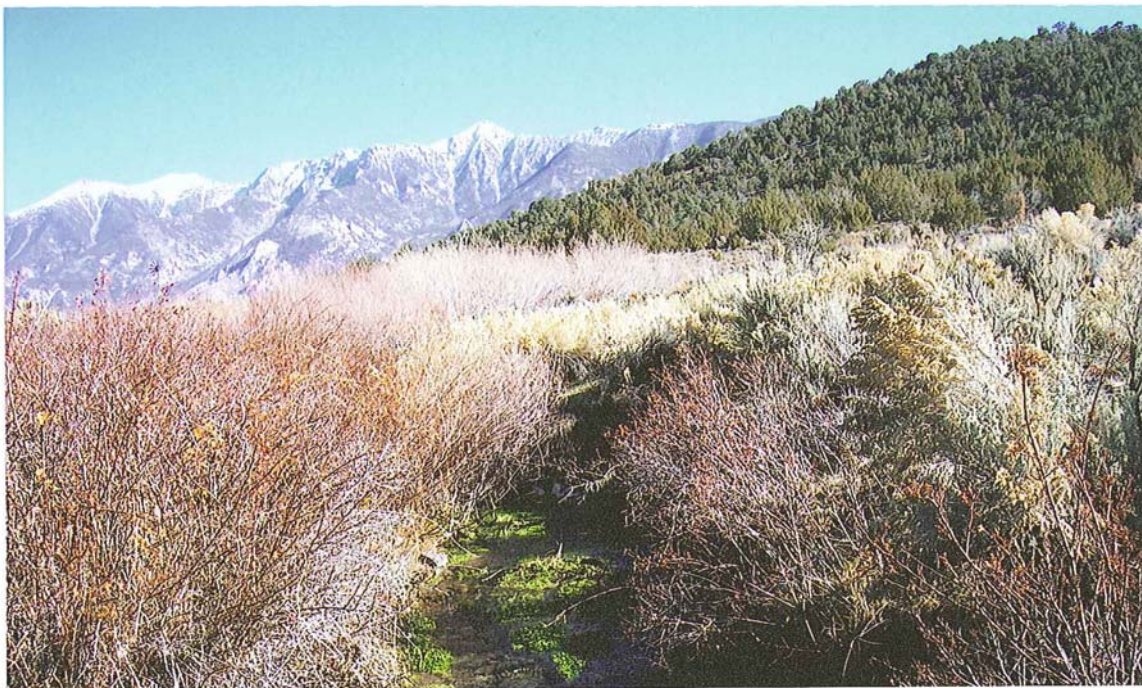


Wetland Program Plan for the Goshute Reservation



Goshute Environmental Protection Department
Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation
PO Box 6104, 195 Tribal Center Road
Ibapah, Utah 84034

March 3, 2011

TRIBAL APPROVAL

Edwin Naranjo _____ Date _____
Goshute Tribal Administrator/ Environmental Director

CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
TRIBAL APPROVAL	ii
1.0 PURPOSE	1
2.0 OVERALL GOAL STATEMENT AND TIME FRAME FOR PLAN	2
2.1 Overall Goal Statement and Time Frame for Plan.....	2
2.2 Overview of the Goshute Reservation	2
2.3 Past Tribal Work Related to Wetlands.....	2
3.0 ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING OVERALL GOAL	5
3.1 Year One (2011) Actions and Activities: Goals & Monitoring Plan.....	5
3.2 Year Two (2012) Actions and Activities: Monitoring & Assessments	6
3.3 Year Three (2013) Actions and Activities: Management & Protection	7
3.4 Year Four (2014) Actions and Activities: Impairment & Prioritize Projects	8
4.0 RESPONSIBLE PARTIES & FUNDING FOR PLAN IMPLEMENTATION	9
4.1 Responsible Parties for Plan Implementation	9
4.2 Funding Opportunities for Plan Implementation	10
5.0 REFERENCES CITED	11

TABLES

1 Responsible Parties and Roles for Plan Implementation	9
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FIGURES

1 Location and Topography of the Goshute Reservation	3
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Cover Photograph: Headwater stream reach of Spring Creek and adjacent streamside wetlands with the Deep Creek Mountains in the background

**1.0
PURPOSE**

The purpose this Wetland Program Plan (WPP) is to develop scientifically-based steps for the monitoring, assessment, restoration, protection, and management of wetland resources on the Goshute Reservation.

2.0
OVERALL GOAL STATEMENT
AND TIME FRAME FOR PLAN

2.1 Overall Goal Statement and Time Frame for Plan

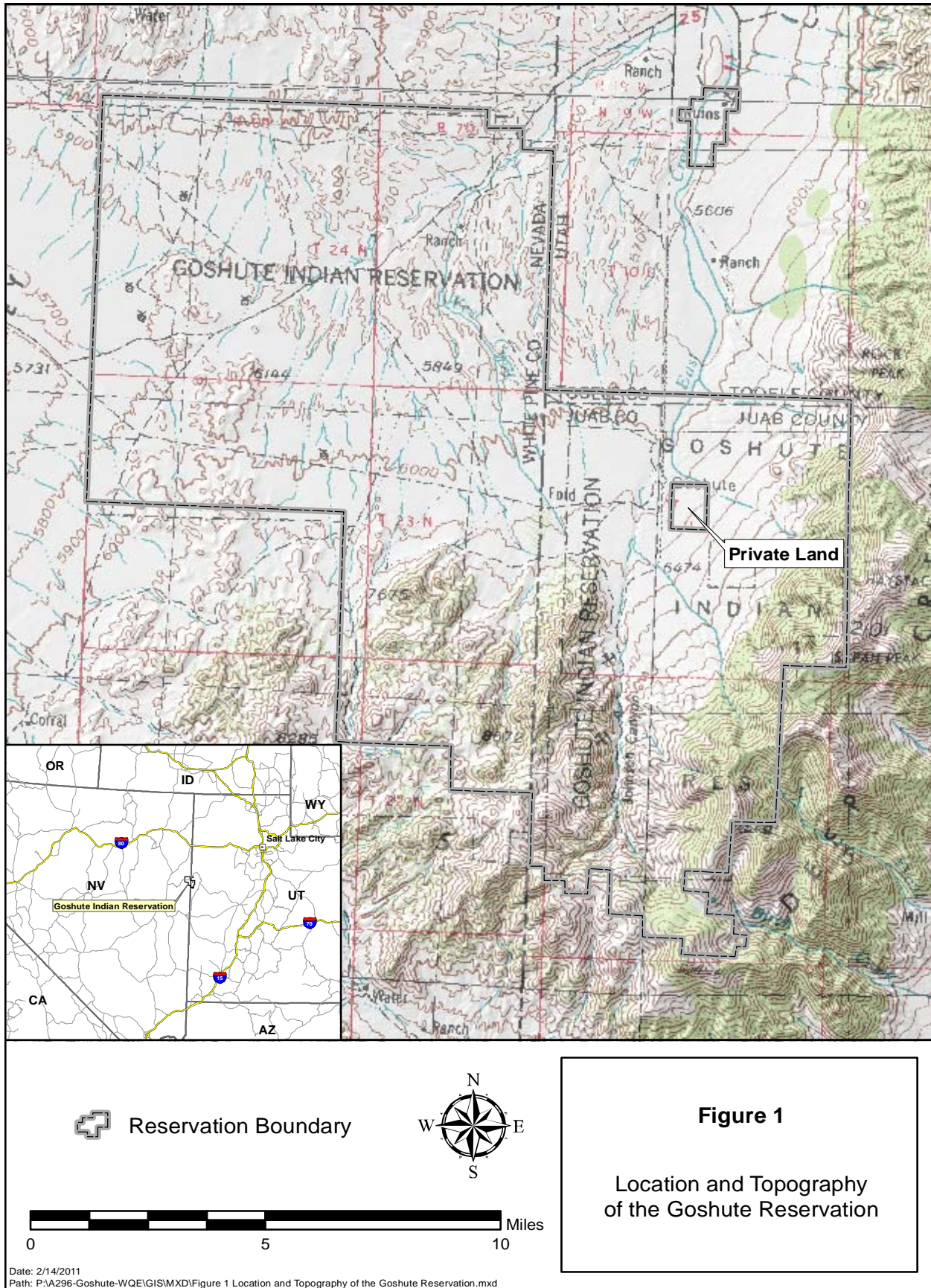
The Goshute Tribe will implement the enclosed Wetland Program Plan, over the next four years, from 2011 to 2014, to assess wetland resource conditions on the Goshute reservation and use this information for the development of prioritized restoration projects and for the protection and effective management of our valuable wetland resources.

2.2 Overview of Goshute Reservation

The Goshute Reservation is located along the border and within the states of Nevada and Utah (Figure 1). The Goshute Reservation contains mountainous areas though the predominate land features are associated with a wide drainage basin that is bounded on the east by the Deep Creek Mountains, on the south by the South Mountains, and on the west by the Goshute Mountains. There are at least 35 homes on the Goshute Reservation in two general areas, the “Upper Community” and the “Eight-Mile Community”. Drinking water for reservation residents is provided by ground water wells at three public water systems. There are no major industries on the Goshute Reservation. The Tribal headquarters are located three miles south of the town of Ibapah, Utah and contain offices for Tribal employees responsible for the Goshute Business Council, the Goshute Environmental Protection Department, Enrollment, Finance, Housing Program, Community Health, Education, Range, Roads, Social Services, and secretarial needs.

The major streams on the Goshute Reservation are Spring Creek, Chicken Creek, Dads Creek, Deep Creek, Chokecherry Creek, Fifteen Mile Creek, Steves Creek, Sams Creek, South Fork of Johnson Creek, North Fork of Birch Creek, and Trout Creek. Three major ponds on the reservation rear the endangered Bonneville Cutthroat Trout and a small pond is located behind the Day School. There are many natural springs on the reservation, such as Johnson Canyon Spring, Ed’s Spring, and Studhorse Spring. Riparian wetlands are associated with all streams, ponds, and springs.

Goshute Environmental Protection Department



Goshute Environmental Protection Department

Beneficial uses of Tribal waters include fishing, swimming, drinking water supply, crop irrigation, and wildlife and livestock watering. Ground water aquifers are tapped as drinking water sources for three public water systems. The overall water quality is good. There are natural elevated levels of arsenic in some waters. Leased lands for livestock grazing has resulted in severe spring source erosion and sedimentation, stream erosion, and eutrophication of ponds and streams. The reservation is underlain by a shallow basin-fill aquifer and a deep carbonate-rock aquifer.

Snowmelt is the predominant source of stream flow and spring discharge as well as the source of recharge to the shallow basin-fill aquifer that underlies the Goshute Reservation. The other deeper ground water aquifer is the carbonate-rock aquifer that is of regional extent. The basin-fill aquifer has generally good water quality, but there are localized elevated levels of arsenic, iron, and manganese in exceedance of federal drinking water standards. The surface water quality is naturally very good, but some streams and springs have been adversely affected by nonpoint sources of pollutants, especially poor grazing management practices, resulting in degraded water quality. Degradation of surface water quality has been identified as being caused by habitat degradation, eutrophication, low dissolved oxygen levels, turbidity, and increased water temperatures.

2.3 Past Tribal Work Related to Wetlands

Major past Tribal work related to wetlands on the Goshute Reservation includes the following.

- Physical habitat characterization for stream riparian wetlands was included in the Goshute Tribe's September 9, 2010 revised Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) Water Quality Monitoring for the Goshute Reservation that is currently under EPA review as part of the Clean Water Act Section 106 Water Pollution Control Program (Monitoring and Assessment, Objective 2, Action 1)
- Restoration of the wetlands associated with three degraded natural springs on the Goshute Reservation is currently is currently being conducted as funded by a Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint Source Program (Voluntary Restoration and Protection, Objective 3, Action 2)

3.0

ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES SUPPORTING OVERALL GOAL

3.1 Year One (2011) Actions & Activities: Goals & Monitoring Plan

3.1.1 Action: Define Tribal wetlands protection goal and objectives

3.1.1 Activities: (Monitoring and Assessment, Objective 1, Actions 1 & 2)

- Hold a series of coordination meetings with Tribal representatives to define the Tribal wetlands protection goal and objectives for the Goshute Reservation
- Develop and secure Tribal approval of the wetlands protection goal for the Goshute Reservation
- Determine objectives to meet the Tribally-approved wetlands protection goal

3.1.2 Action: Develop a wetlands monitoring plan

3.1.2 Activities: (Monitoring and Assessment, Objective 1, Actions 3 & 4)

- Identify wetlands data needs for the Goshute Reservation
- Develop a Wetlands Monitoring Plan that incorporates scientifically-defensible wetlands monitoring indicators, sites, and monitoring frequencies
- Incorporate the wetlands monitoring Plan into the Tribal Water Quality Monitoring Strategy (Goshute Environmental Protection Department 2009)
- Incorporate the Wetlands Monitoring Plan into the Goshute Tribe's EPA-approved Quality Assurance Project Plan or QAPP (WQEI 2010) using Section 106 WPCP funds

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3.2 Year Two (2012) Actions and Activities: Monitoring & Assessments

3.2.1 Action: Monitor Tribal wetlands resources on the Goshute Reservation

3.2.1 Activities: (Monitoring and Assessment, Objective 2, Action 1, 2, & 4)

- Certify Environmental Staff in wetlands identification and delineation
- Environmental Staff training in implementation of the Wetlands Monitoring Plan
- Initiate implementation of the Wetlands Monitoring Plan
- Track wetlands monitoring data through hard-copy documents and electronically on CD and hard drive that are routinely updated and integrated with other environmental data that are already analyzed using Tribal goals and for temporal trends

3.2.2 Action: Annual assessment reporting of wetlands data and inform decision makers

3.2.2 Activities: (Monitoring and Assessment, Objective 2, Action 5)

- Conduct annual assessments of wetlands data to determine extent (acres and locations) and conditions (functions, values and any exceedances of Tribal goals)
- Document annual wetlands assessments in a written report for submittal to EPA and Tribal decision makers (Environmental Director and Goshute Business Council)

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3.3 Year Three (2013) Actions and Activities: Management & Protection

3.3.1 Action: Improve the management of Tribal wetland resources

3.3.1 Activities: (Monitoring and Assessment, Objective 3, Action 3)

- Create a base map of all wetlands on the Goshute Reservation using GPS and GIS technologies
- Define and characterize all wetlands according to the Cowardin system (Cowardin *et al.* 1979)
- Establish scientifically-derived benchmarks for wetlands restoration success and associated required monitoring and analytical techniques

3.3.2 Action: Improve the protection of Tribal wetland resources

3.3.2 Activities: (Water Quality Standards for Wetlands, Objectives 1, 2, & 3, All Actions)

- Develop wetland water quality standards for insertion into the Water Quality Standards for the Goshute Reservation (WQEI 2010)
- Determine the most effective use of Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the protection of tribal wetland resources
- Determine the most effective enforcement mechanism for the protection of Tribal wetland resources
- Incorporate wetlands protection and community understanding of wetlands functions, values, and cultural use into Public Education and Outreach programs
- Develop a visual wetlands protection and beneficial use media for free distribution at the Environmental Protection Department such as a brochure, poster, or informative signs

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3.4 Year Four (2014) Actions and Activities: Impairment & Prioritize Projects

3.4.1 Action: Identify impaired wetlands and needed wetland restoration projects

3.4.1 Activities: (Voluntary Restoration and Protection, Objective 1, All Actions)

- Identify the locations of impaired wetland and specific impairment characteristics
- Determine the most impaired wetlands and most vulnerable wetlands within the Goshute Reservation
- Document specific needed wetland restoration projects and associated restoration methods for each wetland restoration project

3.4.2 Action: Prioritize wetland restoration projects and secure needed funding

3.4.2 Activities: (Voluntary Restoration and Protection, Objective 3, Actions 1 & 2)

- Prioritize wetland restoration projects in coordination with the Goshute Business Council and Tribal Cultural Advisors
- Identify Tribal, Federal, and other funding sources (State and local) to cover the costs for wetlands restoration project implementation
- Obtain requests for proposals (RFPs) for each identified funding source and submit timely proposals to funding agencies
- Implement wetland restoration projects on the Goshute Reservation

4.0

**RESPONSIBLE PARTIES & FUNDING
FOR PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

4.1 Responsible Parties for Plan Implementation

Personnel responsible for the Goshute Tribe’s Wetland Program Plan implementation are presented below in *Table 1*. This team approach to the Wetland Program Plan is used to ensure that responsibilities of all personnel are defined.

Table 1 Responsible Parties and Roles for Plan Implementation

Project Personnel	Title	Responsibility
Ed Naranjo	Director, Goshute Environmental Protection Department	Oversees all Tribal activities associated with the Wetland Program Plan
Clell Pete	Environmental Technicians, Goshute Environmental Protection Department	Responsible for field activities associated with implementing the Wetland Program Plan, such as delineations, assessments, and restoration project work
Lorenzo Hooper		
Janis Gomes	EPA Region IX Project Officer for the Goshute Tribe	Provides EPA’s role in advising and overseeing EPA’s portion of the Wetland Program Plan
Suzanne Marr	EPA Region IX Wetlands Program	Provides EPA’s role in reviewing and approving the Wetland Program Plan

4.2 Funding Opportunities for Plan Implementation

The following programs provide funding opportunities for implementation of the Wetland Program Plan.

- CWA Section 106 Water Pollution Control Program (WPCP) grants provide federal financial assistance and are used for water quality monitoring, assessment, and protection that includes addressing wetlands as Waters of the U.S.
- CWA Section 104(b) (3) Wetlands grants provide federal financial assistance and are used for wetlands protection and management.
- Indian environmental General Assistance Program (GAP) grants are used for environmental program development and infrastructure for the environmental protection department that include wetland resources.
- CWA Section 518 specifies program authority for Tribes to administer the Section 303 Water Quality Standards Program and the Section 401 Water Quality Certification Program. These two programs do not specifically include financial assistance but can be used as tasks under the CWA Section 106 Water Pollution Control Program to provide wetland protection mechanisms.
- The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has trust responsibility on the Goshute Reservation and can provide technical and financial (638 funds) assistance and resources when available that include addressing Tribal wetland resources.
- The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can provide technical and financial assistance when available that include addressing Tribal wetland resources.
- The States of Utah and Nevada can provide Tribal funding opportunities that address the restoration of impaired Tribal wetland resources, especially headwater wetlands and wetland sites under both Tribal and State jurisdiction.

5.0
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