



CARSON CITY WIDLIFE HAZARD ASSESSMENT

MONTHLY UPDATE FOR APRIL 2016

Avian Daytime Surveys: Afternoon 04/05/2016 and Morning 04/06/2016

- Seven on-airfield and seven off-airfield points were surveyed morning and afternoon.
- The predominantly observed bird species within the airfield included house finch, horned lark, European starling, house sparrow, mourning dove, and California gull.
- Other species in lower abundance within the airfield included western meadowlark, Say's phoebe, rock pigeon, California quail, white-crowned sparrow, song sparrow, and various other small sparrows and songbirds.
- In addition to a large flock of up to 200 California gulls, several smaller flocks of European starlings, Brewer's blackbirds, and house sparrows were observed at the Carson City landfill during the morning and afternoon avian surveys.
- Many "resident" Canada geese exhibited breeding behaviors on both the Centennial and Empire Ranch golf courses to the east and southeast of the airport.

Nighttime Spotlight Survey: 04/05/2016 (after dark)

- Eight jackrabbits and two cottontails were observed within the airfield during the nighttime spotlight survey.

Small Mammal Trapping Surveys:

- No small mammal trapping was required this month. Small mammal trapping will occur next month (May 2016) when weather is warmer and small mammal activity is higher.

Other General Notes:

- Winds were relatively calm and temperatures were warmer than normal for the surveying period at this airport from 04/05/16-04/07/16.
- Airport personnel mentioned that there was not much wildlife activity since the last set of WHA surveys in March 2016.

Next Month's Schedule:

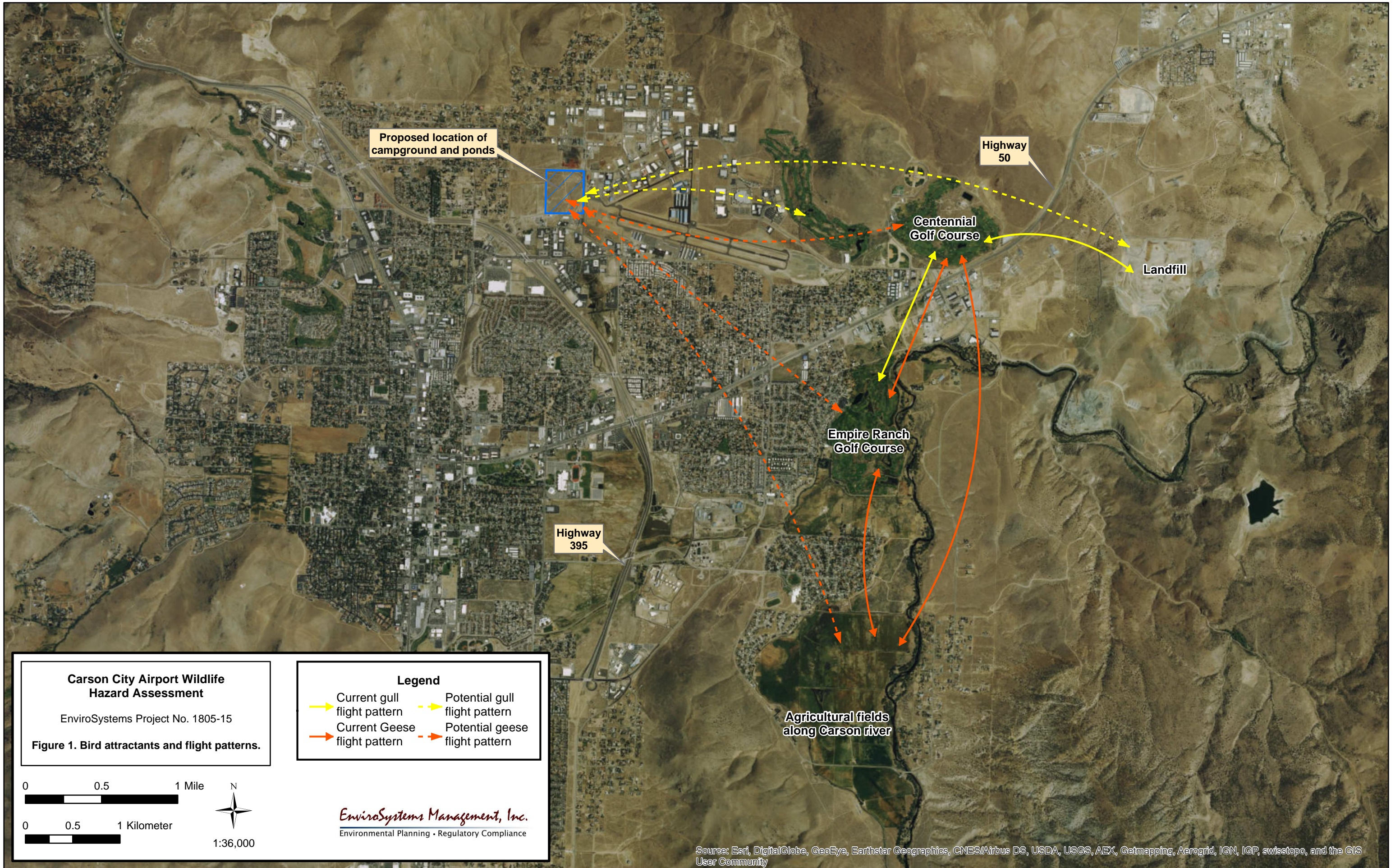
- Surveys will occur between 05/04/2016-05/06/2016.
- May 2016 surveys will include two daytime avian surveys (morning and afternoon), one nighttime spotlight survey, and two nights of small mammal trapping.



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Airport and Nearby Carson City Development Concerns:

- Tim Rowe, Carson City Airport Manager, explained that the Carson City Planning and Development Department is in the process of evaluating a plan for the construction of a new campground to be located immediately to the west of the airport. Part of the plan is to install two large ponds in the middle of the campground that could attract local waterfowl such as California gull, Canada goose, and various other large-bodied waterfowl. Currently, these species of bird have primarily been observed loafing, flying, and foraging to the east of the airport at golf courses and the landfill. The gulls travel between the Centennial Golf Course and the Carson City Landfill; and the geese travel between the Centennial Golf Course, Empire Ranch Golf Course, and various agricultural fields to the southeast of the airport. If the ponds within the campground were installed, they could attract these large-bodied birds to the west side of the airfield. New flight patterns could emerge directly over the Carson City Airport runway between the Centennial and Empire Ranch Golf Courses and the new ponds. Therefore, the development of the ponds could pose a serious risk to low-flying aircraft approaching and departing the Carson City Airport. Attached to this monthly survey summary is a map showing the current typical flight patterns of the migratory and resident large-bodied bird species around Carson City. Also on the map is an indication of potential new flight patterns that could be driven by the installation of new ponds to the west of the airport.



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EnviroSystems Project No. 1805-15

Figure 1. Bird attractants and flight patterns.

Legend

- Current gull flight pattern
- - → Potential gull flight pattern
- Current Geese flight pattern
- - → Potential geese flight pattern

0 0.5 1 Mile



0 0.5 1 Kilometer



1:36,000

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Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community