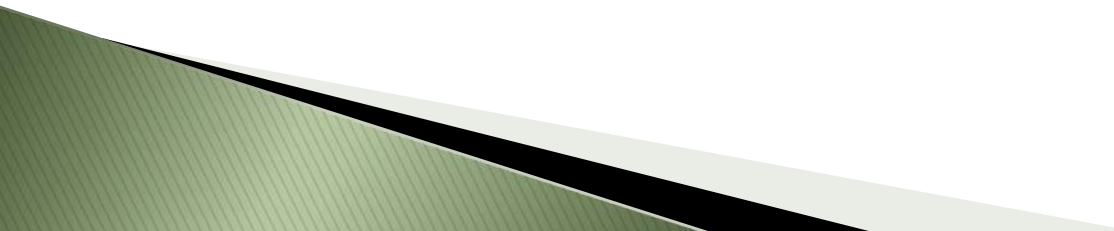


Nevada's State Lands

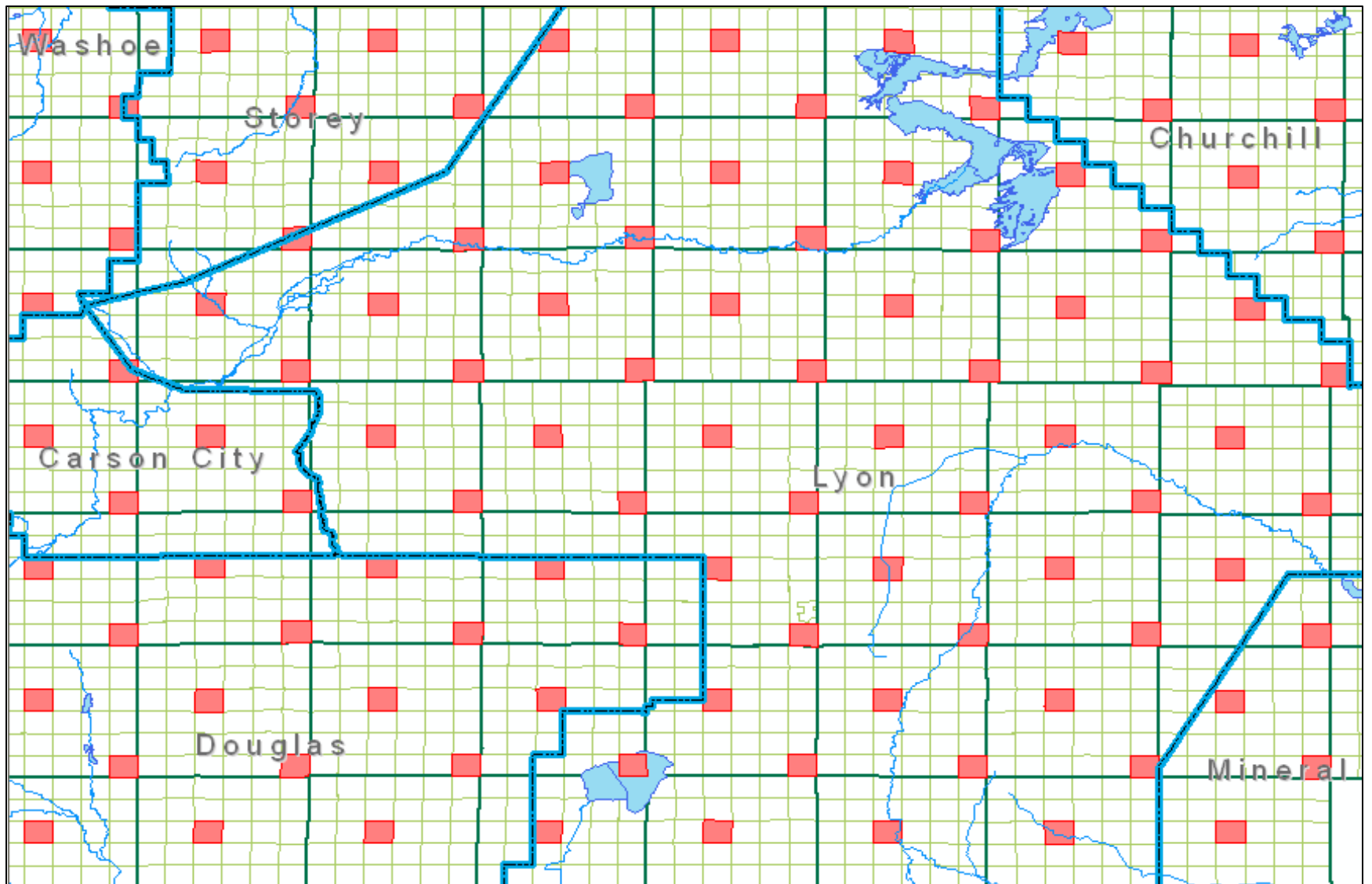
Presentation to the Nevada Land Management
Task Force

Jim Lawrence, Administrator
Division of State Lands
September 27, 2013



FEDERAL LAND GRANTS – SCHOOL

- ▶ Northwest Ordinance of 1785: set aside land for the support of the common schools.
- ▶ Starting with the admission of Ohio in 1803, each new state was granted school trust land.
- ▶ Until 1850, one section (section 16) was granted in every township.
- ▶ Starting in 1850, two sections (sections 16 and 36) were granted. Nevada received two sections.
- ▶ 4 sections (sections 2, 16, 32, and 36) were granted to Utah, Arizona and New Mexico.



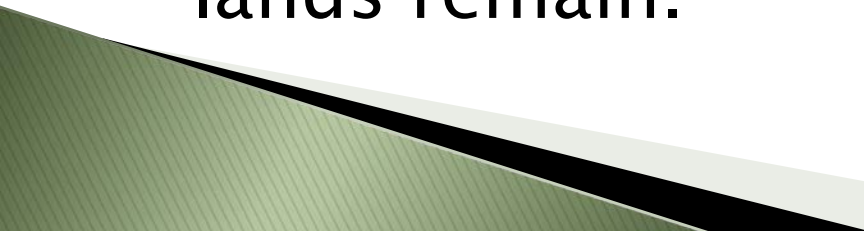
LAND GRANTS (Cont.)

- ▶ Nevada's land grants for Sections 16 and 36 amounted to approximately 4 million acres.
- ▶ Lands were required to be surveyed before patent could pass from Federal ownership to State and Private ownership.
- ▶ Most grant lands were located in arid, remote and inaccessible locations. As such, settler demand for those lands were low.
- ▶ By 1879, fifteen years after statehood, only about 60,000 acres were surveyed and sold.

Exchange Act of 1880

- ▶ Congress granted Nevada permission to give up its “in place” land grant of sections 16 and 36 (about 4 million acres) in exchange for a 2 million acre “state selection” grant. We were the only state granted a state selection exchange.
- ▶ Lands were selected where demanded by settlers.
- ▶ Lands sold for \$1.25 or \$2.50 an acre.
- ▶ Nearly all of the 2 million acres was sold by the end of the 19th century.

Exchange Act of 1926

- ▶ In 1926, congress granted Nevada permission to exchange the remaining 30,000 acres of school grant land for another state selection of an equal amount of acreage.
 - ▶ These lands have now all been selected and almost all have been disposed.
 - ▶ Today only about 2900 acres of school trust lands remain.
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Outcomes of Exchanges Act

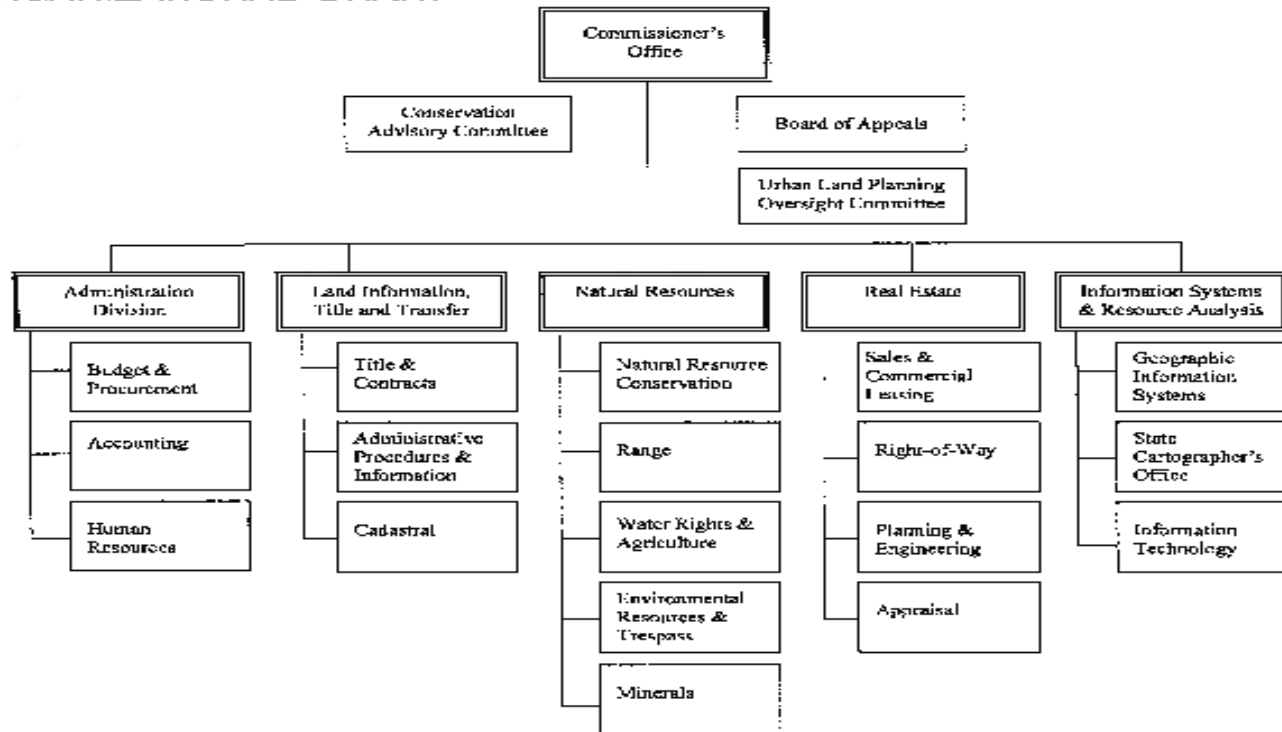
- ▶ Nevada disposed of nearly all state owned land by early to mid 1900's. The exchange acts were successful in bringing settlers to Nevada.
- ▶ Approximately 86% of Nevada is federally managed. This is significantly the largest percentage. Utah is the next largest at approximately 68%.
- ▶ Nevada has a large amount of withdrawn lands. Approximately 4.2 million acres have been withdrawn for use by US Department of Defense and US Department of Energy.

Comparison with Other States

State	Acres Managed	Staff	Budget	Revenue
Arizona	9.3 million	124	\$15 mill	\$250 million
Idaho	2.5 mill./surface 3 mill./subsurface	260	\$23 million	\$85 million
New Mexico	9 million/surface 13 mill./subsurface	151	\$15.9 mill	\$577 million
Utah	3.55 million/fee 1 million/ mineral	75	\$10.8 mill	\$100 million
Nevada	275,000 (agency) 2,900 (grant)	7	\$1 mill	\$387,000

Arizona State Land Department

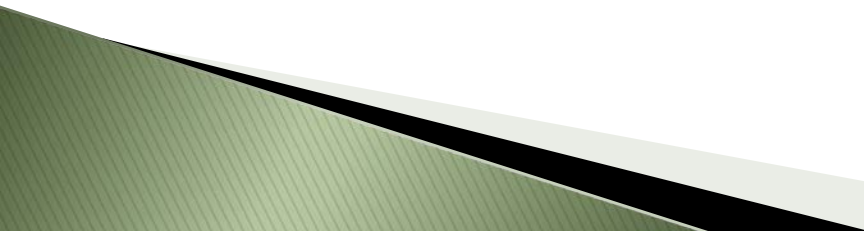
ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Nevada State Land Office

- ▶ The primary mission of the land office for many of the western states is to maximize revenue for the School Trust.
- ▶ Nevada is unique. Nevada's Land Office serves as the "real estate" agency for state agencies by:
 - Acquiring land for agency use,
 - Authorizing the use of state owned land, and
 - Maintaining records of state owned land.
- ▶ The Division of State Lands holds title but assigns the land to another agency for management (e.g. State Parks)

Nevada State Land Office (cont.)

- ▶ NRS 321 and NRS 322 provide procedures for disposing and authorizing the use of state owned land.
 - ▶ Typically, consideration is based on fair market value.
 - ▶ Revenue is typically deposited in the General Fund.
 - ▶ Specific statutes regarding compensation for grazing leases and oil and gas leases.
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Observations

- ▶ Any legislation should be clear on transfer costs and role of NEPA compliance.
- ▶ Staggered approach for receiving acreages may be most practical (e.g. xx amount of acres per year until target is reached).
- ▶ A starting place may be checkerboard lands and all lands currently identified for disposal in resource management plans.
- ▶ Legislation should be clear as to revenue distribution.

Observations (continued)

- ▶ Concerns have been raised regarding impacts of land transfers on federal reimbursements for fire suppression costs.
 - ▶ Nevada statutory changes may be needed or desirable. (e.g. establishment of land board)
 - ▶ Status of existing land rights or authorizations.
 - ▶ Clear access.
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