

Great Basin Consortium

Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada
Tribal-State Environmental Liaison

Impacts of Climate Change



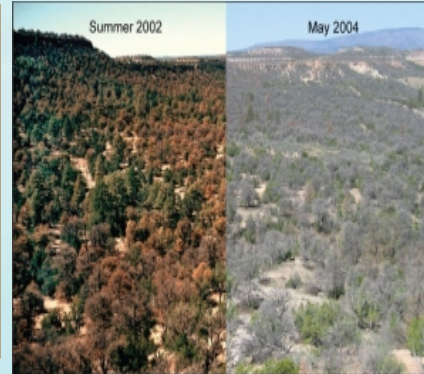
Sand dune migration on Navajo Nation.

Credit: M. Hiza, USGS



2011 Las Conchas Fire in New Mexico.

Credit: D. Chavarria, Pueblo of Santa Clara



Pinyon pine loss --drought stress, bark beetle outbreak.

Credit: C. Allen, USGS



Weather Extremes such a haboob

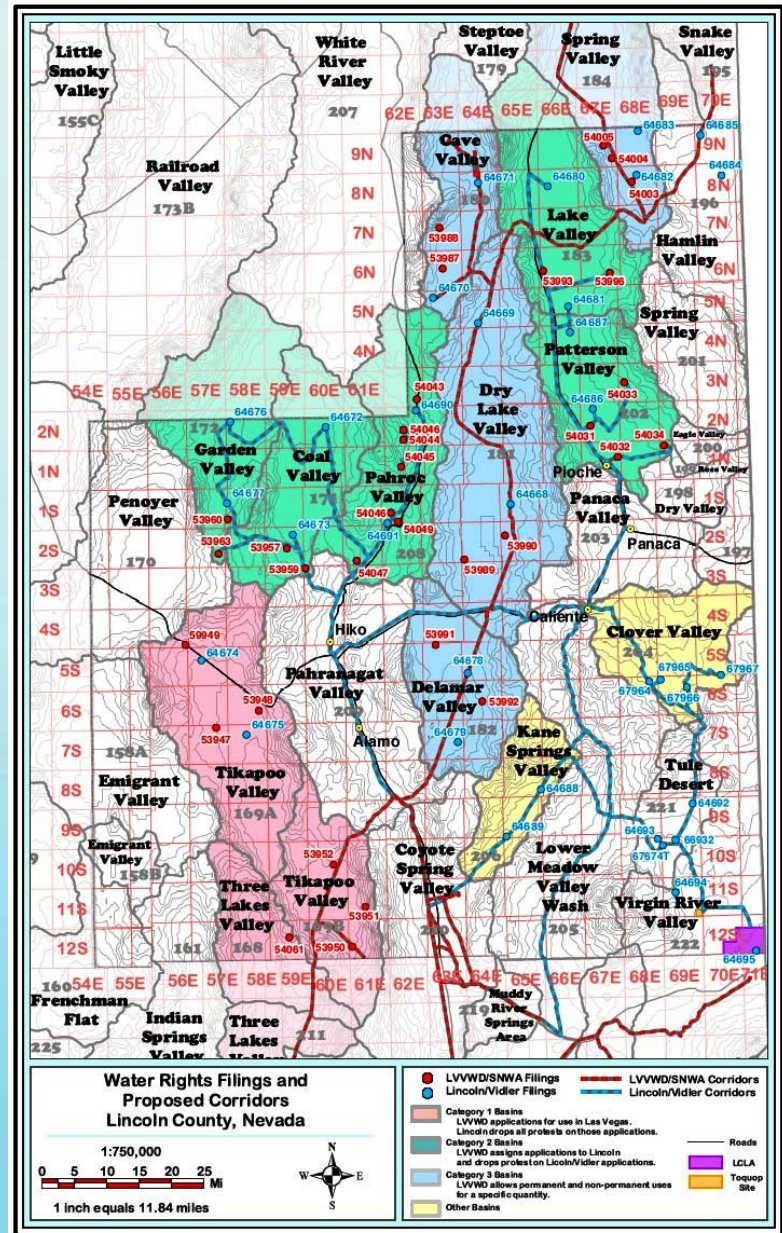
- ◎ Tribal reliance on natural resources
- ◎ Inability to move treaty-defined reservations
- ◎ Impacts on water, forests, culturally important plants and animals, agriculture and livestock, and erosion



Exterior Threats

Southern Nevada Water Authority

- ⦿ Proposed groundwater take
- ⦿ Tribal water rights must be established prior to taking
- ⦿ Reduced precipitation already resulting in negative water table impacts
- ⦿ Local surface water drying up early in the season puts strain on local water tables
- ⦿ Will result in subsidence; building & infrastructure damage
- ⦿ May negatively impact tribal geothermal projects



Mining and Hydraulic Fracturing

- ◎ Over pumping of aquifers to expose minerals will become a greater threat as water tables fail to become resupplied
- ◎ The groundwater required for fracking will reduce already stressed water tables
- ◎ Dropping water tables will be more costly to pump and water quality will be reduced
- ◎ Disposal of fracking waste water
- ◎ Groundwater pollution potential great

