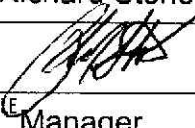


NOAA FORM 17-4 (4-81)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION		Form Approved OMB Control No. 0648-0025 Expires 05/31/2021	
INITIAL REPORT ON WEATHER MODIFICATION ACTIVITIES				Complete in accordance with instructions on reverse and forward one copy to: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research 1315 East-West Highway, WWMC-3, Rm 11216 Silver Spring, MD 20910	
This report is required by Public Law 92-205; 85 Stat. 735; 145 U.S.C. 330b. Knowing and willful violation of any rule adopted under the authority of Section 2 of Public Law 92-205 shall subject the person violating such rule to a fine of not more than \$10,000, upon conviction thereof.					
1. PROJECT OR ACTIVITY DESIGNATION, IF ANY Kern River Cloud Seeding Program		2. DATES OF PROJECT		a. DATE FIRST ACTUAL WEATHER MODIFICATION ACTIVITY IS TO BE UNDERTAKEN 11/1/2023	
3. PURPOSE OF PROJECT OR ACTIVITY Snowpack Augmentation				b. EXPECTED TERMINATION DATE OF WEATHER MODIFICATION ACTIVITIES 4/30/2024	
4. (a) SPONSOR		4. (b) OPERATOR			
NAME David Hampton		NAME Richard Stone			
AFFILIATION North Kern Water Storage [PHONE NUMBER 5593932696		AFFILIATION RHS Consulting, Ltd		PHONE NUMBER 7753574659	
STREET ADDRESS 33380 Cawello Street		STREET ADDRESS PO Box 17096			
CITY Bakersfield STATE CA ZIP CODE 93380		CITY Reno STATE NV ZIP CODE 89511			
5. TARGET AND CONTROL AREAS (See Instructions)					
TARGET AREA			CONTROL AREA		
LOCATION Upper Kern River Basin		SIZE OF AREA 2000 SQ. MI	LOCATION Merced, Tule, Cottonwood (SIZE OF AREA 750 SQ. MI
6. DESCRIPTION OF WEATHER MODIFICATION APPARATUS, MODIFICATION AGENTS AND THEIR DISPERSAL RATES, THE TECHNIQUES EMPLOYED, ETC. (See Instructions) This is a continuation of the Upper Kern River Basin Program, a long term project that began operations in 1951. During the 2024 winter season, storms will be seeded using aircraft and ground generators Silver iodide type aerosols will be released in clouds at 1000-2000 gAgI/hr using ejectable and end burning flares from aircraft and 20 gAgI/hr from ground generators. Seeding materials will be released at 8,000' - 17,000' from aircraft at the top of the saturated layer in supercooled liquid water or mixed phase clouds. Ground generators will be used to target southerly flow when aircraft cannot be used due to airspace restrictions. Evaluations are based on streamflow ratio statistics and updated annually. Target streamflow is compared with multiple control basins that surround the target area. An operations office is located at the Fresno Airport (KFAT)					
7. LOG BOOKS Enter name, affiliation, address, and telephone number of responsible individual from whom log books or other records may be obtained.					
NAME Richard Stone		AFFILIATION RHS Consulting, Ltd		PHONE NUMBER 7753574659	
STREET ADDRESS 2227 Bellanca St					
CITY Minden		STATE NV		ZIP CODE 89423	
8. SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		Has an Environmental Impact Statement, Federal or State, been filed? If yes, please furnish a copy as applicable.			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		Have provisions been made to acquire the latest forecasts, advisories, warnings, etc., of the National Weather Service, Forest Service, or others when issued prior to and during operations? If yes, please specify on a separate sheet.			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		Have any safety procedures (operational constraints, provisions for suspension of operations, monitoring methods, etc.) and any environmental guidelines (related to the possible effects of the operations) been included in the operational plans? If yes, please furnish copies or a description of the specific procedures and guidelines.			
9. OPTIONAL REMARKS (See instructions. Use Separate Sheet).					
CERTIFICATION: I certify that all statements in this report on this weather modification project are complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and are made in good faith.			NAME OF REPORTING PERSON Richard Stone		
AFFILIATION RHS Consulting, Ltd			SIGNATURE 		
STREET ADDRESS PO Box 17096			OFFICIAL TITLE Manager		
CITY Reno		STATE NV	ZIP CODE 89423	DATE 10/22/2023	PHONE NUMBER 7753574659

Kern River Basin Supplement to Form 17-4

The following information is provided as requested by item 8 on Form 17-4, Safety and Environment

Environmental Impact Report

An Environmental Assessment was conducted by the sponsor and a Negative Declaration was filed with no dissenting opinions.

Suspension Criteria

The project may be temporarily suspended when one of the following conditions exists

EXCESSIVE SNOWPACK

These snowpack amounts serve as a guide regarding the potential suspension of the seeding program; they are not hard and fast criteria, but rather are designed to prompt close coordination with the water managers. These criteria are based on average target area precipitation amounts as follows:

1. 200% on January 1
2. 180% on February 1
3. 160% on March 1
4. 150% on April 1

Snow sensor observation are available on a daily basis at several locations. Interpolation of these percentages can be made for any given day in order to aid suspension decisions.

FLOODING

1. TARGET AREA – Utilizing quantitative precipitation forecasts (QPF), antecedent indices, and forecast freezing levels, decisions can be made of individual storm event runoff in the area draining into Isabella Lake. If the estimated storm runoff volume exceeds the available storage (i.e., spill condition), the project may be suspended.
2. RAIN ON SNOW – During periods above average snowpack exists and rising freezing levels and potential for rain on snow events where insufficient storage capacity is available the project may be temporarily suspended until the river flows recede and freezing levels fall below 4,500’.
3. Severe Weather – Severe weather is monitored on a storm-by-storm basis, and even hourly basis during rapidly changing weather conditions. The project may be suspended when a National Weather Service Flash Flood Warning is in effect over any part of the target area until the warning expires.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

1. Official emergency response activity within the target area.
2. Other Special Circumstances or unusual circumstances, which may be deemed hazardous. Examples of special circumstances very strong winds, heavy snow at low elevations, and other unforeseen conditions that could be hazardous or perceived by the public as hazardous. Reservoir storage levels, soil moisture content, and amounts of precipitation in prior seasons are all factors to consider in assessing whether a temporary program suspension is appropriate

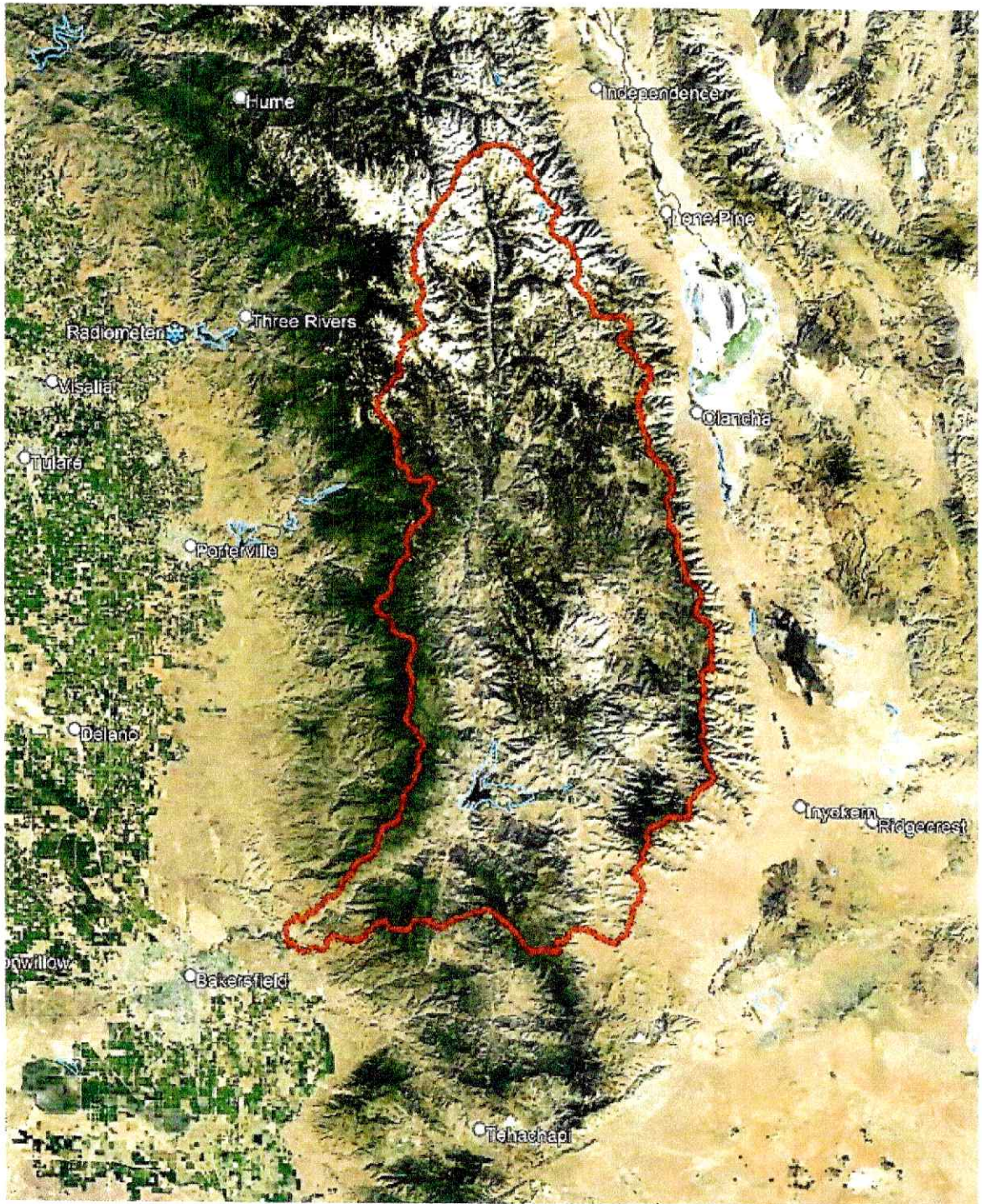


Figure 1. Kern River Basin Target Area