

Appendix B

**CONSERVATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES—UPPER LAS
VEGAS WASH CONSERVATION TRANSFER AREA**

CONSERVATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES—UPPER LAS VEGAS WASH CONSERVATION TRANSFER AREA

Many of the goals and objectives listed below were developed through numerous CTA public meetings between 2004 and 2006 that led up to the SEIS process. The public meetings helped BLM to achieve the following vision: *The CTA preserves the natural function of the Upper Las Vegas Wash, protects the sensitive resources within, and supports education, research, and low-impact recreational use. The CTA is ecologically functional to the maximum extent possible and managed to insure the long-term integrity of the Las Vegas Formation and associated fossil beds, the rare plant habitat for the Las Vegas bearpoppy, Merriam's bearpoppy, and Las Vegas buckwheat, as well as natural flood water capacity for present and future generations.*

In order to guide development of the conservation agreement and future management decisions within the final CTA boundary, the goals and objectives are listed below by the resource to which they apply. Goals and objectives may be listed under more than one resource.

EARTH RESOURCES

Ensure the long-term viability of Las Vegas buckwheat, Las Vegas bearpoppy, and Merriam's bearpoppy in sustainable natural populations within the boundaries of the ULVW CTA.

- Maintain rare plant habitat by preventing fragmentation of that habitat.
 - Protect the boundary of the CTA from the impacts of urbanization.
- Restore existing and new land disturbances in sensitive plant habitat.
 - Use stockpiled native soils and salvaged native plant materials.
 - Use native species in approved developments within the CTA.

WATER RESOURCES

Preserve the ecosystem of the ULVW in a natural state.

- Protect the CTA boundary from the impacts of urbanization.
- Maintain natural ecosystem processes, including surface flows, wind and water erosion and deposition, and nutrient cycling.
 - Protect natural drainages when considering land use authorizations.

Land use authorizations, including recreational permits that are compatible with sensitive resource management goals, should be designed to minimize impacts.

- Land use authorizations should be engineered to protect the washes that provide for the hydrologic and biological functioning of the system.
 - Engineering design may include spanning washes and/or leaving wash bottoms undisturbed.
 - Construct gabions, water bars, and other low-impact flood control structures outside the ULVW, or in less sensitive areas within the CTA only if necessary, to reduce human-caused impacts to sensitive resources.

- Coordinate with the Regional Flood Control District to establish an erosion monitoring program in key areas to track changes in erosion patterns that could negatively impact plant and paleontological resources as part of the Conservation Agreement.
- Develop an In Lieu Fee Mitigation Program that identifies protection, enhancement, restoration, and monitoring actions for jurisdictional WUS identified under the CWA. Work with non-governmental groups and the USACE to establish the program.

VEGETATION

Ensure long-term viability of the Las Vegas buckwheat, Las Vegas bearpoppy, and Merriam's bearpoppy in sustainable natural populations within the boundaries of the ULVW CTA.

- Maintain rare plant habitat by preventing fragmentation of that habitat by development or use.
 - Protect the boundary of the CTA from the impacts of urbanization.
 - Land uses should avoid rare plant habitat.
- Protect natural ecological processes, such as pollinator movement, natural wind flow patterns, surface water flows, etc., that maintain sustainable populations by providing connectivity between populations.
 - Maintain open spaces and corridors between populations.
- Establish long-term monitoring studies for the Las Vegas bearpoppy and Las Vegas buckwheat to track recruitment, population viability, and life history. Establish thresholds to detect declining populations and trigger additional conservation actions to be implemented when these ecological thresholds are hit as part of the Conservation Agreement.
- Developments and land uses should be compatible with the long-term protection of the sensitive plant species, including avoidance of habitat or meaningful mitigation.
- Restore existing and new land disturbances in sensitive plant habitat.
 - Use stockpiled native soils and salvaged native plant material.
 - Use native species in approved developments within the CTA.
- Provide protection to sensitive plant habitat from activities such as illegal motorized use, dumping, trespass, and other invasive uses.

Preserve the ecosystem of the ULVW in a functional state.

- Protect the CTA boundary from the impacts of urbanization.
- Maintain natural ecosystem processes, including surface flows, wind and water erosion and deposition, and nutrient cycling.
- Provide ecological connectivity between Eglington Preserve and the CTA to the extent possible.

Provide compatible educational, recreational, and interpretive opportunities in order for the public to enjoy and appreciate the unique resources of the CTA.

- Develop environmental education and interpretive programs for key paleontological and cultural sites when such actions are consistent with the protection of the ULVW.
 - Locate uses in areas that reduce impacts to sensitive resources.
 - Develop ongoing public information and interpretation of the Las Vegas bearpoppy, Las Vegas buckwheat, cultural, and paleontological resources.

- Establish a non-motorized trail system, compatible with the protection of sensitive resources, for the enjoyment of the public.
 - Locate trails and structures (staging areas, restrooms, parking facilities, etc.) such that they do not conflict with the management of sensitive resources.

Uses, including recreational permits that are compatible with sensitive resource management goals, should be designed to minimize impacts.

- Land uses should avoid plant habitat that has been identified to be preserved intact.
- Land uses should be designed to the smallest area necessary.
- Land uses should be engineered to protect the washes that provide for the hydrologic and biological functioning of the system.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Protect the LVF, including the paleontological, geological, and cultural resources.

- Establish in situ preservation areas for cultural resource sites and paleontological areas that are kept undisturbed and unfragmented.
- Provide mitigation and treatment for all paleontological sites, cultural resource sites, and rare plants that cannot be preserved in situ.
- Preserve the 1,125-acre Tule Springs site as defined in the NRHP nomination form.¹ The Tule Springs site is nationally significant in our nation's history and should be protected from destruction or impairment.
 - Cooperate with the Nevada Division of State Parks on the Tule Springs state lands, an inholding within the 1,125-acre Tule Springs site, to ensure consistency with management actions on BLM land through cooperative management agreements.
 - Ensure that actions on BLM land do not conflict with the preservation of the cultural resources and lands within the defined boundary.
- Provide mitigation and treatment for all paleontological sites, cultural resource sites, and rare plants that cannot be preserved in situ.

Protect Native American traditional use areas.

- Evaluate and, if significant, nominate a TCP for the ULVW, working closely with the tribes.
- Protect areas that have been identified as being sensitive to the Southern Paiute tribes, including the Las Vegas Paiutes.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Protect the LVF, including the paleontological, geological, and cultural resources.

- Manage the paleontological assemblages within the LVF.
 - Protect the boundary and all major fossil surface localities.

¹ The NRHP lists the site as 980 acres. There has been no change to the boundary; rather, modern technology has allowed the acreage to be calculated with greater accuracy.

- Work within BLM's statutes to protect the LVF within all approved R&PP Act leases.
- Establish in situ preservation areas for cultural resource sites and paleontological areas that are kept undisturbed and unfragmented.
- Maintain in situ key paleontological localities that are essential to understand paleoecology within the LVF.
- Provide mitigation and treatment for all paleontological localities, cultural resource sites, and rare plants that cannot be preserved in situ.
- Conduct regular paleontological inventories to ensure that new surface fossil sites eroding from the LVF are identified and protected.
- Support studies and interpretation of the fossil resources in the CTA.
- Establish a paleontological stewardship program to educate and train volunteers to monitor and assist in protecting the CTA.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Preserve the ecosystem of the ULVW in a functional state.

- Protect the CTA boundary from the impacts of urbanization.
- Maintain natural ecosystem processes, including surface flows, wind and water erosion and deposition, and nutrient cycling.

LAND USE

Preserve the ecosystem of the ULVW in a functional state.

- Protect the CTA boundary from the impacts of urbanization.
- Maintain natural ecosystem processes, including surface flows, wind and water erosion and deposition, and nutrient cycling.

Uses, including recreational permits that are compatible with sensitive resource management goals, should be designed to minimize impacts.

- Land uses should avoid plant habitat that has been identified to be preserved intact.
- Land uses should avoid fragmentation of the LVF to the extent possible.
- Land uses should be designed to the smallest area necessary.
- Land uses should be engineered to protect the washes that provide for the hydrologic and biological functioning of the system.

RECREATION

Uses, including recreational permits that are compatible with sensitive resource management goals, should be designed to minimize impacts. Provide compatible educational, recreational, and interpretive opportunities in order for the public to enjoy and appreciate the unique resources of the CTA.

- Develop environmental education and interpretive programs for key paleontological and cultural sites when such actions are consistent with the protection of the ULVW.
 - Locate uses in areas that reduce impacts to sensitive resources.
 - Develop ongoing public information and interpretation of the Las Vegas bearpoppy, Las Vegas buckwheat, cultural, and paleontological resources.
- Establish a non-motorized trail system, compatible with the protection of sensitive resources, for the enjoyment of the public.
 - Locate trails and structures (staging areas, restrooms, parking facilities, etc.) such that they do not conflict with the management of sensitive resources.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Ensure long-term viability of the Las Vegas buckwheat, Las Vegas bearpoppy, and Merriam's bearpoppy in sustainable natural populations within the boundaries of the CTA.

- Restore existing and new land disturbances that result in soil contamination in sensitive plant habitat.
- Provide protection to sensitive plant habitat from activities such as illegal motorized use, dumping, trespass, and other invasive use.
- Protect the CTA boundary from the impacts of urbanization.

This page intentionally left blank.