



Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe

# EPA-Tribal Environmental Plan (ETEP) **DRAFT**

2026-2030  
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# **I. Introduction**

The purpose of this Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe's EPA-Tribal Environmental Plan (ETEP) is to identify environmental and public health concerns, determine priorities, and develop solutions for future years.

The information in this EPA-Tribal Environmental Plan will assist the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe (FPST) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to focus its resources to enhance environmental program development. Solutions and actions identified in this plan are feasible within a short-term schedule of 1 to 4 years. The ETEP is a living document that may be updated and revised periodically at the discretion of the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe.

## **A. *Establishment, Location & Land Base***

The Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe of the Fallon Reservation and Colony is a Federally-recognized Indian Tribe that manages tribal trust and non-trust properties located within Region 9 boundaries of the EPA. There are two tribes that occupy the FPST Reservation, the Paiute and Shoshone Tribes.

The Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, also known as the Toi Ticutta (cattail eaters), is located in the Lahontan Basin. The FPST Reservation is located in Churchill County in West Central Nevada. The nearest city with a population of over 25,000 is Reno, Nevada, located approximately 65 miles to the east. The City of Fallon with a population of 8,500 is located 12 miles west of the Reservation. The Fallon Colony is located approximately 2 miles northeast of the City of Fallon. The 36 acre Fox Peak Centre and property are located within the City of Fallon limits.

The FPST Reservation was established on April 20, 1907 with 4,680 acres allotted (35 Stat. 85). The Fallon Colony was established by a Departmental Order which granted the Tribe 40 acres on August 13, 1917, and the land base increased by 20 acres by legislation in 1958. Since its establishment, the land base of the Tribe has grown as additional land was acquired by the Tribe. An additional 3,480 acres, known as Fallon II, were added to the north side of the Reservation, making the total acreage for the Reservation 8,120 acres. An additional 353 acres were purchased through the years near the Reservation. The Tribe acquired 36 acres of land in the City of Fallon for economic development. The Tribe opened the Fox Peak Station and an 8-plex movie theater on the property. An additional one acre of property was acquired by the Tribe in Fernley, NV. This land was purchased for economic development and opened a Fox Peak 2 station on the property.

The Tribe is currently in the process of acquiring an additional 10,000 acres as part of the National Defense Authorization Act.

TABLE I-1 FPST LAND BASE

Property Name	Acres	Nearest City	Status
Reservation	3,480	Fallon	Trust
Allotted	4,680	Fallon	Trust
Colony	60	Fallon	Trust
Fox Peak Fallon Site	36	Fallon	Trust
Additional Reservation Area Land	353	Fallon	Trust
Fox Peak Fernley Site	1	Fernley	Trust
<b>TOTAL ACRES</b>	<b>8,610</b>		

## ***B. Environmental Protection Program***

**Vision:** A clean and protected environment supporting a sustainable healthy quality of life.

**Mission:** Protect human health and the environment, and conserve natural resources.

The FPST Environmental Protection Department was established in 1998 with the mission of protecting human health, the environment and to conserve natural resources. The department consists of four full-time and two part time staff that manage environmental programs.

Current grant programs under the EPA Performance Partnership Grant (PPG), include the EPA General Assistance Program (GAP) that addresses tribal capacity program building, solid waste, air quality, USTs, and environmental investigations. An EPA CWA 106 Water Pollution Control Program that addresses water quality pollution prevention. In addition, an EPA CWA 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Base Program addresses non-point source water pollution.

The department also has an EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Planning program that addresses climate adaption and resilience planning. The department also has a Tribal Mosquito & Weed Abatement Program to reduce West Nile Virus public health threat to the community.

## **II. Environmental Program Priorities**

The environmental protection program priorities listed are important factors as to how the Tribe will engage with the EPA in developing short and long term milestones for building Tribal capacity.

### **A. *Safe Drinking Water***

#### **1. EPA Indicators**

D.3.4 The Tribe received funding under the EPA Source Water Assessment Program.

D.3.6 The Tribe has established community outreach/education programs related to water quality and/or protecting health through safe drinking water.

D.3.34 The Tribe has delineated source water protection areas.

D.3.35 The Tribe has developed source water assessment and protection plan

#### **2. Ground Water Quality**

The Fallon Paiute-Shoshone water system supplies drinking water to the Fallon Colony and to the Reservation residents. In total, approximately 330 tribal households and 18 off reservation non-tribal households are served by this water system. The sources of supply are Colony Wells No. 1 and 2, which are 95 and 130 feet deep, respectively.

For many years, the drinking water served by the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribes' public water system contained arsenic at levels in excess of 100 parts per billion (ppb). A new arsenic treatment system using coagulation and microfiltration was placed into service on January 28, 2005 and is successfully reducing arsenic levels from the range of 90 to 120 ppb to less than 10 ppb. The arsenic treatment plant can treat 500,000 gallons of water per day, with a 350 gallon per minute flow. Water storage is provided through 250,000-gallon tank on top of Rattlesnake Hill and a 125,000-gallon gravity-fed water tower on the Reservation. The arsenic treated water travels from the Colony through approximately 13 miles of waterline to service the Reservation households located approximately 6 miles east of the Colony.

The waterline crosses the properties of 18 non-Indians between the Colony and the Reservation. In exchange for a water line right-of-way across the 18 properties, the Tribe agreed to provide one service connection to each property owner for one household.

Under an EPA Source Water Assessment Program, the Tribe developed a Wellhead Protection Plan to analyze and delineate the wellhead protection area. Final wellhead protection area delineations were conservative and intended to assist the Tribe in prioritizing risks to water quality from potential sources of contamination; respond appropriately to events such as accidental spills of hazardous chemicals; and developing land use strategies for the Tribal community as adjacent properties develop.

Based on analysis completed for the plan, the water supply's vulnerability to each contaminant or corresponding source was determined. The Tribe's inventoried Potential Contaminant Sources (PCS) hazards with prioritization included Well #1 (including treatment plant), Well #2 (including treatment plant), residential runoff and hazardous household wastes, S Line Canal, agricultural operations and historic solid waste dump. Unless conditions change, PCS's that are determined to be adequately controlled and do not typically require further management strategies other than those already utilized by the Tribe. All PCS's require continued monitoring to ensure that they remain under control.

The Public Works Department is the responsible entity to oversee the operation and maintenance and compliance of the Tribes community water system.

### **3. Safe Drinking Water Protection Goals**

- ❖ Ensure that the Tribe's drinking water is safe and to sustainably manage drinking water resources.
- ❖ Improve and protect the Tribe's drinking water and its sources.
- ❖ Prevent illegal use of Tribal drinking water off of the Reservation.
- ❖ Protect the Tribal water system.

### **4. Feasible Solutions**

- Provide a community outreach/education programs related to water quality and/or protecting health through safe drinking water. 2026-2030
- Ensure proper drinking water testing procedures in accordance with Federal Guidelines. 2026-2030
- Develop or update codes and ordinances to protect the tribal water system and to ensure water conservation practices. 2026-2030
- Implement routine updates to SWPA contaminant inventory and contaminate source notifications. 2026-2030
- Review, update & revise water treatment plant contingency/emergency response plans. 2028

## **5. Key Personnel**

- Fallon Business Council and Tribal Attorney
- Public Works Department
- Environmental Protection Department
- Indian Health Service
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Tribal Law Enforcement

## **6. Resource Needs and Potential Resources**

- Indian Health Service, RCAC, Nevada Rural Water Association and EPA technical assistance.
- EPA Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside grants, EPA Source Water Assessment Planning Program grants, Indian Health Service funding.
- Legal Assistance
- Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona training for Tribal water operators.



## ***B. Surface Water Resources***

### **1. EPA Indicators**

D.3.4 The Tribe is receiving funding under the Clean Water Act.

D.3.5 The Tribe has identified its water resources and associated environmental Human Health issues.

D.3.6 The Tribe has established community outreach/education programs related to water quality and/or protecting health through safe drinking water.

D.3.10 The Tribe has developed a water quality monitoring strategy.

D.3.11 The Tribe has developed a quality assurance project plan (QAPP) associated with the water quality monitoring strategy.

D.3.12 The Tribe has established data management functions for its water quality monitoring data, including a program to collect and upload all required quality assured surface monitoring data into WQX/STORET database where applicable.

D.3.13 The Tribe has developed a water quality monitoring program.

D.3.15 The Tribe has worked with the Carson River Coalition stakeholders in the watershed to develop a Carson River Watershed plan that identifies nonpoint source pollution problems and options for best management practices.

### **2. Surface Water Quality**

Surface water on Tribal lands consists of approximately 480 acres of Tribal designated wetland marshes, 29 stream-miles of drainage ditches, and 26 stream-miles of irrigation canals.

The tribal designated wetland area is the area set aside by the Tribe that identifies the area to be managed for wetland resources. The undesignated wetland area is the area that has wetland characteristics, such as wetland vegetation and hydric soils that is currently unmanaged for wetland resources. The BIA Wetlands Management program currently provides continues water quality monitoring through a 638 program under the Natural Resources Department. However, the BIA Wetlands Management 638 program is scheduled to end in 2026.

Surface water uses include cultural uses, primary recreation contact, secondary recreation contact, fishing, hunting, aquatic habitat, and crop irrigation. Tribal elders have indicated that shellfish gathering was a use that existed, but no

longer exists as a resource. Cattails and willows are a cultural resource for the Tribe.

Water quality samples are collected at regular sampling sites at an interval of 4 times a year to establish a baseline of water quality conditions throughout the year. Regular sampling sites were designated as such based on the representativeness of the site and the specific data necessary for each site to determine the quality of water of each water body.

Overall, the water quality on tribal lands during years 2012-2025 was mostly degraded or it has maintained its impaired status. There are many reasons that could explain why tribal waters are impaired. A likely cause of impairment is non-point source pollution that accumulates from the beginning of our watershed and ends up being detected in higher levels as we are located at the end of our watershed. Another factor to consider are the times of severe lack of water ultimately due to lack of snow pack and drought. In 2015, there was no water data, as the water delivery irrigation system was halted. In 2017, there happened to be an above average water year. The extra surge of water had a minimal impact on water quality improvement. As the quantity of water available in the watershed fluctuates through wet and dry years, the Tribe will continue to conduct analysis to determine the effect of water availability on water quality.

### **3. Water Quality Goals**

- ❖ Protect, improve and maintain the water quality of the water bodies on Tribal lands.
- ❖ Increase water quality monitoring program capabilities.
- ❖ Attain EPA-approved water quality standards for water bodies on Tribal lands.
- ❖ Achieve water quality that provides for all potential uses, including the protection of threatened and endangered species.
- ❖ Reduce nonpoint source pollution impacts on surface water, ground water, aquatic and riparian habitat.

### **4. Feasible Solutions**

- Continue seeking grant funding to continue the water quality management program under the EPA CWA Section 106 Program. 2026-2030

- Provide community educational outreach on water quality, nonpoint source pollution and conservation. 2026-2030
- Continue water quality monitoring under the EPA approved QAPP and observational assessments to determine overall water quality of water bodies on Tribal lands. 2026-2030
- Support planning for permaculture strategies for the protection and improvement of Tribal water bodies. 2026-2030
- Develop and maintain a tribal GIS database. 2026-2030.
- Develop and begin implementing a seasonal inspection checklist for nonpoint source hotspots. Use it to regularly observe changes in sedimentation, trash accumulation, erosion patterns and pollutant runoff in indicators. 2029
- Develop and submit a Treatment as a State (TAS) package for EPA approved Water Quality Standards program. 2026
- Enhance and update the Erosion and Sediments Control Structures BMP to reduce nonpoint source pollution. 2027
- Protect and improve water quality by updating and developing narrative water quality criteria based on the data currently being collected. 2026-2030
- Develop a Street Runoff Collection and Storm Drainage Structures BMP to reduce nonpoint source pollution. 2027
- Create a small “Homeowner’s Guide to Clean Water” booklet for Tribal residents that includes tips for proper waste disposal, septic system care, household chemical use, and low-cost. 2028
- Establish new monitoring stations, draft water quality monitoring plan amendments and update the Tribe’s QAPP. 2026
- Update the Surface Runoff Management BMP’s to reduce nonpoint source pollution. 2027
- Develop and promulgate water quality standards including designated uses for Tribal waters. 2028
- Review and update the Tribal Non-Point Source Assessment Report and Management Plan. 2026
- Seek solutions to receive water quality data from the Natural Resources Department. 2026
- Evaluate effectiveness of current water quality codes and ordinances and update or develop new ones if needed.
- Update groundwater and wellhead protection plan. 2029

## **5. Key Personnel**

- Fallon Business Council and Tribal Attorney
- Environmental Protection Department
- Wetlands Program
- Tribal Community
- Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Carson River Coalition

## **6. Resource Needs and Potential Resources**

- Water quality training and technical assistance for the Tribe.
- Grant funding to support water quality planning and management and best management practices implementation.
- Collaboration with appropriate agencies to ensure access to resources that support water quality improvement and management planning.
- Water quality and best management practice training and technical assistance for the Tribe.
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation technical assistance.
- Collaboration with appropriate agencies to ensure access to resources that support water quality improvement and best management practice planning and implementation.

## ***C. Air Quality***

### **1. EPA Indicators**

D.3.10 The Tribe has developed an air monitoring quality assurance project plan (QAPP).

C.3.2. The Tribe has completed appropriate training and acquired baseline knowledge and skills related to the CAA.

C.3.3 The Tribe has completed appropriate indoor air quality training and acquired skill related to indoor air quality.

C.3.11 Tribe has an established a radon program that test residential and other occupied structures for radon, identifies those above the EPA action level and conducts outreach and education in the community.

### **2. Ambient Air Quality**

The FPST Reservation and surrounding areas in Churchill County, Nevada are not in non-attainment for any of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) pollutants according to the EPA Green Book, as of June 30, 2025.

The Tribe is concerned about the quality of ambient air within Tribal lands and is developing an air quality monitor program. Air borne agriculture chemicals and particulate matter (PM) are the pollutants common to rural areas.

The Environmental Protection Department is developing a tribal air program, under the EPA General Assistance Program (GAP). The department recently purchased a E-BAM Plus Beta Attenuation Monitor through an EPA Enhanced Air Quality Program grant to tract PM10 levels within the community. The department completed a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for PM-10 Monitoring in 2008 and continues to seek Clean Air Act (CAA) grant funding to begin air quality monitoring on Tribal lands. T

In the summer of 2000, a cluster of Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia (ALL) cases was identified in the community of Fallon, NV. Seventeen children were diagnosed with ALL in the cluster, 3 children died. Multiple investigations and studies have been conducted in an attempt to determine the cause of the cluster by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), U.S. Geological Service (USGS), Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), and multiple universities. In a study conducted by the ATSDR in 2003 identified several sources of air pollution in the Fallon area including prescribed burning of irrigation supply canals and industrial smelting and refinement operations as potential pathways for exposure. A study conducted by the CDC determined that 8 out of 10 Fallon

residents had elevated levels of tungsten in their urine. Another study determined that the tungsten particles are anthropogenic and that the distribution of the particles in the area indicated that they are focused around a point source. The Tribe is concerned about the potential exposure to Tribal residents of metals and other hazardous air pollutants that may drift onto Tribal lands.

### **3. Particulate Matter and Regional Smoke**

The Tribe is also concerned about the potential health effect of smoke that is present in the regional air space during burning of agricultural properties, drainage ditches, and at the Fallon Naval Air Station located southeast of the FPST Colony and southwest of the FPST Reservation. When burning takes place during inversion conditions, the smoke spreads across the Lahontan valley and is visible for an extended period of time spreading in the direction of the FPST Colony and Reservation.

More yearly wildland forest fires in the Sierra Nevada mountains generate smoke plumes that carry east and affect the air quality in the area. This smoke impacts human health in the area, especially for the elders and the young. The Tribe established a Tribal Air Quality Flag Program to notify the community about outdoor air quality conditions in the area. The environmental department raises a flag each day that corresponds with the current local air quality forecast. The color of the flag matches the EPA's Air Quality Index. This program helps the community adjust their activities to help reduce exposure to bad air quality.

### **4. Open Burning of Household Waste**

Open burning of household wastes including plastics, and potentially hazardous wastes are a health concern especially for residents living in Tribal residential subdivisions. In order to effectively address the issue of open burning, an additional solid waste disposal service was obtained through the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe to provide a more affordable option to the area. An open burning ordinance was also developed to address this community health concern.

### **5. Indoor Air Quality**

The Tribe currently has an active indoor air quality program that addresses indoor air quality issues, under the General Assistance Program (GAP). The

radon program conducts radon sampling and testing in Tribal homes and facilities when requested.

The Environmental Protection Department has received training in radon and mold issues. The department continues to investigate mold complaints, along with other IAQ issues.

## **6. Air Quality Goals**

- ❖ Develop technical skills and establish core administrative capacities
- ❖ Provide community outreach education on air quality
- ❖ Development of a Tribal Air Quality Program
- ❖ Reduce and prevent exposure to hazardous air pollutants and particulate matter to Tribal members and the community.
- ❖ Reduce and prevent exposure of indoor air pollutants and health risks into Tribal homes and community buildings.

## **7. Feasible Solutions**

- Develop and provide community outreach education on ambient and indoor air quality health hazards and benefits of clean air to the community. 2026-2030
- Collaborate with neighboring tribes that have air monitoring programs to gain knowledge and for assistance building the tribal air program. 2026-2030
- Train an existing staff member with basic air quality monitoring and data logging. TAMS Center online training and EPA webinars will be used as free learning resources. This will help build internal capacity without needing new hires. 2026-2027
- Continue to investigate community indoor air quality complaints, while continuing the radon testing program. Focus on homes with elders, children and those with health concerns. 2026-2030
- Utilize the newly acquired E-BAM Plus Beta Attenuation Monitor to tract PM10 levels within the community. Follow the approved Quality Assurance Project Plan (APP) to ensure accurate data collection and compliance with EPA requirements. The data collected will support future planning, informing the community about air quality trends and contribute to regional air monitoring efforts. 2026-2030.

- Implement an air quality monitoring program utilizing E-BAM Plus unit to collect and upload quality assured ambient air monitoring data into the Air Quality System (AQS) database. 2026-2029
- Complete a report analyzing air quality and radiation hazard issues impacting the Tribe and evaluated air pollution control options. 2027
- Develop a level 3 Emissions Inventory to obtain additional data for the tribal air program. 2028

## **8. Key Personnel**

- Fallon Business Council
- Environmental Protection Department
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Indian Health Service
- Tribal Air Monitoring Support (TAMS)

## **9. Resource Needs and Potential Resources**

- Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Indian Health Service and EPA technical assistance.
- Tribal Air Monitoring Support (TAMS)
- EPA Air Quality grants.
- EPA Indoor Air Quality grants.
- EPA community education outreach materials to protect air quality.
- Air quality training for environmental staff and community members.
- Indoor air quality training for environmental staff and community members.



## ***D. Climate Change and Resilience***

### **1. EPA Indicators**

C.3.2. Staff will complete appropriate training and acquired baseline knowledge and skills related to climate change.

C.3.14 The Tribe has developed a climate change vulnerability/risk assessment, climate change adaption plan and a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP).

C.3.15 Staff has completed appropriate indoor air quality training and acquired skill related to indoor air quality.

### **2. Climate Change and Resilience**

The Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe (FPST) is concerned about the impacts extreme events and harmful environmental trends have on its members, tribal lands, natural and cultural resources, agriculture, wetlands and irrigation system, public health and infrastructure. Extreme events and harmful environmental trends threatens the area with increased heat, drought, flooding, insect outbreaks, and increased wildfires. The area has experienced declining water supplies, reduced agricultural yields, flooding concerns, poor air quality from wildfire smoke health impacts, and vector control concerns.

There have been numerous significant droughts within Nevada including one that lasted 10 years. Since 2000, the longest duration of drought, from moderate to exceptional in Nevada, lasted 269 weeks beginning on December 27, 2011 and ending on February 14, 2017. To address the increasing threat of drought in the area, the Tribe adopted a Drought Contingency Plan in 2018 to be better prepared for any long or short term changes in measured source water well levels that would indicate that ground water sources are being depleted at a rate that is unsustainable.

In 2017, the 5 year Nevada drought ended with an above average water year. The area received an abundance of water from the snow pack in the Sierras, which threatened the area with flooding. The State of Nevada and local agencies worked together to reduce the threat of flooding by installing culverts beneath a major highway (95) and digging a large canal (the Big Dig) to the U.S. Wildlife Sanctuary, near the reservation. This emergency work saved the highway and area homes and farms from impending flood waters. In April of 2023, there was another flood threat to the Tribe due to another record Sierra snowpack and

spring snowmelt. Both of these flood threats put the Fallon area jurisdiction into a state of emergency readiness and potential response.

Increased heat, drought and insect outbreaks have increased wildfires. More yearly forest fires in the Sierra Nevada Mountains generate smoke plumes that carry eastward and affect the air quality in the area. This smoke impacts human health, especially for the elders and the young. The Tribe implements a Tribal Air Quality Flag Program to inform the community about current outdoor air quality conditions in the area. The environmental department raises a flag each day that corresponds with the current local air quality forecast. The color of the flag matches the EPA's Air Quality Index. This program helps the community adjust their activities to help reduce exposure to bad air quality.

The Tribe is also concerned with the yearly threat of the West Nile Virus, which is a continuous public health risk to the community. The Tribe developed a Mosquito Abatement program to address this public health concern. Mosquito trapping, sampling, larviciding and adulticiding and collaboration in surveillance with the county are an increasing yearly challenge of vector control. Extreme events and harmful environmental trends plays a significant factor on the Tribe's natural and cultural resources, including the health and welfare of its members and quality of life.

The Tribe will seek climate adaption planning support and information to develop skills and tribal capacity for building resilience. This can be accomplished through climate resilience training and research in science, including traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and technical information. The Tribe will be able to determine its vulnerability to extreme events and harmful environmental trends that impact its natural and cultural resources, infrastructure, human health and the environment.

Under an EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Planning program, the Tribe hired a new Environmental Specialist and developed a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) and is presently developing a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP). The Tribe will build capacity through research and development of CCAP to enhance resilience to climate change. This will include seeking training, adaption and resilience planning, community outreach education, council support and partnerships.

### **3. Climate Change and Resilience Goals**

- ❖ Reduce the Tribes vulnerability to climate change
- ❖ Prepare for and adapt to climate change impacts by minimizing impacts to human health and the environment.
- ❖ Mitigate climate change impacts that result from directly and indirectly from tribal greenhouse gas emission sources and activities.
- ❖ Reduce the Tribal greenhouse gas emissions and promote long term climate resilience

### **4. Feasible Solutions**

- Develop and provide community outreach education on climate pollution and adaption planning. 2026-2030
- Participate in local, state, federal forums to obtain information and pursue partnerships on climate resilience. 2026-2030
- Seek grant and Tribal program funding to support reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and building long term climate resilience strategies. 2026-2030
- Complete and adopt the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP). 2026
- Adopt GHG and pollutant tracking system, report progress on quarterly/annual schedule. 2027
- Review and update the ETEP Climate Change Priority Program Area goals and objects. 2030

### **5. Key Personnel**

- Fallon Business Council
- Environmental Protection Department
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Inter-Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP)
- Tribal Departments
- Tribal Community
- Tribal Elders

## **6. Resource Needs and Potential Resources**

- Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Indian Health Service and EPA technical assistance.
- Climate Resilience Planning grants.
- Climate Change community education outreach materials.
- Climate Change and Resilience training for environmental staff, planning team and community members.

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## ***E. Solid Waste***

### **1. EPA Indicators**

E.3.6 The Tribe has completed a waste assessment (waste stream characterization of Fox Peak Cinema; Solid Waste Management Options Analysis)

E.3.7 The Tribe has an approved Integrated Waste Management Plan (IWMP).

E.3.8 The Tribe has established a program to provide waste minimization, recycling, used oil collection, junk vehicle removal, and bulk waste/appliance/electronic waste collection.

E.3.10 The Tribe has completed an open dump inventory and submitted to the EPA and IHS for inclusion in the w/STARS database.

E.3.14 The Tribe has coordinated with EPA to ensure accuracy of EPA's regulated UST & LUST facility inventory and operating status.

### **2. Solid Waste Management**

Solid waste management includes activities and actions required to manage waste from its inception to its final disposal. The sources of solid waste include residential, commercial, institutional and industrial activities. Certain types of wastes that cause immediate danger to exposed individuals or environments are classified as hazardous. All nonhazardous solid waste from a community that requires collection and transport to a processing or disposal site is called refuse or municipal solid waste (MSW).

Refuse includes garbage and rubbish. Garbage is mostly decomposable food waste; rubbish is mostly dry material such as glass, paper, cloth, or wood. Garbage is highly decomposable, whereas rubbish is not. Trash is rubbish that includes bulky items such as old refrigerators, couches, or large tree stumps. Trash requires special collection and handling.

There are no landfills, transfer stations, commercial incinerators, or managed dump sites on Tribal lands. Individual residents are responsible for their own waste disposal. The community has its household garbage removed through curbside pickup services from various off Reservation contractors. There is City of Fallon transfer station located off Tribal lands, situated between the Colony and the reservation. The nearest permitted municipal solid waste facility is located approximately 34 miles away from the Reservation.

The Environmental Protection Department implements a departmental and community curbside recycling and composting program to reduce the amount of solid waste transported to the landfill. In addition, the department recently began implements a community household hazardous waste collection program.

The department considers recycling, composting and HHW collection program activities for the community a critical component of reducing waste and preventing illegal dumping on Tribal lands.

Illegal dumping is a way to dispose of municipal waste and is a growing concern for the Tribe. To address this problem, Tribe adopted an Illegal Dumping Ordinance in 2022, that prohibits open dumps and illegal dumping on all lands and waters of the Tribe.

The Tribe has also revised and updated its Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan (ISWMP) in 2021. The ISWMP outlines how the Tribe will reduce, manage and dispose of its waste and identifies existing waste systems, and assesses needs.

### **3. Solid Waste Goals**

- ❖ Reduce and eliminate the impacts of solid waste on public health and the environment.
- ❖ Improve Tribal capacity by ensuring the safe and effective management of solid waste.
- ❖ Promote sustainable and culturally appropriate solutions to address solid waste challenges
- ❖ Reduce and prevent open dumping and pollution on Tribal lands.

### **4. Feasible Solutions**

- Provide community outreach education on solid waste management. 2026-2030
- Promote sustainable waste and household hazardous waste collection, recycling, reuse and composting programs through training and technical assistance. 2026-2030
- Continue the departmental and community curbside recycling and composting program. 2026-2030
- Continue to implement the community household hazardous waste collection program. 2026-2030
- Update and revise the Tribe's Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan. 2027
- Complete a comprehensive tribal residential waste stream analysis. 2028

- Close any identified illegal dump sites on Tribal lands. 2027
- Complete a feasibility study for a Tribal Waste Collection Service. 2029

## **5. Key Personnel**

- Fallon Business Council
- Environmental Protection Department
- Tribal Law Enforcement
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Indian Health Service

## **6. Resource Needs and Potential Resources**

- Solid waste technical assistance and training for the Tribe.
- Environmental Protection Agency Solid Waste Program Grants
- Indian Health Service
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- US Department of Agriculture funding.

## ***F. Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Response***

### **1. EPA Indicators**

F.5.3 Tribal response staff has completed and develop proficiency in OSHA required HAZWOPER baseline and annual refresher training to qualify them to safely respond to spills and emergency incidents and other appropriate training.

F.5.6 The Tribe is meaningfully participating in programs administered by other tribal, federal, state or local governments.

F.5.8 The Tribe has established an EPCRA compliant tribal emergency planning organization: Tribal Emergency Response Commission (TERC).

F.5.9 The Tribe has established a program to conduct emergency response training and exercises for TERC members.

F.5.11 Tribal lands and resources covered by an EPCRA compliant emergency operations plan.

### **2. Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act**

The Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) was passed in 1986 in response to concerns regarding the environmental and safety hazards posed by the storage and handling of toxic chemicals. The EPCRA requires industry to report on the storage, use and releases of hazardous substances to federal, state, and local governments. It also requires state, local governments and tribes to use this information for emergency planning and to prepare and protect their community from hazardous and toxic chemical emergencies.

The Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe has four areas of sovereign trust land within its jurisdiction. This consists of the Reservation, the Colony, Fox Peak Station Fallon and Fox Peak Station Fernley Tribal enterprises. The City of Fallon is the principle city in the county and the county seat. It is located 64 miles east of Reno, Nevada. The Tribal lands are adjacent to or close to hazardous materials transportation routes.

State Highway 42 borders the Reservation to the south. A major transportation corridor is U.S. Highway 50, located 2 1/4 miles southeast of the Reservation. This highway crosses central Nevada, linking Utah with California, and other cities, towns and mining operations, throughout the west.

The Colony residential housing subdivision and Tribal facilities are located within the proximity of two major hazardous materials transportation corridors. U.S. Highway 50 is located approximately a half mile south of the Colony area.



Hazardous materials are transported through this corridor and could pose a threat, in the event of an accident or spill, under certain conditions and prevailing wind speeds. U.S. Highway 95 is also located within close proximity to the Colony area. This corridor is located approximately  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile west of the Colony. This highway is also utilized for the transportation of hazardous materials, including explosives and again under certain conditions and wind directions, an accident could pose a threat to Colony residents.

Fox Peak Station Fallon is a convenience store with diesel and gas pumps is located within the City of Fallon and adjacent and north of U.S. Highway 50. Fox Peak Station Fernley is also a convenience store with diesel and gas pumps and is located near the City of Fernley and is adjacent and south of U.S. Highway 50.

A Naval Air Station Fallon (NASF) is situated approximately 5 miles southeast of the Reservation. The NASF is a shore activity of the Department of the Navy, which includes 4 air-to-ground bombing ranges that provides for integrated air strike warfare tactical development and training. Training flight routes cross over the Reservation and are common. Some of these flights may carry ordnance, along with fuel, which could pose a risk to the community of the Reservation should an aircraft mishap occur.

While it is likely that outside assistance would be available to most large-scale disaster situations affecting the Reservation, it is necessary for the Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe, to plan for, and to be prepared to carry out disaster response and recovery operations on an independent basis

### **3. Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Response Goal**

- ❖ Preserve and protect lives, property and the environment through emergency planning and preparedness from all hazards emergencies and disasters.
- ❖ Expand, maintain and improve emergency planning and preparedness for hazardous chemical incidents and enhance emergency response capabilities for hazardous chemical incidents.
- ❖ Promote educational awareness to increase emergency preparedness and develop public confidence.
- ❖ Build response coordination by attending meetings, trainings and exercises with local, state and federal emergency agencies.

#### **4. Feasible Solutions**

- Continue to enhance community emergency preparedness through Tribal Emergency Response Commission (TERC) meetings, trainings, and exercises . 2026-2030
- Secure grants to enhance emergency preparedness and develop emergency management capabilities. 2026-2030
- Review and update the Tribe's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) annually. 2026-2030
- Create emergency notification vs. shelter-in-place guidance to inform and protect the public. 2027
- Conduct a reservation-wide chemical inventory and risk map, to include tribal facilities, off reservation storage facilities and transportation routes and locations of vulnerable tribal populations. 2028
- Conduct disaster response training drills and exercises to highlight and correct any planning deficiencies. 2026-2030
- Develop environmental capabilities for chemical and radiological monitoring through training and exercise. 2025-2030.

#### **5. Key Personnel**

- Fallon Business Council
- Tribal Emergency Response Commission
- Environmental Protection Department
- Public Safety Services (Law Enforcement, Emer. Mgmt., Vol. Fire Dept.)
- Tribal Community Members

#### **6. Resource Needs and Potential Resources**

- Emergency preparedness and response training, equipment and technical assistance for TERC members and first responders.
- Nevada Tribal Emergency Coordinating Council
- Nevada Office of Emergency Management.
- U.S. Department of Transportation.
- U.S. Homeland Security Agency
- Federal Emergency Management Agency

- Environmental Protection Agency
- Churchill County Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC)

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## ***G. Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention Program***

### **1. EPA Indicators**

G.3.2 The Tribe is acquiring baseline knowledge and skills related to TSCA, FIFRA, and pollution prevention.

G.3.4 The Tribe is completing an asbestos, pesticides, lead-based paint and pesticides needs assessment that: collects and evaluates existing data on pesticide use and other relevant factors; assesses the need to develop related projects and/or programs; and evaluates short-term and long-term options to address those identified needs.

G.3.7 The Tribe has established community outreach/education programs.

G.3.8 The Tribe has established mechanisms to provide meaningful opportunities for public participation/community involvement to identify concerns related to chemical safety and pollution prevention and/or solicit input on decisions.

G.3.9 The Tribe is completing an inventory of all pre-1978 target housing and child-occupied buildings and gathered information on the presence of lead-based paint and/or lead-based paint hazards in or around these buildings.

### **2. Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA)**

The Toxic Substance Control Act was enacted in 1976 and amended in 1986, 1988, and 1992. It provided the EPA with the authority to regulate the importation, manufacture and use of chemical substances and or mixtures. TSCA addresses the production, importation, use and disposal of specific chemicals including lead-based paints and asbestos. The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) is a provision of the TSCA that was enacted in 1986.

### **3. Pollution Prevention Act (PPA)**

The Pollution Prevention Act focuses on industry, government, and public attention on reducing the amount of pollution through cost-effective changes in production, operation, and raw materials use. Source reduction is different and more desirable than waste management or pollution control. It refers to practices that reduce hazardous substances from being released into the environment prior to recycling, treatment or disposal. Pollution prevention includes practices that increase efficiency in the use of energy, water or other natural resources and protect resources through conservation.

#### **4. Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)**

The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act is the Federal statute that governs the registration, distribution, sale, and use of pesticides in the United States. All pesticides distributed or sold in the U.S. must be registered by the EPA. Pesticide use is regulated through the registration program, label requirements and a compliance assurance and enforcement program. With certain exceptions, a pesticide is any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest, or intended for use as a plant regulator, defoliant, or desiccant, or any nitrogen stabilizer.

In 2009, the Tribe conducted a project to test for lead-based paint chips and soil at six pre-1978 homes and a head start facility on the reservation. A QAPP was developed and approved by the EPA for conducting dust wipes and soil sampling. All of the dust wipe and soil sampling results were below the EPA action limit.

In 2021, the Tribe completed a Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention Needs Assessment. This included an inventory of all pre-1978 housing and child occupied buildings, which were likely to have the presence of lead-based paint and asbestos. There were forty-seven (47) housing and child occupied buildings identified as being constructed prior to 1978. This assessment also included collecting and evaluating existing data on pesticide use and to determine the need to develop a tribal pollution prevention policy.

#### **5. Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention Goal**

- ❖ Protect the community and the environment from potential risks from pesticides and toxic chemicals.
- ❖ Prevent pollution by reducing waste, saving energy and natural resources and leaving the environment clean and safe.
- ❖ Provide educational awareness on the potential risks of pesticides and toxic chemicals.

#### **6. Feasible Solutions**

- Provide meaningful opportunities for public participation and community involvement to identify concerns related to chemical safety and pollution prevention and/or solicit input for decisions. This

will be accomplished through public meetings or community outreach events. 2026-2030

- Participate in local/state/federal forums to obtain information and pursue partnerships on chemical safety and pollution prevention issues. 2026-2030
- Update and revise the QAPP for dust wipe and soil for lead based paint sampling and analysis activities and secure EPA approval. 2027
- Acquire necessary training/certification to conduct lead-based paint hazard evaluation on pre-1978 tribal housing/pre-1978 child occupied facilities. 2026-2027
- Conduct physical sampling and analysis on pre-1978 tribal housing/pre-1978 child occupied facilities. 2027
- Establish a compliance assurance and enforcement program similar to TSCA Section 406(b) that requires distribution of information on lead-based paint hazards. 2026-2030
- Seek funding under FIFRA, TSCA, Pollution Prevention Act or other similar program to support projects or programs related to managing chemical safety and pollution prevention. 2026-2030

## **7. Key Personnel**

- Fallon Business Council
- Environmental Protection Department
- Land and Water Department
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Tribal Community Members

## **8. Resource Needs and Potential Resources**

- Acquire appropriate training and baseline knowledge and skill related to TSCA, AHERA, lead paint programs, FIFRA and pollution prevention.
- Environmental Protection Agency
- FIFRA, TSCA, Pollution Prevention Act funding
- USDA
- Churchill County Mosquito and Weed Abatement District

## ***H. Mosquito and Weed Abatement***

### **1. EPA Indicators**

B.2.2 Staff with appropriate skills, knowledge and experience to manage the environmental program.

### **2. West Nile Virus and Invasive Weeds**

The Tribe maintains extensive wetland, irrigation, and open space areas that support wildlife and cultural values but also present challenges related to mosquito populations and invasive plant species. Unmanaged standing water and noxious weeds can lead to health risks, degraded habitat, and increased fire risk. Invasive weed species such as Russian knapweed, tamarisk and puncture vine are prevalent on tribal lands displacing native plants and altering hydrology. The Mosquito and Weed Abatement program is designed to protect public health, maintain ecological balance and reduce reliance on chemical controls through integrated strategies.

West Nile Virus was first detected in Nevada in 2003 and since then has been found in every county in Nevada. In the 2006 flood event year, the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) determined that there was a 4 standard deviation increase in West Nile Virus cases attributed to the increase in standing water as the result of the floods. After the large amounts of water in Northern Nevada in 2017, breeding grounds increased for mosquitoes. The NPBH projected an increase in West Nile Virus cases for 2017, which may have exceeded the cases of 2006. An outbreak of West Nile Virus could result in a significant burden to public health resources in rural areas. Not only can mosquitoes carry diseases that afflict humans, but they also can transmit several diseases and parasites that dogs and horses are very susceptible to. These include dog heart worms, eastern equine encephalitis and West Nile virus.

The Tribal Mosquito & Weed Abatement program plays an important role in protecting public health from mosquito-borne diseases such as the West Nile Virus. The mosquito control program addresses prevention, public education and vector population management.

### **3. Mosquito & Weed Abatement Goal**

- ❖ Protect human health and lives by reducing or preventing the threat of the West Nile Virus in the community.
- ❖ Control nuisance mosquitoes to minimize discomfort for the community.

- ❖ Apply environmentally responsible control methods.
- ❖ Reduce breeding sources.

#### **4. Feasible Solutions**

- Provide community outreach education on mosquitoes and the West Nile Virus health concerns. 2026-2030
- Collaborate and work cooperatively with the Churchill Mosquito, Vector & Noxious Weed Abatement District, in addressing West Nile Virus health concern and noxious weeds. 2026-2030
- Continue training and receive recertification for tribal pesticides applicators. 2026-2030
- Conduct seasonal mosquito abatement activities including seasonal larval and adult mosquito surveillance, fogging, and treatment of breeding areas. 2026-2030
- Conduct regular surveillance of mosquito larvae and weed outbreaks.
- Control invasive weeds by mapping and treating priority infestations annually. 2026-2030

#### **5. Key Personnel**

- Fallon Business Council
- Indian Health Service
- Churchill Mosquito, Vector & Noxious Weed Abatement District
- Environmental Protection Department
- Tribal Community

#### **6. Resource Needs and Potential Resources**

- Churchill County Mosquito, Vector and Noxious Weed Abatement District
- Nevada Department of Agriculture
- Environmental Protection Agency Pesticides and IPM Program
- Indian Health Service
- University of Nevada Cooperative Extension
- Bureau of Indian Affairs Invasive Species Program Grant



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