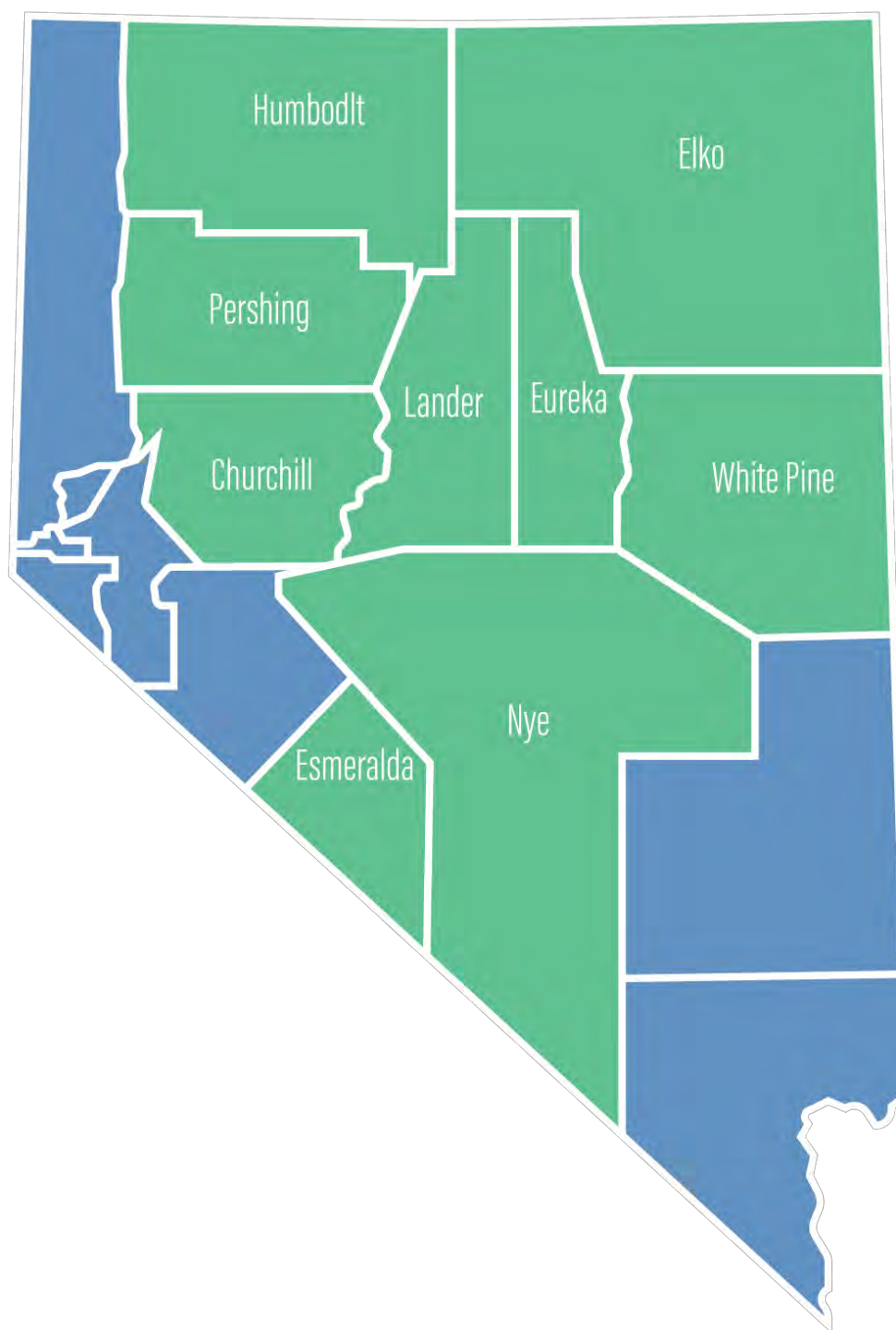


Central Nevada Regional Water Authority Update to the Subcommittee on Public Lands

May 23, 2022





What is the Central Nevada Regional Water Authority?

- Local Government Established by Agreement of Member Counties in 2005 Pursuant to NRS 277 Nevada's Interlocal Cooperation Act
- 9 member counties (Churchill, Elko, Esmeralda, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Nye, Pershing and White Pine) which Cover Approximately 80 Percent of Nevada's Land Area
- 23-Member Board of Directors Consisting of County Commissioners and Community Members Appointed by the County Commissions



Mission Statement

To protect the water resources in member counties so these counties will not only have an economic future, but their valued quality of life and natural environment is maintained.

What is the Central Hydrographic Region?

- In order for a county to be a member of the Authority it must contain a portion of the Nevada Central Hydrographic Region.
- The Central Hydrographic Region consists of 78 groundwater basins in 12 Nevada counties.
- It is the largest of the Nevada's 14 hydrographic regions, covering much of central, eastern and southern Nevada.
- The Central Hydrographic Region is characterized by the absence of regional surface water flows, groundwater basins that are often interconnected by subsurface flow, deep bedrock aquifers, and some productive alluvial aquifers.





Central Nevada Regional Economy

- Mining
- Agriculture
- Recreation and Tourism

Water Resource Concerns

Balancing Demands Among Domestic, Municipal, Agricultural and Industrial Users and Conflicts

Protection of Existing Water Rights

Drought

Interbasin Transfers of Groundwater from Rural Nevada to Urban Nevada

“Buy and Dry”

Evaporative Pond Extraction of Lithium

Over Appropriation of Groundwater Resources

Over Appropriation of Groundwater Resources

34 of the 78 groundwater basins in the Central Hydrographic Region are designated groundwater basins.

Designated groundwater basins are basins where permitted ground water rights approach or exceed the estimated average annual recharge and the water resources are being depleted or require additional administration.

Diamond Valley is the only basin in Nevada currently designated as a Critical Management Area (NRS 534.110).

Recommendations

- Support Enhanced Funding to the Division of Water Resources to Restore Staffing, Digitize Data, Update Water Basin Budgets and Adjudicate Basins
- Restore Water Basin Account (NRS Chapters 533 and 534)
- Support Need-Based Funding for Counties to Prepare and Update Water Resource Plans (NRS 278.0228)
- Establish County Groundwater Boards for Over Appropriated Basins



Thank you!