

## FACT SHEET FOR HOT SPRINGS CANYON CREEK DE-LIST

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Region: Lahontan - R6

Water Body Segment: Hot Springs Canyon Creek - entire 2.9 mile reach

Pollutant: Sediment/Siltation

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### Line of Evidence

Fraction: Not Applicable

Matrix: Not Applicable

Beneficial Uses: HU 630.30 (minor surface waters) - FRESH, COLD, SPAWN

WQO/Criteria: Applicable standards from Basin Plan Region-wide water quality objectives for the Sediment/Siltation listing are:

- 1) Sediment - The suspended sediment load and suspended sediment discharge rate of surface waters shall not be altered in such a manner as to cause nuisance or adversely affect the water for beneficial uses

- 2) Settleable Materials - Waters shall not contain substances in concentrations that result in deposition of material that causes nuisance or that adversely affects the water for beneficial uses.

Evaluation: Stream bank and riparian surveys, field inspection, BLM grazing management program review, and grazing intensity.

Data Used: Stream and riparian zone surveys were conducted by the BLM in 1988. Stream and riparian characteristics were evaluated at one survey point. The water was listed based on poor scores from this single monitoring point.

Water Board staff conducted a field inspection with the assistance of Steve Nelson of the BLM in May 2007. Staff visited the location surveyed in 1988 and several points up and down stream of the original survey location. Mr. Nelson indicated that BLM's grazing management practices, which were updated and implemented in 1993, and decreasing numbers of livestock have resulted in improvements to the watershed over a 20-year period.

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Inspection of the watershed and the intermittent stream did not reveal significant bank trampling or current impacts to vegetation (see attached site pictures). Areas where direct livestock impacts may have been present appeared to be recovering. The watershed includes erodible volcanic soils and there are certain segments where significant stream incision is present. However, it is uncertain whether stream incision results from natural conditions and/or past grazing practices. In any case, there is heavy vegetative cover currently present along the stream channel and banks in these areas.

In July 2007, BLM published an Environmental Assessment (EA) for a 10-year grazing re-authorization that included the Hot Creek Canyon allotment. Results of a June 2000 Rangeland Health Assessment in the Hot Springs Canyon Creek watershed were used to develop the EA. The EA resulted in a "Finding of No Significant Impact" (attached) and includes the following statements on watershed health.

- Rangeland health assessments indicate that there are no significant environmental impacts from current use and the allotments meet Rangeland Health Standards.
- Grazing terms and conditions for future use are designed to help protect and sustain rangeland health and proper ecosystem function.
- Livestock use on the Hot Springs Canyon allotment is generally highly dispersed with light use.
- Riparian vegetation in the immediate vicinity of geothermal springs in the watershed is typically at or near 100 percent.

### Spatial

Representation: Staff visual inspection of approximately one mile. BLM assessment of entire stream segment.

### Temporal

Representation: Initial listing was based on BLM surveys conducted in 1988. BLM rangeland health assessment was conducted in June 2000. Water Board and BLM staff inspected the site in May 2007.

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### Water Body

Specific Issues: Listing basis was derived from data collected nearly 20 years ago from one point on the 2.9-mile reach. More current information developed by the BLM in 2000 and Water Board staff in 2007 does not indicate impairment.

### Data Quality

Assessment: Good

### QAPP

Information: BLM Bishop Resource Management Plan (RMP) and the Central California Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management (Rangeland Health S&Gs).

# PHOTOGRAPHS

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# PHOTOGRAPHS

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