



STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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Proposed Changes to the Nevada Administrative Code to Add North Antelope Creek (NAC 445A.1527)

FACT SHEET

June 2012

Background

Section 303 of the Clean Water Act and 40 CFR 131 give states responsibility for setting, reviewing, and revising water quality standards. Water quality standards include criteria that provide limits on a particular pollutant or limits on a condition of a waterbody designed to protect and support a designated use. Under Section 304(a) of the Clean Water Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes and periodically updates water quality criteria reflecting the latest scientific data and information on the environmental effects of pollutants. The revised criteria are used by States and Tribes to update water quality standards that provide for the protection and propagation of aquatic life and wildlife; recreation in and on the water; public water supplies; and agricultural and industrial uses. State of Nevada requirements for water quality standards are contained in the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 445A.425, 445A.520, and 445A.565 and water quality standards for waters of Nevada are found in the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 445A.118 through 445A.2234.

The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Quality Planning (NDEP) has completed a review and beneficial use evaluation of North Antelope Creek in the Rock Creek drainage of the Humboldt Basin. NDEP proposes to add North Antelope Creek to the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) to include beneficial uses and numeric criteria to protect those uses.

Reaches

It is proposed to add the entire length of North Antelope Creek (also known as Little Antelope Creek).

Beneficial Uses

The proposed beneficial uses for North Antelope Creek are:

- Watering of Livestock
- Aquatic Life
- Recreation Involving Contact With the Water
- Recreation Not Involving Contact with the Water
- Industrial Supply, and
- Propagation of Wildlife

Proposed Water Quality Criteria for North Antelope Creek are shown on the following page. The rationale document and the draft petition are available online at <http://ndep.nv.gov/admin/public.htm> under Water Quality Planning.

For questions, comments, or additional information please contact:

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NAC 445A.1527 Humboldt Region: North Antelope Creek at Antelope Creek (NRS 445A.425, 445A.520) The limits of this table apply to the body of water known as North Antelope Creek from its origin to Antelope Creek. This segment of North Antelope Creek is located in Elko County.

PARAMETER	REQUIREMENTS TO MAINTAIN EXISTING HIGHER QUALITY	WATER QUALITY STANDARDS FOR BENEFICIAL USES	Beneficial Use ^a											
			Livestock	Irrigation	Aquatic	Contact	Noncontact	Municipal	Industrial	Wildlife	Aesthetic	Enhance	Marsh	
Beneficial Uses			X		X	X	X		X	X				
Aquatic Life Species of Concern														
Temperature - °C		S.V. ≤ 34.0			*	X								
pH – SU		S.V. 6.5 – 9.0	X		*	*			X	*				
Dissolved Oxygen - mg/l		S.V. ≥ 5.0	X		*	X	X			X				
Total Phosphorous (as P) - mg/l		S.V. ≤ 0.1 _b			*	*	X							
Nitrogen Species (as N) - mg/l		Nitrate _b	X		*					X				
		Nitrite _b	X		*					X				
		Total Nitrogen _b			*	X	X			X				
Total Ammonia (as N) - mg/l		_c			*									
Total Dissolved Solids - mg/l		S.V. ≤ 3000	*											
Chloride - mg/l		1-hr. Avg. ≤ 230 ^d 96-hr. Avg. ≤ 860	X		*					X				
Suspended Solids - mg/l		S.V. ≤ 80			*									
Turbidity – NTU		S.V. ≤ 50			*									
E coli - No./100 ml		A.G.M. ≤ 126 S.V. ≤ 576				*	X							
Fecal Coliform - No./100 ml		≤ 1000 ^e	*				*			*				

* = The most restrictive beneficial use.

X = Beneficial use.

a. Refer to NAC 445A.122 and 445A.2142 of this regulation for beneficial use terminology.

b. The water must not contain nutrient concentrations from a source other than a natural source which cause the growth of algae or aquatic plants in amounts that interfere with any beneficial uses of the water.

c. The ambient water quality criteria for ammonia are specified in NAC 445A.118.

d. One-hour and 96-hour average concentration limits may be exceeded only once every 3 years.

e. Must not exceed a geometric mean of 1000 per 100 milliliters based on a minimum of 5 samples during any 30-day period.