addition, significant changes to revenue generated for the county and the city will occur, especially through

the services sector, which provides services critical to mine workers at the Lone Tree complex.

Workshop participants recognized the value of land for residential property is increasing, while the value for agricultural property is decreasing, and acknowledged the current trend of the population between the ages of 25 and 30 leaving the area in search of jobs, despite a desire to remain and settle within local communities. In-migration seemed to be mostly retirees and proprietors, including foreign investors who are buying properties sight unseen, often over the Internet.

Participants discussed several opportunities for stimulating economic growth in the region. Opportunities to increase in-migration include increasing the potential of technological avenues to small businesses (for example, Internet sales), attracting younger entrepreneurs, improving human services, such as hospitals, which will attract an older generation, and improving recreation opportunities, attracting all age groups for a variety of available activities.

Pershing County: In a similar workshop format to that of Humboldt County, an EPS profile for Pershing County was used to provide a foundation of knowledge for the participants. Table 2-32 provides a summary of tables and figures that are portrayed in detail throughout the EPS profile.

Table 2-32
Performance Comparison between Pershing County and the US Median

	Pershing County	US Median
Population Growth (Annualized rate, 1970 – 2002)	2.9%	0.7%
Employment Growth (Annualized rate, 1970 – 2002)	2.1%	1.4%
Personal Income Growth (Adjusted for inflation, annualized rate, 1970 – 2000)	1.8%	2.3%
Non-labor Income Share of Total in 2002	35.8%	39.2%
Median Age	34.4	37.3
Per Capita Income (2002)	$16,463	$23,528
Average Earnings Per Job (2002)	$33,956	$26,782
Education Rate (% of population 25 and over who have a college degree)	8.7%	14.5%
Employment Specialization	872.0	961.0
Ratio Rich/Poor	7.6	8.7
Housing Affordability	199	186
Change in Housing Affordability (1990 – 2000)	40.7%	10.3%
Government share of total employment	29%	15%
Unemployment in 2003	5.5%	5.8%

Source: US Census 2000; Bureau of Labor Statistics

Pershing County is similar to the national median in many aspects, but is set apart from the nation in a few categories. The US median population growth

over a 32 year period averaged 0.7 percent, whereas Pershing County averaged 2.9 percent. The County also has higher than average earnings, indicating that people who live in the County have higher paying jobs (e.g., mining and prison jobs). Per capita income in Pershing County is 30 percent lower than the US median. Workshop participants noted that figures could be artificially low due to the presence of the prison, which increases the county population but not to income earned. Housing affordability from 1990 – 2000 increased significantly (almost 41 percent), which is 30 percent more than the US median, indicating that housing has become more affordable in the last decade. The government share of total employment is also high compared to the average due to the high percentage of employment at the prison.

Similar to Humboldt County, Pershing County experienced tremendous population growth from 1990 to 2000, mainly within the Baby Boom generation. Pershing County's Baby Boom generation recorded a 99 percent increase over the ten year period. Overall, during that same time frame the entire population of the County increased 54 percent. The population has and continues to be dominated by males due to the prison.

Table 2-33
Population for Pershing County (1990 – 2000)

	Total Number	Under 20 years	40 – 54 (Baby Boom in 2000)	65 years and Over	Median Age
2000	6,693	1,871	1,458	520	34.4
1990	4,336	1,427	734	504	31.5
10 Yr Change	2,357	444	724	16	2.9
10 Yr % Change	54%	31%	99%	3%	9%
Male/Female % Split	61/39	53/47	65/35	49/51	- -

Source: US Census 1990 and Census 2000

Participants who attended the Pershing County workshop predicted that this county is "next," meaning as growth continues to spread northeast up Interstate 80, Pershing County and the town of Lovelock will experience tremendous growth at a rapid rate over the next several years. Reasons for this growth include access along the interstate corridor, proximity to the town of Fernley, the scheduled relocation of the Nevada Cement Company from the Fernley area closer to Lovelock, in addition to the new Far West Technologies manufacturing plant and the Phoenix mining complex.

Participants were surprised that the services sector provided more income in the county than government or mining jobs, and that mining and non-labor incomes accounted for a larger proportion of income than the government sector. Much of the government sector employment is due to the prison and is viewed as a stable part of Pershing County. Similar to Humboldt County, participants wanted to improve job diversity while maintaining a high quality of life and a strong sense of a rural community. They wanted expansion to be planned and based on a set of unified goals, not fragmented.

Strengths that participants in Pershing County identified were their location near the Reno/Sparks and Fernley area, proximity to an airport, an interstate highway, other highways, and the railroad, a high quality of life (low crime), quality of schools and hospitals, endless recreation activities, an interesting history, and open space and mountains. Weaknesses were a lack of available labor force and job diversity, high dependency on volatile job sectors, low number of manufacturing jobs, and a large population living in poverty.

Summary: While participants from both workshops were aware of the growth in service sector jobs, both were surprised by the degree to which professional services contributed to the growth. The disclosure that approximately one-third of personal income within Humboldt and Pershing Counties came from non-labor sources, which includes dividends, interest, rent, and transfer payments, also came as a shock. The greatest concern discussed in both areas was the lack of diversity in the job market and economic downturns that result from the mining industry. Both areas felt a strong need to diversify so as to minimize impacts from the boom and bust of the mining industry.

Participants discussed the role that public lands can play in achieving these goals and recommended that the BLM evaluate the opportunity to dispose of its lands in urban areas under the Recreation and Public Purposes Acts for parks and open space, or to explore disposing of land for economic development. Participants also recommended maintaining access to public lands, exploring additional recreation opportunities and developing recreation sites, and improving public outreach efforts.

SECTION 3
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

This section addresses specific topics related to environmental justice, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act. Specifically, a discussion of issues related to environmental justice is presented in accordance with Executive Order 12898, and issues related to protecting children from environmental health risks are presented in accordance with Executive Order 13045.

On February 11, 1994, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations. This order requires that "each federal agency make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities, on minority populations and low-income populations" (Executive Order 12898, 59 Federal Register 7629 [Section 1-201]). To comply with the order, the preparers of this report have gathered economic, racial, and demographic information generated to identify areas of low-income and high minority populations in and around the planning area.

3.1 DEMOGRAPHICS

The planning area includes portions of Churchill, Lyon, and Washoe Counties, most of Humboldt County, and all of Pershing County. Racial and ethnic data from 2000 for these counties and for Nevada have been compiled and are presented in Table 3-1. In 2000, the White population formed the dominant ethnic group within the planning area (83.1 percent), and the African American and Pacific Islander populations had the smallest representation (1.7 percent each). Churchill (4.8 percent), Humboldt (4.0 percent), and Pershing (3.4 percent) Counties had the largest Native American/Alaska Aleut populations, roughly three times larger than the state's population of 1.3 percent (US Census Bureau 2005).

Table 3-1
Total Percentage of Population by Race/Ethnicity (2000)

Location	White	Black, African American	Native American, Alaska Aleut	Asian, Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Two or More Races	Latino, Hispanic, Any Race
State of Nevada	75.2%	6.8%	1.3%	4.9%	8.0%	3.8%	19.7%
Churchill County	84.2%	1.6%	4.8%	2.9%	3.2%	3.3%	8.70%
Humboldt County	83.2%	0.5%	4.0%	0.7%	8.5%	3.1%	18.9%
Lyon County	88.6%	0.7%	2.4%	0.7%	4.6%	2.9%	11.0%
Pershing County	77.7%	5.3%	3.4%	0.8%	9.4%	3.3%	19.3%
Washoe County	80.4%	2.1%	1.8%	4.8%	7.7%	3.3%	16.6%
Average Total	**83.1%**	**1.7%**	**3.4%**	**1.7%**	**7.0%**	**3.0%**	**15.5%**

Note: Percentages for a given year do not add to 100 because Hispanic is an ethnicity category, which includes all races, and because people can select from more than one race.

Source: US Census Bureau 2005

3.1.1 Tribal Interests

Indian Trust Resources and Tribal Treaty Rights

The BLM, as a representative of the federal government, is responsible for maintaining a formal government-to-government relationship with federally recognized Indian tribes. This relationship, which has a very long-established history, is reiterated and clarified in the Executive Memorandum of April 29, 1994, Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments, and Executive Order 13175. This relationship focuses on ensuring that the rights and interests of tribes are considered and protected when federal agencies act.

Indian trust resources and tribal treaty rights are legal interests in assets held in trust by the federal government for federally recognized Indian tribes or nations or for individual Indians. These assets can be real property, physical assets, or intangible property rights. No applicable treaty rights have been identified within the WFO planning area.

The WFO planning area lies within the traditional territory of the Northern Paiute and, to a lesser extent, of the Western Shoshone peoples. Historically, these tribes subsisted on hunting, fishing, and gathering seeds and roots. Federally recognized tribes within the planning area include the Battle Mountain Band, Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, Fort McDermitt Tribe, Lovelock Paiute Tribe, Pyramid Lake Paiute, Winnemucca Tribe, and the Summit Lake Paiute Tribe.

The tribes generate income from a number of sources. The main economic source for the Battle Mountain reservation is a smokeshop/convenience store, which employs about six people. The Battle Mountain Filter Service

Company, a newly formed tribal business, cleans filters for the nearby mines and employs three people. The Fallon Reservation also operates a smoke shop, and has almost 3,000 allotted acres of irrigable land in agricultural production. On the Fort McDermitt reservation, tribal members produce and sell crafts and operate a smoke shop. Additional income is generated by the production of forage hay and hay land and grazing leases. Lovelock tribal members operate a smoke shop and are employed in agricultural practices, mining, and retail commercial establishments. The Pyramid Lake reservation economy is supported by livestock and hay production, construction and repair services, recreational use related to the Pyramid Lake, and tribal government. Businesses include a smoke shop, a campground, the Pyramid Lake Marina, and a leased sand and gravel enterprise operated by the tribe in Wadsworth. The Winnemucca Colony covers 360 acres about one mile from the city of Winnemucca. Residents are primarily Paiute Indians who moved from the Fort McDermitt Reservation and some Shoshone. Approximately 39 of the 61 reservation residents are members of the labor force, and per capita income of Winnemucca Colony residents is $1,600. The Summit Lake reservation generates income from the sale and leasing of grazing permits, including the cultivation of hay, in addition to revenues generated by fishing at Summit Lake, which is open only to tribal members (US Department of Commerce 2005).

3.2 INCOME AND POVERTY LEVEL

Table 3-2 provides income statistics for planning area counties and Nevada. All counties, except Washoe, have a lower per capita income than the Nevada average. All counties, except Washoe and Humboldt, also have lower median household incomes than Nevada, including the planning area's average. Pershing County has the largest percent (11.4) of population living in poverty.

The US Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine which families are living in poverty. If a family's total income is less than its threshold, then that family, and every individual in it, is living in poverty. The poverty thresholds do not vary geographically, but they are updated annually for inflation using the Consumer Price Index. For example, in 2000, the average estimated poverty threshold for an individual in the US was an annual income of $8,787 and for a four-person household it was $17,601. The US Census Bureau estimates that approximately 8.7 to 11.4 percent of county populations in the planning area were below the poverty line in 2000. The percentages in Lyon (10.4 percent) and Pershing (11.4 percent) Counties exceeded the state average of 10.5 percent (US Census Bureau 2005).

Table 3-2
County Income and Poverty Level (2000)

County	Median Household Income	Per Capita Income	Population Living in Poverty (2000)
Nevada	$44,581	$21,989	10.5%
Churchill	$40,808	$19,264	8.7%
Humboldt	$47,147	$19,539	9.7%
Lyon County	$40,699	$18,543	10.4%
Pershing	$40,670	$16,589	11.4%
Washoe	$45,815	$24,277	10.0%
Average Total	**$43,534**	**$19,902**	**10.5%**

Source: US Census Bureau 2005

3.3 PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks (Executive Order 13045, 62 Federal Register 19885), states that each federal agency shall make it a high priority to identify and assess environmental health risks and safety risks that may disproportionately affect children and ensure that its policies, programs, activities, and standards address disproportionate risks to children that result from environmental health or safety risks. These are risks that are attributable to products or substances that the child is likely to come into contact with or to ingest.

SECTION 4
CONCLUSION

4.1 SUMMARY OF SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

BLM lands are typically in areas of low population densities (BLM 2000b). As identified in Section 2.1.1, Nevada's population is growing faster than any state in the nation. Towns and cities are expanding rapidly, resulting in increased pressures on federal lands. As the population increases, a higher potential for conflicts among uses may also exist. Between 1990 and 2000 the population of the counties in the WFO planning area on average grew at approximately the same rate as the state, with the counties closest to the employment centers of Carson City, Fernley, and the Reno-Sparks area (Lyon, Washoe, and Churchill Counties) growing the most. Roughly 12 percent of lands in these three counties is managed by the WFO, but most of the BLM's lands in the WFO planning area lie within Humboldt and Pershing Counties. Growth in the planning area is projected to continue at a slower rate than that of the state, with the exception of Pershing County, which contains 35 percent of WFO-managed lands and is expected to double between 2000 and 2020. The population of Humboldt County, in which about 53 percent of WFO lands are located, is projected to decline.

As populations have increased, business opportunities also have expanded, and the economy of the planning area has begun to change from being agriculturally based to being more service and amenity based, particularly in Churchill and Washoe Counties. As the baby boom generation approaches retirement, the demands on public land for recreational activities continue to increase. Recreational visits to public lands have increased by 40 percent over the past 10 years and this trend will likely continue (DOI 2004).

Mining has continued to play an important role in the economy of the planning area. The mining industry in the WFO suffered in the late 1990s with the decline of gold prices, forcing employment reductions and temporary closure of several mines. As gold prices have increased in recent years, production activity and employment in mining also has begun to

recover. Demands for renewable energy, power plants, and manufacturing plants are also increasing, as is evident by the recent plans to develop the Granite Fox power plant outside of Gerlach, the Nevada Cement Company by Loveland, and the new trailer manufacturing plant in Humboldt County.

4.2 SUMMARY OF ECONOMIC INFLUENCE OF BLM-MANAGED LANDS

With almost 83 percent of lands in Nevada under federal ownership, Nevada's economy is affected by BLM land management decisions. Humboldt County, which has the largest percentage and total acreage of land under federal ownership, has the greatest opportunity for effect. Whereas Lyon County, which is composed of approximately 67 percent federal land and has the lowest total acreage of federal lands within the WFO planning area, will have smaller impacts.

The recreation, mining, and agricultural sectors are dominant economic interests represented on BLM-administered lands within the WFO planning area in Nevada; the forestry and timber sectors have a minimal economic presence on WFO lands.

The high percentage of BLM lands within the planning area counties has made the WFO planning area a highly desirable recreation area for activities, including boating, fishing, hiking, hunting, and mountain biking. The counties attract both local visitors and those from other counties. As a result, local economies receive economic benefit from recreation activities that occur nearby through recreation and use fees that are returned to the state and through visitor expenditures in the traveler accommodations industry and for other goods and services. Nevada has the highest per capita receipts generated from travel expenditures within the US, and the traveler accommodation industry is projected to be the fastest-growing employment sector in the state. With the rising popularity of outdoor recreation and the demand for use of federal lands, visitor use of public lands within the WFO and local economic activity also can be expected to increase. While most recreational use on public lands does not require a permit, some activities (such as the Burning Man Festival) are permitted activities that provide recreation opportunities to several thousands of people while generating significant revenue for the WFO.

Nevada ranked second in the US in terms of value of overall nonfuel mineral production in 2003 (excluding oil, gas, coal, and geothermal). Nevada's production of gold helped make the US the third leading gold producer in the world in 2003 (Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology 2003). Numerous commodities are produced in the state, several of which occur on BLM-administered lands. The influence of the mining sector in Humboldt and Pershing Counties makes them economically vulnerable because of their lack of diversity. Nevada has been identified as an economically vulnerable state due to its dependence on minerals (BLM 2000b).

Grazing revenues are found to be the greatest in those counties with the highest proportion of BLM land, and northern Nevada has been identified as one of these areas (BLM 2000b). These areas typically have low population densities and low per capita income (Sections 2.1 and 2.2). Grazing is most important to the economies in areas that are agriculturally dependent, very rural, and not economically diverse. With three of the five planning area counties (Lyon, Humboldt, and Churchill) among the top five generators of agricultural sales, the economies of these counties would be most likely to be affected by grazing management decisions within the WFO.

SECTION 5
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