

Benchmark Values

Until the benchmark values are determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the BLM should use the interim benchmark values, which have been derived from past ERAs that have already been completed for pit lakes nearby in Nevada. An example of a benchmark value for mallards from the Mule Canyon ERA is listed in Table 1 below. ERAs have been, or are being prepared for the Cortez, Lone Tree, Twin Creeks, Mule Canyon, Round Mountain and Tallapoosa EISs. NSO will send the districts copies of ERAs that were completed in other district offices. These benchmark values generally represent concentration in water that would just begin to affect the receptor species at a site these values usually exceed the human drinking water and aquatic life chemical standards.

Table 1

| Constituent | Benchmark Value Mallards (MG/L) |
|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Aluminum | 21 |
| Antimony | 0.17 |
| Arsenic | 0.94 |
| Cadmium | 0.23 |
| Cooper | 1.1 |
| Fluoride | 5.3 |
| Manganese | 0.78 |
| Mercury | 0.002 |
| Methyl Mercury | 0.00038 |
| Selenium | 0.57 |
| Silver | 14 |
| Thallium | 0.002 |
| Zinc | 0.834 |