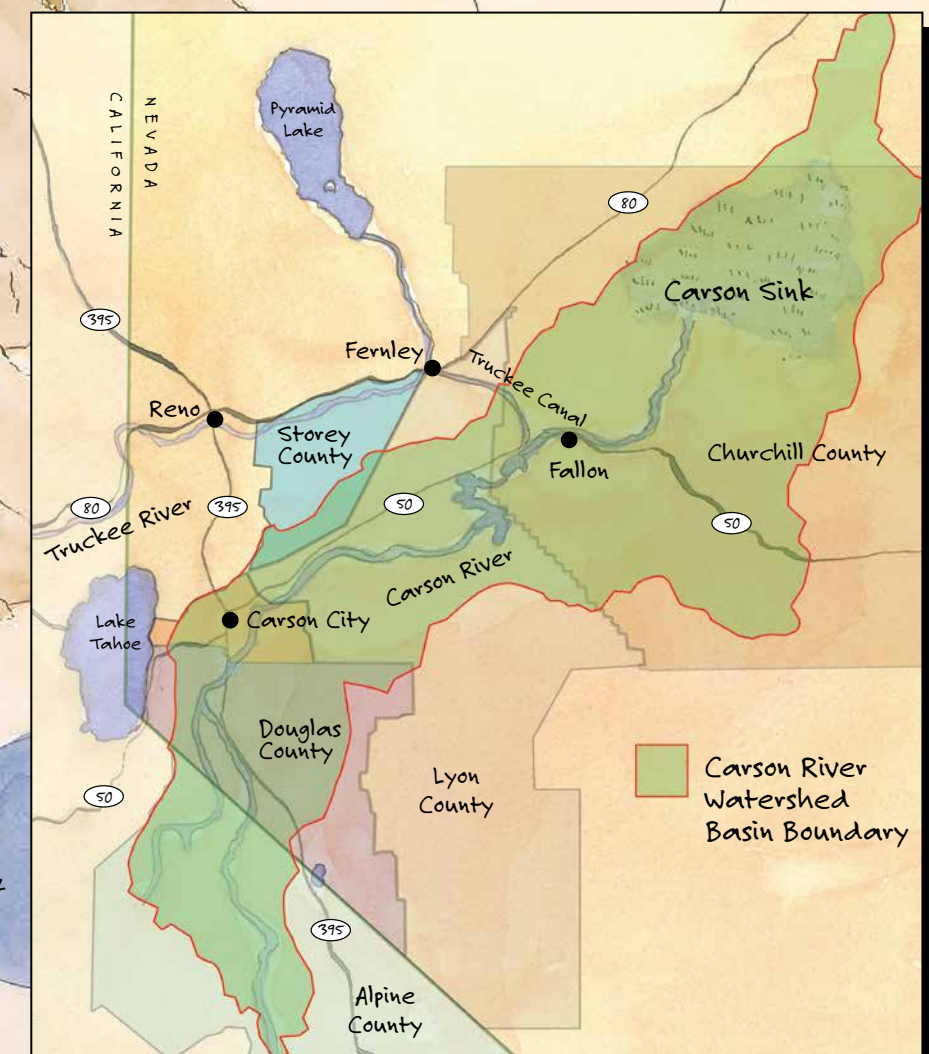
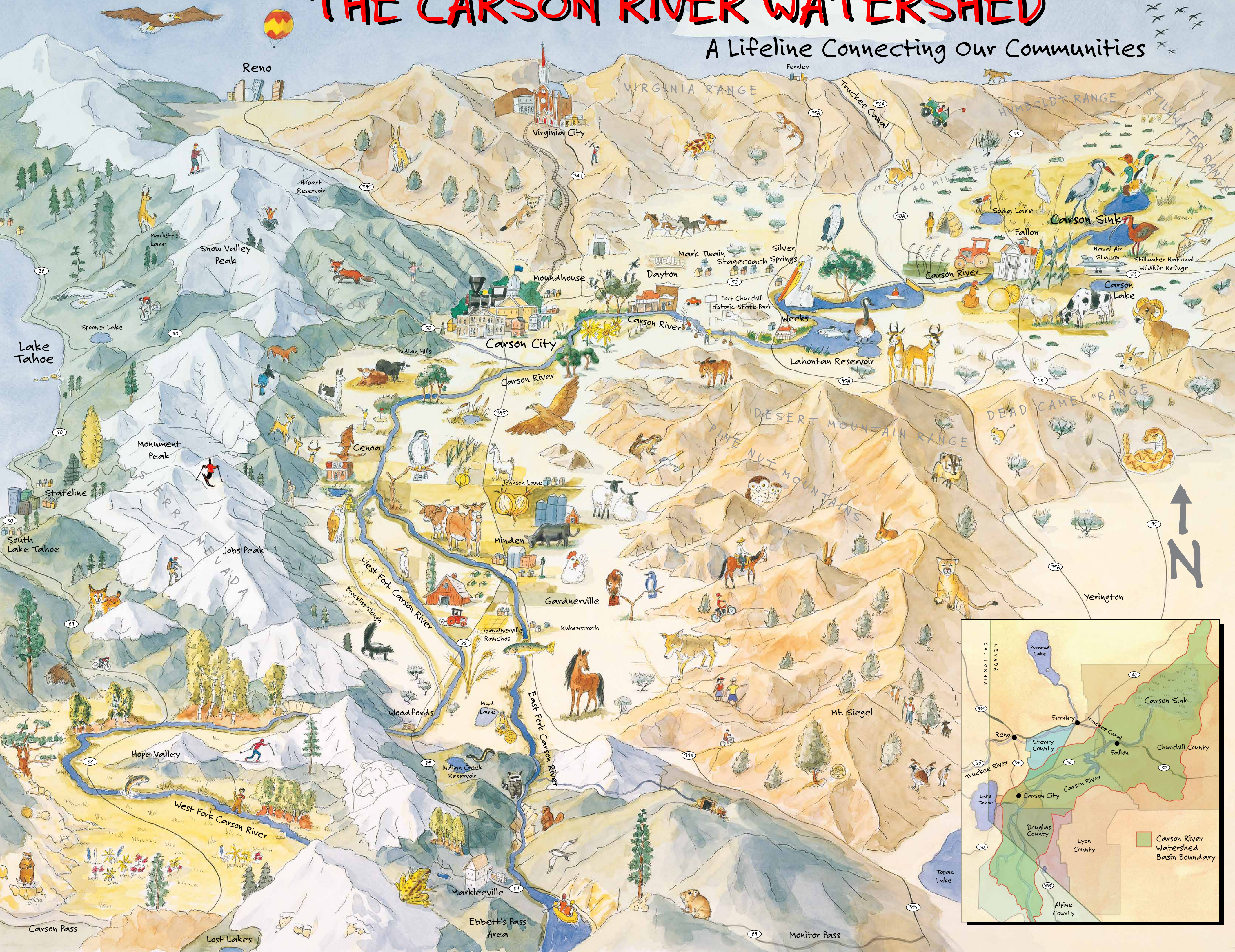


THE CARSON RIVER WATERSHED

A Lifeline Connecting Our Communities



Carson River Watershed: Our Home

The **Carson River** is our lifeline in the desert. Its precious water supports our watershed's environment, economy, and quality of life. The Carson River meanders 184 miles from the snow pack in California's high Sierra (elev. ~11,000 ft.) through green alpine meadows, wide valleys, rock-lined canyons, cottonwood galleries, and high desert sage brush plateaus to the intermittent lake beds and wetlands in Nevada's Carson Sink (elev. ~3,000 ft.). The Carson River Watershed connects several rural and urban communities, tribal lands, irrigated agricultural areas, historic sites, parks, open space, and recreation areas. There are approximately 3,965 square miles of land from which drains water into the river creating the Carson River Watershed. The river itself is terminal, meaning it is one of a few rivers in the world that does not flow to an ocean.

The **Carson River Coalition (CRC)** is a watershed-wide stakeholder group that serves as the steering committee for the integrated watershed planning process (IWPP). The idea for the CRC was created during a watershed-wide conference held in 1998 in response to the 1997 floods. Participants in the CRC include private individuals; local, state and federal agencies; tribal governments; and citizen-driven groups. The IWPP program focuses on management of watershed resources long-term and addresses the diverse needs and concerns of all stakeholders.

Challenges in the Carson River Watershed



Water Quality



Floodplain Management



Water Supply



River Projects



Outreach and Education



Invasive Species

Flora and Fauna Habitat

Wildlife habitats range from the upper watershed forests, aspen groves, and high mountain forests to the lower watershed dry, salt desert shrub lands. There is abundant diversity in the plants and animals that make the Carson River Watershed their home, and many of these species are pictured on the map. Go to www.cwsd.org for a list of fish and wildlife species that live in our watershed! Can you identify the upper and lower parts of the watershed on the map?


Agriculture and Ranching

Every valley in the watershed produces food and supports a variety of livestock. Ranching is one of the oldest businesses in the watershed, dating back to the 1840s. Can you identify specific areas on the map where agriculture takes place?



Recreational Opportunities

Our watershed has many diverse options for recreating, such as snow skiing, snowshoeing, fishing, soaking in hot springs, hot air ballooning, mountain biking, boating, hiking, and much more! Can you find each of these activities on the map? Visit www.cwsd.org/recreation/ for recreation locations throughout the Carson River Watershed!

Resources and Cooperators:



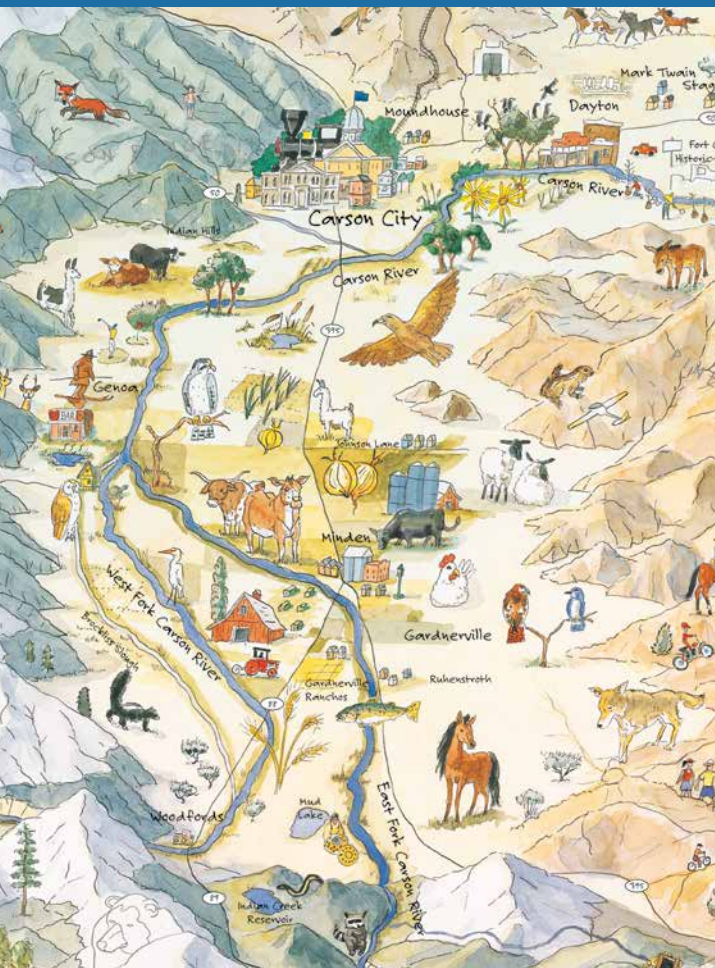
2015 reprint made possible through funding from:



Educational Resources:

- View links on www.cwsd.org to obtain additional information on watershed challenges.
- Try a scavenger hunt between the front and back of this map! Where is Hope Valley, Lost Lakes, V&T Railroad, Lahontan Reservoir, Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge, etc., on the timeline and map?
- Interactive map is online at www.cwsd.org/watershed/
- Large scale map with flashcards is available at the **Children's Museum of Northern Nevada in Carson City**
- Nevada Academic Content Standards that align with the content in this map: <http://www.cwsd.org/outreach-and-education/>
- Watershed map lesson plans are available at www.cwsd.org/watershed/

The Carson River Watershed Map

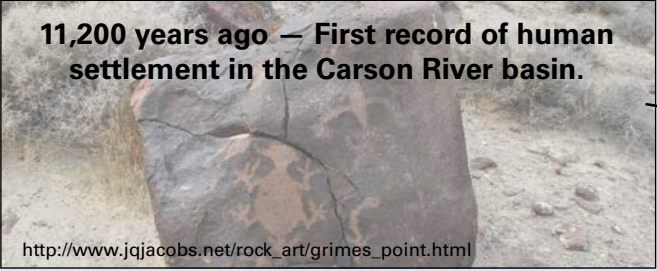


A Lifeline Connecting Our Communities

- What is a watershed?
- Where does your water come from?
- When was the last major flood?
- Where is the largest reservoir in the watershed?
- Where does the Carson River end?
- Access the interactive map online www.cwsd.org/watershed/


Carson River Watershed Water and Land Use Timeline

11,200 years ago — First record of human settlement in the Carson River basin.




http://www.jqjacobs.net/rock_art/grimes_point.html

12,000-75,000 years ago — Last Ice Age and Historic Lake Lahontan.




Early 1800s — Before the white man's arrival, the Washoe people inhabited the upper watershed region and the Northern Paiute people lived in the lower watershed.



1840 — Pioneers settled in Carson Valley.

1851 — Towns established in Genoa and Dayton.

1869 — Construction began on the Sutro Tunnel.



1873 — Marlette Water System was created to provide water for Virginia City, Gold Hill, and Silver City, and is still a major source of water to these communities.

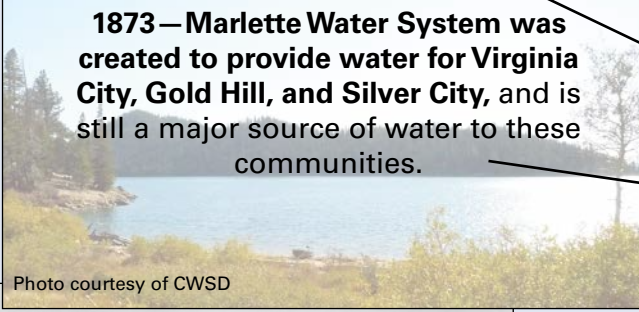




Photo courtesy of CWSD

1864 — Nevada became the battleborn state and Carson City is designated the capital.



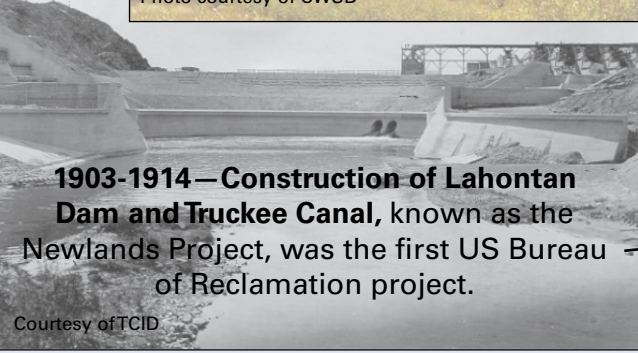
1860s — Comstock Mining Boom: silver and gold are first discovered in Nevada.

1869 — First section of V&T Railroad constructed.



Western Nevada Historic Photo Collection

1903-1914 — Construction of Lahontan Dam and Truckee Canal, known as the Newlands Project, was the first US Bureau of Reclamation project.



Courtesy of TCID

1925 — Alpine Decree initiated; 55 year water rights litigation ensued.

1937 — Major flooding occurred East Fork near Carson Valley flowed at 12,000 cfs and Cradlebaugh bridge was under 18 inches of water.

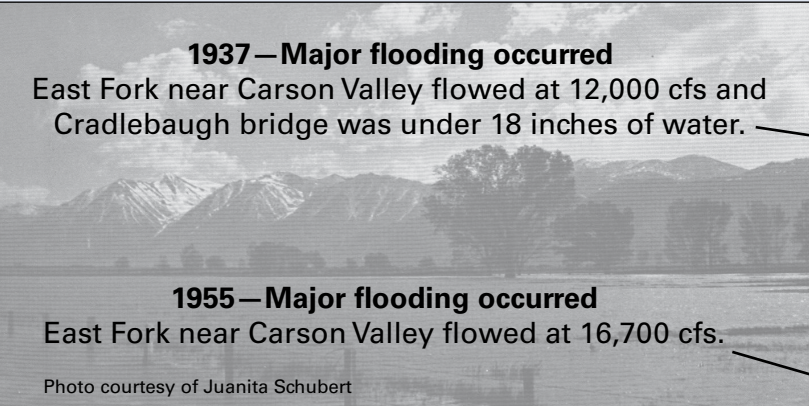


Photo courtesy of Juanita Schubert

1949 — Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge was established in the Lahontan Valley.

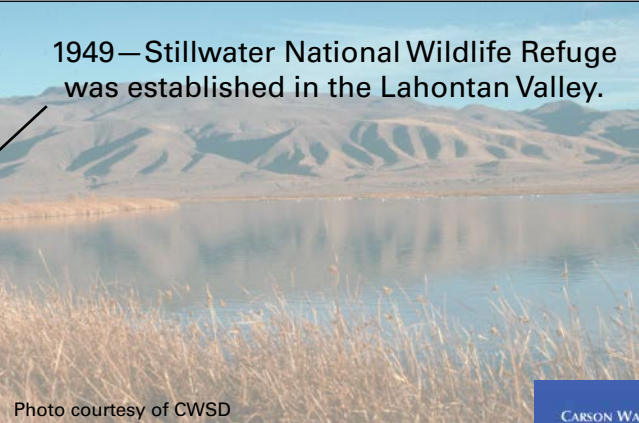



Photo courtesy of CWSD

1959 — Carson Water Subconservancy District formed as a part of the Federal Washoe Project.



1968 — Tahoe Basin treated wastewater is exported to Alpine and Douglas counties.

1972 — Federal EPA Clean Water Act becomes law.

1977 — Drought year of record. 42,278 acre feet of water measured at Carson City in the river system.

1983 — Wettest Year on Record. 825,323 acre feet of water measured at Carson City in the river system, nearly 20 times more than in 1977.

1986 — Friends of Hope Valley established.

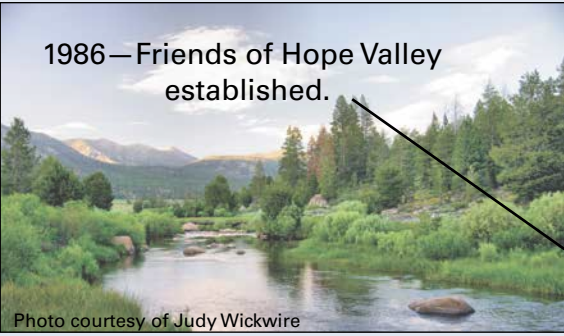
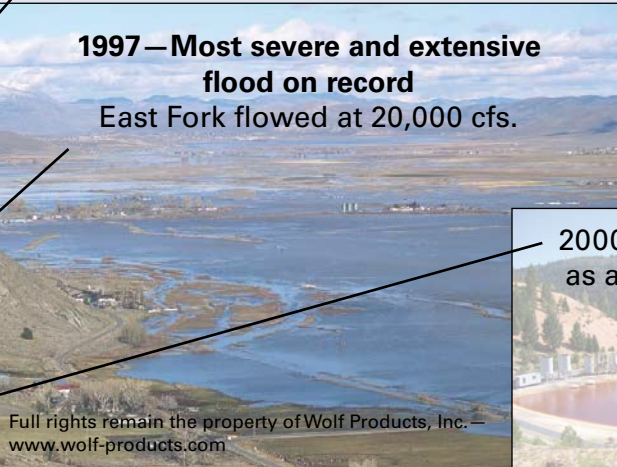


Photo courtesy of Judy Wickwire

1989 — The Nevada Legislature changed the function of CWSD to conduct regional watershed planning.

1990 — Carson River Mercury Site listed as a Superfund Site by EPA.

1997 — Most severe and extensive flood on record East Fork flowed at 20,000 cfs.



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1998 — Carson River Coalition formed in response to the 1997 flood.

2000 — CRC developed the Vision and 11 Guiding Principles.

2003 — CWSD was appointed the Clean Water Act Section 208 planning entity.

2007 — The Carson River Watershed Adaptive Stewardship Plan was adopted by CWSD, becoming the first integrated watershed management plan created by the CRC.

2008 — Regional Floodplain Management Plan adopted by all five counties along the river.

2013 — Bison Fire was started by lightning on western slope of the Pine Nut Range in Douglas County, burning 24,136 acres.

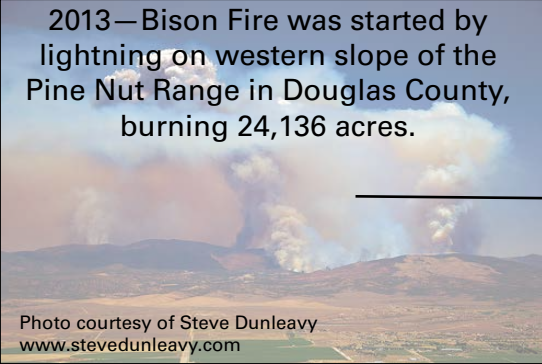


Photo courtesy of Steve Dunleavy www.stevedunleavy.com

2014 — Alluvial fan flash floods occurred in Douglas County and Carson City after severe summer thunderstorms.


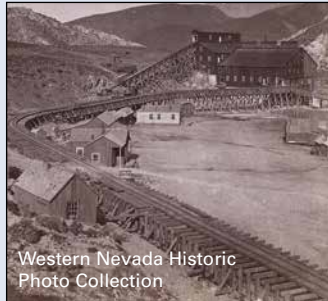


Photo courtesy of Craig Swartz

2000 — Leviathan Mine listed as a Superfund site by EPA.



Western Nevada Historic Photo Collection