

## Lahontan Regional Water Board

The [Lahontan Region](#) is unique in that its Water Quality Control Plan (“Basin Plan”) contains numerous site-specific numeric water quality objectives, most of which were adopted in the early 1970s but (prior to SWAMP) never monitored. The Region also is unique in that it has many interstate waters (which flow into the State of Nevada). The primary objectives of SWAMP monitoring at the Lahontan Region are to:

1. Determine whether ambient water quality at selected sites is in compliance with the chemical and physical water quality objectives contained in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region ([Basin Plan](#)) and the “[California Toxics Rule](#)”.
2. Determine (to the extent to which funding is available) whether water flowing from the Lahontan Region into the State of Nevada meets [Nevada’s water quality objectives](#).
3. Develop and implement tools to assess the biological integrity of the Region’s streams and rivers based on instream macroinvertebrate and algae assemblages (i.e., “[bioassessment](#)”).

The available funding has allowed for chemical monitoring at about 30 sites throughout the Region on a quarterly basis. All [data](#) and a [summary report](#) on the first five years of work (i.e., years 2000-05) are available at the Region’s [SWAMP webpage](#).

In addition to ongoing, routine monitoring at the selected sites, the Region’s SWAMP staff spends considerable time on other related tasks, such as: (1) designing and maintaining a [user-friendly website](#)

to make monitoring data and assessment reports accessible to the public; (2) coordinating water and fish monitoring projects with other public agencies and NGOs; (3) testing for contaminants in fish tissue where screening studies indicate potential exceedances of human health thresholds; (4) coordinating bioassessment methods and approaches throughout the State; and (5) other [special projects](#), such as monitoring the success of restoration efforts, developing biological objectives for use in assessing stream health, and assisting Water Board staff and others in using bioassessment techniques.

Due to funding limitations, the quality of many surface waters in the Lahontan Region remains unassessed. As funding allows, the Region would like to conduct additional targeted and probabilistic assessments of the regions 700+ lakes, 3,000+ miles of streams, and numerous wetlands.