Duck Valley Irrigation Project
Shoshone-Paiute Tribes
Modernization

IRRIGATION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

An examination of the project – both in terms of physical infrastructure and operation – indicated that much of the project needed a complete modernization. Key points include:

1. Small sublaterals and some lateral canals will be replaced with closed pipelines.
2. A new turnout will supply water to each field at the present turnout location unless a better location is determined in consultation with farmers/ranchers.
3. Equity, reliability, flexibility, and high delivery efficiency will be obtained by a combination of factors, including supplying each turnout with at least 5 CFS, opening only one turnout on a pipeline at a time.
4. The center pivots at Mountain View Reservoir will be replaced with modern units, using less power.
5. A variety of improved canal water level control and flow control/measurement structures will be installed at key points.
6. Lining (which is very expensive) will be only minimally done. Vibratory compaction of remaining unlined ditches is recommended.
7. A program for improved land grading (i.e., land leveling) is recommended.

The improved management at Wild Horse Dam, the use of a regulating reservoir, and collection of return flows into Blue Creek Reservoir, better timing of Pleasant Valley deliveries, and improved control throughout the Duck Valley will result in a higher percentage of the annual water supply staying within the valley.

Livestock Watering

The system for supplying water to livestock will be completely separated from the irrigation project. Livestock will no longer have access to canals.

Instead, a new system (which may be a hybrid of wells and pipelines, or nose pumps) will provide extensive access to clean and adequate drinking water for livestock. Energy use for pumping groundwater will be offset by a new 120 kW solar system.