



News Release

For Immediate Release
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East Walker River Natural Resource Trustees Seek Comments on Revised Draft Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment

The East Walker River Natural Resource Trustees (Trustees), today, released a revised Draft Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment (DRP/EA) describing restoration alternatives being considered as compensation for the accidental release of fuel oil into the East Walker River by Advanced Fuel Filtration Systems Inc., on December 30, 2000. The Trustees, comprised of representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Game – Office of Spill Prevention and Response, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, and the Nevada Department of Wildlife, are seeking comments and information from the public on the overall restoration planning approach and the proposed restoration alternatives.

An earlier DRP/EA was released for a 30-day public comment period on March 14, 2008. Comments and information received regarding the March DRP/EA, demonstrated the need to revise the DRP/EA to clarify the scope of restoration actions being considered by the Trustees.

Proposed restoration projects in the revised DRP/EA are divided into two categories representing the types of work needed to compensate for the resources that were injured in the spill. These categories are In-stream/Riparian Restoration and Recreational Fishing/Human Use Improvements. Projects considered under these categories include:

- **In-stream/Riparian Restoration**
 - CDFG Fuels Reduction & Riparian Enhancement

- **Recreational Fishing/Human Use Improvements**
 - East Walker River Wildlife Area Restroom
 - East Walker River Wildlife Area Vehicle Access Control
 - Slinkard Creek Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Enhancement
 - Rosaschi Ranch Outdoor Recreational Improvements

Trustees will be available August 20, 2008 at an open house to provide information and answer questions about the revised DRP/EA and proposed restoration projects. The Trustees will also be accepting additional restoration ideas from the public for consideration in future restoration project planning. The open house will take place at the Walker Community Center, 299 Mule Deer Road, Walker, CA, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The release of fuel oil occurred when a tanker truck, operated by Advanced Fuel Filtration Systems Inc., overturned on California State Route 182 north of Bridgeport, California, resulting in the release of approximately 3,608 gallons into the East Walker River. The fuel visibly oiled approximately ten linear miles of stream habitat; seven of which were in Mono County, California and three in Lyon County, Nevada.

Copies of the East Walker River DRP/EA are available by contacting the Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office at 1340 Financial Boulevard, Suite 234, Reno, Nevada 89502, (775) 861-6300, and at the following website: <http://www.fws.gov/nevada>. Comments or information on the DRP/EA can be sent to the above address or emailed to wriver_oilspill@fws.gov, and must be received by September 15, 2008.

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