



BLM News

2006-2

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Hillerie C. Patton

Date: December 7, 2006

Phone: 702-515-5046

Public Comments Sought for Round 7 SNPLMA Expenditures

Las Vegas -- The federal land management agencies in Nevada are seeking public comment on the Round 7 preliminary recommendation for expenditure of over \$85 million garnered from the sale of public land in the Las Vegas valley. The public comment period, which begins Friday, December 8, 2006, runs through January 22, 2007.

“We will consider all public comments when making our recommendations to the Secretary,” said Ron Wenker, BLM Nevada State Director, “Public participation is a critical aspect of our decision-making process, and we value all comments.”

The Round 7 preliminary budget request for expenditures from the Special Account established by the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) totals just over \$85.69 million (out of a projected revenue of \$85.733 million through June 30, 2007). The budget request includes recommendations for the four categories listed below, a Special Account Reserve, a Pre-Proposal Planning reserve, and provides for a 10 percent contingency for emergency needs.

Project Category	Nominations Recommended	Cost Estimate
Parks, Trails, & Natural Areas	6	\$34,063,000
Capital Improvements	6	\$17,829,916
Conservation Initiatives	6	\$ 6,033,448
Land Acquisitions	3	\$35,628,000*
TOTAL	21	\$93,554,359*

*The difference between the \$93.5 million estimated cost of the recommended projects and the \$85.69 million budget request is the result of reallocating over \$33 million in excess funds in the land acquisition category resulting from prior approved lands which could not be acquired toward funding Round 7 land acquisitions.

The Preliminary Recommendation also recommends five (5) land acquisitions be funded at an estimated cost of \$49.1 million from the Special Account for the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA), commonly known as the “Baca Act.” These properties meet the Act’s criteria for use of FLTFA funds to acquire in holdings within the boundaries of, or adjacent to, federally designated areas.

-- continued --

More information about the proposed expenditures is available for review at the BLM Las Vegas Field Office, 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive, 702-515-5114. Information is also available at the BLM Nevada State Office in Reno, 1340 Financial Blvd.; the BLM Ely Field Office, 702 N. Industrial Way; the BLM

Carson City Field Office, 5565 Morgan Mill Road; and the BLM Elko Field Office, 3900 East Idaho Street. The public may comment in writing to the SNPLMA Division, BLM Las Vegas Field Office at the above address or by fax to the SNPLMA Division at 702-515-5010.

The Preliminary Recommendation, the matrices of projects, and executive summaries for the nominations will also be available on the SNPLMA website at www.nv.blm.gov/snplma beginning Friday, December 8, 2006. Additionally, the public may make comments during the Mojave Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council Meeting to be held, Friday January 12, 2007 at the BLM Las Vegas Field Office. The meeting time will be given at a later date.

The SNPLMA allows expenditures in the following areas:

- Development of parks, trails, and natural areas in Clark and Lincoln Counties, pursuant to a cooperative agreement with a unit of local government
- Capital improvements at the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area and other areas managed by the BLM in Clark and Lincoln Counties, Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, and the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area
- Conservation Initiatives on Federal lands in Clark and Lincoln Counties managed by the Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture
- Environmentally sensitive land acquisitions in Nevada, with priority for lands in Clark County
- Development of a multi-species habitat conservation plan in Clark County
- Lake Tahoe restoration projects

Providing this list of expenditures for public comment is one of several steps in the process for developing recommendations for the Secretary of the Interior, who is the approving official in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture.

-BLM-

An initial call for nominations for all expenditure categories for Round 7 was issued last June. The nominations in all project categories were scored based on ranking criteria. The list provided beginning today represents the results of that scoring process. At the completion of this public comment period, the regional directors of the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service California-Nevada Operations Manager, and the BLM Nevada State Director will meet to consider the comments and agree on a final recommendation to the Secretary of the Interior.