

Understanding the Humboldt River Conjunctive Management Effort & Draft Curtailment Order

Prepared by the Nevada Division of Water Resources (NDWR)



Why This Matters

The Humboldt River is a lifeline for Northern Nevada — supporting communities, agriculture, and industry across the region. But today, the region faces a growing challenge: there's simply not enough water to meet all the demands placed on it.

The system is **over-allocated**, meaning more water rights exist than the river and aquifers can reliably supply. Groundwater pumping near the river reduces surface flows, creating real and immediate **conflicts between junior groundwater water right holders and senior surface water right holders**.

To address this imbalance, NDWR may be required to take legal action. If no alternatives are implemented, the Division could issue a curtailment order based on water right priority — requiring some users to reduce or stop groundwater pumping altogether. Under current Nevada law, curtailment is the primary tool available to protect senior rights and manage overuse.

That's why NDWR is preparing to release a **draft curtailment order** — not as a final decision, but as a starting point for public input and local solutions. This draft will help stakeholders understand what curtailment could look like and begin shaping practical, community-driven alternatives before any final decisions are made.

What's Happening Now

Two efforts are happening in parallel — and both require your attention:

1. Draft Curtailment Order

NDWR will soon release a draft curtailment order to outline how and where curtailment could be applied if no alternatives are implemented. This draft is not a final decision — it's a starting point for public input and local solutions.

2. Stakeholder Working Group

For the past two years, a diverse group of stakeholders have been working with NDWR to explore community-driven alternatives — such as conservation districts or offset programs that could implement mitigation strategies.

These efforts aim to protect water rights while being realistic about water availability and minimizing economic disruption.

www.water.nv.gov/programs/humboldt



What is the Draft Curtailment Order?

The draft curtailment order is a **proposed action** by NDWR to reduce groundwater pumping in areas where it's harming senior surface water rights.

It will outline:

- **When** curtailment would be triggered
- **How** and where it would be applied
- **What options** water users may have to avoid curtailment

Why Release a Draft?

Transparency. Collaboration. Solutions.

Releasing a draft allows NDWR to:

- Share its approach openly
- Invite public feedback
- Encourage proactive, community-led alternatives

This is not about imposing cuts — it's about **working together to avoid them where possible.**

Important: This is a **draft** — not a final order. No one is being ordered to reduce water use at this time.

The Time to Act Is Now — And It Starts with You

The Humboldt River is at a crossroads. While NDWR is committed to doing its part, lasting solutions must come from the ground up.

This is your water supply, your community, your future. The responsibility to lead, collaborate, and act lies with those who know this region best.

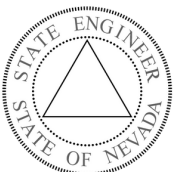
Organize. Speak up. Share ideas.

Work together to develop practical, community-driven alternatives. Don't wait for a final order — help shape what comes next.

The path forward depends on local leadership and decisive action. Let's protect the Humboldt River — and everything it supports.

What's Next

- **Draft Curtailment Order:** NDWR will release a draft for public review and feedback.
- **Public Outreach and Input:** Learn about the draft, ask questions, and share input.
- **Community-Led Solutions:** Local groups will play a key role in developing practical, region-specific alternatives.
- **Stay Informed:** Visit the website for the latest updates, helpful resources, and tools.



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