

From: [Russell Kuhlman](#)
To: [Interim Finance Committee](#)
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I am Russell Kuhlman, Executive Director of the Nevada Wildlife Federation commenting on Agenda Item F, #11. As Lake Meads water level continues to drop, the water has become too warm for the fish hatchery to operate how it was initially planned, which was raising rainbow trout. With this set back the hatchery has done an amazing job of transitioning to raising the threatened bonytail and razorback sucker that is part of the Lower Colorado Multi-Species Conservation Plan, but it is now necessary to supply the hatchery with a new pipeline in order to continue to deliver water to the facility.

It is vital that Nevada take steps to secure the future of our state's native fish and it is important to note that if a new pipeline was able to deliver the cold water necessary to raise rainbow trout again it will contribute to the sport of fishing that is the number 1 economic driver within Nevada's outdoor recreation economy and fishing is one of the main activities taking place on Lake Mead supporting small businesses and tourism. Our state cannot afford to sacrifice the necessary improvements needed by the fish hatchery that will provide our residents, tourists, and business owners with one of Nevada's favorite outdoor pastimes.

The Nevada Wildlife Federation recommends that funding be provided for the restoration of the Lake Mead Fish Hatchery as it is an essential infrastructure project that will provide benefits to hundreds of species and conserves important habitat for birds, fish, and mammals over hundreds of miles of river.

Russell Kuhlman

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