



STATE OF NEVADA
GOVERNOR'S FINANCE OFFICE
Budget Division

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Date: May 15, 2024

To: Amy Stephenson, Director
Governor's Finance Office

From: Vince Young-Brown, Executive Branch Budget Officer *VYB*
Governor's Finance Office, Budget Division

Subject: INTERIM FINANCE COMMITTEE **INFORMATION** ITEM

The following describes an information item submitted for placement on the agenda of the next Interim Finance Committee meeting. An analysis of the information item is also provided.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

Agenda Item Write-up:

Pursuant to the 2023 Legislative Session Letter of Intent, the Senate Committee on Finance and Assembly Committee on Ways and Means requires the department to provide to the Interim Finance Committee by June 1, 2024 on the status of the conservation camp consolidation plan.

Additional Information:

In closing of the 2023 Legislative Session, the Senate Committee on Finance and Assembly Committee on Ways and Means approved the department's first phase of a multi-biennia plan to consolidate the operations of the conservation camps to include, but not limited to, information on the department's ability to appropriately staff each camp, a visual representation of the timeline to consolidate, repurpose any of the facilities, and/or transfer any of the facilities to another entity.

Statutory Authority:

Submitted in accordance with the 2023 Legislative Letter of Intent.

REVIEWED: <i>[Signature]</i>
INFO ITEM: _____

Joe Lombardo
Governor

James E. Dzurenda
Director

Kristina Shea
Deputy Director
Of Support Services



STATE OF NEVADA
Department of Corrections

Northern Administration
5500 Snyder Ave.
Carson City, NV 89701
(775) 977-5500

Southern Administration
3955 W. Russell Rd.
Las Vegas, NV 89118
(725) 216-6000

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 15th, 2024

To: Interim Finance Committee
Legislative Council Bureau, Fiscal Analysis Division

From: Kristina Shea, Deputy Director of Support Services 

Subject: Letter of Intent – Conservation Camp Consolidation Plan and Update

Background and Current Operations

Nevada's Conservation Camp program has been jointly operated by the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) and the Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC) since the 1950s. The program provides offenders who meet the criteria outlined in NRS 209.481 with the opportunity to gain work experience and nationally recognized training in natural resource management and wildland fire suppression to reduce recidivism rates in Nevada's prison system.

Assembly Bill 236 (2019) made various changes concerning probation and parole, specialty court, and specific sentencing guidelines reducing the penalty for various crimes from a category B to a Category C felony, which appears to have had an impact on the length of stay for our Felony C, D, and E offenders. This has impacted our minimum custody offender population and rural conservation camp operations. This law reduced the number of offenders eligible to work in the Conservation Camp Program run by NDOC and NDF. Historically, the NDF and NDOC camp programs were very successful, averaging 1500 qualified workers consistently throughout the year. However, the impacts of AB 236 drastically changed the landscape and required consolidation of the Conservation Camp program operations. Since the legislation passed, NDF has averaged 300 offenders working in the program over the last 4 years.

NDF currently has 256 workers in six camp locations, including Carlin, Jean, Pioche, Stewart, Three Lakes, and ESP (operating out of unit 12). Wells camp has protective custody inmates and no NDF presence as part of those operations. The capacity across these seven camps is 1,484, with 982 beds filled or 502 available beds, representing roughly 34 percent. However, out of the 982 offenders occupying the beds at these facilities, only 256 are eligible and able to work in the NDF program. Wells Conservation Camp currently houses 74 offenders classified as protective housing

and do not qualify for the NDF program. Additionally, out of the 240 beds available at Jean, only 28 females work in the NDF program.

The following table breaks down the camp, status, gender, classification, designation, most recent bed capacity, population, and available beds, along with the number of offenders currently working with NDF crews.

Camp	Status	Gender	Classification	Designation	Most Recent Total Bed Capacity	Population	Beds Available	NDF Workers
CCC	Open	Male	Min	General Population	150	74	76	50
ESP U12*	Open	Male	Min	General Population	32	31	1	13
JCC	Open	Female	Min	General Population	240	95	145	28
PCC	Open	Male	Min	General Population	168	63	105	46
SCC	Open	Male	Min	General Population	360	341	19	51
TLVCC	Open	Male	Min	General Population	384	304	80	68
WCC	Open	Male	Min	Protective Housing	150	74	76	0
Total					1,484	982	502	256

*The ESP offenders are living in Unit 12 due to the closure of ECC.

Staffing

In this letter of intent, the Legislature requested an update regarding the ability of the NDOC to appropriately staff each camp. Overall, the department has successfully implemented its hiring strategies and innovations, which the department shared during the last Interim Finance Committee in April 2024. Currently, the department has 98 authorized FTEs at the six camp locations, and 78 of those positions have been filled, representing a 20 percent vacancy rate. Pioche and Three Lakes represent the highest vacancy rates at 24 percent, respectively. On the NDF side, 29 authorized FTE positions, three, or 10 percent, are currently vacant. Overall, the NDOC and NDF have successfully secured and maintained staff at the camp locations. However, the challenges in preserving camp operations are due to eligible and classified offenders who can meet the criteria to participate in the NDF program.

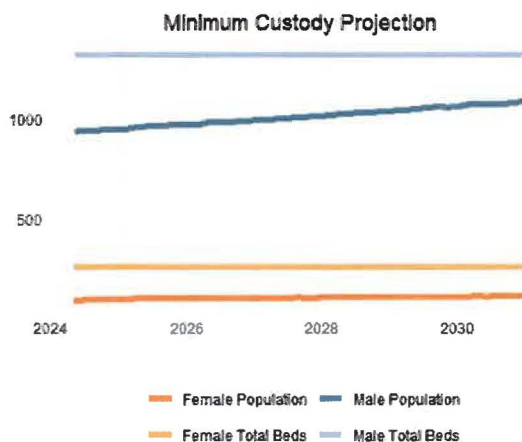
The following table breaks down the camp, NDOC and NDF authorized and filled FTEs, with the respective percentage variances.

Camp	NDOC Authorized FTEs	NDOC Filled FTEs	Difference	% Variance	NDF Authorized FTE	NDF Filled FTE	Difference	% Variance
CCC	13	12	1	8%	2	2	0	0%
ESP U12*	0	0	0	n/a	1	1	0	0%
JCC	15	12	3	20%	1	1	0	0%
PCC	17	13	4	24%	7	7	0	0%
SCC	15	12	3	20%	9	6	3	33%
TLVCC	25	19	6	24%	9	9	0	0%
WCC	13	10	3	23%	0	0	0	n/a
	98	78	20	20%	29	26	3	10%

Consolidation Plan

During the 82nd Legislative Session (2023), the NDOC and NDF presented the first set of plans to address the consolidation of the Conservation Camp program. During this legislative session, Tonopah Conservation Camp and Humboldt Conservation Camp were approved for mothball status effective in the second year of the biennium. The offenders from these camps were transferred to available beds within the other camps. Based on projections prepared by JFA Associates, the contracted vendor with the state to provide 10-year population projections, we anticipate our minimum custody population to reach 1,033 offenders at the end of June 2024, with an approximate 2 percent increase annually through the end of June 2030.

Additionally, we anticipate having 544 available open beds at the end of June 2030, with available beds for both male and female populations reaching 392. The following table and graph depict the male population, male open beds, female population, female open beds, and total open beds for our minimum custody population through 2030.



Date	Male Population	Male Open Beds	Female Population	Female Open Beds	Total Open Beds
30-Jun-24	938	377	95	167	544
30-Jun-25	962	353	100	162	515
30-Jun-26	979	336	103	159	495
30-Jun-27	1001	314	106	156	470
30-Jun-28	1026	289	108	154	443
30-Jun-29	1051	264	110	152	416
30-Jun-30	1071	244	114	148	392

* JCC's total open beds include a closed housing unit, which increases total open beds compared to the current capacity.

Based on the population projections listed above and a joint effort between NDOC and NDF, consolidation plans include ceasing operations at Carlin Conservation Camp during the 25-27 biennium as a result of the consolidation of inmate camp operations into other better-suited conservation camps and the transition of NDF's staff to non-inmate fire and fuels crews. During the 82nd (2023) Legislative Session, the lawmakers approved CIP Project 23-C34 for the Silver Springs Conservation Camp demolition. As of today, the CIP project has finished the design stage and is pending land certification. Once this is complete, the project will be placed out to bid.

Additionally, during the 25-27 biennium, Capital Improvement Projects have been recommended to the State Public Works Board for consideration by the Governor's Office to demolish Humboldt and Tonopah Conservation Camp. This will allow for the transfer of Humboldt Conservation Camp and Tonopah back to BLM with the R&PP lease, which requires the removal of improvements and equipment upon termination. We anticipate the transfer process will be complete by the end of the 25-27 biennium.



Nevada Legislature

August 18, 2023

Director James Dzurenda
Nevada Department of Corrections
5500 Snyder Avenue, Bldg. 17
P.O. Box 7011
Carson City, Nevada 89702

Dear Director Dzurenda:

In closing the Department of Corrections conservation camp budgets during the 2023 Legislative Session, the Senate Committee on Finance and Assembly Committee on Ways and Means approved the department's first phase of a multi-biennia plan to consolidate the operations of the conservation camps throughout the state. Accordingly, it is the intent of the money committees that the Nevada Department of Corrections provide a report to the Interim Finance Committee by June 1, 2024, on the status of the conservation camp consolidation plan to include, but not be limited to, information on the department's ability to appropriately staff each camp, and a visual representation of the timeline to consolidate, repurpose any of the facilities, and/or transfer any of the facilities to another entity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniele Monroe-Moreno".

Daniele Monroe-Moreno, Chair
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marilyn Dondero Loop".

Marilyn Dondero Loop, Chair
Senate Committee on Finance

cc: Ben Kieckhefer, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
Amy Stephenson, Director, Governor's Office of Finance