

NEVADA STATE CLIMATE STRATEGY



Nevada-wide Climate Action Starts Here.

Climate Change in Nevada

Over the past five decades, greenhouse gas emissions have driven daytime and nighttime temperatures higher and higher, drying our landscapes, compromising our water resources, exacerbating wildfires, and impacting our air quality. Both of Nevada’s major cities rank among the fastest-warming in the nation and the severe heat is impacting our natural resources, quality of life, and our most vulnerable communities. For the sake of Nevada’s future, and our children’s future, we must proactively mitigate climate change and set Nevada on a trajectory that will lead to healthier communities, a stronger economy, and more resilient natural landscapes throughout the state.

Coming December 2020: Nevada Climate Strategy

In November 2019, Governor Sisolak issued Executive Order 2019-22 calling for development of a Nevada State Climate Strategy by December 2020. In response to this directive, an interagency team created a framework for the Climate Strategy that is focused on robust engagement, assessment, and action on climate change issues in Nevada. The Climate Strategy will provide a framework designed to evaluate the alignment of policies with the timelines and benchmarks necessary for Nevada to achieve its greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.

 Take the Climate Strategy Survey: ClimateAction.nv.gov

Nevada Climate Action Goals Pursuant to SB 254

- ✓ Sets GHG emission-reduction targets as follows:
 - 28% below 2005 by 2025
 - 45% below 2005 by 2030
 - Net-zero by 2050
- ✓ Requires Annual GHG Inventory and Catalog of Policy Options
- ✓ Projections of Future Emissions

State of Nevada Climate Initiative

Under the leadership of Governor Sisolak, the new State of Nevada Climate Initiative (NCI) is moving Nevada forward on climate action. The growing effects of climate change are already being felt in all corners of the Silver State, impacting our collective public health and natural resources. NCI is committed to taking bold climate action to improve the health of all Nevadans while simultaneously fostering a sustainable, climate-friendly economy for Nevada.



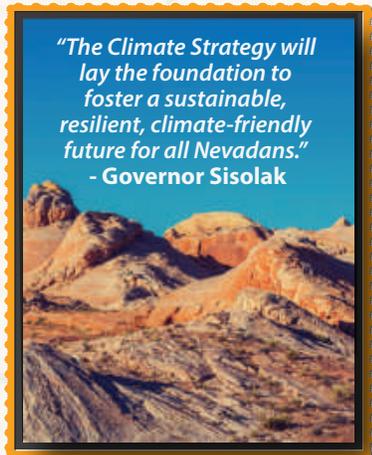
Let Your Voice be Heard.

Tune In to an Upcoming Climate Strategy Listening Session

The new Climate Strategy will be tailored to Nevada’s needs through inclusion of robust stakeholder engagement and solicitation of input from the general public, business and industry partners, conservation organizations, and all who have an interest in this important undertaking.

Beginning September 2020, Nevada officials will be hosting virtual listening sessions to gather input on an array of climate change topics, such as:

- How do you think transportation should change to reduce emissions?
- What do you think will help make communities more energy efficient?
- How can forest management benefit communities?
- What are the climate-friendly opportunities to revitalize, strengthen, and diversify our economy?
- How can climate action benefit disadvantaged neighborhoods, communities of color, indigenous peoples and other vulnerable populations?



Registration for the Virtual Listening Sessions opens August 24, 2020.

Sign up today by visiting ClimateAction.nv.gov/strategy.

Topic	Date & Time
Renewable Energy	Monday, September 14 1–2:30pm
Land Use & Land Change	Tuesday, September 15 2:30–4pm
Transportation Transformation	Thursday, September 17 1–2:30pm
Air Quality	Tuesday, September 22 2:30–4pm
Urban Planning	Thursday, September 24 2:30–4pm
Economic Recovery	Tuesday, September 29 2:30–4pm
Green Buildings	Thursday, October 1 1–2:30pm
Climate Justice	Tuesday, October 6 2:30–4pm

Agenda Item 11

Steve Sisolak
Governor



Richard Whitley
Director

State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services

Update Concerning the Status of COVID-19 in Nevada

Kyra Morgan, MS, State Biostatistician

Julia Peek, MHA, CPM, Deputy Administrator of Community Health Services



8/26/2020

Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.



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COVID-19 By The Numbers

COVID-19 (Coronavirus)



State of Nevada
Department of Health and
Human Services
Office of Analytics
data@dhhs.nv.gov



For More Information Please Visit:

[Nevada Health Response](#)

Last updated on 08/26/2020 at 10:00 am, with data through the previous day. Please note that updates apply incrementally and may be in process for up to an hour after the update time listed here.

Total Tests (molecular)

823,189
+ 3,407

Confirmed Cases

66,666
+ 253

Deaths

1,250
+20

Tests per 1,000 per week*

13.8

Daily Positivity Rate*

11.1%

Cumulative Positivity Rate*

10.6%

Please reference technical notes page for updated methodology.

Current Hospitalizations

Confirmed Suspected

611 150
-41 +30

Intensive Care Unit (ICU)

211
-5

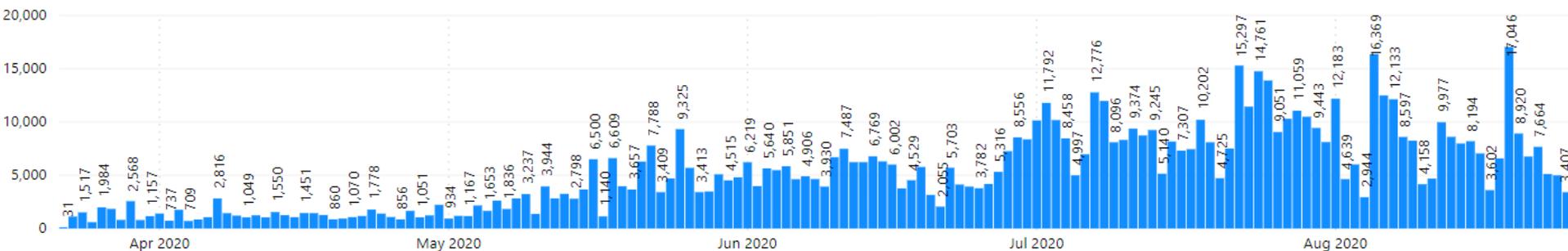
Hospitalization data are not updated on Sundays.

COVID-19 data are reported as timely, accurately, and completely as we have available. Data are updated as we receive information that is more complete and will change over time as we learn more.
*The daily positivity rate and number of tests per 1,000 per week are reported on a 5-day lag and based on the date the sample was collected (specimen collection date). The cumulative positivity rate is cumulative through the most recent specimen collection date with data available.

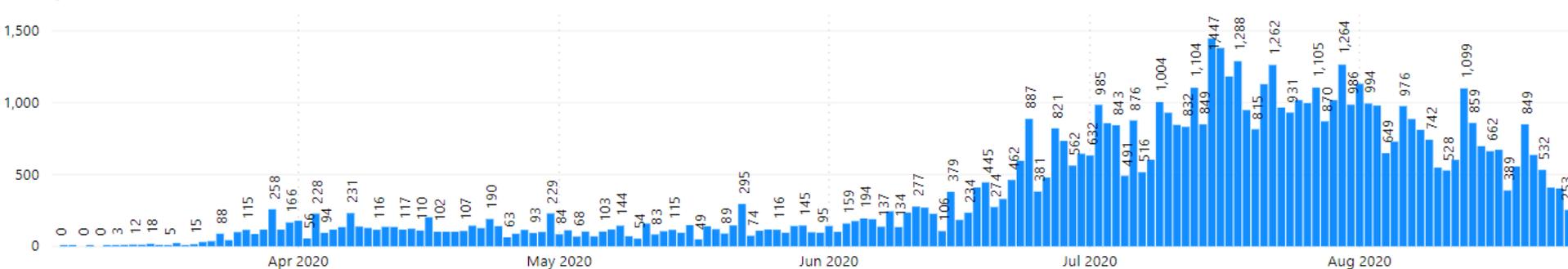
COVID-19 By The Numbers

Nevada has experienced a sustained decline in new cases being diagnosed since July 13th.
 We experienced the highest number of daily deaths 8/5 – 26 deaths.

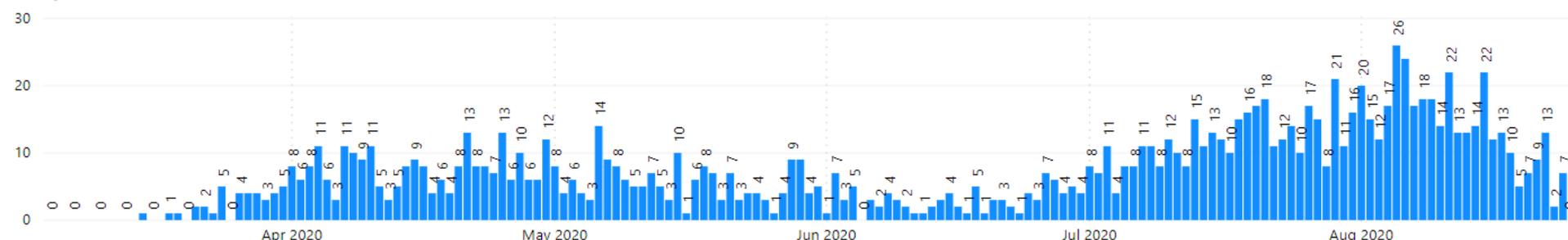
Daily New Tests Reported



Daily New Cases



Daily Deaths



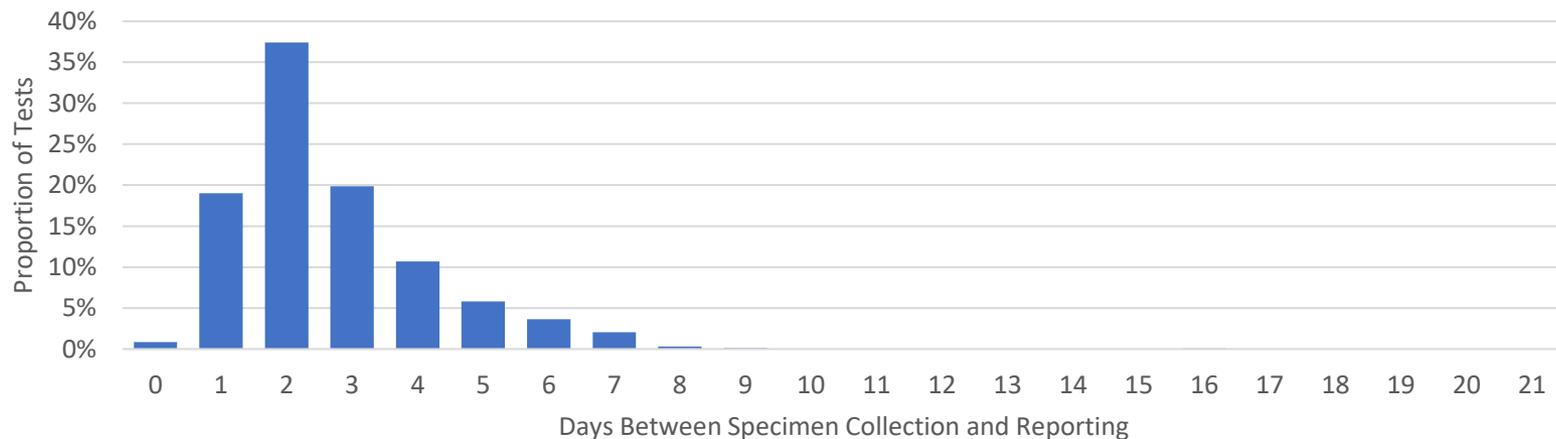
COVID-19 Testing Turnaround



Analysis Variable : Specimen_To_Report_Days

	N	%	Median Time from Specimen Collection to Report
CPL	2,057	1%	2
LABCORP	15,264	11%	2
NSPHL	24,031	17%	3
Other	14,194	10%	3
QUEST	20,344	14%	4
RRMC	2,595	2%	2
SOUTHERN	7,831	5%	3
UMC	56,571	40%	2
Total	142,887	100%	2

For specimens collected since August 1st, it has taken approximately 2 days after specimen collection for results to be reported.

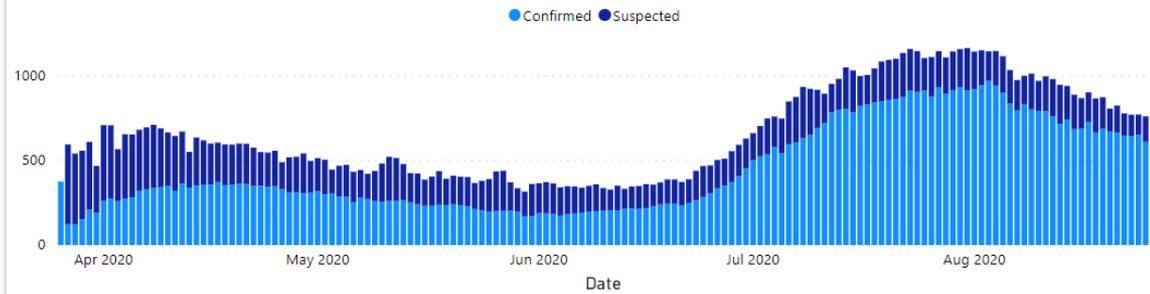


COVID-19 By The Numbers

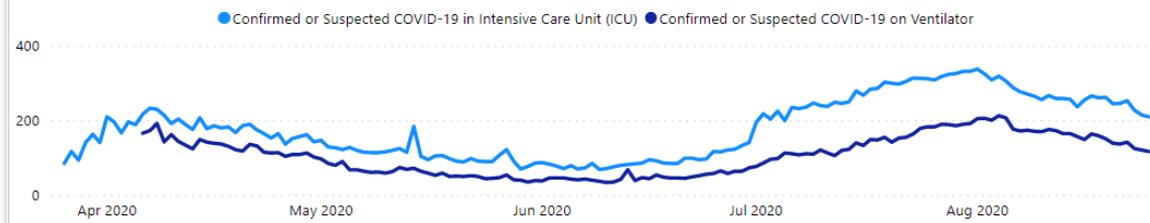


Hospitalizations were following an increasing trend until 8/03 and have since been decreasing for the past 22 days.

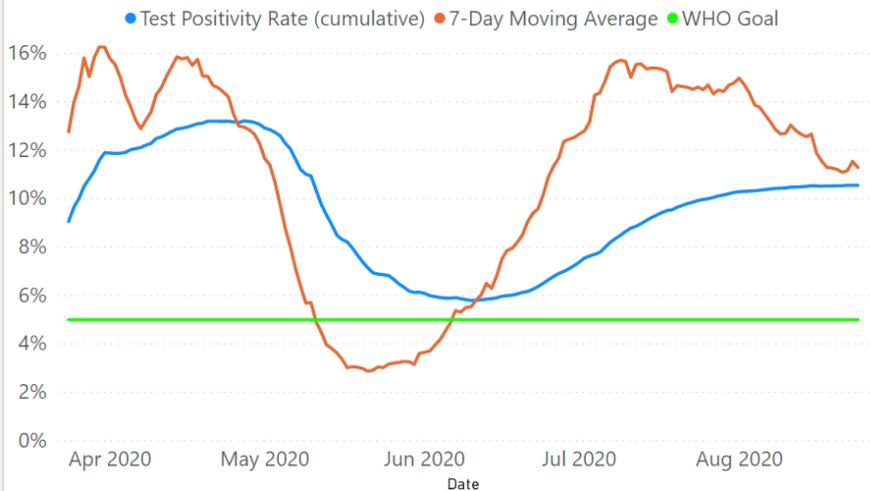
Confirmed and Suspected Hospitalizations by Date



Confirmed and Suspected Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and Ventilator Use by Date



Test Positivity Rate (cumulative), 7-Day Moving Average and WHO Goal by Specimen Collection Date



The cumulative test positivity rate was following an increasing trend until 08/01 and has been stabilizing for the past 26 days, with only very slow increases.



COVID-19 County Tracker

COVID-19 County Tracker



State of Nevada
Department of Health and
Human Services
Office of Analytics



[For additional COVID-19 statistics, click here to access the main data dashboard](#)

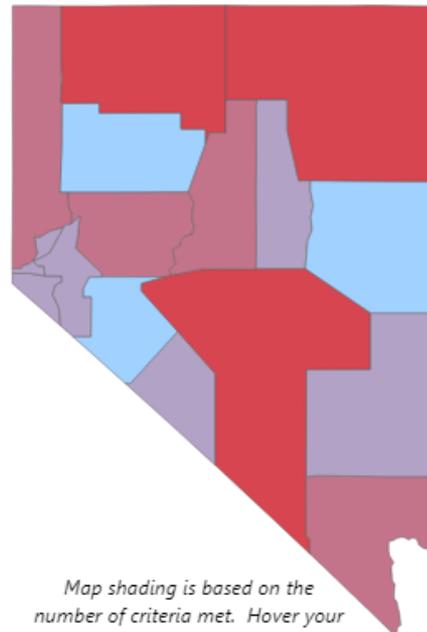
Last updated: 08/19/2020

County Tracker

Nevada's counties are diverse in so many ways and have been impacted by COVID differently. In order to ensure that each county is assessed for elevated disease transmission, this tracker will be updated on Fridays for the previous 2-week period in order to monitor progress.

A county is flagged for elevated disease transmission if it meets two of the three criteria:

- Average number of tests per day (per 100,000) < 150.** The average number of molecular tests conducted in the most recent complete two week period in a county, divided by the number of people living in the county. This number is then multiplied by 100,000 to control for varying populations in counties. Due to reporting delay, this is reported over a 14-day period with a 7-day lag. Counties that average fewer than 150 tests per day will meet this criterion.
- Case rate (per 100,000) > 200.** The total number of cases diagnosed and reported over a 30-day period divided by the number of people living in the county. This number is then multiplied by 100,000 to control for varying populations in counties. Counties with a case rate greater than 200 per 100,000 will meet this criterion.
- Case rate (per 100,000) > 50 AND testing positivity > 7.0%.** The total number of positive molecular tests divided by the total number of molecular tests conducted. This number is then multiplied by 100 to get a percentage. Due to reporting delay (which may be different between positive and negative tests), this is reported over a 14-day period with a 7-day lag. Counties with a test positivity > 7.0% paired with case rate greater than 50 per 100,000 will meet this criterion.



Map shading is based on the number of criteria met. Hover your cursor over a county to display more data.

County	Average Number of Tests per Day per 100,000 (14-day average with 7-day lag)	Case Rate per 100,000 (last 30 days)	Test Positivity (14-day with 7-day lag)
Carson City	268.7	283.0	5.0%
Churchill	194.6	228.0	8.7%
Clark	221.4	768.2	14.6%
Douglas	131.5	120.7	3.0%
Elko	126.9	445.6	14.8%
Esmeralda	80.7	0.0	0.0%
Eureka	134.4	50.9	5.4%
Humboldt	71.2	375.1	8.2%
Lander	81.0	150.1	13.2%
Lincoln	94.8	38.5	1.4%
Lyon	76.7	100.0	6.9%
Mineral	159.7	43.9	0.0%
Nye	80.0	259.9	12.4%
Pershing	303.7	43.1	1.0%
Storey	20.8	0.0	0.0%
Washoe	171.9	381.3	8.7%
White Pine	467.6	85.0	1.2%

COVID-19 County Tracker

COVID-19 County Tracker



State of Nevada
Department of Health and
Human Services
Office of Analytics



[For additional COVID-19 statistics, click here to access the main data dashboard](#)

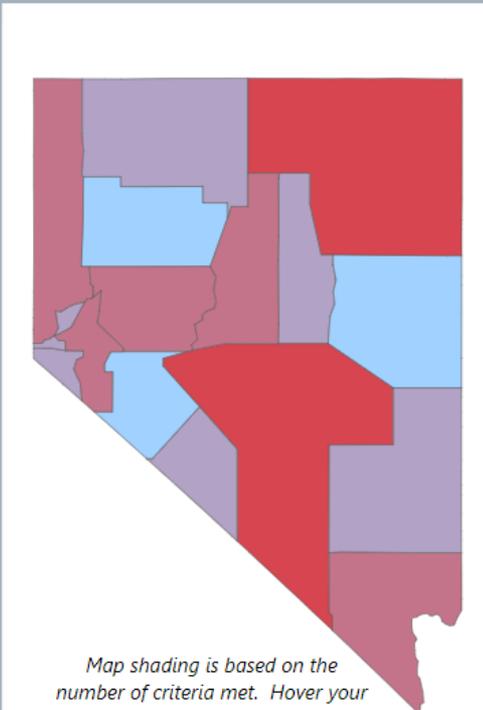
Last updated: 08/26/2020

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Map shading is based on the number of criteria met. Hover your cursor over a county to display more data.

County	Average Number of Tests per Day per 100,000 (14-day average with 7-day lag)	Case Rate per 100,000 (last 30 days)	Test Positivity (14-day with 7-day lag)
Carson City	233.4	260.0	4.3%
Churchill	180.3	305.3	10.7%
Clark	236.2	650.8	13.0%
Douglas	114.7	92.6	2.9%
Elko	119.8	443.8	16.8%
Esmeralda	58.7	0.0	0.0%
Eureka	119.9	50.9	6.1%
Humboldt	65.3	117.2	5.8%
Lander	91.7	183.5	10.4%
Lincoln	94.8	57.7	1.4%
Lyon	67.9	106.9	7.4%
Mineral	236.5	109.6	0.7%
Nye	68.6	229.2	14.7%
Pershing	427.8	57.5	0.5%
Storey	11.2	0.0	0.0%
Washoe	159.3	335.2	9.1%
White Pine	506.7	132.3	1.7%

COVID-19 County Tracker

County Tracker criteria over time.

County	7/9/2020	7/24/2020	7/30/2020	8/6/2020	8/13/2020	8/19/2020	8/26/2020
Carson City	1	2	2	2	1	1	1
Churchill	0	0	0	0	1	2	2
Clark	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Douglas	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Elko	2	2	2	3	3	3	3
Esmeralda	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
Eureka	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
Humboldt	2	1	3	3	3	3	1
Lander	2	1	1	2	2	2	2
Lincoln	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
Lyon	2	1	1	1	1	1	2
Mineral	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nye	3	3	2	2	3	3	3
Pershing	1	0	1	1	1	0	0
Storey	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Washoe	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
White Pine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Churchill County is now flagged for elevated disease transmission for a second consecutive week, due to high case rate and high test positivity.

Lyon County is also flagged for the first time since the original run of the data, with a fairly low case rate but insufficient testing numbers and a slightly elevated positivity rate (7.4%).

Humboldt is no longer flagged. Most of the cases that were driving their elevated case rate and positivity are no longer in the evaluation period (they were experiencing active outbreak about a month ago).



Case Investigation and Contact Tracing

Vendor/Agency	Estimated FTEs (call center staff, contact tracers, management, epidemiologists, disease investigators, administrative support, statisticians, etc.) funded through CRF and ELC
Deloitte	250*
CAAA	200
UNLV (supports Clark County)	100
Great Basin College (supports Elko County, Lander County, and Eureka County)	4
UNR (supports Washoe County, Carson City, Lyon County, Storey County, and Douglas County)	90
State/Local Health Depts	200
Total Estimated Contract Staffing	844

- **Goals:**
 - Every Nevadan who tests positive for COVID-19 will be contacted by a contact tracer within 24 hours of that confirmatory lab report being received by the health authority.
 - Within 24 hours of identifying a close contact of a case, those individuals will be communicated with by a contact tracer.
- The [COVID Trace app](#) fully launch in Google and Apple on Monday. Major marketing and press will occur this week to ensure early adoption is maximized.
 - 12,000 downloads as of 8/26 morning
- Ongoing themes related to case investigation and contact tracing:
 - Social gatherings/Familial/household exposure
 - Exposure at businesses/community exposure
 - Hotel/resort
 - Correctional/Institutional Setting
 - Food establishments
 - Healthcare settings

COVID-19 Cases Identified Through Contact Tracing Efforts from January 1, 2020 to August 25, 2020

County	Positive Contacts Identified Through Case Investigation
Carson	4
Churchill	37
Clark	11,852
Douglas	0
Elko	200
Eureka	0
Humboldt	33
Lander	25
Lincoln	0
Lyon	0
Mineral	4
Nye	45
Pershing	1
Storey	0
Washoe	599
White Pine	4
Total	12,804 (represents 19.2% of total cases reported to date – up from 17.4% from last week)

Please note Esmeralda County is omitted from this table, as they have had no reported COVID-19 cases to date. Data may change as cases still open for investigation are subject to changes in identification process types.



*plan to reduce the contact tracing staff through Deloitte



Discussion





Nevada Association of Counties

304 S. Minnesota Street
Carson City, NV 89703
775-883-7863
www.nvnaco.org

September X, 2020

Gary Frazer
Assistant Director, Ecological Services Program
Public Comments Processing
Attn: FWS-HQ-ES-2020-0047;
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
MS: PRB(3W),
5275 Leesburg Pike,
Falls Church, VA 22041

Re: Proposal to add definition of “habitat” to regulations that implement Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 as Amended (Docket: FWS-HQ-ES-2020-0047)

Dear Assistant Director Frazer,

As the state association representing all 17 of Nevada’s counties, the Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) appreciates the Fish and Wildlife Service’s (FWS) proposal to add a definition for “habitat” to regulations implementing the ESA, 50 C.F.R., part 424. The adoption of this definition will help add clarity to future determination of critical habitat and help guide future management decisions.

Wildlife and habitat conservation are important to counties. Local communities both value and depend on the natural resources and ecosystems that are within and around them. Modifications to regulations implementing the ESA should focus on promoting on-the-ground results and habitat restoration that recognizes efficiency as well as the importance of local government planning to conservation.

NACO Prefers the Proposed Definition with Modifications

Of the two proposed definitions NACO prefers FWS preferred definition. We prefer this definition over the alternative definition because the alternative definition lacks clarity and does not provide any additional limits on what could be considered habitat. The proposed definition should be modified to use terms consistent with ESA’s statutory language.

In its notice, the FWS states that the proposed and alternative definition for “habitat” must be “inherently broader than the statutory definition of critical habitat” because the statute defines “critical habitat” to include both occupied and unoccupied areas.” This is logically sound. However, NACO requests clarification as to why the proposed definition of “habitat” does not incorporate terms consistent with the definition of “critical habitat”. As FWS points out, habitat is necessarily broader than critical habitat, but NACO disagrees with the decision to omit consistent terms and replace them with terms not yet defined in statute or case law.

The ESA defines critical habitat as:

“geographical area occupied by the species at the time it is listed...on which are found those physical or biological features (I) essential to the conservation of the species and (II) which may require special management considerations or protection.”

NACO submits that the operative term in the definition for critical habitat is the term “essential.” NACO would suggest adoption of the preferred definition for habitat therefore, with following modifications:

“The ~~physical places~~ geographical area that individuals of a species depend upon to carry out one or more life processes. Habitat includes areas with existing ~~attributes~~ physical or biological features that have the capacity to support individuals of the species.”

This modified proposed definition eliminates the undefined terms “physical places” and “existing attributes” from the proposed definition and replaces them with terms used elsewhere in the ESA. This would eliminate any subsequent need for FWS to further define and distinguish “existing attributes,” and “physical places” from terms that have been defined through regulation and case law.

Furthermore, by requiring that habitat includes areas with “existing physical or biological features”, the FWS would create a definition that is consistent with the decision in *Weyerhauser Co. v United States Fish and Wildlife Service*, which FWS cites as the impetus for this rulemaking. In *Weyerhauser*, the court made clear that any critical habitat must first be habitat without needing any improvement or modification to become habitat. “Only the ‘habitat’ of the endangered species is eligible for designation as critical habitat. Even if an area otherwise meets the statutory definition of unoccupied critical habitat because the Secretary finds the area essential for the conservation of the species, Section 4(a)(3)(A)(i) does not authorize the Secretary to designate the area as *critical* habitat unless it is also *habitat* for the species.”

The definition of habitat therefore, as the court points out, should imply that though individuals of a species may not occupy the area, they could survive there at the time of designation.

Why NACO Does Not Prefer the Alternative Definition

It is unclear if the alternative definition put forward by FWS does more to limit habitat to areas where individuals of the species could survive than does the proposed definition. At the same time, the alternative definition lacks the clarity of the proposed definition. For instance, the alternative definition would replace “depend upon” with “use.” Does “use” narrow the scope of habitat to areas where individuals of species could currently survive?

While “where the necessary attributes to support the species presently exist” appears to create a narrower definition of habitat than the proposed definition, it is unclear whether it in fact does. For instance, the proposed definition includes the requirement for “existing” attributes or features, which implies that attributes “presently” exist and that the area does not require improvement to become habitat. Lastly, the alternative definition is redundant insofar as it states that habitat may be “unoccupied.” As the court in *Weyerhauser* repeatedly makes clear, habitat necessarily includes unoccupied areas because critical habitat includes unoccupied areas.



Conclusion

We appreciate the FWS's consideration of NACO's suggested modifications to the proposed definition for "habitat." Conservation of species and habitat is both a value and a priority for Nevada's counties. We trust that you will continue to consider and value the input of Nevada's counties as this process moves forward. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at dstapleton@nvnaco.org, or by phone at (775) 883-7863.

Respectfully,

Dagny Stapleton
Executive Director

Draft

