

## MAHOGANY Creek — Nevada

The Mahogany Creek watershed lies at approximately 5,300-6,900 feet

16



elevation in northern Nevada. Precipitation in the case study area averages about fifteen inches per year and comes mainly as snow. Peak runoff normally occurs in May and June.

Mahogany Creek is approximately eleven miles long. The lower three miles of the stream flow through the Summit Lake Indian Reservation. Six miles of the stream are located on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Two miles of Mahogany Creek plus its major tributary flow through private land.



**Mahogany Creek,  
Fall of 1975.**

Mahogany Creek is one of two areas in the U.S. where a lake-dwelling population of Lahontan cutthroat trout reproduce naturally. These fish are listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Trout from Summit

Lake annually migrate into the creek to spawn. The resulting juvenile fish migrate back to the lake to mature and eventually repeat the cycle.

The area has been grazed by livestock for at least seventy-five years. It was used heavily by both cattle and sheep in the summer. Improper grazing severely degraded the riparian area and surrounding uplands.

The riparian area was virtually stripped of vegetation. Streambanks were badly eroded. Streamflows