

**Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (Public Law 105 - 263)**  
**Round 18 Nominations - Capital Improvements**  
**Preliminary Recommendation**

The following is a prioritized list of Capital Improvements project nominations that have been received and reviewed for possible funding under Round 18 of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (Public Law 105 - 263). The purpose of releasing these lists is to obtain input from interested parties. Beginning March 1, 2021, the BLM is accepting written comments on these nominations until close of business (4:30 PM Pacific Time) on April 14, 2021. Comments should be mailed to the SNPLMA Executive Committee Chair, BLM Southern Nevada District Office, 4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89130, faxed to (702) 515-5110, or emailed to snplma@blm.gov. The SNPLMA Executive Committee will meet following the comment period to review comments received to develop a final recommendation for consideration by the Secretary of the Interior in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture. Questions may be addressed to the SNPLMA Division, BLM Southern Nevada District Office at (702) 515-5116.

<b>Round 18 Capital Improvements Recommended Primary Funding List</b>							
Rank	Tab #	Project Name	Requesting Entity	Location	Nomination Request	Funding Recommended	Total Recommendation
1	11	Red Rock Canyon Legacy Trail	BLM	Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, Clark County, NV.	\$63,090,580	\$34,640,296	\$34,640,296
2	12	Sloan Canyon Visitor Contact Station	BLM	Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area, in Henderson, Clark County, NV.	\$19,834,600	\$19,834,600	\$54,474,896
4	4	Garnet Hill Recreation Area	BLM	BLM public lands along Hwy-50 northwest of Ely in White Pine County, NV.	\$9,580,040	\$9,580,040	\$64,054,936
5	8	Improvements for Upper Kyle Canyon Trails System and Parking	USDA FS	Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Spring Mountains National Recreation Area (25 miles NW of Las Vegas), in Clark County, NV.	\$4,712,863	\$4,712,863	\$68,767,799
6	9	Modernize Critical Interagency Communications Infrastructure and Systems	NPS	Lake Mead National Recreation Area in Boulder City, Clark County, NV.	\$12,306,650	\$12,306,650	\$81,074,449
10	1	Ash Meadows Fish Conservation Facility Expansion	FWS	Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in Nye County, NV.	\$2,413,409	\$2,413,409	\$83,487,858
11	2	Colorado River Heritage Trail at Davis Dam	BOR	Lake Mead National Recreation Area in Mohave County, AZ and Clark County, NV.	\$7,553,143	\$7,553,143	\$91,041,001
<b>Totals for Round 18 Capital Improvements Recommended Primary Funding:</b>					<b>\$119,491,285</b>	<b>\$91,041,001</b>	
<b>Round 18 Capital Improvements Not Recommended Funding List</b>							
Rank	Tab #	Project Name	Requesting Entity	Location	Nomination Request	Funding Recommended	Total Recommendation
3	13	Upper Lake Dam Improvements on Pahranaagat National Wildlife Refuge	FWS	Pahranaagat National Wildlife Refuge, in Lincoln County, NV.	\$4,884,472	\$0	\$91,041,001
7	6	Hoover Dam Observation Areas Enhancements	BOR	Lake Mead National Recreation Area in Mohave County, AZ and Clark County, NV.	\$10,864,434	\$0	\$91,041,001
8	14	Ward Mountain Bike Trail Project	USDA FS	Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Ely Ranger District, White Pine County, NV.	\$2,069,322	\$0	\$91,041,001
9	3	Crystal Spring Outflow Restoration and Improvements	FWS	Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in Nye County, NV.	\$4,916,279	\$0	\$91,041,001
12	5	Great Basin Park Housing	NPS	Great Basin National Park, near Baker in White Pine County, NV.	\$14,879,267	\$0	\$91,041,001
13	10	Mountain Springs Fire Complex	USDA FS	Spring Mountain National Recreation Area (35 miles SW of Las Vegas) in Clark County, NV.	\$17,141,320	\$0	\$91,041,001
14	7	Hoover Dam Water Study	BOR	Lake Mead National Recreation Area in Mohave County, AZ and Clark County, NV.	\$10,917,894	\$0	\$91,041,001
<b>Totals for Round 18 Capital Improvements Not Recommended Funding:</b>					<b>\$65,672,988</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
<b>Totals for Round 18 Primary Funding Recommendation:</b>							<b>\$91,041,001</b>
<b>Totals for Round 18 Secondary Funding List:</b>							<b>\$0</b>
<b>Totals for Round 18 Recommended List:</b>							<b>\$91,041,001</b>

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act  
Capital Improvements  
Round 18

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



**Ash Meadows Fish Conservation Facility Expansion**

Amount Requested: \$2,413,409

Timeframe: 5 Years

Location: 36.423886°, -116.305676°

Congressional District Number: NV-4

Federal Manager: Kevin DesRoberts, Project Leader  
Interior Regions 8 and 10  
Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
P: (702) 515-5451  
Email: kevin\_desroberts@fws.gov

Project Manager: Jennifer Gumm, Facility Manager  
Ash Meadows Fish Conservation Facility  
P: (702) 308-5435 ext. 120  
Email: Jennifer\_gumm@fws.gov

**Purpose Statement:**

The US Fish and Wildlife Service will expand the Ash Meadows Fish Conservation Facility located on the Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in Nye County, Nevada. The refuge is located in the Amargosa Valley. The expansion will be the construction of two buildings. One building will expand the current facility's propagation room to provide additional space for captive breeding and rearing of Devils Hole pupfish. The second building will provide a workshop area, staff offices and dedicated space to support digital video-based outreach projects. The project will further protect the only existing captive population of the federally-endangered Devils Hole pupfish and facilitate continued conservation and recovery of this species through increased breeding and rearing capacity; improve public access to view and learn about this endangered fish and its habitat through digital video technology; and improve operations and maintenance efficiency through the expansion of the facility.

**Background info and need for the project:**

The Devils Hole pupfish is an important natural resource in the Mojave Desert of Southern Nevada. This species is found in only one location, a small pool located in a section of Death Valley National Park located within the Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). It is morphologically, physiologically, and genetically distinct from other pupfishes and is incredibly specialized to the extreme environment of Devils Hole. The population in Devils Hole decreased in the 1990's and hit lows of 38 and 35 in 2006 and 2013. In response to the low population size in 2006, the Ash Meadows Fish Conservation Facility (AMFCF) was funded by SNPLMA as a home for a refuge population of Devils Hole pupfish. After being built in 2010-2012, it was rushed into commission in 2013 when the population again dropped into the 30s. Since 2013, the AMFCF staff coordinates with Death Valley National Park Service staff to collect pupfish eggs from Devils Hole. These embryos are hatched and reared to adulthood in the AMFCF propagation room before being transferred to the AMFCF refuge tank, a ~100,000-gallon replica of the Devils Hole environment. The population in the refuge tank showed signs of production as early as 2014, however it was not until Summer 2018 that eggs from the refuge tank were successfully collected and raised in the propagation room (Figure 1). Breeding Devils Hole pupfish in a lab-like environment has been a recovery goal for the species since the early 1970's and was achieved for the first time in by AMFCF staff in Fall 2018 (Figure 1).

The two advancements in captive breeding- successful egg collection from the refuge tank, and successful breeding in aquaria in the propagation room, have allowed the AMFCF population to thrive and put Devils Hole pupfish on the precipice of achieving major conservation and recovery goals. The AMFCF is currently limited in ability to achieve additional Devils Hole pupfish recovery goals due to space limitations leading to two specific construction needs (Figure 2) that are both addressed by this proposal: 1) propagation room expansion 2) workshop and fabrication space.

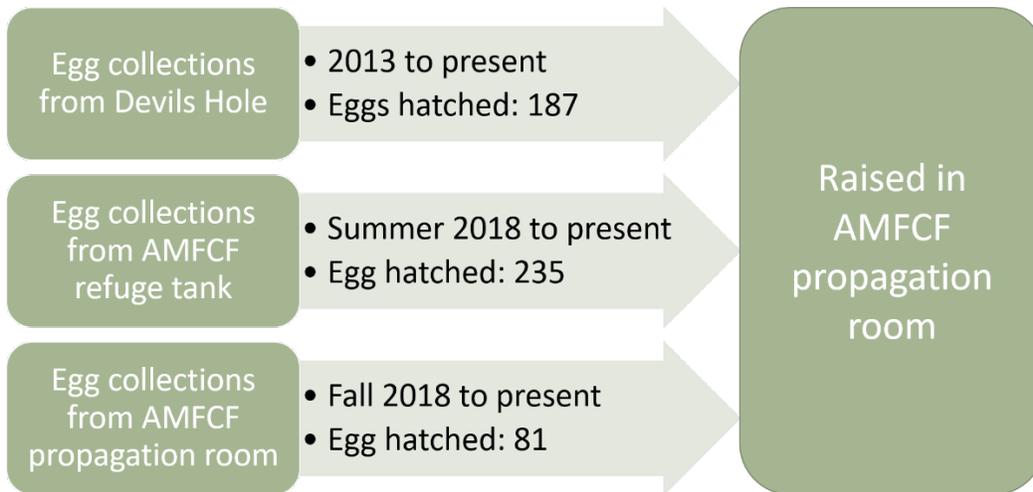


Figure 1. The workflow of the AMFCF. Breakthroughs in breeding in the refuge tank and propagation room have almost doubled the number of Devils Hole pupfish raised in the facility in just the last 2 years.

#### Propagation Building Justification

The propagation room currently houses all eggs, larval and juvenile Devils Hole pupfish. The workflow of the AMFCF egg collections is currently limited by 1) number of tanks and 2) total capacity. The number of tanks is limiting because each egg collection is kept separate as a cohort. This increases survival of fish of different ages, allows us to track genetics and minimize inbreeding among breeding groups. We currently have 12 egg/larval tanks which have been fully occupied since January 2020 (Figure 3). Regardless of cohort, each type of tank is also limited in how many fish it can hold safely. In February 2020, we reached total capacity in egg/larval tanks (Figure 4). An additional propagation building would allow us to expand the number of tanks by, at minimum, tripling the number of tanks dedicated to eggs, larval and juvenile fish. It would also allow us to increase tank sizes to increase total capacity. Finally, it would provide space for additional larger breeding tanks to increase captive breeding efforts (Figure 3). It is important to note that the current operating budget for the AMFCF will be sufficient for care of additional fish. The design of new aquaculture systems will rely on increased filtration and recirculation, which will decrease the amount of daily care needed and amount of water used in daily water changes.

#### Workshop Justification

There is currently no dedicated workspace for fabrication, repairs or maintenance in the AMFCF. Further, biosecurity protocols prevent this work from being done off site, or in facilities associated with the Ash Meadows NWR. Currently, all maintenance and repair tasks, as well as fabrication of structures and plumbing for the refuge tank and propagation room take place outside, in a small breezeway or in the mechanical support room for the AMFCF (Figure 5). This decreases the ability to conduct work due to harsh environmental conditions and increases wear and tear on tools due to being used in extremely hot, windy and dusty desert conditions. The limited space also limits the number of projects that can be carried out simultaneously. The proposed workshop will also house storage space for the AMFCF, as all storage is currently in outdoor shipping containers (Figure 6), or in the mechanical room, limiting access to the aquatic

life support systems. Better storage options for equipment, tools and parts will increase their lifespan, decrease wear and tear, and decrease costs incurred through premature replacement.

The proposed workshop will also contain small office areas for staff, and dedicated IT spaces for servers and video editing. The AMFCF currently has a single 14 ft x 19 ft room that serves as office space for three full time employees, houses all workstations/computers and servers associated with the refuge tank life support systems, and contains all storage space for data and documentation files. Providing additional space for staff will increase productivity. Dedicated server space will provide increased security for computer systems that run the AMFCF. Importantly, a dedicated video editing suite will facilitate a major outreach and education program for the AMFCF.

### Outreach Justification

The biological and historical importance of the Devils Hole pupfish results in high levels of public interest in this small desert fish. The Devils Hole pupfish Incident Command Team and AMFCF staff regularly field requests from public media outlets and K-12 and University level teachers through the country. We aim to increase public access to Devils Hole pupfish and increase awareness of conservation-in-action through digital technology. The expansion of the AMFCF will include a dedicated space for servers and a video editing suite. We will establish a video feed to the Ash Meadows NWR Visitor Center that features a live view of the population in the refuge tank and the larval fish in the propagation room. We will also establish this ‘Pupfish Cam’ to a public website and other live feeds that are provided by USFWS for insight and access to other endangered species, and are commonly hosted by aquariums. This outreach effort has the potential to provide a rare experience, viewing Devils Hole pupfish, to a broad and diverse audience throughout the United States and world. It will increase access by the public to cutting-edge conservation work on an endangered species.

### **Relationship to previous phases and anticipated future phases:**

The Ash Meadows Fish Conservation Facility was funded and built from Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act Round 6-6 (CI23) as a refugium for Devils Hole pupfish. This was a previous project and is not considered a previous phase of the current nomination. The current nomination will result in a stand alone, viable project and the USFWS acknowledges that there is no guarantee of future funding and has no expectation of funding for future phases. There are no anticipated future phases for this project.

### **Deliverables:**

#### Primary Deliverables:

1. Design, plan, and construct propagation building on the East side of the current AMFCF building. This building will be approximately 30 ft x 35 ft.
2. Design, plan and construct workshop with office and video editing space. Building will be located on the West side of the current AMFCF building. This building will be approximately 35 ft x 65 ft.

3. Connect live video feeds from AMFCF refuge tank to Ash Meadows Visitor Center and to FWS websites.

Anticipated Deliverables:

- No anticipated deliverables.

Standard Deliverables:

- Contract management by US FWS agency personnel, including but not limited to developing Scopes of Work, writing bid requests, reviewing proposals/bids, and providing technical representation for the Contracting Officer throughout the project's duration,
- Environmental permitting by USFWS agency personnel when applicable, such as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, etc.
- Project management by refuge employee on the project to:
  - Oversee project activities and deliverables
  - Conduct appropriate reviews throughout stages of deliverables
  - Coordinate with other agency personnel and contractors
  - Insure progress throughout the duration of the project

**Project Timeframe:**

This project will be completed within 5 years. Below is a proposed timeline for the project.

0 month	Complete work plan and funding authorization
15 months	Complete planning and design and NEPA includes: Conceptual design Scoping meetings FWS consultation NEPA preparation Decision document Final design and engineering
12 months	Contracting for construction through build out includes: Preparation of contract documents/specifications Drafting the SOW and contract Contract solicitation Contract award
30 months	Construction includes: Mobilization Construction through full build-out Agency acceptance as complete Payment of final invoice, close out of contracts Release of lien
3 months	Project close out with SNPLMA

	Final site inspection
	Final review of project file and expenditures
	Request for close out
	SNPLMA close out of the funding authorization
60 months	Total anticipated period of performance to complete

### **Level of Project Readiness for Implementation:**

The US Fish and Wildlife Service at the AMFCF is prepared to initiate implementation of the nominated project upon notification of fund availability. The ESA survey work will be completed in-house. The construction of the two buildings will be completed by contractors. Much of the technological infrastructure and permitting for the live feed are already in place and additional installation would be done in-house and by contractors.

The Facility Manager/AMFCF staff will plan and coordinate the project, work with the CO to contract out construction, and will provide technical expertise and oversight for project implementation. The Facility Manager will complete final documentation and project closeout once construction is completed.

The project implementation process will follow the Project Timeframe and Project Deliverables, as detailed above.

#### 5 Year Timeline

Planning and Design	Years 1-2
Construction & Outreach Installation	Years 2-4
Final Documentation and Closeout	Year 5

### **Future Operations and Maintenance:**

The requirements to maintain the proposed propagation building and workshop will be handled by AMFCF staff. Costs of operating the proposed buildings will be minimal due to the use of sustainable construction and inclusion of solar on both buildings. Both the workshop and the propagation building will be successfully operated with no increases in staff. The addition of both buildings will increase space utilization efficiency and increase project implementation and maintenance ability. The propagation building will allow us to install and maintain aquarium systems that can house more fish with less daily maintenance. Similarly, the workshop will allow fabrication to occur throughout the year, instead of being weather dependent.

These evaluations were based on current operations and maintenance costs for the existing buildings and in-house determinations.

### **Contributed funds directly applicable to completion of the project:**

The FWS offered to contribute funds in the amount of \$16,000 including labor for planning, design, and construction. However, in-kind contributions must come from a non-Federal funding source; not other federal appropriations.

## Funding Requested Budget Detail:

Estimated cost summary provided below.

<b>Schedule B</b>		
<b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROPOSAL</b>		
<b>ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS &amp; KEY MILESTONE DATES</b>		
<b>Project Name:</b>	<u>Ash Meadows Fish Conservation Facility Expansion</u>	<b>Agency:</b> <u>US Fish &amp; Wildlife Service</u>
<b>Project &amp; Priority #:</b>	<u>N/A nomination submittal</u>	<b>Phone:</b> <u>702-308-2732</u>
<b>Prepared by:</b>	<u>Jennifer Gumm</u>	<b>Date:</b> <u>9/14/2020</u>
<b>1</b>	<b>Planning, Environmental Compliance &amp; Preconstruction Engineering and Design</b> <i>(Not to exceed 27% of total project costs)</i> (Pre-design sketches and conceptual drawings; environmental assessment and permitting, specialist surveys/reports for archaeology, wildlife, biology, etc.; architectural and engineering analysis, design survey & field investigations; construction drawings, specifications, cost estimates, and engineering technical reports.)	<u>\$50,000</u> 2.07%
<b>2</b>	<b>Construction Contract Costs</b> (Including labor, supplies & materials, construction management, etc.; sampling/testing; site restoration; and government furnished supplies and materials.)	<u>\$1,287,000</u> 53.33%
<b>3</b>	<b>Project Equipment</b> (Pg. 89 of the Implementation Agreement - SNPLMA funds can only be used for "project related necessary expenses" and SNPLMA can reimburse only for those equipment costs directly associated with completion of the approved project.)	<u>\$36,000</u> 1.49%
<b>4</b>	<b>Travel</b> (Including per diem where official travel status is required to carry out the project, such as to serve as COR, experts to review reports, etc.)	<u>\$12,000</u> 0.50%
<b>5</b>	<b>Official Vehicle Use</b> (Pro rata costs for use of Official Vehicles when required to carry out the project.)	<u>\$12,000</u> 0.50%
<b>6</b>	<b>Other Direct and Contracted Labor</b> Agency payroll for the Contracting Officer to do project procurements, COR Project Inspector, Section 106 Consultation, NEPA Lead, Project Manager, Project Supervisor, and subject experts to review contracted surveys, design/drawings, plans, reports, etc.; Also covered is the cost to contract for a Project Manager and/or Project Supervisor if contracted separately from other project costs.	<u>\$70,900</u> 2.94%
<b>7</b>	<b>FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act</b>	<u>\$20,000</u> 0.83%
<b>8</b>	<b>Direct Federal Labor</b> (direct agency labor for construction, project inspection, CO and COR)	<u>\$924,634</u> 38.31%
<b>9</b>	<b>Other Necessary Expenses</b> (See SNPLMA IA Part Two, Appendix B-3)	<u>\$875</u> 0.04%
<b>Total Requested/Estimated Budget</b>		<b><u>\$2,413,409</u>      100.00%</b>

10	<b>Total Estimated In-kind Agency or Partner Contribution</b>	0
	<b>Total Estimated Project Value</b>	\$2,429,409

### **Performance Measures:**

The proposed AMFCF Expansion Project supports these goals and the anticipated performance measures.

Outcome: Goal 1- Sustain the quality of the Outdoor environment by conserving, preserving, and restoring natural and cultural resources.

- Output (Primary Deliverable): Construction of a propagation building for Devils Hole pupfish. The SNPLMA Performance Measures include:
  - Performance Measure H14- Number of individual recovery actions performed for threatened or endangered species recovery as identified in recovery plans, conservation management plans, or land use planning documents: 2 Recovery Plan Goals will directly be met, with an additional 5 Recovery Plan Goals that would be facilitated by the results of the project.

Outcome: Supports the three values of sustainability, connectivity and community.

- Output (Primary Deliverable): Construction of propagation building and workshop building. The SNPLMA Performance Measures include:
  - Performance Measure O2- Number of buildings, facilities, or amenities constructed or refurbished - 2
  - Performance Measure O8- Buildings or Facilities that Support Green Sustainable Design and Construction - 2
- Output (Primary Deliverable): Livestreaming video of pupfish refugia populations in the Ash Meadows Visitor Center and on FWS websites. The SNPLMA Performance Measures include:
  - Performance Measure O5- Number of Outreach Contacts Made – 500,000+, based on social media estimates for US FWS, Death Valley NPS, & similar project views
  - Performance Measure O6- Report the number of new interpretive or education publications/signs/kiosks/displays produced - 2

### **Executive Committee Strategic Plan Values:**

#### **Sustainability**

This project will preserve and reserve the natural and cultural resource of the Devils Hole pupfish for future generations. Specifically, the expanded propagation room will facilitate growth of the captive Devils Hole pupfish population providing durability to the species. Increased outreach capability will increase the relevancy of the program in species conservation and recovery. Both activities will provide support to ensure benefits in the near and long term for the Devils Hole pupfish. The new and refurbished workspaces will insure that the facility remains sustainable by increasing capabilities and efficiency of maintenance and operations

work. The project will promote sustainability in itself. It will employ “green construction” practices using recycled or renewable materials, improving energy efficiency, and utilizes low-maintenance products in construction.

### **Connectivity**

This project will improve the quality of life for all public communities by providing recreation opportunities and natural landscapes virtually, and encouraging people to meaningfully connect with their natural environment. The outreach and education component of the project will provide virtual access to see Devils Hole pupfish live on camera, an experience that most people will never get to enjoy in person. The video feed will connect the AMFCF directly with other FWS facilities and will enhance recreational opportunities through increasing education about rare species and environments in the Ash Meadows NWR Visitor Center. Making the live feed available on the internet will more broadly engage the public in the conservation of this species and will connect viewers from all beyond Southern Nevada to the desert environment.

### **Community**

By supporting the conservation and recovery of the endangered Devils Hole pupfish, this project will conserve the functionality, resiliency, and integrity of a unique biological community. This project also promotes community by enhancing the experience for visitors to the Ash Meadows NWR Visitor Center. Further, the project will provide virtual recreation opportunities to improve the quality of life, especially for underserved or underrepresented communities that may not have access to viewing rare and endangered species in person. These virtual opportunities have the potential to engage with a much wider community in Southern Nevada and beyond.

### **Compliance with Departmental Priorities, Strategic Goals, Executive Orders, and Secretarial Orders:**

Addressed as part of the ranking criteria

### **Ranking Criteria:**

#### **1. SUSTAINABILITY & MODERNIZATION**

The project supports conservation, preservation, restoration, or modernization of natural, cultural, or historic resources (which includes infrastructure) to ensure availability of those resources for future generations. The project will remain relevant and continue to provide benefit to a recreation user over the anticipated life of the project.

#### *Factors:*

- a. Yes, this project will increase conservation stewardship by facilitating the recovery goals for the Devils Hole pupfish. The proposed propagation building will provide new opportunities to establish a sustainable captive population and breeding program for this species, preserving this unique natural resource for present and future generations
- b. Yes, the project will modernize and rehabilitate the existing AMFCF by adding dedicated

workshop space and expanding the space for propagation and the captive breeding program. This will improve unit operations by facilitating more efficient maintenance work. The increased propagation space will allow for installing aquarium systems that are more sustainable for larger numbers of fish as well by allowing for increased filtration systems requiring less daily care per tank by AMFCF staff.

- c. No, the project does not meet this factor.
- d. Yes, the project will improve the management of important natural resources in the Devils Hole pupfish. The new facilities will directly benefit the conservation of the species through the expansion and establishment of a sustainable captive breeding program. The facilities will also house necessary technological equipment to facilitate education and outreach through the video feed to the Ash Meadows NWR Visitor Center and internet.

## 2. CONNECTIVITY

The project provides recreational opportunities that link population centers, recreation facilities, and the user to the outdoors and natural landscapes. It encourages people to meaningfully connect with their natural environment, thus helping them appreciate and care for the environment. The project will also connect the user to the history and/or cultural of the site and engages the user in appreciation of the site/area.

- a. No, the project does not meet this factor.
- b. No, the project does not meet this factor.
- c. Yes, the project will directly connect two facilities- the AMFCF and the Ash Meadows NWR Visitor Center, with a digital video feed. This will enhance recreational opportunities for visitors to the Ash Meadows NWR by increasing access and allowing them to see live Devils Hole pupfish in a natural-like environment. The live webcam will also increase access for the general public outside of visitors to Ash Meadows NWR, providing an important and wide ranging educational opportunity.
- d. Yes, the project includes establishing a video feed that is publicly available which will improve public awareness of the Devils Hole pupfish and engage the public by highlighting how conservation and recovery work is done for this iconic desert species.

## 3. COMMUNITY

The project provides or improves outdoor recreation opportunities to improve the quality of life, especially for underserved communities. It conserves or restores the functionality, resiliency, and integrity of biological communities. The project encourages partnerships, which in turn builds community.

*(Encourages and engages the public in the conservation and protection of the surrounding natural environment through use of volunteer/stewardship resources)*

- a. Yes, the project will conserve the integrity of the biological community found only in

Devils Hole through expansion of the conservation and recovery efforts for the Devils Hole pupfish. The video feed connection to the Ash Meadows Visitor Center will provide enhanced social benefits by connecting visitors to the rare species found in local habitats. The AMFCF has partnerships with the Ash Meadows NWR for the planning, design, implementation and management of the project (See Refuge Manager Letter of Support).

- b. No, the project does not meet this factor.
- c. Yes, the project will provide infrastructure for conservation stewardship in the rural Amargosa Valley located in Nye County, NV. It will also provide educational programming via digital technology, allowing our conservation and recovery work with Devils Hole pupfish to reach underserved communities and populations across the US and throughout the world.

#### **4. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE**

The agency has clearly demonstrated that the anticipated operations and maintenance costs for the project and resources necessary to operate the project are within existing appropriations or demonstrated how they will secure the necessary operations and maintenance funds.

*(Agency has detailed estimated annual O&M cost and estimated use/permit fees to be collected.)*

- a. Yes, current appropriations are sufficient for the operations and management of the project. Expanding workspaces for fish care and fabrication/maintenance will allow staff of the AMFCF to work more efficiently and increase productivity.
- b. No, the project does not meet this factor.
- c. Yes, the project will reduce O&M costs by providing appropriate workspaces for fabrication and fish care. Currently, all fabrication work is completed outside, which greatly increases wear and tear on tools and materials. Being able to store and use this equipment in the workshop building will decrease repair and replacement costs of specialized equipment. The project will reduce energy costs by incorporating solar into the construction. The project has the potential to reduce water use by allowing for installation of recirculating systems with high filtration that require fewer water changes than current tank systems that require daily water changes.
- d. Yes, the building proposed in the project will be built using 'green' and sustainable methods and materials. The AMFCF currently has a solar array and the new building will include solar panels to expand our solar capabilities.

## **5. LIFECYCLE REPLACEMENT/RECONSTRUCTION AND DEFERRED MAINTENANCE**

Any existing project or facility that has met or exceeds its usefulness life, design life, or life cycle that requires major restoration or reconstruction to restore the historic fabric of the facility or meet standard new Federal accessibility guidelines.

*(Does not include reconstruction, change, or new amenities for previously approved SNPLMA capital improvement projects. Excludes projects that were identified as phased construction, each phase must be fully operational and serve the intended purpose upon completion.)*

- a. No, this factor does not apply to the proposed project.
- b. No, this factor does not apply to the proposed project.

## **6. ADVANCES THE AGENCY/ENTITY PRIORITIES/GOALS**

The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination/project meets the priorities and strategic goals for their respective agency.

The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination/project meets the priorities and strategic goals for their respective agency.

### **A. Meets one or more of the Department of the Interior priorities:**

- *Create a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt.*  
This project will create a conservation stewardship legacy through supporting conservation and recovery goals for the endangered Devils Hole pupfish. Specifically, the project will expand the facility that houses the only captive population, which will increase capacity for the propagation program, breeding efforts, and grow the population. This will achieve recovery goals of maintaining populations of Devils Hole pupfish, monitoring refugium populations, and is required in order to meet additional recovery goals that rely on large, sustainable, captive populations to analyze genetics, study effects of habitat manipulations, determine what controls population sizes, and conduct research studies to determine limiting factors for the species.
- *Sustainably develop our natural resources.*  
This project will sustainably develop natural resources through supporting conservation and recovery goals for the endangered Devils Hole pupfish. The project will expand the facility housing the captive population and propagation program, resulting in ability to grow the captive population and ensure the sustainability of the species for the future.

### **B. Meets one or more of the U.S. Forest Service priorities:**

**7. CONSISTENCY WITH SECRETARIAL ORDERS AND DIRECTIVE:** The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination / project meets the Secretarial Orders (SO) and Directive.

- A. EO No. 13855 Promoting Active Management of America’s Forests, Range Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk -- Not Applicable**
- B. SO No. 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation.**
- This project will advance conservation stewardship through supporting conservation and recovery goals for the endangered Devils Hole pupfish by expanding the facility housing the captive population and propagation program.
- C. SO No. 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes and Territories.**
- D. SO No. 3362: Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors**
- E. SO No. 3366: Increasing Recreational Opportunities on Lands and Waters Managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior**
- F. SO No. 3370: Conservation Stewardship and Increasing Public Access to Urban National Wildlife Refuges**
- This project will restore trust in the stewardship legacy through supporting conservation and recovery goals for the endangered Devils Hole pupfish by expanding the facility housing the captive population and propagation program. The project will encourage and assist Americans to experience the outdoors by exposing them to the Devils Hole pupfish and conservation efforts through digital technology.
- G. SO No. 3372: Reducing Wildfire Risks on Department of the Interior Land Through Active Management**
- H. SO No. 3373 Evaluating Public Access in Bureau of Land Management Public Land Disposals and Exchanges**
- I. SO No. 3374 Implementation of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act**
- J. SO No. 3376 Increasing Recreational Opportunities through the use of Electric Bikes.**
- K. Other Secretarial Order(s) and Directive(s):** Describe any other Secretarial Order(s) and Directive(s) that apply to the nomination and are not listed above.

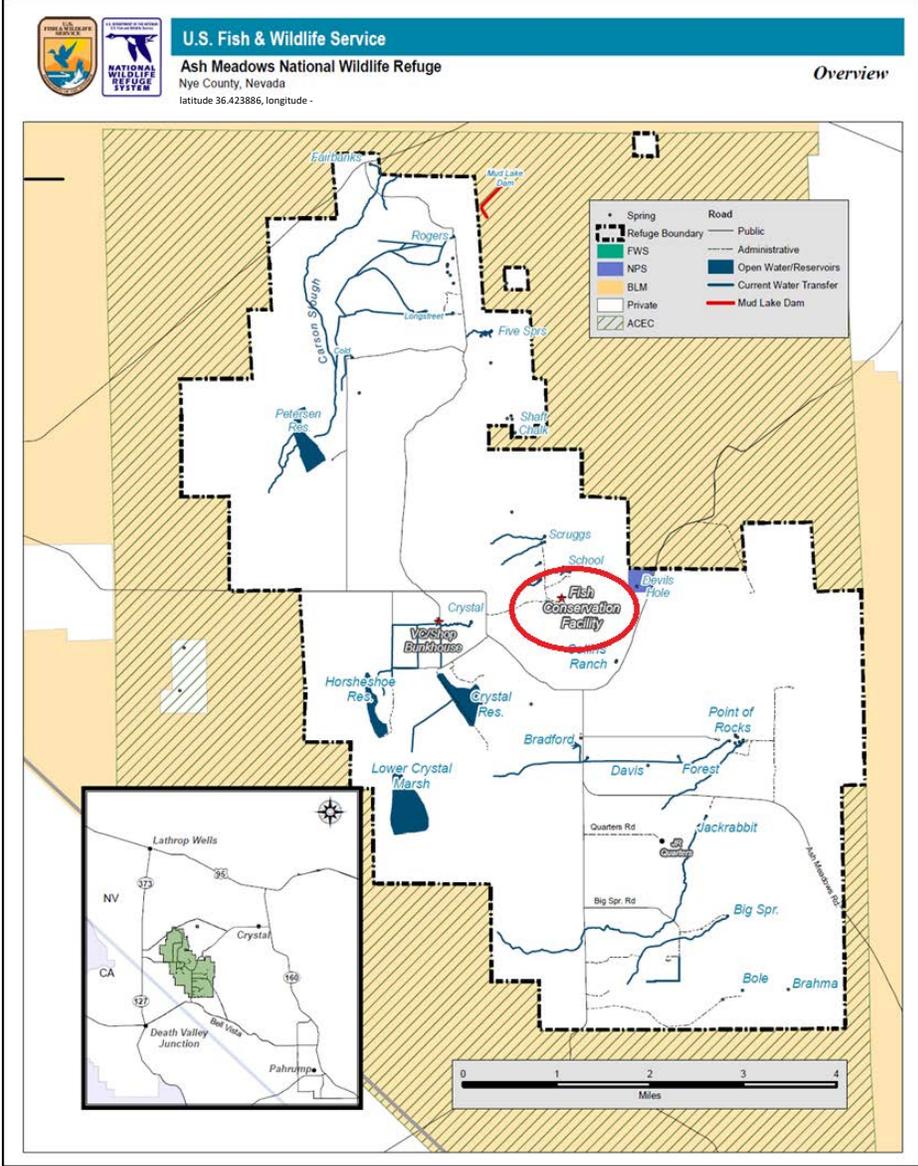
**Project Location:**

Project location: 36.423886 / -116.305676

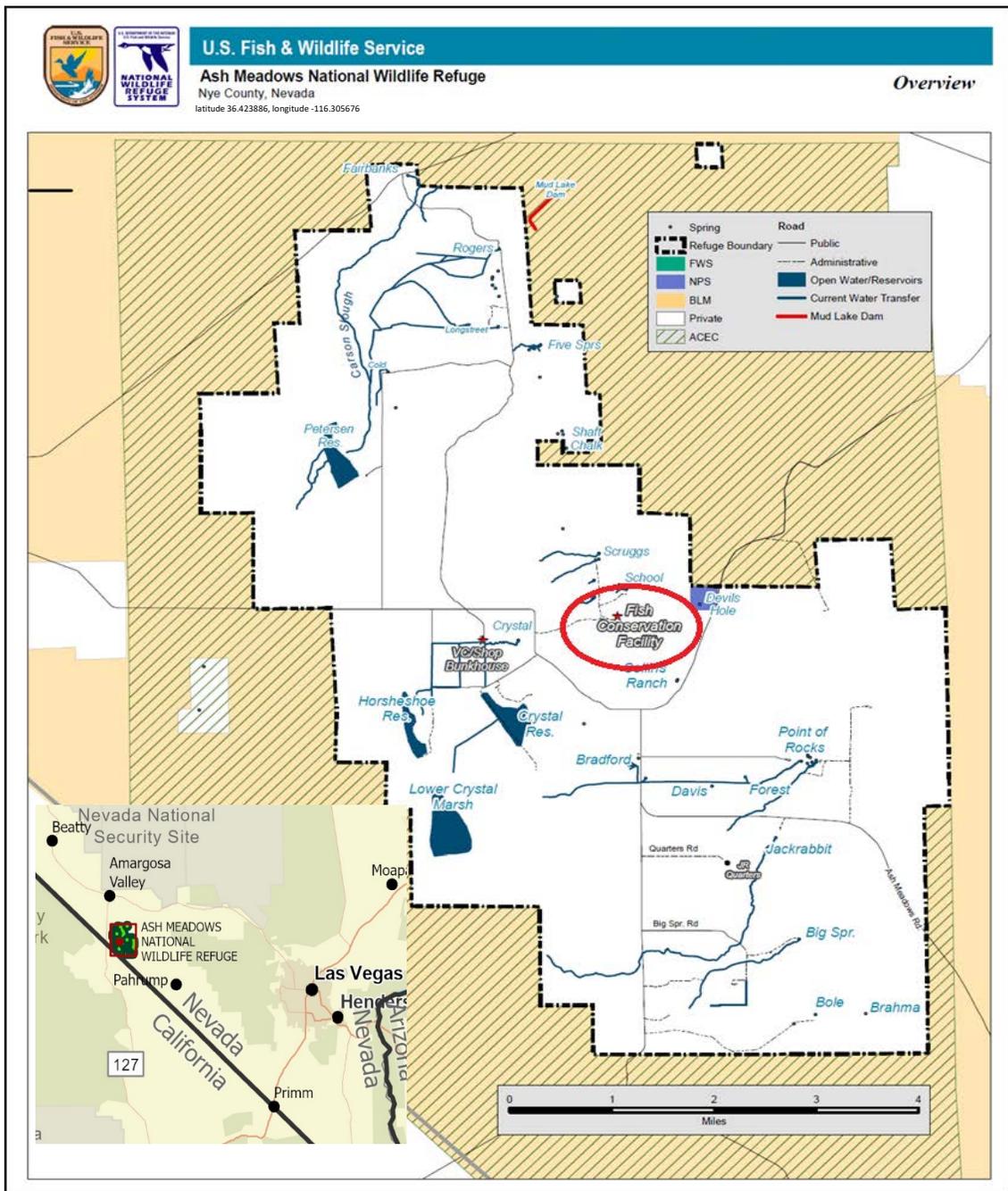
The proposed project on the current site of the Ash Meadows Fish Conservation Facility, which is located on the Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge.

Maps:

Location of the AMFCF on the Ash Meadows NWR.



Location of the AMFCF and Ash Meadows NWR to areas they serve in Southern Nevada.



**Photos:**

Figure 1. Aerial photo of the Ash Meadows Fish Conservation Facility and the proposed locations of the 30' x 35' propagation building and 35' x 65' workshop in relation to existing structures completed under Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act Round 6-6, (Ci23).



Figure 2/3. Current tank set up in propagation room. Capacity and captive breeding work are both limited due to the number of tanks available. Eggs and larval fish are kept in small tanks (top) while captive breeding is limited to two larger aquaria and one larger tank (bottom).

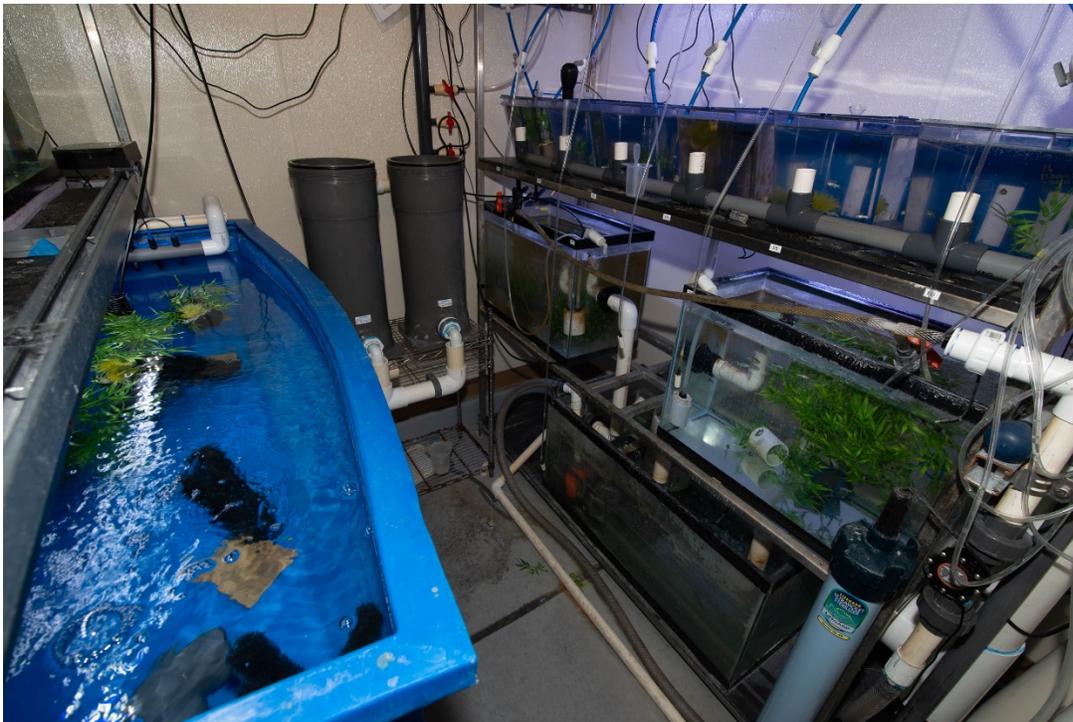
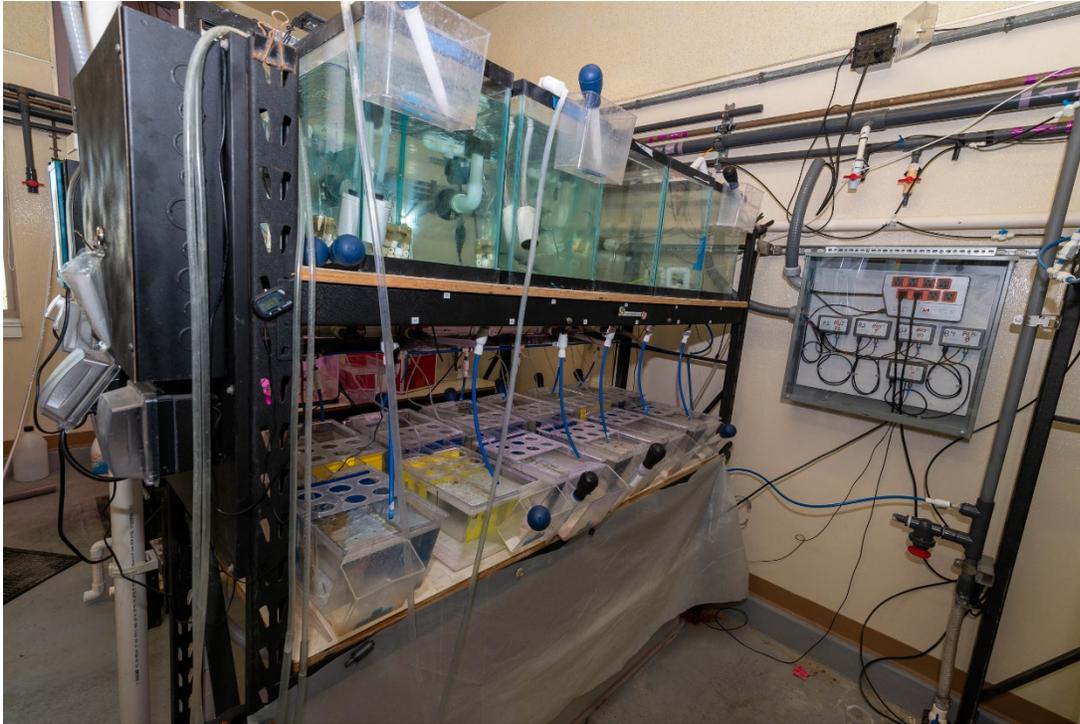


Figure 4. Small tanks that are filled to capacity with juvenile Devils Hole pupfish in the current AMFCF propagation room.



Figure 5/6. Current construction and fabrication areas. Space limitations limit the number of projects that can be in progress at one time. Many projects must be completed outside with no protection from the harsh desert elements.



## Letters of Support:



STATE OF NEVADA  
**DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE**

6980 Sierra Center Parkway, Suite 120  
Reno, Nevada 89511  
Phone (775) 688-1500 • Fax (775) 688-1495

TONY WASLEY  
*Director*

LIZ O'BRIEN  
*Deputy Director*

JACK ROBB  
*Deputy Director*

September 11, 2020

SNPLMA Executive Committee  
BLM Southern Nevada District Office  
4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr.  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130

RE: Letter of Support for Round 18 Nomination for facility expansions at the Ash Meadows  
Fish Conservation Facility

Dear Executive Committee:

It is our understanding that the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Ash Meadows Fish Conservation Facility (Service) will be submitting a request for Capital Improvement funding through Round 18 of the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA) to expand facilities at the Ash Meadows Fish Conservation Facility. This project would greatly increase captive rearing and propagation capacity for Devils Hole Pupfish, increase efficiency of facility maintenance and operation, and provide an opportunity for the public to connect with Nevada's unique wildlife. The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) strongly supports the Service's Round 18 SNPLMA proposal for facility expansions at the Ash Meadows Fish Conservation Facility.

Establishing and maintaining a refuge population of Devils Hole Pupfish is a top management priority and is the most effective safeguard against species extinction considering the unique and small habitat the species exists in and its naturally small population size. The Ash Meadows Fish Conservation Facility is proving to be the most successful facility at propagating Devils Hole Pupfish and maintaining a refuge population. Because of this success, additional rearing space is needed to increase capacity, and larger and improved rearing systems will provide more efficient rearing operations. Fish rearing facilities require daily maintenance and the ability to implement expedited repairs. Having an on-site building with a workshop and storage will allow for rapid response to critical issues and provide protection of invested materials. The proposed expansions will directly contribute to conservation and recovery of Devils Hole Pupfish.

A great challenge and a primary goal of every natural resource agency is how to effectively connect people to wildlife and natural resources. Imagery and media can do that; furthermore, a live video feed can give the public a glimpse of an underwater world and provide a wildlife viewing opportunity to one of the rarest fish in Nevada and the US. This unique visitor experience can foster appreciation of Nevada's wildlife and promote public stewardship of natural resources.

The Ash Meadows Fish Conservation Facility harbors the only refuge population of Devils Hole Pupfish. Maintaining and expanding the refuge population supports NDOW's mission to conserve and recover wildlife native to Nevada. We look forward to continuing to work cooperatively with the Service in efforts to propagate and maintain Devils Hole Pupfish at the Ash Meadows Fish Conservation Facility. Again, NDOW strongly supports the Service's application for SNPLMA Round 18 funding to expand facilities at the Ash Meadows Fish Conservation Facility. If you have any questions or need additional information in regards to this letter of support, please contact me at (702) 668-3999 or at [bsenger@ndow.org](mailto:bsenger@ndow.org). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Brandon Senger  
Supervising Fisheries Biologist  
Nevada Department of Wildlife

cc:

Jennifer Gumm, Fish Biologist/Facility Manager, Ash Meadows Fish Conservation Facility,  
US Fish and Wildlife Service, Amargosa Valley, NV



## United States Department of the Interior

### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Death Valley National Park  
1321 S. Hwy 160 Suite #1  
Pahrump, Nevada 89048



IN REPLY REFER TO:

To: SNPLMA Executive Committee  
From: Death Valley National Park  
Re: Letter of Support AMFCF  
Date: 11 September 2020

Death Valley National Park (DVNP) has been informed that the Ash Meadows Fish Conservation Facility (AMFCF) is planning on submitting a proposal to fund capital improvements and enhance the visitor experience through live video of the critically endangered Devils Hole pupfish. This proposal specifically requests funding to 1) expand captive propagation space, 2) expand work space for maintenance projects and, 3) enhance the visitor experience through live video feeds. Death Valley National Park fully supports the objectives of this proposal.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) at AMFCF continues to successfully carry out the propagation program for the Devils Hole pupfish that was initiated in 2013. Propagation of eggs collected from the Devils Hole and the refuge tank at AMFCF have led to space issues in the captive propagation room at the AMFCF. This proposal would increase the durability to this species and enhance conservation and recovery efforts for the Devils Hole pupfish. Furthermore, creating a better working environment for staff and maintenance projects will lead increased efficiency for the AMFCF.

Another important aspect of the AMFCF is public outreach. Supporting the ability of the AMFCF to provide live video feeds in all aspects of Devils Hole pupfish rearing, from eggs to adults, to the Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and to the general public via the world wide web is critical in informing the public on the importance of conserving endangered species and desert aquatic ecosystems.

Death Valley National Park has been working with the FWS on the conservation and recovery of the Devil Hole pupfish for many decades. These efforts are currently operated under a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the FWS, DVNP, and Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW). Staff from each agency work closely together in making informed management decisions. Death Valley National Park looks forward in working collaboratively with the FWS in continued conservation and recovery issues at the AMFCF. Please feel free to reach out to Kevin Wilson, Devils Hole Program Manager for DVNP, at [kevin\\_wilson@nps.gov](mailto:kevin_wilson@nps.gov) or at 775 537-0787 Ext. 207 to discuss further the Parks support of this proposal.

Regards,

/s/ Kevin P. Wilson

KEVIN WILSON

Kevin P. Wilson Ph.D.

Digitally signed by KEVIN WILSON  
Date: 2020.09.14 10:42:19 -07'00'

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act  
Capital Improvements  
Round 18

Bureau of Reclamation



**Colorado River Heritage Trail at Davis Dam**

Amount Requested \$7,553,143

Time Frame: 5 years

Location: 35.199592°, -114.571883°

Congressional District Number: AZ-4 / NV-3

Federal Manager: Vincent Lammers, Davis Dam Manager

Contact: Christopher P. Linehan

P.O. Box 61470

Boulder City, Nevada 89006-1470

P: (702) 293-8171

Email: [clinehan@usbr.gov](mailto:clinehan@usbr.gov)

**Purpose Statement:**

The Bureau of Reclamation will construct a trail on top of Davis Dam and reconstruct the adjacent parking lot; construct a fishing access point and an overlook on the Lake Mohave face of the dam point; and construct a trail to portage kayaks and canoes. The Davis Dam is located on the Colorado River about 70 miles downstream of Hoover Dam in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, stretching across the borders of Arizona and Nevada. This project will connect the Colorado River Heritage Trail systems between both states; protect natural and cultural resources, improve public access to this highly visited area, and educate and engage the public to help protect the resource.

**Background info and need for the project:**

The Colorado River Heritage Trail project at Davis Dam will allow Reclamation to more effectively manage the land and its corresponding cultural and natural resources and will provide additional public recreation opportunities – especially for the underserved communities of Bullhead City, AZ and Laughlin, NV. This is a low-income area with a high senior citizen population, with very limited affordable public recreation trail opportunities. The project will connect the local communities to Federal lands and allow for enhanced use of the Federal lands in partnership with the National Park Service, Bullhead City, the town of Laughlin, Mohave County AZ, and Clark County NV.

This project will result in an accessible public trail across the crest of Davis Dam and will connect the Colorado River Heritage Trails from Laughlin to Bullhead City. This project will construct a new trail to facilitate the portage of kayaks and canoes safely around Davis Dam; provide a safe fishing access point and an overlook atop of Davis Dam; provide the local communities with safer access points to Federal lands along the Colorado River and Lake Mohave. It will open new opportunities for economically disadvantaged communities of Laughlin and Bullhead City that currently have limited trail opportunities and have a high population of senior citizens.

Currently the recreation infrastructure at Davis Dam has outlived its useful lifecycle and does not meet the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) program's Strategic Values of sustainability, connectivity, and community. To access the popular fishing locations along the dam, sportsmen are climbing over the wall and walking down the embankment, creating a safety hazard and significant erosion to the shoreline. In addition the Mohave Water Trail managed by the National Park Service begins at Eldorado Canyon and extends south to the Laughlin Bridge beyond the Davis Dam; however, there are no portage points for personal paddle craft to get around the dam, effectively cutting off the last approximately 2 miles of the trail. This project will enhance the sustainability, connectivity, and community of the dam by providing safe fishing access, portage locations, and connections to the existing Colorado River Heritage Trail sections in both NV and AZ. The key areas of focus are summarized below:

- This project will improve public safety and better access to federal land. This will open a corridor from the local communities of Laughlin and Bullhead City across Davis Dam to Lake Mohave.
- The trail will connect the Colorado River Heritage Trail from Laughlin to Bullhead City and create a looped trail that will enhance public use and provide an area for special events like community walks, fun runs, and marathons.
- This project will help connect the local communities to the Lake Mead National Recreation Area and Lake Mohave.
- The project will facilitate the safe portage of kayaks and canoes around Davis Dam from Lake Mohave to the Colorado River below Davis Dam.
- The project will have little to no impact on Reclamation's operating budget.
- The Project will provide opportunities to share the history of the area at viewpoints overlooking the Colorado River and Lake Mohave.
- The project will install interpretive panels to explain the vital water resources that the Colorado River provides and how it is managed for the public benefit.
- The project will provide opportunities to remove invasive and non-native species, and plant native vegetation, and bring awareness to the public of this land management issue.

#### **Relationship to previous phases and anticipated future phases:**

This project connects to completed SNPLMA Round 5 and Round 6 Clark County PTNA (Parks, Trails and Natural Areas) funded projects on the Nevada side of the Colorado. This project will enhance the usability of the existing projects and create a facility that can support numerous special events and community functions.

This project will complete the Colorado River Heritage Trail System. This project will be fully functional and complete and not require additional phases for build-out to be operational.

#### **Deliverables:**

##### Primary Deliverables:

1. Design and build ~1-mile of accessible trail on top of Davis Dam
2. Design and build 1 fishing access point and overlook on Davis Dam
3. Design and build ~1-mile of trail to portage kayaks and canoes around Davis Dam
4. Create and install 7 to 12 interpretative and wayfinding panels
5. Design and build 2 crosswalks for public safety (see Figure 2 for location)
6. Design and reconstruct ~120,000 sq. ft. parking lot to address accessibility and better accommodate boat trailers and RVs

##### Anticipated Deliverables:

1. Install two shade shelters with picnic tables
2. Plant ~ 1 acre of native vegetation and seeds
3. Design and build ~ 1,400 linear feet of Adventure Trail

Standard Deliverables:

- Scoping meetings
- Architectural and engineering design
- SHPO Consultation and coordination with Arizona and Nevada
- Environmental Compliance (e.g., NEPA)
- Value Engineering
- Permitting, such as: 404 permit, and environmental permits from ADEQ, and NDEP
- SMART reporting (quarterly, annually, final accomplishments and performance measures); and close out package

**Project Time Frame:**

This project will be completed within the expected standard timeframe of 5 years.

- Year 1
  - Obtain work plan approval and funding authorization
  - Initiate planning and design and NEPA compliance, including:
    - Solicitation of design and interpretive services
    - Conceptual design
    - Scoping meetings
    - SHPO/Historic Properties consultation
    - Decision document
- Year 2
  - Complete final construction documents
  - Contracting for construction through build out, including:
    - Develop solicitation package
    - Solicitation of the construction contract
    - Contract negotiations
    - Contract award
- Year 3-4
  - Construction, including:
    - Mobilization (bonds, insurance, permits, etc.)
    - Construction through full build-out
    - Agency acceptance as complete
    - Payment of final invoice, close-out of contracts
    - Release of claims
- Year 5
  - Project close-out with SNPLMA
    - Final site inspection
    - Final review of project file and expenditures
    - Request for close- out
    - SNPLMA close-out of the funding authorization

### **Level of Project Readiness for Implementation:**

Once funding become available Reclamation is ready to begin the project. Reclamation has experienced staff to manage and oversee the project. Project management and environmental compliance will be done in-house. Design and construction will be contracted out. Reclamation does not anticipate any issues completing this project within the 5-year timeline.

### Description of the Implementation Process

- Reclamation will use experienced staff to manage and oversee the project.
- Reclamation will procure professional services to complete a topographical survey, geotechnical investigation, and design, and will contract out the construction.
- Major milestone deliverables include the following:
  - Complete the design development and value engineering
  - Complete environmental analysis per NEPA and SHPO
  - Complete Plans, Specifications, and Cost Estimate
  - Award construction contract
  - Complete construction
- This project will be considered complete when it is open to the public

### **Future Operations and Maintenance:**

The project is anticipated to have a service life of 30 to 45 years. Reclamation staff already maintain the area and this project is not expected to increase or require additional maintenance personnel or increase Reclamation's operations and maintenance (O&M) cost.

### **Contributed funds directly applicable to completion of the project:**

Reclamation does not anticipate developing partnerships to maintain the project because it is within the footprint of the Dam and Reclamation is already maintaining it. This project anticipates using 200 hours of volunteer labor to plant native vegetation. Construction water will also be made available to the contractor at no cost.

Agency contributions are valued at an estimated \$94,886. These costs include construction water, temporary power service, cost to park construction trailers at Davis Camp, volunteer hours, and native vegetation. This does not account for any staff labor.

### **Funding Requested Budget Detail:**

Reclamation requests \$7,553,143 in SNPLMA appropriation to complete the proposed project.

Costs were estimated based on previous project costs. RSMEANs cost estimating system was used to estimate costs that could not be derived from previous projects. Reclamation estimates that staff time not covered by SNPLMA funding will be around \$94,886. Reclamation labor costs are for direct costs only. No overhead will be charged.

**Appendix B-3**  
**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROPOSAL**  
**ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS & KEY MILESTONE DATES**

<b>Project Name:</b>	<u>Colorado River Heritage Trail at Davis Dam</u>	<b>Agency:</b>	<u>Reclamation</u>
<b>Project #</b>	<u>N/A nomination process</u>	<b>Date:</b>	<u>9/1/2020 (updated 10/18/2020)</u>
<b>Prepared by:</b>	<u>Marrisa C. Luke</u>	<b>Phone:</b>	<u>702-293-8144</u>
<b>Planning, Environmental Compliance &amp; Preconstruction Engineering and Design</b> <i>(Not to exceed 27% of total project costs)</i>			
(pre-design sketches and conceptual drawings; environmental assessment and permitting, specialist surveys/reports for archaeology, wildlife, biology, etc.; architectural and engineering analysis, design survey & field investigations; construction drawing, specifications, cost estimates, and engineering technical reports.)			
	<u>\$555,800</u>		<u>7.36%</u>
<b>Construction Contract Costs</b>			
(including labor, supplies & materials, construction management, etc.; sampling/testing; site restoration; and government furnished supplies and materials.)			
	<u>\$5,491,751</u>		<u>72.71%</u>
<b>Project Equipment</b>			
SNPLMA funds can only be used for "project related necessary expensed" and only reimburse those equipment costs directly associated with completion of the approved project)			
	<u>\$0</u>		<u>0.00%</u>
<b>Travel</b>			
(including per diem where official travel status is required to carry out the project, such as to serve as COR, experts to review reports, etc.)			
	<u>\$71,832</u>		<u>0.95%</u>
<b>Official Vehicle Use</b>			
(pro rata cost for use of Official Vehicles when required to carry out the project)			
	<u>\$31,700</u>		<u>0.42%</u>
<b>Other Direct and Contracted Labor</b>			
Agency payroll for the Contracting Officer to do project procurements, COR Project Inspector, Section 106 Consultation, NEPA Lead, Project Manager, Project Supervisor, and subject experts to review contracted surveys, design/drawings, plans, reports, etc.; Also covered is the cost to contract for a Project Manager and/or Project Supervisor if contracted separately from other project costs.			
	<u>\$965,360</u>		<u>12.78%</u>
<b>FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act</b>			
	<u>\$115,200</u>		<u>1.53%</u>
<b>Direct Federal Labor</b>			
(direct agency labor for construction, project inspection, CO and COR)			
	<u>\$320,000</u>		<u>4.24%</u>
<b>Other Necessary Expenses</b>			
(See SNPLMA IA, Part Two - Appendix B-3)			
	<u>\$1,500</u>		<u>0.02%</u>
<b>Total requested/estimated budget</b>		<b><u>\$7,553,143</u></b>	<b><u>100.00%</u></b>
Total Estimated in-kind agency or partner contribution		<u>\$94,886</u>	

## Performance Measures:

The SNPLMA programs vision, mission, and goals are associated with connecting people to the outdoors and conserving public lands while ensuring the projects fiscal sustainability. The proposed Colorado River Heritage Trail at Davis Dam supports and aligns with these goals and the anticipated performance measures are as follows:

**Outcome:** To complete the Colorado River Heritage Trail at Davis Dam. This will result in an accessible public trail across the crest of Davis Dam and will connect the Colorado River Heritage Trails from Laughlin to Bullhead City, and to construct a new trail to facilitate the portage of kayaks and canoes safely around Davis Dam. This will also provide a safe fishing access point and an overlook atop of Davis Dam. The following outputs arranged by goal and performance measure will accomplish this outcome.

- **Outputs:** SNPLMA STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 2: Improve the Quality of Life for all Public in Urban and Rural Communities by Enhancing Recreational Opportunities that Connect People with the Outdoor Environment
  - R3- Number of new recreational facilities/structures constructed or improved- up to 5. This would be accomplished with the following deliverables;
    - Design and build one fishing access point and overlook on Davis Dam
    - Design and build two crosswalks for public safety
    - Install two shade shelters with picnic tables
  - R4- Miles of new recreational roads/trails constructed or routes improved – 1 to 2 miles. This would be accomplished with the following deliverables;
    - Design and build approximately one mile of accessible trail on top of Davis Dam
    - Design and build approximately one mile of trail to portage kayaks and canoes around Davis Dam
    - Design and build approximately 1,400 linear feet of Adventure Trail
- **Additional Outputs:** SNPLMA STRATEGIC PLAN: Other Performance Measures that also Support the Three Values for SNPLMA Implementation of Sustainability, Connectivity, and Community
  - O2- # of buildings, facilities and/or amenities constructed or refurbished: 6 to10. This would be accomplished with the following deliverables;
    - Design and reconstruct approximately 120,000 square feet of parking lot to address accessibility and to better accommodate boat trailers and RVs
    - Design and build two crosswalks for public safety
    - Install two shade shelters with picnic tables
  - O6- Number of new Interpretive or education publications/signs/kiosks/displays/etc.: 6 to 10. This would be accomplished with the following deliverables;
    - Create and install seven to twelve interpretative and wayfinding panels
  - O10- Number of volunteers used - 10 to 20. This would be accomplished with the following deliverables;

- Plant approximately one acre of native vegetation and seeds utilizing volunteers.

### **Executive Committee Strategic Plan Values:**

This project will enhance the sustainability, connectivity, and community of the dam by providing safe fishing access, portage locations, and connections to the existing Colorado River Heritage Trail sections in both NV and AZ. The key areas of focus are summarized below:

#### **Sustainability**

- The project will have little to no impact on Reclamation's operating budget because we already are maintaining the area.
- The project will provide opportunities to remove invasive and non-native species, and plant native vegetation, and bring awareness to the public of this land management issue.

#### **Connectivity**

- This will open a corridor from the local communities of Laughlin and Bullhead City across Davis Dam to Lake Mohave.
- This project will help connect the local communities to the Lake Mead National Recreation Area and Lake Mohave.
- The trail will connect the Colorado River Heritage Trail from Laughlin to Bullhead City and create a looped trail that will enhance public use and provide an area for special events like community walks, fun runs, and marathons.

#### **Community**

- This project will improve public safety and provide better access to federal land.
- The project will facilitate the safe portage of kayaks and canoes around Davis Dam from Lake Mohave to the Colorado River below Davis Dam.
- The project will install interpretive panels to explain the vital water resources that the Colorado River provides and how it is managed for the public benefit.
- The Project will provide opportunities to share the history of the area at viewpoints overlooking the Colorado River and Lake Mohave.

### **Compliance with Departmental Priorities, Strategic Goals, Executive Orders, and Secretarial Orders:**

Addressed as part of the ranking criteria below.

## Ranking Criteria:

### 1. SUSTAINABILITY & MODERNIZATION

This project supports conservation, preservation, restoration, and modernization of natural, cultural, and historic resources (which includes infrastructure) to ensure availability of these resources for future generations. The project will remain relevant and continue to provide benefit to a recreation user over the anticipated life of the project.

#### *Factors:*

- a. This project is designed to be low maintenance and durable and make use of social trails that will be stabilized, resulting in a significant reduction in erosion. The project has included design elements to protect existing cultural and natural resources. The project will include interpretive panels explaining the growing invasive species issues and demonstrate how the area can be improved and provide enhanced habitat with the planting of proper native vegetation.
- b. This project will provide local communities with safer and additional recreational access points to Federal lands such as Lake Mohave. It will open up new opportunities to the economically disadvantaged communities of Laughlin and Bullhead City that currently have limited trail opportunities and have a high population of senior citizens, as well as the visiting public who want to walk, bird watch, kayak and canoe which are some of the fastest growing recreation activities.
- c. The project already has a trail users' group who are willing to participate in revegetation and community trail projects. The partnership plans to provide outdoor education opportunities in partnership with NPS, Reclamation, Bullhead City, Mohave County, and Clark County. Several of the interpretive panels will deal with invasive species, erosion, native vegetation, and the development of the Colorado River.
- d. The project will make use of green construction, recycled construction materials. Native vegetation will be obtained from the NPS nursery.

### 2. CONNECTIVITY

The project provides recreational opportunities that link population centers, recreation facilities, and the user to the outdoors and natural landscapes. It encourages people to meaningfully connect with their natural environment, thus helping them appreciate and care for the environment. The project will also connect the user to the history and/or cultural of the site and engages the user in appreciation of the site/area.

The trail will connect the Nevada Heritage Trail to the proposed Arizona Heritage Trail (under construction) creating a loop that will provide for enhanced public use and provide an area for special events like community walks, runs, and marathons. This project provides recreational opportunities that link population centers, recreation facilities, and user to the outdoors and natural landscapes. It encourages people to meaningfully connect with their natural

environment, thus helping them appreciate and care for the environment. The project will also connect the user to the history and cultural significance of the site and will help visitors appreciate the area.

- a. This project connects the existing Colorado River Heritage Trails in Arizona and Nevada. (SNPLMA Rounds 5 and 6 funded the design and construction of the Nevada portion of the Colorado River Heritage Trail, and Round 17 funded the design and construction of the Arizona side of the Colorado River Heritage Trail.)
- b. A component of this project is public outreach and education to engage the public to help in the conservation and protection of the surrounding natural environment. This project will install interpretive panels and wayfinding signs.

### **3. COMMUNITY**

The project provides or improves outdoor recreation opportunities to improve the quality of life, especially for underserved communities. It conserves or restores the functionality, resiliency, and integrity of biological communities. The project encourages partnerships, which in turn builds community.

*(Encourages and engages the public in the conservation and protection of the surrounding natural environment through use of volunteer/stewardship resources)*

This project provides additional outdoor recreation opportunities to improve the quality of life, especially for the underserved communities of Bullhead City and Laughlin. This project also encourages partnerships that in turn builds community.

Factors to be considered include the following:

- a. This project has an emphasis on universal accessibility that will result in facilities that are more adaptable, inclusive, and accommodating for individuals and groups with diverse needs.
- b. Public meetings will be held during the design development phase. The purpose for these meetings will be to engage the public in a conversation about the project.
- c. Volunteers and trail groups have offered to help organize native planting and cleanup activities to support the proposed trail project.
- d. The location of the project facilitates cooperative events with Arizona and Nevada, such as a cancer walks, fun runs, and marathons.
- e. This project opens new opportunities for the public to learn about the natural resources around Davis Dam.

#### **4. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE**

The agency has clearly demonstrated that the anticipated operations and maintenance costs for the project and resources necessary to operate the project are within existing appropriations or demonstrated how they will secure the necessary operations and maintenance funds.

*(Agency has detailed estimated annual O&M cost and estimated use/permit fees to be collected.)*

The agency has clearly demonstrated that the anticipated operations and maintenance costs for the project and resources necessary to operate the project are within existing appropriations or demonstrated how they will secure the necessary operations and maintenance funds.

- a. Reclamation staff already maintain the area and this project is not expected to increase or require additional maintenance personnel or increase Reclamation's O&M cost.
- b. Reclamation is currently maintaining the area and will continue to do so even if the project is not completed.
- c. Reclamation cannot delegate the security or maintenance of this area. However, Reclamation does not anticipate this project to increase operation or maintenance costs or require additional maintenance personnel.
- d. This project may reduce our maintenance cost due to easier access and having more waste receptacles.
- e. The project is anticipated to have a service life of 30-45 years.

#### **5. LIFECYCLE, REPLACEMENT/RECONSTRUCTION AND DEFERRED MAINTENANCE**

Any existing project or facility that has met or exceeded its useful life, design life, or life cycle that requires major restoration or reconstruction to restore the historic fabric of the facility or meet standard new Federal accessibility guidelines.

*(Does not include reconstruction, changes, or new amenities for previously approved SNPLMA capital improvement projects. Excludes projects that were identified as phased construction, each phase must be fully operational and serve the intended purpose upon completion.)*

Any existing project or facility that has met or exceeded its useful life, design life, or life cycle that requires major restoration or reconstruction to restore the historic fabric of the facility or meet standard new Federal accessibility guidelines.

1. This project will result in an accessible public trail across the crest of Davis Dam and will connect the Colorado River Heritage Trails from Laughlin to Bullhead City. The current trail across the top of Davis Dam continues to see use, but has exceeded its useful design life, does not meet current federal accessibility standards
2. Reclamation staff already maintain the area. This project is not expected to increase or require additional maintenance personnel or increase Reclamation's O&M cost.

## **6. ADVANCES THE AGENCY PRIORITIES/GOALS**

The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination/project meets the priorities and strategic goals for their respective agency.

The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination/project meets the priorities and strategic goals for their respective agency.

### **A. Meets one or more of the Department of the Interior Priorities:**

1. Restore trust and be a good neighbor. This project would tie the communities of Laughlin NV and Bullhead City AZ together with one contiguous trail, the project already has a trail users' group who are willing to participate in revegetation and community trail projects.
2. Modernize our infrastructure. This project will refurbish Davis Dam's existing infrastructure, provide additional public recreation opportunities and provide for improved accessibility and safety features of frequently visited outdoor focused public recreation areas.

### **B. Meets one or more of the U.S. Forest Service priorities:**

- This is not applicable

## **7. CONSISTENCY WITH SECRETARIAL ORDERS AND DIRECTIVE**

The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination / project meets the Secretarial Orders (SO) and Directive.

### **A. EO No. 13855 Promoting Active Management of America's Forests, Range Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk** This is not applicable

### **A. SO No. 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation**

This project will provide a safe fishing access point and an overlook atop of Davis Dam

### **B. SO No. 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes and Territories**

This project will provide for improved, safer access to existing fishing locations and provide for new opportunities for the underserved communities of Bullhead City, AZ and Laughlin, NV. This is a low-income area with a high senior citizen population, with very limited affordable public recreation opportunities.

### **C. SO No. 3362: Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors** This is not applicable

### **D. SO No. 3366: Increasing Recreational Opportunities on Lands and Waters Managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior**

This project will also construct a new trail to facilitate the portage of kayaks and canoes safely around Davis Dam.

- E. SO No. 3370: Improving Conservation Stewardship of and Increasing Public Access to Urban National Wildlife Refuges.** This is not applicable
- F. SO No. 3372: Reducing Wildfire Risks on Department of the Interior Land Through Active Management.** This is not applicable
- G. SO No. 3373: Evaluating Public Access in Bureau of Land Management Public Land Disposals and Exchanges** This is not applicable
- H. SO No. 3374: Implementation of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act** This is not applicable
- I. SO No. 3376 Increasing Recreational Opportunities through use of Electric Bikes**  
This is not applicable

#### **Project Location:**

See Figure 1 for a location map.

Project Location: 35.199592°, -114.571883°

The project is located at Davis Dam on the Colorado River about 70 miles downstream of Hoover Dam within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, in Mohave County, Arizona and Clark County, Nevada. Davis Dam stretches across the Arizona/Nevada border.

The two nearest communities are Bullhead City, Arizona, and Laughlin, Nevada. They are both approximately 3.6 miles downstream from the project.

Maps:

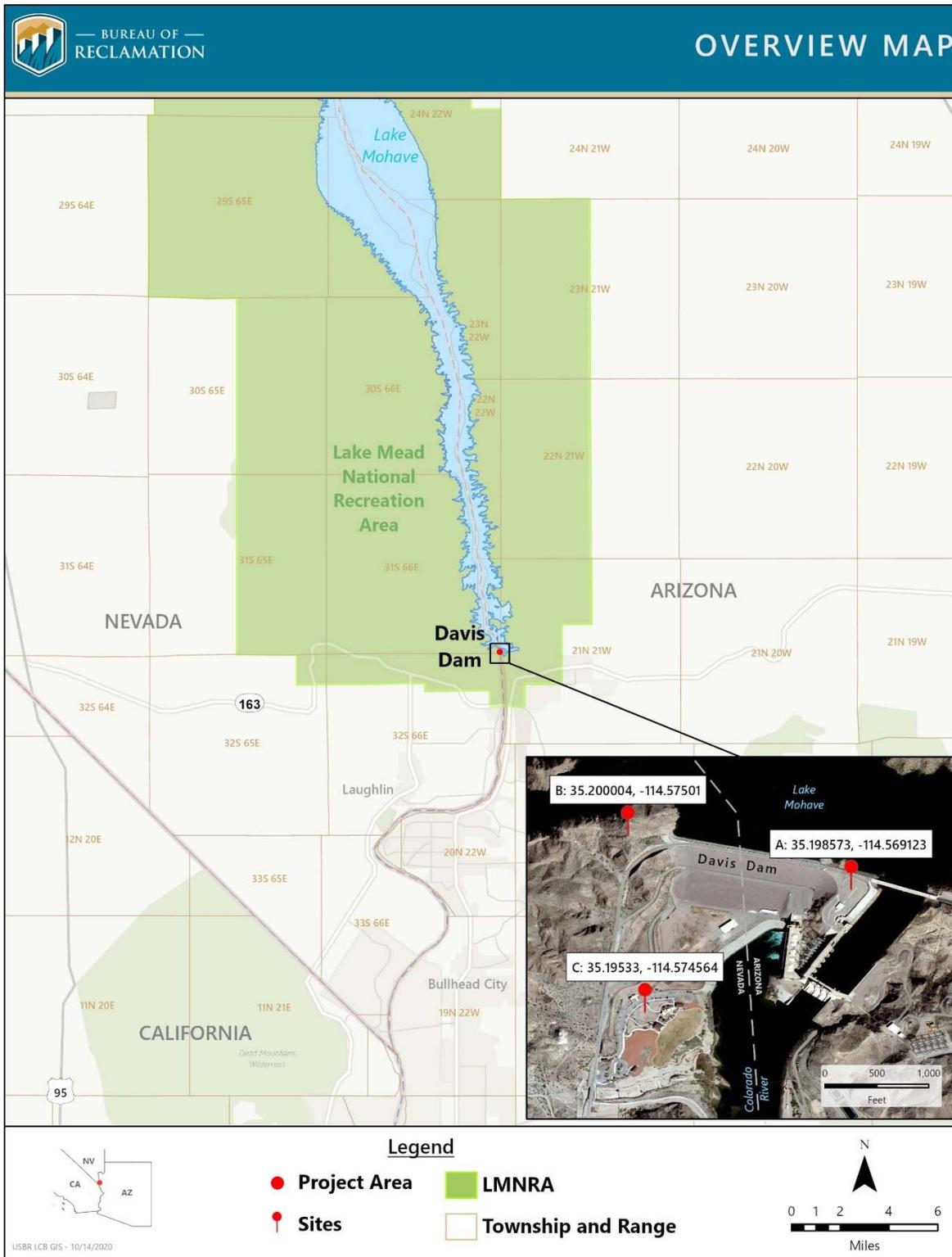


Figure 1. Davis Dam Vicinity Map



Figure 2. Conceptual Plan – Colorado River Heritage Trail at Davis Dam

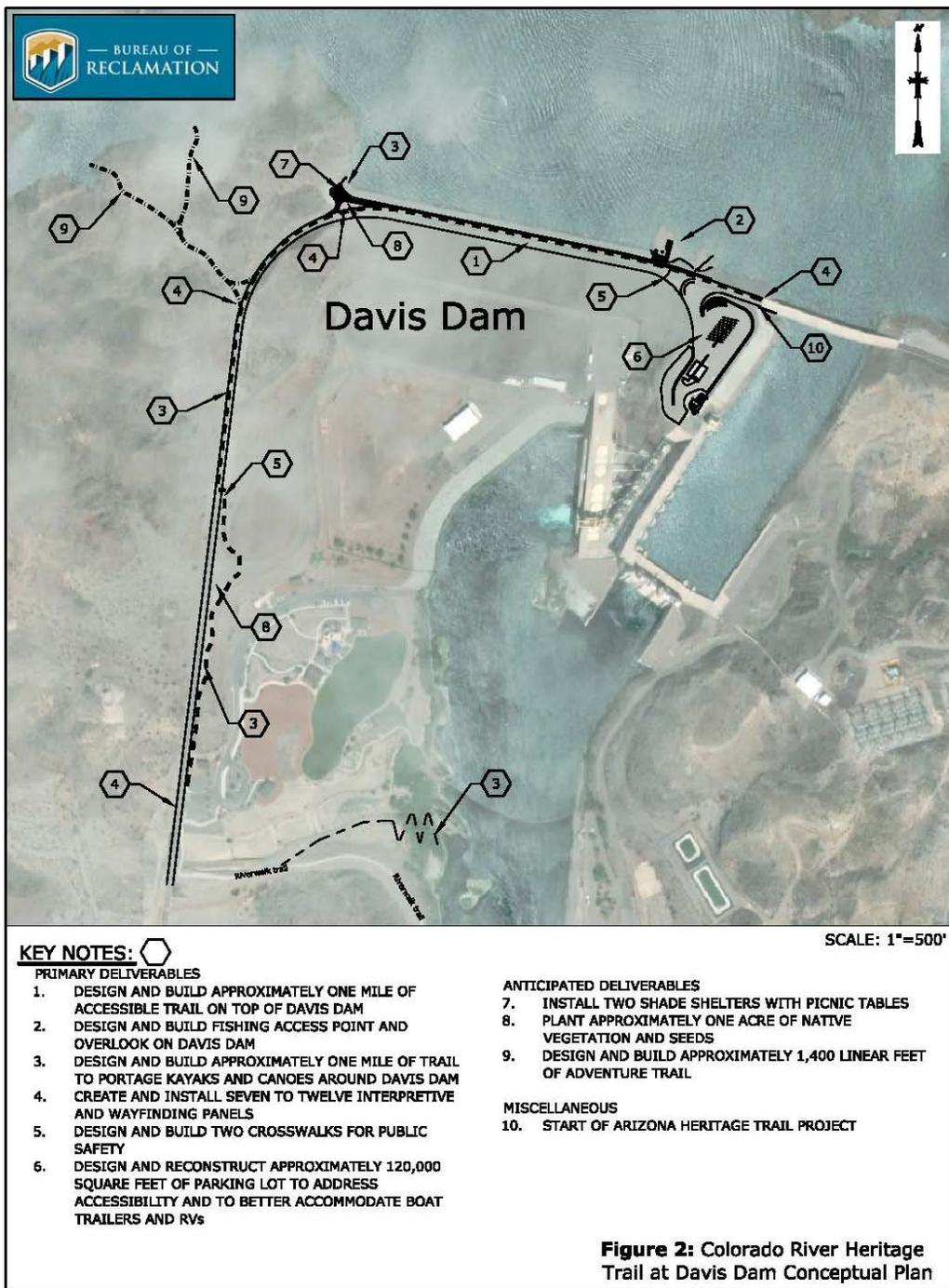
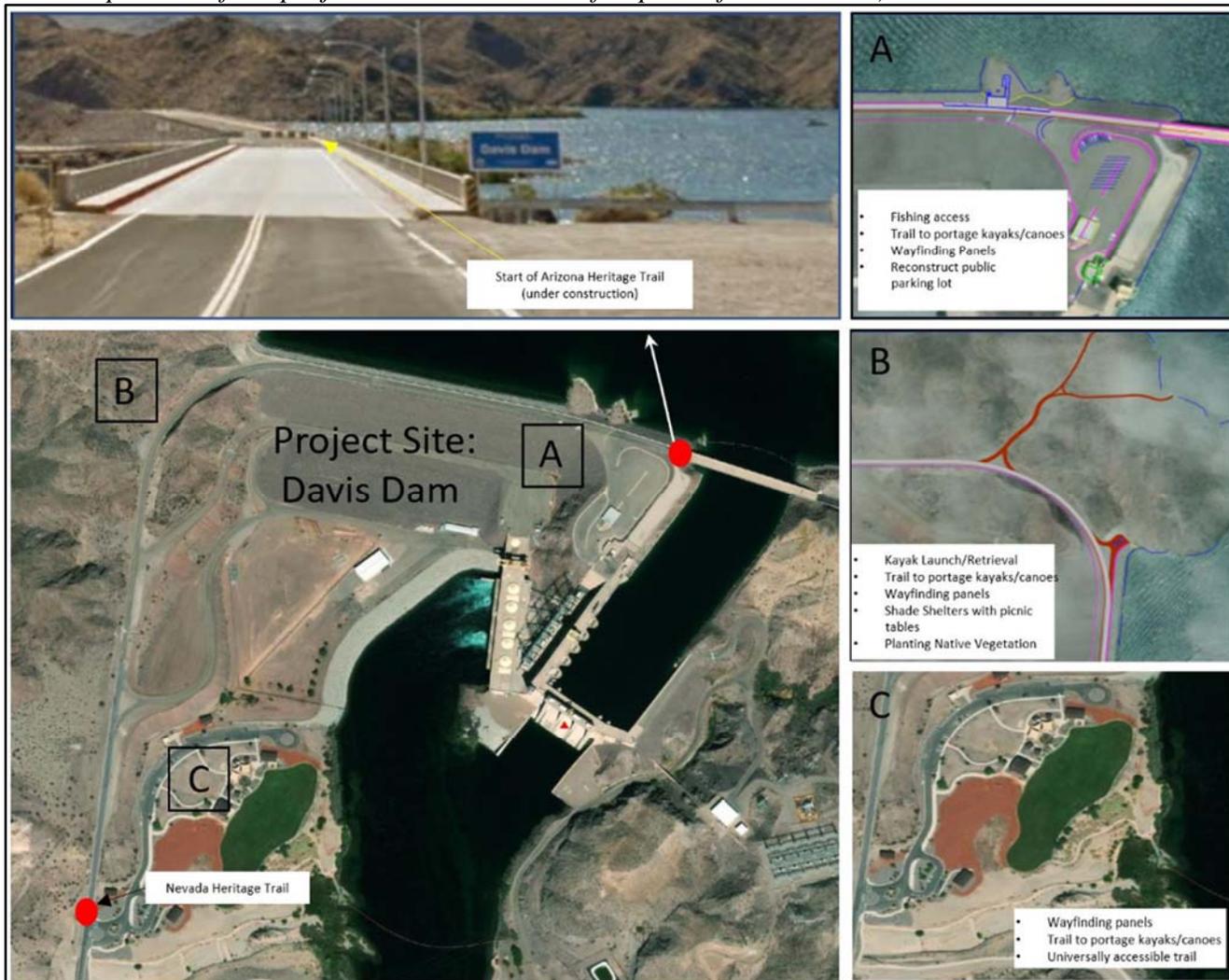


Figure 3. Project Site Overview (A, B, and C are listed for callout purposes only, they are all components of the project located within the footprint of Davis Dam.)



**Photos:**

**LOCATION A:**



Photo 1. Area "A" location of proposed overlook and fishing areas.



Photo 2. Area "A" looking west from forebay bridge.



Photo 3. View of the cove between the two peninsulas.



Photo 4. Parapet wall and adjacent fishing area

LOCATION B:

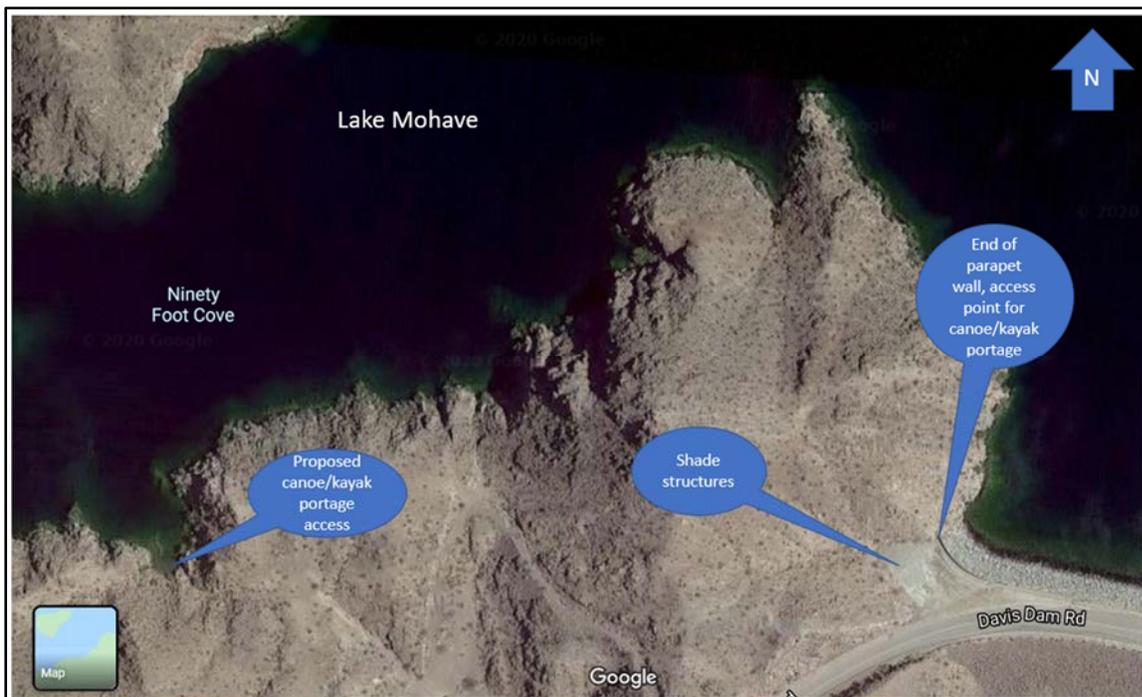


Photo 5. Area "B" proposed location of shade structures and canoe/kayak portage access.

LOCATION C / Photo 6:



**Letters of Support:**

**CITY OF BULLHEAD CITY**  
2355 Trane Road  
Bullhead City, Arizona 86442-5966  
(928) 763-9400 TDD (928) 763-9400

July 23, 2020

Vince Lammers, Manager  
Davis Dam Field Division Lower Colorado Dams Office  
Interior Region 8, Lower Colorado Basin  
Bureau of Reclamation-Department of the Interior  
Bullhead City, AZ 86429-9707

Subject: Davis Dam SNPLMA Funding

Dear Mr. Lammers,

Bullhead City enthusiastically supports the Davis Dam SNPLMA funding request to expand the Colorado River Heritage Trail System.

This project is an ongoing partnership among Reclamation, the National Park Service at Lake Mead National Recreation Area (NRA), Laughlin City, Clark County, Bullhead City, Mohave County, and the local communities. This project will result in a fully accessible public access trail system across the crest of Davis Dam to connect both sides of the Colorado River with a mile-long trail that connects into several additional trails. This Public Access Trail System connects the Laughlin Heritage Trail to the Arizona Heritage Trail, to Davis Camp, to the Laughlin Resort Corridor, Bullhead and Laughlin Communities, and to the National Recreation Area. The City looks forward to seeing this project move forward and come to fruition.

On a personal level, I have walked this area more than 10 times this past year and can see the great need for repair in this area. It will be a benefit to the workers at Davis, the residents of Laughlin and Bullhead City and the millions of visitors who will traverse this path in the future.

Sincerely,

  
Toby Cotter  
City Manager

## MOHAVE COUNTY PARKS

3715 Sunshine Drive, P.O. Box 7000 Kingman, Arizona 86402-7000

Administration: (928) 757-0915 FAX (928) 757-0916

Davis Camp Park: (928) 758-0759 FAX (928) 754-7253

Hualapai Mountain Park: (928) 681-5700 FAX (928) 757-5662



Tuesday, September 8, 2020

Christopher Linehan  
Outdoor Recreation Planner  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Lower Colorado Regional Office  
500 Date Street, Building 1400  
Boulder City, Nevada 89006

Dear Mr. Linehan,

Re: Colorado River Heritage Trail at Davis Dam Project – Letter of Support

On behalf of Mohave County Parks, please accept this letter of support for the Bureau of Reclamation's application for funding of the Colorado River Heritage Trail at Davis Dam Project.

This project will enhance the recreational opportunities in Bullhead City and the surrounding areas thus increasing the traffic to all of our public lands. The addition of the accessible trail across the dam will ensure that all persons have access to recreational opportunities regardless of their ability level. In the winter, our park guests are retired older adults who recreate. The accessible trail will be a tremendous asset to those individuals and many more annual park visitors. This is a much needed addition to ensure the continued support for our public and park lands.

In conclusion, we fully support the efforts of the Bureau of Reclamation as they seek funding to construct and enhance recreational opportunities along the Davis Dam, Lake Mohave and Colorado River.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kristin R. Zimmerman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kristin R. Zimmerman  
Parks Administrator  
Mohave County Parks

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act  
Capital Improvements  
Round 18

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



**Crystal Spring Outflow Restoration and  
Improvements**

Amount Requested: \$4,916,279

Time Frame: 5 Years

Location: 36.419729 / -116.336032

Congressional District Number: NV-4

Federal Manager: Kevin Des Roberts, Project Leader

Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

P: (702) 515-5451

F: (702) 515-5460

Email: kevin\_desroberts@fws.gov

Project Contact: Christa Weise, Deputy Project Leader

Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

P: (702) 515-5451

F: (702) 515-5460

Email: christa\_weise@fws.gov

**Purpose Statement:**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will restore Crystal Spring outflow to improve listed species habitat as well as increase hunting opportunities in the area and upgrade Crystal Loop public access road to enhance visitor experiences at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in Nye County, Nevada.

**Background info and need for the project:**

Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (NWR, refuge) was established in 1984 to preserve the Mojave Desert's largest remaining oasis. Approximately 50 seeps and springs generate 17,000 acre-feet of water per year providing habitat for at least 26 plant and animal species found nowhere else in the world. Of these, five species are listed as endangered, and seven as threatened. The Crystal Management Unit (CMU) makes up approximately one-quarter of the refuge and is located in the center of Ash Meadows NWR. The CMU is comprised of the Point of Rocks, Kings, Forest, Davis, Tubbs, and Bradford Springs complex. Water from the CMU eventually travels to the south and west, where it collects and merges with the Carson Slough. Under high flow conditions, water from the Carson Slough connects with the Amargosa River, to the south.

The CMU includes a large variety of habitat types such as wet meadows, emergent marshes, alkali flats and riparian areas, including ash grophves. Past land uses including groundwater pumping, agriculture, grazing, impoundments, and exotic fish management have negatively impacted the CMU, resulting in degraded spring and riparian habitat. While the upper section of Crystal Spring has been successfully restored, the west section of Crystal Spring outflow remains in critical need of restoration. Crystal Spring, outflow, and the immediate surrounding area was historically home to ten listed species, one now extinct species, and three additional endemic species; one of the listed fishes, the Ash Meadows speckled dace, has been extirpated from the system. The current condition of West Crystal Spring is detrimental to listed species due to lack of suitable habitat and impacts from nonnative predaceous fishes. The deterioration of the existing concrete channels has led to numerous leaks, causing unexpected damage to roadways and increasing the opportunities for existing nonnative fishes to circumvent current barriers and cause environmental damage to endangered fish populations.

This proposal requests \$4,916,279 for the restoration of Crystal Spring outflow and to elevate and improve Crystal Loop Road. This will create a more natural water flow crossing the road that will allow for fish passage, alleviate flooding issues due to rain events, and improve hunting opportunities. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been working on planning for this project in recent years through the development of our Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge Natural Resource Management Plan, and will be committing \$126,500 in the form of in-kind services and materials. This project will achieve capital improvement goals while also accomplishing species and habitat recovery associated with the objectives defined for the management of the refuge. The proposed work will address the three values of sustainability, connectivity, and community by protecting resource values, enhancing visitor experience, and improving environmental quality and public safety through the restoration of Crystal Spring outflow and associated road improvements within Ash Meadows NWR.

The proposed restoration will create ecological sustainability for the numerous species of threatened and endangered plants and animals within the restoration area. The project will reduce O&M costs of maintaining the concrete channels that were originally constructed in the 1950's through 1970's and reduce O&M costs from repairing the Crystal Loop road from flooding due to leaks and breaches in the existing channels.

### **Relationship to previous phases and anticipated future phases:**

This project proposal is using information obtained in the Ash Meadows NWR Biophysical Assessment and Restoration Plan UCS and CMU (2012), which was funded through the SNPLMA Carson Slough pre-proposal planning capital improvement project (SNPLMA #6-25 PW01).

### **Deliverables:**

#### Primary Deliverables:

1. Crystal Spring Outflow Restoration:
  - a. Restoration West Crystal Outflow (removal of approximately 0.5 miles of concrete-lined channel from east to west, removal of at least two old and abandoned culverts, concrete from old road crossings, and re-grading of the site as necessary determined by design after site assessment by hydrologist)
  - b. Reconstruction of approximately 3.1 miles of naturalized, branching outflow channels in the location of the historical drainage of West Crystal Outflow
  - c. Reconstruction of approximately 0.5 mile of concrete channel south to deliver flow to sustain Crystal Reservoir and associated wetlands
  - d. Installation of three water control structures
  - e. Installation of nine concrete fish barriers with removable panels
  - f. Removal of up to one mile of man-made irrigation ditches (2-3 feet wide) and up to 0.5 miles of berm that would prevent water flow
  - g. Salvage of native fish species using baited traps repeated until catch is zero native fish trapped after five consecutive trapping events per each trap site. All nonnative fishes and crayfish will be euthanized upon capture.
  - h. Recreation of a variety of aquatic habitat types in newly-constructed outflow channel as determined by hydrologist during the design phase of project. Aquatic habitat types will be classified as pool, riffle, and run.
  - i. Establishment of eDNA sampling protocol and survey for nonnative sunfishes. Deliverables are one physical document (protocol) and surveys using eDNA until zero nonnative sunfishes are detected in the restored streams
  - j. Treatment of spring outflow using Rotenone to remove all detectable nonnative sunfishes. Detection efforts will be the eDNA water samples and snorkeling surveys as necessary.
  - k. Native vegetation planting by types. 20 trees (mesquite and ash, 1 gallon pots) per acre restored, 100 shrub/brush (1 gallon pots) per acre restored, 200 grasses (1 gallon pots) per acre restored

2. Crystal Loop Public Access Road:
  - a. Improve approximately 1.35 miles of gravel road
  - b. Install five bottomless culverts for fish passage
  - c. Improve two existing parking areas (25'x60' and 20'x50')

Anticipated Deliverables:

1. West Crystal Spring Outflow channel will be restored to a natural hydrological functioning condition of approximately 3-4 miles of branching, interconnected channels of stream width approximately 2-5 feet depending on habitat type at the particular location
2. Aquatic habitat will be restored by creation of naturalized channel, including hydrologist recommendations of habitat types and native plants will be planted along the outflow channels at rates described in Primary Deliverables
3. All aquatic invasive species encountered during native fish salvage, including sunfishes, will be removed from restored channel
4. Terrestrial invasive plants will be treated to achieve a maintenance rate of fewer than 10 invasive plants per acre.

Standard deliverables:

- Permitting requirements:
  - NEPA documentation
  - Section 7/Biological Opinion compliance documentation
  - Nevada Division of Environmental Protection Temporary Work in Waterways
  - Nevada Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
  - Clean Water Act Sections 401 and 404 permits
  - Nevada State Historic Preservation Office documentation
  - National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 permit
- Development of requests for proposals for portions of the restoration of Crystal Spring and the improvements to the Crystal Loop roadway.
- SMART quarterly status updates
- SMART annual and final accomplishment reports including final accomplishments and performance measures
- Preparation of the SNPLMA close out package.

**Project Timeframe:**

3 months	Complete work plan for funding authorization
18 months	Complete planning, design and NEPA includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• conceptual design</li> <li>• scoping meetings</li> <li>• FWS consultation</li> <li>• SHPO/Historic Properties consultation</li> <li>• NEPA preparation</li> <li>• Decision document</li> <li>• Final design and engineering</li> </ul>

9 months	Contracting for construction through build out includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of contract documents/specifications</li> <li>• Drafting the SOW and contract</li> <li>• Contract solicitation</li> <li>• Contract award</li> </ul>
30 months	Construction includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobilization</li> <li>• Construction through full build-out</li> <li>• Agency acceptance as complete</li> <li>• Payment of final invoice, close out of contracts</li> <li>• Release of lien</li> </ul>
4 months	Project close out with SNPLMA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final site inspection</li> <li>• Final review of project file and expenditures</li> <li>• Request for close out</li> <li>• SNPLMA close out of the funding authorization</li> </ul>
60 months	Total anticipated period of performance to complete

Timeframe for Deliverables:

1. Permitting, Year 1
2. Requests for Bids, Year 2
3. Crystal Spring Restoration Years 2 & 3
4. Improvement of Crystal Loop Road Years 3 & 4
5. Final Documentation and Closeout Year 5

**Level of Readiness for Implementation:**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Ash Meadows NWR is prepared to initiate implementation of the nominated project upon notification of funds availability. Staff will complete the required Section 7 consultations and NHPA Section 106 compliance. NEPA compliance (Environmental Assessment), planning, and design will be contracted upon notification of funds availability. The construction components of both Crystal Spring outflow restoration and the improvements to Crystal Loop Road will be completed by contractors. Revegetation of disturbed areas will be completed by contractors, cooperators, and refuge staff.

Description of the implementation process:

The project implementation process would follow the Project Timeframe and Project Deliverables noted above for the restoration of Crystal Spring outflow and improvement of Crystal Loop Road.

5 Years –Timeline:

Planning and Design	Years 1-2
Construction and Installation	Years 2-4
Final Documentation and Closeout	Year 5

### **Future Operations and Maintenance:**

The operational requirements for the restoration of Crystal Spring outflow are solely restricted to the construction and creation processes. Upon the completion of Crystal Spring outflow restoration, there will be no further operational requirements. The requirements to maintain the Crystal Spring outflow system will be very minimal, and will decrease with time. Initially (within the first few years), revegetation may be required, monitoring for invasive species will be needed, and maintenance of fish barriers. Monitoring of the channel using the eDNA detection for sunfishes would drastically reduce hours spent visually inspecting the channel and trapping for sunfishes. If invasive species are documented, there will be the need for maintenance in the form of treating/removing these invasive species. This maintenance requirement is only anticipated for the first few years after the restoration is complete, and any needed work (including revegetation) will be handled by Ash Meadows NWR staff, cooperators and volunteers.

There are no electricity needs for the restored Crystal Spring outflow system. The Crystal Spring outflow system will be fully-functional at the completion of restoration. Operational costs for the newly-restored Crystal Spring outflow will effectively be zero.

The Crystal Spring outflow system will have low maintenance costs. The cost to maintain Crystal Spring outflow will decrease with time; initial maintenance will include revegetation and monitoring/treating invasive plant growth, although revegetation is expected to be a very minor need, and very few invasive plants are currently in the area.

Maintenance to Crystal Loop Road will be substantially reduced, and will only require periodic grading. Currently, the deterioration of the existing concrete channels has led to numerous leaks, causing unexpected damage to roadways. The proposed project will reduce O&M costs of maintaining the concrete channels that were originally constructed in the 1950's through 1970's and reduce O&M costs from repairing the Crystal Loop road from flooding due to leaks and breaches in the existing channels. At present, the refuge spends approximately \$10,000 - \$15,000 per year (including salary, fuel, and materials) to maintain this small section of road. The proposed project would reduce refuge costs to less than \$1,000 per year for maintenance of this roadway.

These evaluations were made through consultation with contractors and through in-house determination.

### **Contributed funds directly applicable to completion of the project:**

The FWS will contribute materials in the amount of \$20,000.

### **Funding Requested Budget Detail:**

FWS requests \$4,916,279 in SNPLMA appropriation to complete the Crystal Spring Outflow Restoration project. The FWS will contribute funds in the amount of \$20,000 for materials.

<b>Schedule B</b>			
<b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROPOSAL</b>			
<b>ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS &amp; KEY MILESTONE DATES</b>			
<b>Project Name:</b>	Crystal Spring Outflow Restoration & Improvements	<b>Agency:</b>	USFWS
<b>Project &amp; Priority #:</b>	N/A nomination submittal	<b>Phone:</b>	775-372-5435
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Corey Lee	<b>Date:</b>	9/9/2020
<b>1 Planning, Environmental Compliance &amp; Preconstruction Engineering and Design</b> <i>(Not to exceed 27% of total project costs)</i>			
		\$625,000	12.71%
	(Pre-design sketches and conceptual drawings; environmental assessment and permitting, specialist surveys/reports for archaeology, wildlife, biology, etc.; architectural and engineering analysis, design survey & field investigations; construction drawings, specifications, cost estimates, and engineering technical reports.)		
<b>2 Construction Contract Costs</b>			
		\$3,093,174	62.92%
	(Including labor, supplies & materials, construction management, etc.; sampling/testing; site restoration; and government furnished supplies and materials.)		
<b>3 Project Equipment</b>			
		\$0	0.00%
	(Pg. 89 of the Implementation Agreement - SNPLMA funds can only be used for "project related necessary expenses" and SNPLMA can reimburse only for those equipment costs directly associated with completion of the approved project.)		
<b>4 Travel</b>			
		\$0	0.00%
	(Including per diem where official travel status is required to carry out the project, such as to serve as COR, experts to review reports, etc.)		
<b>5 Official Vehicle Use</b>			
		\$21,600	0.44%
	(Pro rata costs for use of Official Vehicles when required to carry out the project.)		
<b>6 Other Direct and Contracted Labor</b>			
		\$187,150	3.81%
	Agency payroll for the Contracting Officer to do project procurements, COR Project Inspector, Section 106 Consultation, NEPA Lead, Project Manager, Project Supervisor, and subject experts to review contracted surveys, design/drawings, plans, reports, etc.; Also covered is the cost to contract for a Project Manager and/or Project Supervisor if contracted separately from other project costs.		
<b>7 FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act</b>			
		\$78,000	1.59%
<b>8 Direct Federal Labor</b>			
		\$610,480	12.42%
	(direct agency labor for construction, project inspection, CO and COR)		
<b>9 Other Necessary Expenses</b>			
		\$300,875	6.12%
	(See SNPLMA IA Part Two Appendix B-3)		
<b>Total Requested/Estimated Budget</b>		<b>\$4,916,279</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>10 Total Estimated In-kind Agency or Partner Contribution</b>			
		\$20,000	
<b>Total Estimated Project Value</b>		<b>\$4,936,279</b>	

### Performance Measures:

SNPLMA program's vision, mission, and goals is associated with connecting people to the outdoors and conserving public lands while ensuring the projects' fiscal sustainability. The proposed Crystal Spring Outflow Channel Restoration and Improvements supports these goals and the anticipated performance measures.

Outcome – Goal 1. Sustain the quality of the Outdoor environment by conserving, preserving, and restoring natural and cultural resources.

Performance Measures:

- H2 Miles of shoreline habitat treated, enhanced, or restored – 3 to 4 miles
- H4 Acres of upland habitat treated, enhanced, or restored – 40 acres
- H6 Acres of wetland/riparian habitat treated, enhanced or restored – 150 acres
- H9 Acres of invasive plant species treated or restored – 15 to 20 acres
- H14 Number of Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Actions Implemented – 6 actions
- H16 Miles of roads or trails decommissioned and/or rehabilitated – 1 to 2 miles

Outcome – Goal 2. Improve the quality of life for all public in urban and rural communities by enhancing recreational opportunities that connect people with the outdoor environment.

Performance Measure:

- R4 Miles of new recreational roads/trails constructed or routes improved – 1 to 2 miles

### **Executive Committee Strategic Plan Values:**

#### **Sustainability**

The proposed project will address sustainability by improving outdated and failing infrastructure of the concrete canals, culverts, and Crystal Loop road; installing new effective fish barriers; protecting resource values; improving public safety and access through the improvements of Crystal Loop Road; improving the habitat of multiple ESA listed species in the process by improving fish habitat and exposing bare soils to stream flows allowing for germination of seeds multiple listed plant species as well.

#### **Connectivity**

The proposed project will address connectivity by restoring flows from Crystal Spring outflow to enhance the connection of the Crystal Spring system to all of the Lower Crystal system, Bradford Springs, and King Spring outflow systems as depicted in Figure 3. This will allow for the potential of natural genetic variation of two endangered fishes in these systems.

#### **Community**

The proposed project will address community by improving access to wildlife viewing and hunting for the underserved communities of nearby Amargosa Valley and Pahrump, as represented in Figure 3. This project will also serve these communities by protecting resource values, enhancing visitor experience, and improving environmental quality.

## Compliance with Departmental Priorities, Strategic Goals, Executive Orders, and Secretarial Orders:

Addressed as part of the ranking criteria below.

## Ranking Criteria:

### 1. SUSTAINABILITY & MODERNIZATION

The project supports conservation, preservation, restoration, or modernization of natural, cultural, or historic resources (which includes infrastructure) to ensure availability of those resources for future generations. The project will remain relevant and continue to provide benefit to a recreation user over the anticipated life of the project.

#### *Factors:*

- a. Yes, the project will achieve conservation stewardship by protecting resource values, and improving environmental quality. The restoration of the spring channel will provide indefinite design life with minimal maintenance required.
- b. Yes, improved roads will enhance the visitor experience by providing more reliable access this portion of the refuge that is often closed due to poor road conditions. The project will restore natural processes within the project area. The restored spring channel will mimic the historic flow path which will create more hydrated soils, beneficial to native and rare plants, as well as create additional habitat for the endangered Ash Meadows Amargosa pupfish and the Ash Meadows speckled dace.
- c. No, the project does not meet this factor.

### 2 CONNECTIVITY

The project provides recreational opportunities that link population centers, recreation facilities, and the user to the outdoors and natural landscapes. It encourages people to meaningfully connect with their natural environment, thus helping them appreciate and care for the environment. The project will also connect the user to the history and/or cultural of the site and engages the user in appreciation of the site/area.

- a. Yes, the project will provide new access to endangered fish viewing locations by modernizing roads to include fish-safe bottomless culverts.
- b. Yes, the project will improve visitor access and provide new opportunities for visitors to observe and connect with the varied environments and ecosystems within the refuge. The project will provide improved hunting opportunity and access. Improved roads will enable more reliable access this portion of the refuge that is often closed due to poor road conditions.
- c. Yes, the project will provide youth from local schools new and enhanced opportunities for recreation and educational experiences on public lands close to their local community. It will

also provide new opportunities for the families in the rural communities of Amargosa Valley and Pahrump to support conservation and understand natural resources at the refuge and surrounding public lands.

d. No, the project does not meet this factor.

### **3. COMMUNITY**

The project provides or improves outdoor recreation opportunities to improve the quality of life, especially for underserved communities. It conserves or restores the functionality, resiliency, and integrity of biological communities. The project encourages partnerships, which in turn builds community.

*(Encourages and engages the public in the conservation and protection of the surrounding natural environment through use of volunteer/stewardship resources)*

- a. Yes, the project will enrich the visitor experience at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge by providing new outdoor recreational opportunities for visitors. This will improve the public's connection with natural, cultural and recreational resources on public lands.
- b. Yes, Desert Complex staff will contribute in-kind staff hours toward the planning, design, and development stages of the project.
- c. Yes, the project will provide infrastructure for conservation stewardship in the rural Amargosa Valley located in Nye County, NV. It will provide new opportunities for the families in the rural communities of Amargosa Valley and Pahrump to support conservation and understand natural resources at the refuge and surrounding public lands, while also improving hunting opportunities and access for a community with limited access to quality hunting.

### **4. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE**

The agency has clearly demonstrated that the anticipated operations and maintenance costs for the project and resources necessary to operate the project are within existing appropriations or demonstrated how they will secure the necessary operations and maintenance funds.

*(Agency has detailed estimated annual O&M cost and estimated use /permit fees to be collected)*

- a. Yes, current appropriations are sufficient for the operations and management of the project. Operational requirements for the restoration of Crystal Spring outflow are solely restricted to the construction and creation processes. Requirements to maintain the Crystal Spring outflow system will be very minimal and will decrease with time.
- b. No, the project does not meet this factor.
- c. Yes, the project will reduce O&M of maintaining the concrete channels that were originally constructed in the 1950's through 1970's and reduce O&M costs from repairing the Crystal

Loop road from flooding due to leaks and breaches in the existing channels. Maintenance to Crystal Loop Road will be substantially reduced and will only require periodic grading in comparison to the current situation where the road floods regularly and often has to be closed due to poor road conditions.

- d. Yes, the project will improve efficiency for roadway maintenance. Deterioration of the existing concrete channels has led to numerous leaks, causing unexpected damage to roadways. At present, the refuge spends approximately \$10,000 - \$15,000 per year (including salary, fuel, and materials) to maintain this small section of road, and the proposed project would reduce refuge costs to less than \$1,000 per year for maintenance of this roadway.

## **5. LIFECYCLE REPLACEMENT/RECONSTRUCTION AND DEFERRED MAINTENANCE**

Any existing project or facility that has met or exceeded its useful life, design life, or life cycle that requires major restoration or reconstruction to restore the historic fabric of the facility or meet standard new Federal accessibility guidelines.

*(Does not include reconstruction, changes, or new amenities for previously approval SNPLMA capital improvements projects. Excludes projects that were identified as phased construction, each phase must be fully operational and serve the intended purpose upon completion.)*

- a. Yes, the crumbling existing concrete canals are 30-50 years old and have been a burden on maintenance for both the canals and the Crystal Loop Road. The current structures have long since exceeded their life cycle and need to be altered to reduce maintenance.
- b. Yes, project will extend the life of system and reduce deferred maintenance costs significantly by creating improved flow ways to prevent flooding of the road and naturalized channels that will dramatically reduce maintenance. At present, the refuge spends approximately \$10,000 - \$15,000 per year (including salary, fuel, and materials) to maintain this small section of road, and the proposed project would reduce refuge costs to less than \$1,000 per year for maintenance of this roadway.

## **. ADVANCES THE AGENCY/ENTITY PRIORITIES/GOALS**

The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination/project meets the priorities and strategic goals for their respective agency.

The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination/project meets the priorities and strategic goals for their respective agency.

### **A. Meets one or more of the Department of the Interior priorities:**

- *Create a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt.*
  - Managing the habitat for two of the endangered fishes of Ash Meadows, reducing the threats to the populations and restoring populations to their historic streams of occupancy for generations to enjoy.
  - Managing the public land to improve hunting quality.

- *Modernize our infrastructure*
  - Improving culvert crossings for Crystal Loop Road, thus reducing damage from failing infrastructure and flooding.
  - Updating and improving waterway infrastructure, removing old failing concrete channels that cause road damage when new leaks occur.
- *Achieve our goals and lead our team forward.*
  - Restoring a critically endangered fish to a historic stream it has been extirpated from, thus reducing the likelihood of extinction by increasing range.
  - Improving habitat for two endangered fishes and reducing predaceous threats by removing sunfish.
  - Improve populations of Ash Meadows Amargosa pupfish with the hope of ultimately downlisting/delisting the species from the Endangered Species list.

**B. Meets one or more of the U.S. Forest Service priorities:**

**7. CONSISTENCY WITH SECRETARIAL ORDERS AND DIRECTIVE:** The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination / project meets the Secretarial Orders (SO) and Directive.

**A. EO No. 13855 Promoting Active Management of America’s Forests, Range Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk**

- No, the proposed project does not comply with EO 13855.

**B. SO No. 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation.**

- Yes, the proposed project does comply with SO 3347 by advancing conservation stewardship, improving hunting opportunity by improving habitat from restoration for small game and migratory birds, and increasing potential for outdoor recreation.

**C. SO No. 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes and Territories.**

- Yes, the proposed project does comply with SO 3356 by improving hunting opportunities and coordinating with the Nevada Department of Wildlife for management of small game and migratory birds.

**D. SO No. 3362: Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors**

- No, the proposed project does not comply with SO 3362.

**E. SO No. 3366: Increasing Recreational Opportunities on Lands and Waters Managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior**

- Yes, the proposed project does comply with SO 3366 and will improve hunting opportunities for waterfowl by improving efficiency of management of water to reservoirs that will improve opportunity.

**F. SO No. 3370: Conservation Stewardship and Increasing Public Access to Urban National Wildlife Refuges**

- No, the proposed project does not comply with SO 3370.

**G. SO No. 3372: Reducing Wildfire Risks on Department of the Interior Land Through Active Management**

- No, the proposed project does not comply with SO 3372.

**H. SO No. 3373 Evaluating Public Access in Bureau of Land Management Public Land Disposals and Exchanges**

- No, the proposed project does not comply with SO 3373.

**I. SO No. 3374 Implementation of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act**

- No, the proposed project does not comply with SO 3374.

**J. SO No. 3376 Increasing Recreational Opportunities through the use of Electric Bikes.**

- No, the proposed project does not comply with SO 3376.

**K. Other Secretarial Order(s) and Directive(s):** Describe any other Secretarial Order(s) and Directive(s) that apply to the nomination and are not listed above.

**Project Location:**

Project location: 36.419729° / -116.336032°

The proposed location for restoration of Crystal Spring is in Ash Meadows NWR, Nye County, Nevada, and the project area encompasses approximately 330 acres. Ash Meadows NWR is approximately 20 miles (20 minutes) from Amargosa Valley, NV and 30 miles (40 minutes) from Pahrump, Nevada, the two nearest communities, and approximately 90 miles (90 minutes) west of Las Vegas, NV.

The Crystal Loop Road is located at Ash Meadows NWR, Nye County, Nevada.

Maps:



Figure 1. The Crystal Spring outflow project area, located at 36.419729°, -116.336032°, proposed for restoration at Ash Meadows NWR, Nye County, Nevada.

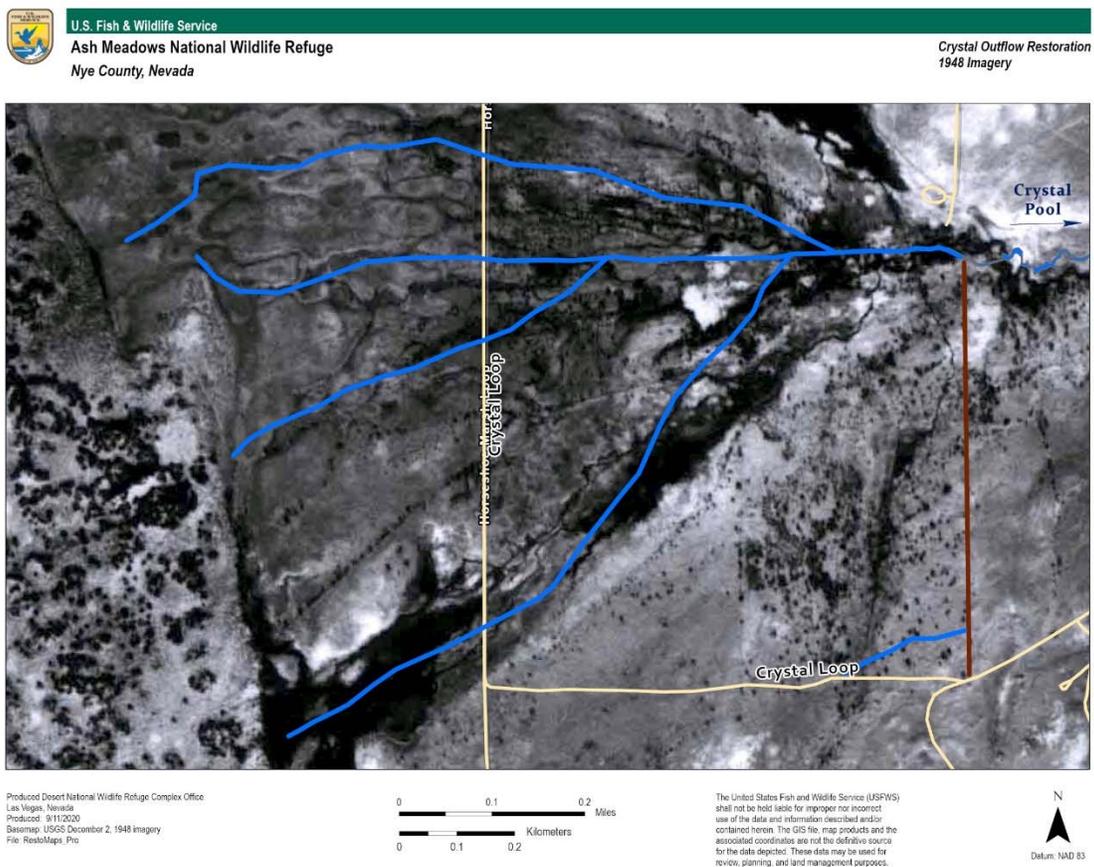


Figure 2. The Crystal Spring outflow project area, located at  $36.419729^{\circ}$ ,  $-116.336032^{\circ}$ , displaying the proposed restoration channels overlaid on aerial imagery from 1948, showing proposed for restoration at Ash Meadows NWR, Nye County, Nevada.

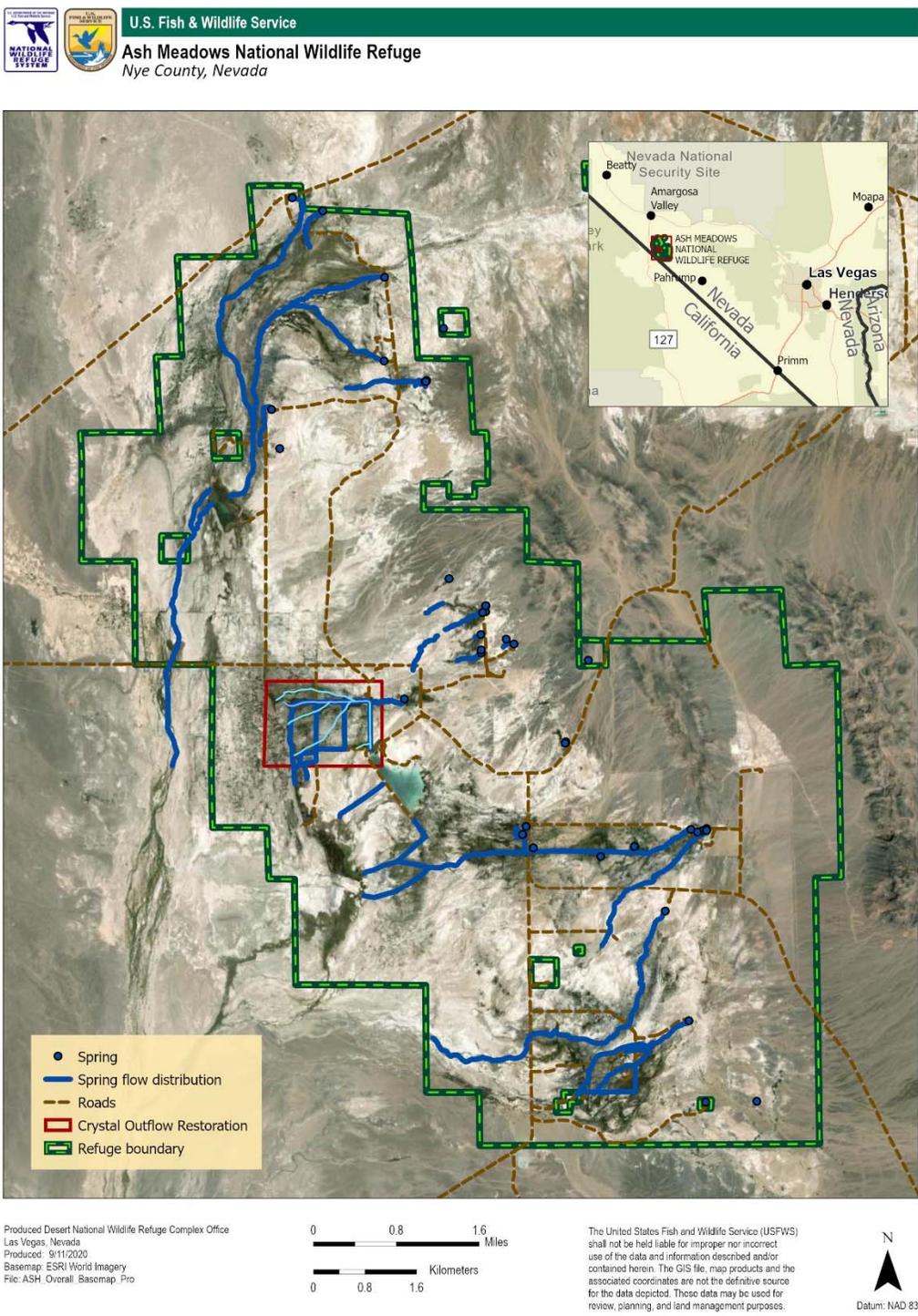


Figure 3. The proposed project will improve wildlife viewing and hunting at Ash Meadows NWR, which the surrounding communities will use and benefit from the increased recreational opportunities created by this restoration.

**Photos:**

Photo 1: Concrete channel of Crystal Spring outflow heading west. Photo taken September 10, 2020.



Photo 2: Concrete channel of Crystal Spring outflow heading south toward Crystal Reservoir.



Photo 3: West Crystal outflow heading under culverts on Crystal Loop Road, latitude 36.419764°, longitude -116.338529°.



Photo 4: Parking area 1 to be improved on Crystal Loop Road, latitude 36.413015°, longitude -116.338519°.



Photo 5: Parking area 2 to be improved on Crystal Loop Road, latitude 36.412959°, longitude - 116.332741°.



Photo6: South end of concrete channel flowing to Crystal Reservoir.



Photo 7: Concrete fish barrier type to be used in the stream restoration.

## Letters of Support:



Steve Sisolak  
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA  
**DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE**  
 6980 Sierra Center Parkway, Suite 120  
 Reno, Nevada 89511  
 Phone (775) 688-1500 • Fax (775) 688-1495

TONY WASLEY  
*Director*

LIZ O'BRIEN  
*Deputy Director*

JACK ROBB  
*Deputy Director*

September 10, 2020

SNPLMA Executive Committee  
 BLM Southern Nevada District Office  
 4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr.  
 Las Vegas, Nevada 89130

RE: Letter of Support for Round 18 Nomination for restoration of Crystal Spring outflow at  
 Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge

Dear Executive Committee:

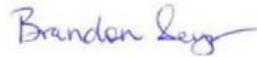
It is our understanding that the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (Service) will be submitting a request for Capital Improvement funding through Round 18 of the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA) to perform restoration actions to the Crystal Spring outflow. This project will improve fish habitat, stream morphology, and stream function within Crystal Spring's outflow, promote fish passage and flood management, and allow for effective nonnative fish detection and eradication. The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) strongly supports the Service's Round 18 SNPLMA proposal to restore the Crystal Spring outflow.

Numerous aquatic spring systems, including Crystal Spring and its outflow, at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge are natural habitats for a unique suite of endemic fishes and other aquatic species. Every native fish occurring at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge is classified as protected by the State of Nevada (NAC 503.065). Restoring aquatic systems to a more naturally functioning condition and improving long-term channel stability is a key principle of native fish management. The introduction and establishment of nonnative fish populations has had severe and lasting negative impacts to native fishes in Nevada, including at Crystal Spring. The installation of multiple removable fish barriers will allow for a strategic approach to eradicating nonnative centrarchids and other nonnative fish from the Crystal Spring outflow. This approach has been successfully employed elsewhere in Nevada to aid in eradication and prevention of upstream migration of nonnative fish; a series of removable fish barriers exist in the Muddy River, Clark County, Nevada which allowed us to break a 22-mile

reach of river into three smaller treatment reaches during our rotenone treatment to eradicate nonnative fish from the lower Muddy River and provides the opportunity to remove the barriers after successful eradication or re-install the fish barriers if new nonnative fish introductions are detected. The Service's proposal to utilize eDNA to detect centrarchids will expedite early detection and allow for a rapid response to upstream movement or introductions of centrarchids.

The Service and NDOW have a long history of working collaboratively at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge; we are committed to continuing that partnership and will provide field and technical assistance for this project in any way we can, including salvaging native fish and implementing rotenone treatments to eradicate nonnative fish within the Crystal Spring system. Again, NDOW strongly supports the Service's application for SNPLMA Round 18 funding to perform restoration actions at the Crystal Spring outflow. We look forward to continuing to work cooperatively with the Service to implement conservation and recovery actions at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. If you have any questions or need additional information in regards to this letter of support, please contact me at (702) 668-3999 or at [bsenger@ndow.org](mailto:bsenger@ndow.org). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Brandon Senger  
Supervising Fisheries Biologist  
Nevada Department of Wildlife

cc:

Corey Lee, Refuge Manager, Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Amargosa Valley, NV



September 9, 2020

SNPLMA Executive Committee  
BLM Southern Nevada District Office  
SNPLMA Division  
4701 North Torrey Pines Drive  
Las Vegas Nevada, 89130

Re: West Crystal Springs Restoration at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge

Dear SNPLMA Executive Committee,

The Nevada Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is pleased to support Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) proposed project to restore the West Crystal Spring outflow. By adding a multi-channel outflow system, fish barriers, and planting native vegetation the Refuge will prevent non-native fish species from moving into critically important spring systems and provide important habitat for wildlife. Limiting non-native species within the spring complex is important to maintaining viable populations of the native, endemic fishes – and planting of screwbean mesquite, an important tree species that has declined over the past decade, in restored areas will provide needed habitat for many bird species.

TNC has worked on conservation issues in the Amargosa River region for over 45 years, including acquiring the original land that became the Refuge. After 45 years, the Amargosa River region remains a priority landscape for TNC, and we have a strong desire to see the high biodiversity and important endemic species protected in this unique landscape.

Overall, this proposed project is a wise investment for the long-term conservation of native fish and will provide important new screwbean mesquite habitat. The native species at Ash Meadows are unique to southern Nevada and increased protection from non-native species and the habitat restoration will increase the likelihood these species continue to persist.

Thank you for your consideration of the restoration project at West Crystal Springs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Zablocki".

John Zablocki  
Southern Nevada Conservation Director



8329 West Sunset Road, Suite 200 Tel: (702) 737-8744  
Las Vegas, NV 89113 [nature.org](http://nature.org)

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act  
Capital Improvements  
Round 18



**Garnet Hill Recreation Area**

Amount Requested: \$9,580,040

Time Frame: 5 Years

Location: 37.62861111 / -114.49946111

Congressional District Number: NV-4

Federal Manager: Robbie J. McAboy, District Manager

Contact: John Miller, Outdoor Recreation Planner  
BLM Ely District, Bristlecone Field Office  
P: (775) 289-1834  
Email: [jrmiller@blm.gov](mailto:jrmiller@blm.gov)

### **Purpose Statement:**

The Bureau of Land Management, Ely District – Bristlecone Field Office proposes combining two adjacent recreation sites (Garnet Hill and Egan Crest) into the Garnet Hill Recreation Area with a connected trail system on BLM-administered lands located northwest of Ely in White Pine County, Nevada. This project will help meet the needs of the underserved community of Ely by increasing capacity and providing safe access for all visitors to this popular tourist attraction through an upgraded and modernized recreational facility, natural and cultural resource education based interpretive signs, construction of multipurpose with wayfinding signed trail system connecting to Ely and improving road access; and it will enable the agency to reduce operational costs by combining locations, evaluating for a fee site, and increasing Special Recreation Permits.

### **Background info and need for the project**

Since the early 1900s, Garnet Hill has been popular for finding garnets and was designated as Garnet Field Rockhounding Natural Area and segregated from land disposal in 1970 (Federal Register Dec 22, 1970). However, it was not withdrawn from mineral entry due to opposition from the nearby Robinson Mine, owned by Kennecott at that time. Initial improvements were made in the 1970's including an outhouse toilet and some picnic tables. In the late 1990s a couple of interpretive signs were added, and in 2010 the original vault toilet was upgraded to a modern vault toilet. The access road is steep, narrow and rough, and parking is limited due to the steep terrain. Even as dated and limited as the current facilities are, Garnet Hill has increased in popularity and with the advent of social media it has become a favorite tourism site for locals and visitors alike. It is also a popular field trip for local school kids that are bused from Ely to the site, even though this means a 15 point turn around for the bus. The site is not currently ADA compliant, so this limits access for physically challenged visitors from enjoying digging for garnets.

Egan Crest Trailhead Recreation Area has been popular since the late 1970s with dirt bike and jeep enthusiasts. The staging area was originally a gravel pit. Records indicate that planning for a trail system and staging area began in the late 1990s, with minor improvements such as erosion control, wayfinding signage, two shade structures and an interpretive kiosk with trail map installed during this time with funding from BLM and the local community. The area has not received any improvements since that time. The site attracts off road enthusiasts who want to off load 4 wheelers and utility terrain vehicles (UTVs) and go exploring network of roads in the area. The area hosts Special Recreation Use permitted events annually. Due to its proximity to the highway and small community of Ruth, the area attracts illegal dumping.

Egan Crest has an identified trail system, however it is limited to existing roads and not well marked. No other trails or system of trails are currently identified, however, since Nevada approved off highway vehicles for street use in recent years, there has been a push from the City of Ely to accommodate access from Ely to the surrounding public lands. There has also been an increase in mountain biking recreation in this area, with the ever-popular annual Fears, Tears and Beers Race that races mountain bikes through Ely, looping through roads on steep terrain on public lands and back to Ely. Mountain bike racing has now expanded to the Northern Nevada

Railway, that runs parallel to Hwy 50 and near the recreation areas, with a “Race the Rails” annual event. Because Garnet Hill and Egan Crest Trailhead are within proximity to Ely, the White Pine Tour and Recreation Board has begun exploring ways to accommodate these new trends to access public lands from Ely.

In the past, Garnet Hill Recreation Area and the Egan Crest Recreation Area provided opportunities for the public to enjoy recreational activities on public land with access to basic, dated facilities. These separate recreation areas have also created challenges for BLM due to increased visitation, poor design to accommodate current use, lack of accessible facilities, proximity to Hwy 50, and trying to maintain dated facilities. There is a need to combine these locations, reduce duplicity, and expand and modernize these the facilities. These changes will meet the needs of the public, while reducing overall maintenance and operations costs for the agency.

The need for this project is to modernize and expand the existing facilities and trail system to accommodate these new trends of increased public visitation and access to public lands from several locations while recognizing the needs of the many different users. The BLM considered eliminating the Egan Crest Recreation Area due to issues with illegal dumping of trash and it was used more as a rest stop than a trailhead due to proximity to Hwy 50. However, based on use of the two areas and the close proximity to each other (Appendix A Location Map), it is reasonable to combine the two recreation areas into one recreation area with connecting trails, and reduce operational costs by upgrading and expanding facilities at both sites to accommodate the different types of uses each site. There is also a high probability that if only one site is upgraded, all users will use that site and create conflict, since the types of uses vary so much. This project will meet the needs of the community, be sustainable, and increase connectivity with the natural world for all Americans.

The recreational connectivity component involves directly connecting the city of Ely to both Recreation Areas with both motorized and non-motorized access. Recreationist will be able to either ride their mountain bike or drive their off-highway vehicle (OHV) from town directly to public land, the trail system and both recreation areas.

The recreational accessibility component involves upgrading the road to Garnet Hill for buses and low-profile vehicles. All trailhead and campground facilities will be ADA compliant in addition of hardened surfaces on a section of the trail system that will allow wheelchair access with the ability to find garnets and visit the interpretive kiosks.

The recreational capacity component involves reconfiguring and enlarging trailhead, day use and overnight camping. Both trailheads currently do not meet the visitation or use capacity that the current demand requires. Garnet Hill parking area is regularly full, and poorly designed. Egan Crest is not large enough to accommodate the special recreation permitted events that occur there every year and requires staging and parking to occur on vegetation.

The recreational opportunity component involves the addition of a new non-motorized trail system where there currently was none, in addition to adding more miles to the motorized trail system. With the addition of wayfinding and interpretive signs, it will allow the recreationist to

navigate the trail system with confidence as well as learn about important natural resource subjects along the way. In addition to the entire trail system, signs and trailheads, having some lengths of ADA accessible trail in the Garnet Hill Recreation Area will definitely provide an outstanding recreational opportunity for many.

### **Relationship to previous phases and anticipated future phases:**

There are no previous phases of this recreation area. There is are no future anticipated phases.

### **Deliverables:**

Primary Deliverables:

PLANNING:

1. **Complete a Recreation Area Management Plan including an overall conceptual project design** that combines the two recreation areas (*Garnett Hill and Egan Crest*) into one recreation area known as ***Garnet Hill Recreation Area***. The design would include front elevation and overhead view drawings that meet ADA requirements and include:
  - campground design
  - road and trailhead design,
  - general existing route identification and locations where constructed motorized and non-motorized routes are to be placed.
  - The designs should have enough detail to solicit bids on separate items: engineered road surface and
    - Key deliverables in the plan include:
      - improved access for low profile vehicles,
      - trailhead relocation and development for large groups,
      - campground design
      - motorized and non-motorized trails connecting to Ely and
      - connecting the various activities in the recreation area,
      - interpretive signs and brochure design,
      - recommendations for wayfinding and interpretive signage, and
      - improved exposure of garnets.
    - The redesigned recreation area to be designed to accommodate up to 900 people a day, resulting in an increased visitor capacity of 300%.
2. **Completion of a Business Plan** for the new recreation area including costs for operations and maintenance, and analysis of fiscal benefits for a fee site (with recommended fees) for Garnet Hill and Special Use Permits within the area.
3. **Completion of a Travel Management Plan** to clearly designate the motorized and non-motorized uses in this area.

DEVELOPMENT:

4. **Campground and use area upgrades/expansion** (based on engineered design plan to accommodate up to 100 individual visitors a day and 300 group visitors a day. The following is based on preliminary analysis:

- Engineered road surface (4-5 miles) for low profile vehicles and tour/school bus access and trailhead from Hwy 50 to Garnet Hill.
- Enlarge and reconfigure Garnet Hill to accommodate parking and turnaround radius required for large vehicles such as school buses and RVs.
- Large multi panel interpretive kiosk with natural resource subjects including cultural/historic resources, geology and mining, wildlife, native plants, responsible recreation ethics, a map of trail system, etc.
- Non-motorized trail loop (1 mile) leading around Garnet Hill to other garnet bearing/rockhounding locations.
- The site and nearby garnet bearing locations will be re-worked (drilled, blasted, and brought to the surface) to make garnets easier to find and create a wheelchair accessible path leading to fully accessible location to dig garnets.
- Upgrade current day use area with 1-2 small and 1 large day use sites each with picnic tables, shade structures, fire rings and BBQs.

Build a new (recommend fee site) campground and associated facilities located nearby from trailhead that includes 1-2 double vault toilets, 7-12 individual and 1-2 large group campsites each with picnic tables, shade structures, fire rings and BBQs. All sites and facilities will be ADA compliant. (fee site may either be through a fee tube (iron ranger and fee envelopes) or could possibly be reserved and scheduled through rec.gov). All sites and facilities will be ADA compliant.

- Trailhead upgrades/expansion (based on engineered design plan to accommodate up to 500 visitors a day. The following is based on preliminary analysis:
- Relocation of trailhead and facilities to be hidden from view of Hwy 50.
- Enlargement of Egan Crest Trailhead to 4-5 acres to accommodate large special recreation permitted events of 500 people resulting in an increased capacity of 200%.
- Removal of existing dated facilities and trash receptacles.
- Construction of an area for temporary trash receptacles and porta-potties that can be used during special recreation events and high visitation times.
- 3-5 new individual camp spots and 1-2 large group sites, each with picnic tables, shade structures, fire rings and BBQs.
- All sites will be able to accommodate large RVs. All sites and facilities will be ADA compliant

Installation of new kiosk with map of entire Ely District Recreation Opportunities, a trail system map, and responsible recreation ethics such as Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly, etc. Recommend overnight use may be set up as fee site (fee site may either be through a fee tube (iron ranger and fee envelopes) or could possibly be reserved and scheduled through rec.gov).

#### Trail System:

There will be a signed (wayfinding) trail system of motorized and non-motorized trails connecting to both recreation areas and the City of Ely, as well as trails looping throughout the recreation area for exploration of the natural environment. Existing roads and trails may be incorporated into the signed trails system.

- A couple (2-3) of small parking area trail system access points shall be located at the base of Squaw Peak, by Ruth Junction, or other access points to accommodate other recreation activities in the area such as the Northern Nevada Railway.
- Professionally designed and constructed motorized (20-30+miles) and non-motorized (20-30+miles) trails, will be placed in locations that incorporate the use of existing roads and trails into an outstanding recreational opportunity.
- Interpretive signs separate from wayfinding would be placed along trail system to provide educational components of natural resource subjects including cultural/historic resources, geology and mining, wildlife, native plants, responsible recreation ethics, a map of trail system, etc. and responsible recreation ethics.

#### Anticipated Deliverables:

Fee sites for overnight camp spots through either fee tube or reservation system through rec.gov. that will be analyzed in the planning and design and determined based on Resource Advisory Council (RAC) coordination and approval of a Fee Site Structure as mandated in Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA).

#### Standard Deliverables:

- Completion of NEPA.
- Public scoping for NEPA and Travel Management Plan.
- Submitting and obtaining management approval of project documents.
- Issue contracts and agreements, as needed, to develop plan and construction.
- All natural resource assessments and clearances, such as cultural and wildlife surveys, and associated reports.

#### Project Time Frame:

This project will be completed within the expected standard timeframe of 5 years.

- Year 1
  - Develop conceptual drawings and maps.
  - Contract non- motorized and motorized trail professionals for proper location of trails system to create initial draft trail plan. Incorporate trail system into conceptual project.
  - Internal scoping of conceptual project.
  - Make necessary changes to project as identified by resource specialist to avoid or mitigate resource issues.
  - External scoping of project (community and local governments), may involve forming a planning committee with multiple meetings (6 months).
  - Make necessary changes to project as identified by community and local governments and planning committee.
  - Finalize entire project proposal.
  - Begin coordination of contracted NEPA on entire project.
  - Develop process for adaptive management of incorporating needs that have arisen through planning process but where not planned for.

- Year 2
  - Completion of contracted Draft NEPA.
  - Conduct public outreach, public scoping of Draft NEPA.
  - Finalize NEPA and Decision Record
  - Develop complete scope of work for solicitation of contract bids on individual project components.
  - Solicitation of contracts for bids.
  - Award contracts
  
- Year 3
  - Begin development of Interpretive signs and wayfinding signage, and brochure/electronic media.
  - Begin construction on awarded contracts.
  - Supervise construction of contracts, perform inspections.
  - Road and facilities to Garnet Hill, campground facilities and trailhead improvements should be completed.
  - Garnet access improvements completed.
  - Egan Crest Trailhead staging area and campground facilities completed.
  - 5-10+ miles of constructed motorized and non-motorized trail system.
  
- Year 4
  - Finalize and fabricate Interpretive signs, trail maps, wayfinding decals.
  - 5-10+ miles of constructed motorized and non-motorized trail system.
  - Begin installation of all wayfinding and interpretive signs on trail system and at trailheads.
  
- Year 5
  - 5-10+ miles of constructed motorized and non-motorized trail system.
  - Finish construction of trail system.
  - Finish installation of all wayfinding and interpretive signs on trail system and at trailheads.
  - Publish Brochure and maps (hard copy and electronic media).

### **Level of Project Readiness for Implementation**

The BLM is ready to implement the project. The Bristlecone Field Office, Ely District has an Outdoor Recreation Planner that is familiar with the project and will serve as project manager. Also, due to the high public interest in this project, the BLM has coordinated with the City of Ely and White Pine Tour and Recreation Board (WPCTRB) on this project. WPCTRB has received a planning grant from the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) and professional consultation on non-motorized trail location has occurred (August 2020) with on location flagging of an initial 8 miles scheduled for spring of 2021. The BLM GIS State Lead is coordinating a college internship involving digitizing (from aerial imagery) routes within the project area that exist but are not yet included in current BLM inventory.

**Future Operations and Maintenance:****Contributed funds directly applicable to completion of the project:**

Our partnership portfolio includes White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board, the City of Ely and local mountain bike and motor event organizations. The high interest in GARNET as a popular tourism site when visiting Ely, Nevada has increased support of this project. The White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board has received a \$10,000 grant from the International Mountain Bike Association for access and trail planning which is currently taking place. These organizations are completing work within Ely to access the trails, and they currently advertise and promote the GARNET on their website and social media outlets. These partnerships are currently completing their contributions, so these contributions would not be part of this nomination. However, it is anticipated that they will continue to partner with BLM on this project.

**Funding Requested Budget Detail:**

BLM requests \$9,580,040 in SNPLMA appropriate to complete the proposed project. Refer to Cost Estimate Budget Summary below.

*The remainder of the page intentionally left blank.*

<b>Schedule B</b>			
<b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROPOSAL</b>			
<b>ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS &amp; KEY MILESTONE DATES</b>			
<b>Project Name:</b>	Garnet Hill – Egan Crest Recreation Area (GARNET)	<b>Agency:</b>	<b>EYDO BLM</b>
<b>Project &amp; Priority #:</b>	<i>N/A nomination submittal</i>	<b>Phone:</b>	<b>(775) 289-1834</b>
<b>Prepared by:</b>	John Miller	<b>Date:</b>	<b>9/12/2020</b>
<b>1 Planning, Environmental Compliance &amp; Preconstruction Engineering and Design</b> <i>(Not to exceed 27% of total project costs)</i>			
	(Pre-design sketches and conceptual drawings; environmental assessment and permitting, specialist surveys/reports for archaeology, wildlife, biology, etc.; architectural and engineering analysis, design survey & field investigations; construction drawings, specifications, cost estimates, and engineering technical reports.)	\$1,444,600	15.08%
<b>2 Construction Contract Costs</b>			
	(Including labor, supplies & materials, construction management, etc.; sampling/testing; site restoration; and government furnished supplies and materials.)	\$6,706,190	70.00%
<b>3 Project Equipment</b>			
	(Pg. 89 of the Implementation Agreement - SNPLMA funds can only be used for "project related necessary expenses" and SNPLMA can reimburse only for those equipment costs directly associated with completion of the approved project.)	\$0	0.00%
<b>4 Travel</b>			
	(Including per diem where official travel status is required to carry out the project, such as to serve as COR, experts to review reports, etc.)	\$20,300	0.21%
<b>5 Official Vehicle Use</b>			
	(Pro rata costs for use of Official Vehicles when required to carry out the project.)	\$20,400	0.21%
<b>6 Other Direct and Contracted Labor</b>			
	Agency payroll for the Contracting Officer to do project procurements, COR Project Inspector, Section 106 Consultation, NEPA Lead, Project Manager, Project Supervisor, and subject experts to review contracted surveys, design/drawings, plans, reports, etc.; Also covered is the cost to contract for a Project Manager and/or Project Supervisor if contracted separately from other project costs.	\$1,035,760	10.81%
<b>7 FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act</b>			
		\$0	0.00%
<b>8 Direct Federal Labor</b>			
	(direct agency labor for construction, project inspection, CO and COR)	\$51,040	0.53%
<b>9 Other Necessary Expenses</b>			
	(See SNPLMA IA Part Two - Appendix B-3)	\$301,750	3.15%
<b>Total Requested/Estimated Budget</b>		<b>\$9,580,040</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>10 Total Estimated In-kind Agency or Partner Contribution</b>			
		\$0	
<b>Total Estimated Project Value</b>		<b>\$9,580,040</b>	

## Performance Measures:

Outcome: Increase visitor access, capacity and experience through upgraded and modernized facilities. Achieving the following outputs will accomplish this outcome:

- Outputs SNPLMA STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 2: Improve the quality of life for all publics in urban and rural communities by enhancing recreational opportunities that connect people with the outdoor environment.

- R2 – Acres of New Parks or Natural Areas Constructed or Improved – this will combine to recreation areas into one connected area of approximately 30 acres.
- R3 – Number of New Recreational Facilities / Structures Constructed or Improved – depending on design up to 15 new facilities will be constructed or improved.
- R4- Miles or New Recreational Roads / Trails Constructed or Routes Improved – depending on design, up to 43 miles of trails and access roads will be constructed or improved.
  - (Primary and Anticipated Deliverable): Increase capacity at recreation area to accommodate 400 visitors per day with low clearance vehicle access.

- Outputs: SNPLMA STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 1: Sustain the quality of the outdoor environment by conserving, preserving, and restoring natural and cultural resources.

- H17 – Miles of Roads or Trails Surveyed, Inventoried, or Monitored – at least 43 miles of roads and trails will be inventoried.
- C3 - Acres of Cultural / Paleontological Resources Surveyed, Inventoried or Monitored – up to 20-50 acres will be inventoried (depending on design).

## Executive Committee Strategic Plan Values:

### Sustainability

This project will improve unit operations by combining two sites into one are to streamline management of this area while accommodating a diverse group of visitors. The current facilities are 20 to 40 years old and do not meet the current need. This project will modernize the existing facilities and access by upgrading them with durable, sustainable facilities, safe access, multi-use trails, and signage, that promote and encourage meaningful connection between the public and their natural environment. It will reduce impacts to natural and cultural resources by providing a durable trail system to enjoy public land with minimal impacts.

### Connectivity

This project modernizes infrastructure including new trails, new kiosks with education information and map of trails, upgraded road for low profile vehicles and buses, increased parking and turn around area so buses can safely unload passengers, wayfinding signs on the trails, and modernizes and expands restrooms, day use and overnight camping options that can accommodate tents, large trailers, and motorhomes. The project's focus is connecting with

communities including trails that can be accessed from Ely and increased opportunities for all Americans to have a meaningful connection with the land by enjoying the many trails, camping, or spending the day digging for garnets. The project also addresses the trend toward larger group events and provides upgraded and modern facilities to host these groups.

## Community

The Garnet Hill site is a popular tourist stop on Highway 50 and has a high social media presence driven by the public. Improving access and offering other recreational opportunities at this site and connecting it with the Egan trailhead, provides a social benefit to all visitors. The White Pine Tour and Recreation Board has a grant and is already funding options for trails near Ely and to connect to the GARNET. The Northern Nevada Railway that runs nearby is also planning to offering passengers to bring their bikes on the train and disembark at a safe access point to the trail system to ride their bike back to Ely, which would combine two popular tourism activities, the steam engine train ride with the Garnet Hill site.

### Compliance with Departmental Priorities, Strategic Goals, Executive Orders, and Secretarial Orders:

Addressed in the ranking criteria below.

### Ranking Criteria:

#### 1. SUSTAINABILITY & MODERNIZATION

The project supports conservation, preservation, restoration, or modernization of natural, cultural, or historic resources (which includes infrastructure) to ensure availability of those resources for future generations. The project will remain relevant and continue to provide benefit to a recreation user over the anticipated life of the project.

#### *Factors:*

Yes, this project meets this criterion through factors B, C, and D. This project is the ultimate modernization project. Since the early 1900s, Garnet Hill has been popular for finding garnets and was designated as Garnet Field Rockhounding Natural Area and segregated from land disposal in 1970 (Federal Register Dec 22, 1970) with community support and has been a popular site since. However, it has not had the infrastructure upgrades needed to meet the current and future demand. Funding this project ensures that current and future generations enjoy a unique recreation experience of hunting garnets, and enjoy modern conveniences such as updated campgrounds, trails and parking area that will be sustainable for many decades.

- a. No, the project does not meet this factor.
- b. Yes, this project will improve unit operations by combining two sites into one area to streamline management of this area while accommodating a diverse group of visitors. The current facilities are 20 to 40 years old and do not meet the current need. This project will modernize the existing facilities and access by upgrading them with durable,

sustainable facilities, safe access, multi-use trails, and signage, that promote and encourage meaningful connection between the public and their natural environment. It will reduce impacts to natural and cultural resources by providing a durable access road and trail system to enjoy public land with minimal impacts.

- c. Yes, cultural resources will be identified through appropriate cultural resource surveys and mitigated to avoid or protect these cultural resource sites. Also, interpretation through kiosks, brochures, and print and electronic media will increase knowledge of local resources. One of the unique parts of this project is it is within the Historic Ruth Mining Area and it is near the historic Northern Nevada Railway tracks, which has daily trains running and plans to allow passengers on bikes to disembark at the newly built access point and use the trail system to return to town.
- d. Yes, this project includes new facilities including new camping area, new accessible bathrooms, harden paths to access garnet hunting/digging, and new sustainable trails. With improved access for buses, the site will have signs and educational kiosks at the garnet digging area, trailheads and throughout the trail system to educate visitors. It is anticipated that with the improved access tour buses on Highway 50 can add this as a tourist stop, with passengers learning about historic mining and the many natural features found at Garnet Hill including geology, history and natural resources found in the area.

## **2. CONNECTIVITY**

The project provides recreational opportunities that link population centers, recreation facilities, and the user to the outdoors and natural landscapes. It encourages people to meaningfully connect with their natural environment, thus helping them appreciate and care for the environment. The project will also connect the user to the history and/or cultural of the site and engages the user in appreciation of the site/area.

Yes, this project meets this criterion through factors A and D. This project is connects all visitors to the history and natural environment including connecting motorized and non-motorized trails with the city of Ely and the historic railroad. It improves access for low clearance vehicles and buses to visit the unique experience of garnet hunting. Visitors can take a garnet with them thus forever connecting a memory with this unique experience on public lands.

- a. Yes, this project modernizes infrastructure to a previously under-developed area including upgrading the access road for low profile vehicles and buses, increased parking and turn around area so buses can safely unload passengers, new trails, new kiosks with education information and map of trails, and modernizes and expands restrooms, day use and overnight camping options that can accommodate tents, large trailers, and motorhomes.

The project's focus is connecting with communities including trails that can be accessed from Ely and increased opportunities for all Americans to have a meaningful connection with the land by enjoying the many trails, camping, or spending the day digging for garnets. The project also addresses the trend toward larger group events and provides upgraded and modern facilities to host these groups.

- b. No, this project does not meet this factor.
- c. No, this project does not meet this factor.
- d. Yes, promoting education and new recreation opportunities is accomplished through this project. Modernized and upgraded amenities enhances the educational value of this site and promotes public appreciation for the services and facilities offered by the BLM. The public schools take classes to the Garnet Hill area to learn about the area and mining. This provides a hands-on experience with BLM providing speakers about geology, recreation, and cultural resources. This will continue but the upgraded facilities will increase accessibility for all children to participate and provide safe access for large vehicles, such as school buses. Kiosks will be built that share information about area mining, geology, and historic information.

There will also be coordination with the White Pine County Tour and Recreation Board to provide maps and access points from the City of Ely to the trail system, to engage the public to access this area and tour buses can add this site to their route when visiting Ely.

### 3. COMMUNITY

The project provides or improves outdoor recreation opportunities to improve the quality of life, especially for underserved communities. It conserves or restores the functionality, resiliency, and integrity of biological communities. The project encourages partnerships, which in turn builds community.

*(Encourages and engages the public in the conservation and protection of the surrounding natural environment through use of volunteer/stewardship resources)*

Yes, this project meets this criterion through factors A and D. This project connects all visitors to the history and natural environment including connecting motorized and non-motorized trails with the city of Ely and the historic railroad. It improves access for low clearance vehicles and buses to visit the unique experience of garnet hunting. Visitors can take a garnet with them thus forever connecting a memory with this unique experience on public lands.

- a. Yes, the Garnet Hill site is a popular tourist stop on Highway 50 and has a high social media presence driven by the public. Improving access and offering other recreational opportunities at this site and connecting it with the trail head provides a social benefit to all visitors. The White Pine Tour and Recreation Board has a grant and is already funding options for trails near Ely and to connect to the GARNET. The Northern Nevada Railway that runs nearby is also planning to offering passengers to bring their bikes on the train and disembark at a safe access point to the trail system to ride their bike back to Ely, which would combine two popular tourism activities, the steam engine train ride with the Garnet Hill site. Both of these organizations currently have informal partnerships with BLM that benefit this project. During the initial planning these partnerships will be formalize to increase involvement by all parties.

- b. No, this project does not have contributed funding. Although this project has no contributed funds specific to this nomination, the community has already provided an investment in it's success with the BLM coordinating with the White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board. The Board has a \$10,000 grant from the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) and they are currently using this funding for access and trail planning. In addition, White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board has paid for the creation of the new Garnet Hill brochure. Local recreation groups such as motorcycle race groups have helped on other projects in the area, and it is anticipated they would support this project. The Garnet Hill area already enjoys extensive online advertising by the community and is highlighted in their "Top 5 Educational Experiences".
- c. Yes, this project provides BLM support to the underserved communities of Ely and Ruth by modernizing infrastructure at a popular tourism site and increasing access to public lands for all visitors including educational materials and continuing the popular school children visits to the site. The area has limited access to funding for recreational projects, and both Garnet Hill and Egan Crest previous upgrades have been done with very limited funding to meet base needs.

Ely is a rural underserved community with limited sources of revenue including a boom and bust cycle of mining as its primary revenue. In recent years Ely has worked hard to increase tourism with their popular Nevada Northern Railway experience, their deep roots to mining depicted in the local murals, and their world renown elk and mule deer hunting experiences. This project enhances all of these by modernizing facilities and developing trails that meet the needs of a diverse group of visitors to the area from the family traveling the "Loneliest Road in America" that pulls off at Garnet hill to dig for garnets, to the bike enthusiast who rides the historic train and disembarks to trail ride back to town, and the hunter camping with a large toy hauler and camp trailer at Egan Trailhead to access wildlife on developed trails.

#### **4. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE**

The agency has clearly demonstrated that the anticipated operations and maintenance costs for the project and resources necessary to operate the project are within existing appropriations or demonstrated how they will secure the necessary operations and maintenance funds.

*(Agency has detailed estimated annual O&M cost and estimated use/permit fees to be collected.)*

Yes, this project meets this criterion through factors A, B, C and D. This directly addresses the need for streamlining operations and maintenance costs by combining, modernizing, and upgrading the existing area. Currently the agency is spending appropriations to maintain and operate the area. With this project, future costs would be similar to current costs, but with an extraordinary user experience to an accessible, modern facility. The plan includes consideration of a fee site structure to offset operational and maintenance costs. This would be the first fee site for the BLM Ely District, but with the high visitor potential this is an excellent solution to increase visitors and provide funding to maintain a modern facility.

- a. Yes, the agency has demonstrated that current appropriations are sufficient. Operations costs include maintaining pumping and cleaning vault toilets emptying trash, cleaning facilities, active patrol and monitoring of use and riders, and response to inquiries and requests for access and information. The District already conducts those activities at these locations on a regular basis currently at a cost of \$35,000 annually. Minimal maintenance of the Garnet Hill road is an additional \$5,000 a year with last year requiring \$15,000.

By rebuilding facilities with high quality sustainable low maintenance materials, it is expected that operation costs will be similar or possibly less. There will be no trash removal needed at the trailhead therefore reducing costs. With the road to Garnet Hill properly engineered and constructed out of low maintenance materials, it is expected to need little to no maintenance for the first ten years and minimal maintenance after that.

Professional trail builders will design the entire trail system. Professional trail builders design trails to account for proper drainage and be properly located to need little to no maintenance in the future. There is interest from local clubs motorized and non-motorized to help with maintenance of the trail system if needed, in which some of these costs may be accomplished with volunteer efforts, and community-based events.

Part of the planning is to consider a fee site structure and based on the plan if this is implemented, the money generated from these sites will be used for maintenance and operation of this area. It is estimated that the campground would bring in \$25,000 annually and the trailhead could be \$5,000. Currently special recreation permits within this area generate an estimated \$1,000 a year. With more opportunity available, it would be expected to generate more special recreation permitted events and therefore other funding revenue to spend for maintenance and operations.

- b. Yes, the agency will develop formal partnerships with the local community organizations and local government to help maintain trails and access roads. These activities are already happening with informal partnerships, such as White Pine County Road Department helping with snow removal along the access road.
- c. Yes, current operations costs include maintaining pumping and cleaning vault toilets emptying trash, cleaning facilities, active patrol and monitoring of use and riders, and response to inquiries and requests for access and information are currently \$35,000 annually. Minimal maintenance of the Garnet Hill road is an additional \$5,000 a year with last year requiring \$15,000. This project would provide savings by reducing maintenance costs at Egan Crest trailhead by removing regular trash removal to prevent illegal dumping and by not maintaining a year-round vault toilet. The facilities build for the project would reduce energy costs by improving road access with a well-designed road that requires less maintenance by large equipment, thereby reducing fuel costs. There is also the opportunity to install a fee site, and further reduce operations and maintenance cost with this project.

- d. Yes, this project will contribute directly to improved energy efficiency and independency by increasing nonmotorized riding opportunities, increasing connectivity to the City of Ely so riders don't have to trailer out to use the trails and facilities, and improving the road access so that all vehicles can access the site. Currently it is recommended that visitors use a four wheel drive vehicle to access the site, by providing a low clearance road that can accommodate buses also, the energy cost per person to visit this area would be reduced significantly. The project will also use sustainable materials in all of its construction to reduce maintenance needs, thus reducing energy and materials expended on maintaining structures.

#### **5. LIFECYCLE REPLACEMENT/RECONSTRUCTION AND DEFERRED MAINTENANCE**

Any existing project or facility that has met or exceeds its usefulness life, design life, or life cycle that requires major restoration or reconstruction to restore the historic fabric of the facility or meet standard new Federal accessibility guidelines.

*(Does not include reconstruction, change, or new amenities for previously approved SNPLMA capital improvement projects. Excludes projects that were identified as phased construction, each phase must be fully operational and serve the intended purpose upon completion.)*

Yes, this project meets this criterion through factors A, B, C and D. This directly addresses the need for streamlining operations and maintenance costs by combining, modernizing, and upgrading the existing area. Currently the agency is spending appropriations to maintain and operate the area. With this project, future costs would be similar to current costs, but with an extraordinary user experience to an accessible, modern facility. The plan includes consideration of a fee site structure to offset operational and maintenance costs. This would be the first fee site for the BLM Ely District, but with the high visitor potential this is an excellent solution to increase visitors and provide funding to maintain a modern facility.

- a. Yes, this project meets this factor. This area is a popular tourist site, but the current facilities do not meet the needs of visitors. The last upgrade to this area was done in the 1990s with one new toilet to replace an outhouse. Other than the bathroom that was installed in the 1990s, none of the area meets accessibility standards. These are critical upgrades that are needed, since the primary visitors to the area are school children for educational purposes, and yet not all children have the same experience hunting for garnets or enjoying a picnic lunch. The Ely District want to improve these outdoor recreation experiences for all visitors and increase access to the site for low clearance vehicles, since not everyone who wants to visit can afford a high clearance vehicle. The project includes meeting modern recreation activities including mountain biking, off highway vehicles and larger campers.

Deferred maintenance has exceeded the cost of replacement or reconstruction.

- b. No, this project does not meet this factor.

## 6. ADVANCES THE AGENCY/ENTITY PRIORITIES/GOALS

The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination /projects meets the priorities and strategic goals for their respective agency.

The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination/project meets the priorities and strategic goals for their respective agency.

### A. Meets one or more of the Department of the Interior priorities:

*Create a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt.*

Project creates a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt by modernizing recreation facilities and expanding the trail system on public lands and will utilize science and engineering to identify best practices to manage land and water resources and adapt to changes in the environment by preventing erosion; it expands access to DOI lands for hunting and fishing, and this project shifts the balance towards providing greater public access to public lands over restrictions to access.

*Sustainably develop our energy and natural resources.*

Project sustainably utilizes our natural resources by increasing access to a mineral resource (garnets) that the public can learn about and enjoy digging for.

*Restore trust and be a good neighbor.*

Project restores trust and being a good neighbor by being a better neighbor with those closest to our resources through improved dialogue and relationships with persons bordering our lands, specifically residents and tourists in the Ely and Ruth; and by expanding the lines of communication with White Pine County Tourism Board, White Pine County, and the nearby Robinson Mine.

*Protect our people and the border.*

Project protects our people and the border by addressing public safety risks by improving safe access to the Garnet Hill for school buses and other visitors and reducing illegal dumping at the Egan trailhead.

*Modernize our infrastructure.*

Project modernizes our infrastructure by combining two sites into one complex that reduces duplicity and upgrading dated infrastructure to address outstanding maintenance problems.

### B. Meets one or more of the U.S. Forest Service priorities:

Not applicable, none of this project occurs on U.S. Forest Service lands.

## 7. CONSISTENCY WITH SECRETARIAL ORDERS AND DIRECTIVE

The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination / project meets the Secretarial Orders (SO) and Directive.

- A. **EO No. 13855 Promoting Active Management of America’s Forests, Range Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk** Not Applicable to this project.
- B. **SO No. 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation** This project meets this Order by modernizing and expanding these facilities for the benefit of current and future generations. GARNET increases outdoor recreation opportunities by providing access to all visitors, and the upgrades increase opportunities for hunters near Ely to park large trailers and access public lands and the City of Ely through a motorized trail system.
- C. **SO No. 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes and Territories** This project meets this Order by continuing the Department of the Interior’s efforts to enhance conservation stewardship and increase outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans, including opportunities to hunt. GARNET meets the goals of “Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation,” by enhancing and expanding public access to lands administered by the Department for hunting and other forms of outdoor recreation. By improving access to the recreation facilities for low profile vehicles and school buses, and adding trails from the underserved community of Ely this project gives greater priority to recruiting and retaining sportsmen and women conservationists, with an emphasis on engaging youth, veterans, minorities, and underserved communities that traditionally have low participation in outdoor recreation activities. Finally, this project requires greater collaboration with the state and tribes through planning efforts required to implement the project.
- D. **SO No. 3362: Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors** Not applicable to this project.
- E. **SO No. 3366: Increasing Recreational Opportunities on Lands and Waters Managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior** This project meets this Order to ensure that public lands are open and accessible for recreational pursuits by all Americans and visitors to the United States by increasing access for low profile vehicles and school buses, and developing motorized and non-motorized trail system that connects all recreational features in the complex to the City of Ely. Prior to this project you could not safely access the recreation facilities without a high clearance vehicle. After the project is completed all Americans will be able to access the area through a variety of transportation options including tour buses, school buses, passenger vehicles, etc.
- F. **SO No. 3370: Improving Conservation Stewardship of and Increasing Public Access to Urban National Wildlife Refuges.** Not applicable to this project.
- G. **SO No. 3372: Reducing Wildfire Risks on Department of the Interior Land Through Active Management.** Not applicable to this project.
- H. **SO No. 3373: Evaluating Public Access in Bureau of Land Management Public Land Disposals and Exchanges** Not applicable to this project.

- I. SO No. 3374: Implementation of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act** Not applicable to this project.
- J. SO No. 3376 Increasing Recreational Opportunities through use of Electric Bikes** Yes, this project increases recreational opportunities for all Americans, especially those with physical limitations, and encourages the enjoyment of these sites. The nonmotorized trail system will include the use of electronic bikes. Also, all facilities will be handicap accessible, including the ability to dig for garnets.

**Project Location:**

Project location: 37.62861111 / -114.49946111

The project area is in White Pine County approximately 5 miles from the City of Ely in Nevada Congressional District 4. Garnet Hill and Egan Crest are within the Ruth Copper Mining District and accessible from Highway 50, “the Loneliest Highway” a popular tourist route east to west across the state of Nevada.

Maps:

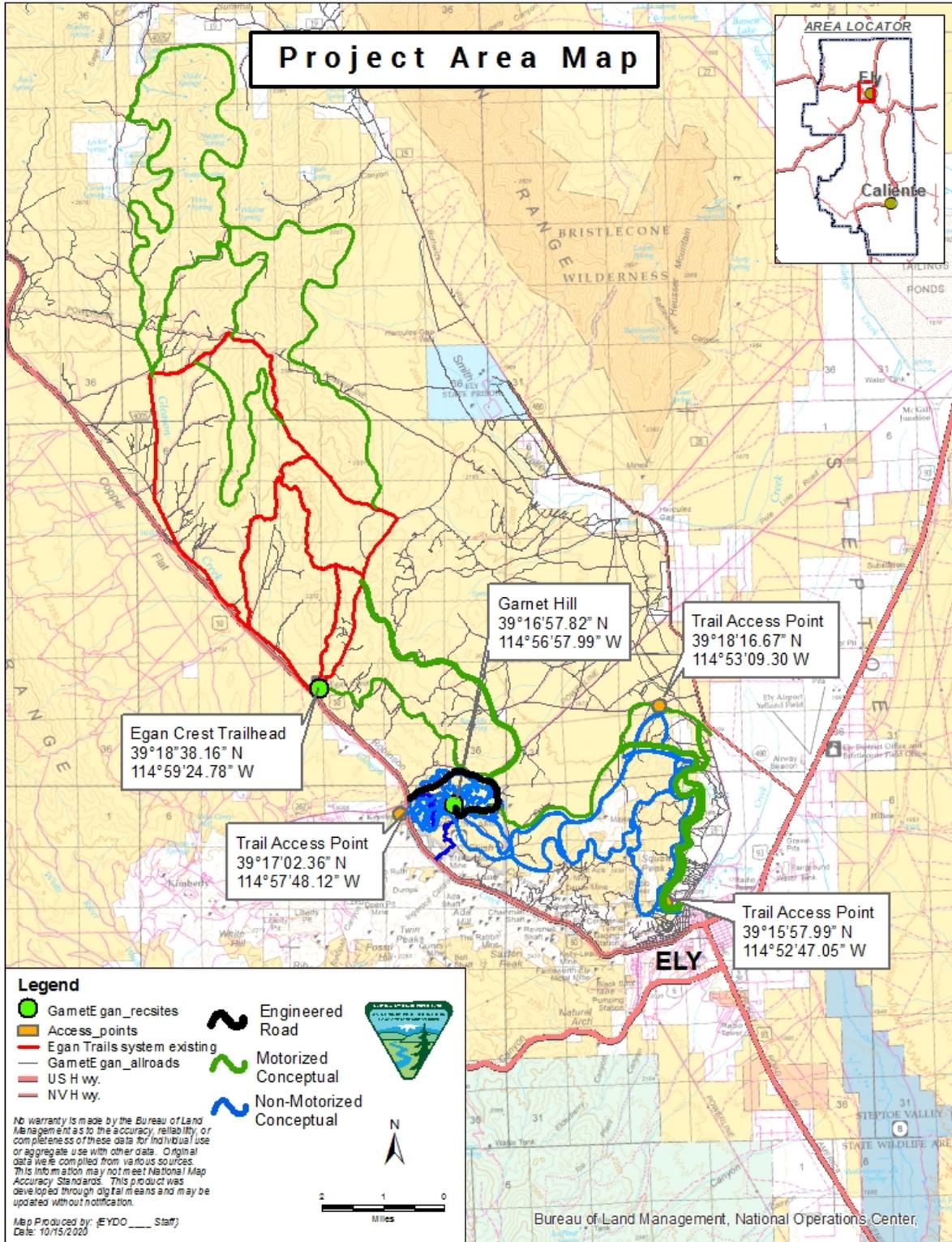


Figure 1: GARNET Project Area Map

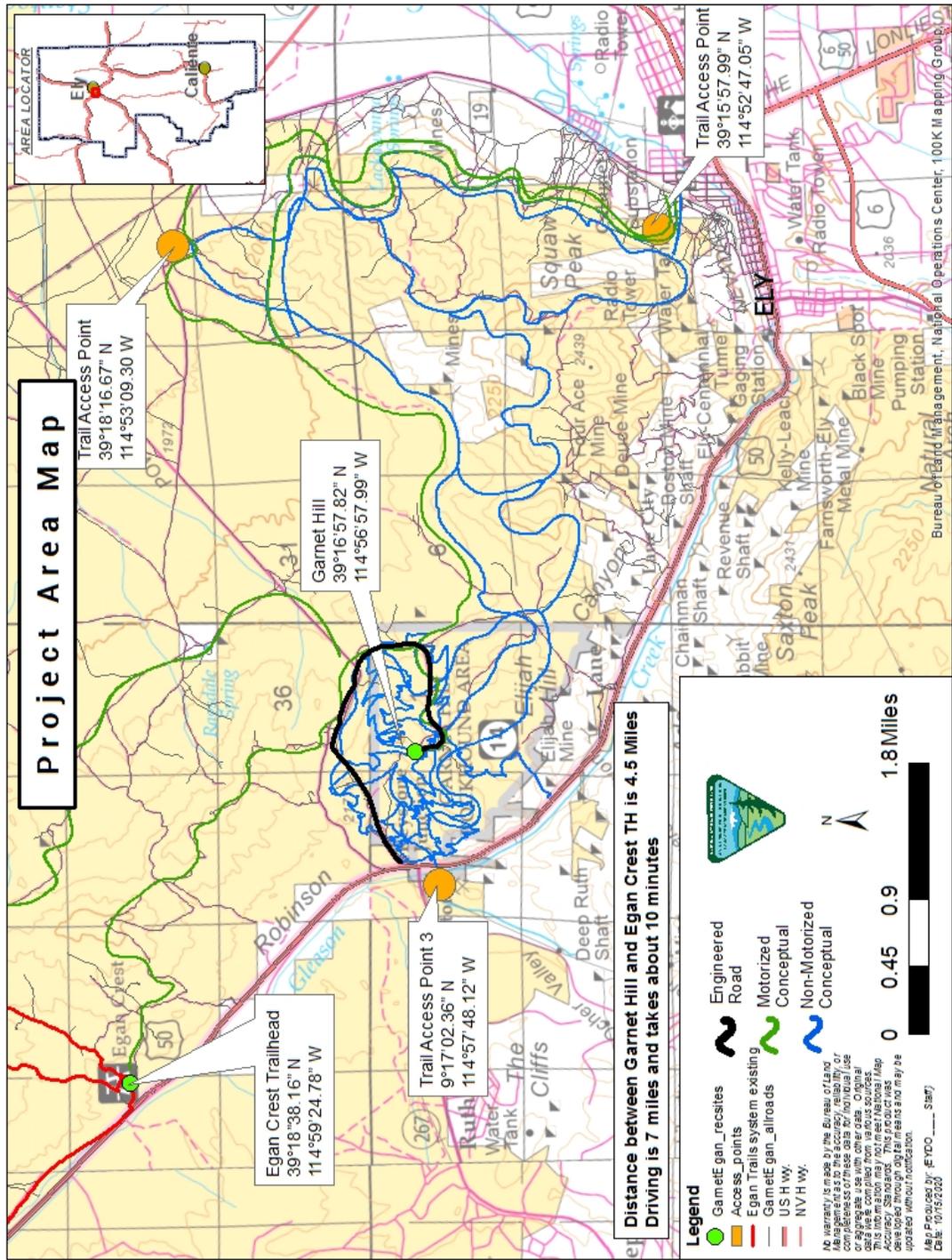
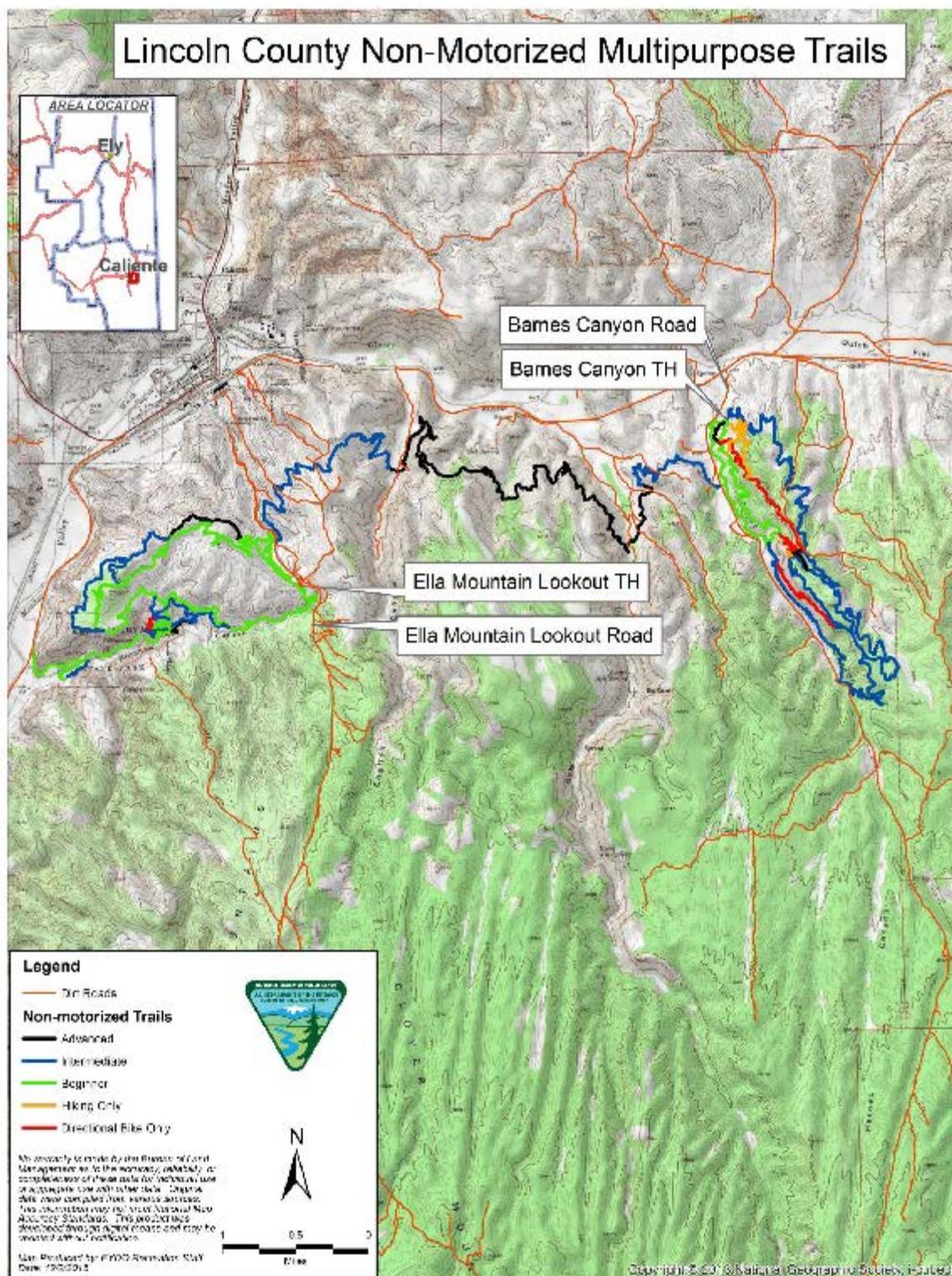
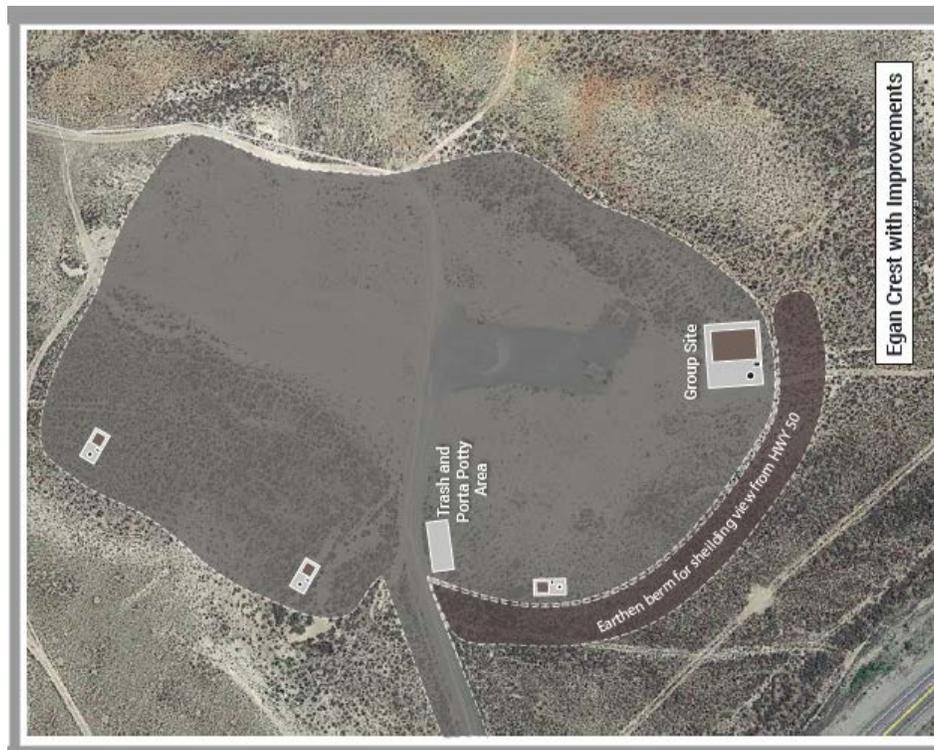


Figure 2: Zoomed in Project Area with detail of combining two sites into one Recreation Area

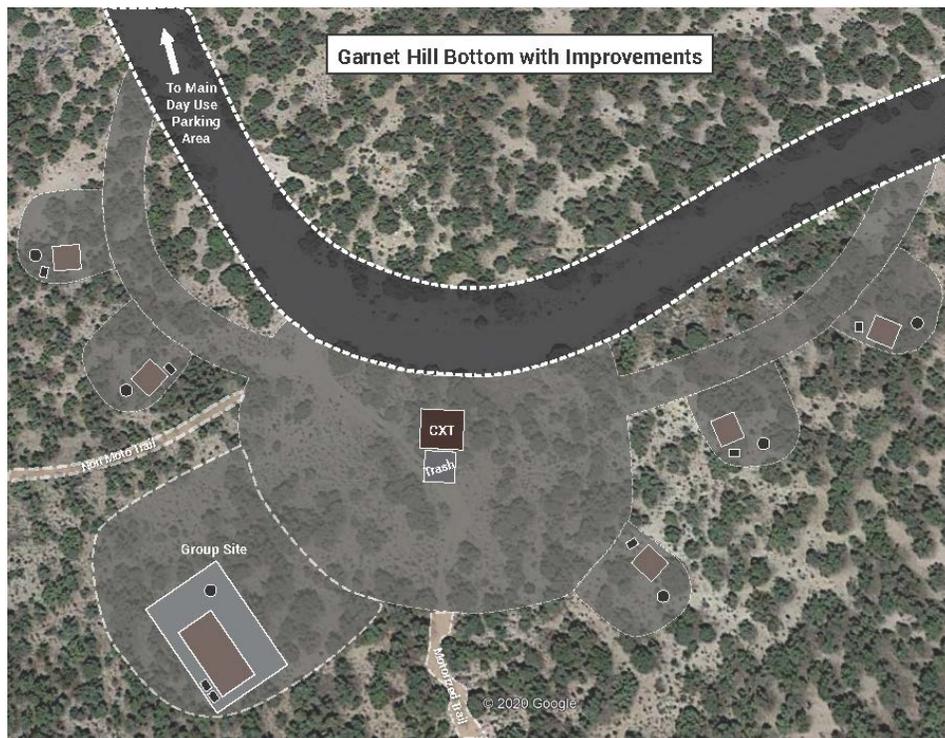


### Photos of Current Location and Rudimentary Conceptual Design









Photos:

Egan Crest Trail Head 39°18'38.16" N 114° 59'24.78" W



**Garnet Hill 39°15'57.99 N 114° 52'47.05" W**

Entrance from Highway 50. This is the road that will be improved/engineered to accommodate safe travel.



Parking lot is too small to accommodate visitation or turning radius required of large vehicles such as school buses.



There is only one single vault Toilet. Site receives high visitation. It is common for more than ten people to be on site at once. School field trips can include 30 children at once.

## Letters of Support:



## WHITE PINE COUNTY TOURISM AND RECREATION BOARD

*Bristlecone Convention Center & Visitors Bureau*

Robbie McAboy, District Manager  
Ely District BLM  
702 North Industrial Way

Ms. McAboy

My name is Kyle Horvath. I am the Director of Tourism for White Pine County. I am writing this letter of collaboration in support of the BLM Ely District's SNPLMA proposal to expand the Garnet Hill site to offer more recreation and camping opportunities. White Pine County's quality of life assets favor those locals and visitors who enjoy the outdoors. Recently, the city of Ely and the county both adopted a CEDS document naming outdoor recreation as the number one focus for long term economic growth and stability. On a non COVID year, tourism was trending up and can account for over 350,000 overnight visitors, not including those who stay at state and national parks, and has an economic impact of \$40 million of new money coming into the community.

Garnet Hill plays a major role in our current branding as an outdoor recreation community. Many of our visitors are aware of Garnet Hill and make it a part of their visit. Over the last 2 years, tourism has seen positive growth from visitors looking to get outdoors, especially through COVID. Considering future enhanced marketing, that trend will continue. Garnet Hill's current infrastructure will not support an increase in activity. We recognize the need for upgrades to create a sustainable site for multiple recreation users, including rock hounds, mountain bikers, OHV users, campers and hikers. White Pine County Tourism and Recreation's strategic plan focus' firmly on developing and growing our outdoor recreation infrastructure. With that being the top priority, WPCTR is committed to collaborating and supporting the BLM to see this project successfully completed. White Pine County Tourism and Recreation recently partnered with the BLM Ely District to redesign a new brochure for the Garnet Hill Recreation Area with great new pictures and additional information showcasing the rock hounding possibilities. WPCTR also invited Canadian travel influencer, Brandy Yancek, to Ely where she showcased Garnet Hill in her travel show. Recently WPCTR dedicated \$10,000 as a match for a Trail Accelerator Grant from the International Mountain Bike Association. By receiving this grant, we are a partner on this proposal by having IMBA design 20 -25 miles of world class purpose built singletrack for all levels using Garnet hill as a major hub in that trail system. This would increase access to recreation opportunities from Downtown Ely. It would also open up the possibility for the Nevada Northern Railway to act as a transportation alternative and shuttle bikes to Keystone Junction which allow riders to access all of this new trail connecting to Garnet Hill. A truly unique experience that would be a benefit to locals, visitors, and future event possibilities.

The BLM Ely District has been a great partner in accomplishing our community's goals around recreation. We appreciate your commitment to White Pine County and are confident that you will implement this plan to the highest quality. Thank you for your consideration of this valuable project to enhance Garnet Hill Recreation Area.

Sincerely,

  
J Kyle Horvath, Director

150 6th Street • Ely, Nevada 89301  
775 289-3720 • 800 496-9350 • Fax 775 289-6757

*Richard Howe, Chairman  
Travis Godon, Vice Chairman  
Commissioner Shane Bybee  
Commissioner Ian Bullis  
Commissioner Laurie L. Carson*

**801 Clark Street, Suite 4**  
Ely, Nevada 89301  
(775) 293-6509  
Fax (775) 289-2544

*Nichole Baldwin, Ex-officio Clerk of the Board*

**White Pine County**  
**Board of County Commissioners**

*WPClerk@whitepinecountynv.gov*

September 9, 2020

BLM Ely District Office  
District Manager  
702 N. Industrial Way  
Ely, NV 89301

Dear Ms. McAboy,

The White Pine County Commission is in support of the Ely District BLM Round 18 SNPLMA Grant Proposal for the large recreation oriented project located just north of Ely. Garnet Hill and Egan Crest Recreation Areas are enjoyed by locals and tourists alike and deserve the attention that a SNPLMA grant could bring forth to White Pine County. Upgrading of the Garnet Hill road, trailheads, and facilities would improve recreational access for all. Improvements to rockhounding for garnets, camping, and a well signed trail system would be considered an asset to our community. We understand that there will be a point in time when we will be invited to be involved in the planning process and are looking forward to working with the Bureau of Land Management on this project. Best of luck for a successful project!

Respectfully,



Richard Howe  
Commission Chairman



NEVADA



Robbie J. McAboy, District Manager  
Bureau of Land Management  
702 N. Industrial Way  
Ely, Nevada 89301

August 25, 2020

Dear Ms. McAboy,

The White Pine Composite Mountain Bike Team fully supports the Bureau of Land Management's SNPLMA recreational project proposal, which includes a new non-motorized trail system north of Ely. The team is a non-school affiliated mountain biking team comprised of student-athletes in grades 6-12. The team competes in the Nevada Interscholastic Cycling League, a league of the National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA).

Our team has been exclusively practicing on Forest Service's Ward Mountain trail system. It is currently the only trail network within 10 minutes of Ely. New trails near Ely would provide additional routes and distances for the students to perfect their mountain bike skills. Additional mountain bike trails close to town will provide more opportunities for White Pine County youth to stay active and healthy.

The White Pine Composite Mountain Bike Team looks forward to utilizing the new trail system in the future for team practices.

Sincerely,

Robert Rosevear, Head Coach  
White Pine Composite Mountain Bike Team



# CITY OF ELY

501 Mill Street Ely, Nevada 89301  
City Hall (775) 289-2430  
Fax (775) 289-1463

September 11, 2020

Ms. Robbie McAboy  
Ely District Manager  
702 N. Industrial Way  
Ely NV, 89301

Dear Ms. McAboy:

The City of Ely wholeheartedly supports the efforts of the Bureau of Land Management Ely District in their SNPLMA Round 18 grant application for a large Recreational Project just north of Ely, evidenced by the Ely City Council's unanimous vote to that effect last night; John Miller, Ely District Outdoor Recreation Planner, personally appeared at the meeting and informed our City Council that the improvements will include new non-motorized and motorized trails, along with signage. The Project is located in the Garnet Hill and Egan Crest recreation Areas. Garnet Hill will have an engineered road from the Ruth Junction that will allow all vehicles safe access. Both recreation areas will have new camping facilities and enlarged parking areas; new and existing trail systems will be connected to each other and to the City of Ely. Mr. Miller has also indicated the City of Ely will be invited to participate in the planning process, which the City of Ely is appreciative of. In conclusion, the City of Ely views the Bureau of Land Management Ely District's SNPLMA Round 18 project as a great opportunity to improve the recreational assets in our community.

Sincerely,

Nathan Robertson, Mayor

The City of Ely is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act  
Capital Improvements  
Round 18

National Park Service



**Great Basin Park Housing**

Amount Requested: \$14,879,267

Project Timeframe: Five Years  
Project Location: 39.017335° / -114.124321°  
Congressional District Number: NV-4

Contact: James Woolsey, Superintendent  
Great Basin National Park  
P: (775) 234-7502  
E-mail: james\_woolsey@nps.gov

**Purpose Statement:**

The National Park Service, Great Basin National Park proposes to design and construct a mix of new housing within the park's 80 acre site in Baker, White Pine County, Nevada, due to the lack of seasonal housing available for rent or purchase within a 60-mile radius. New housing will consist of six new buildings (28 bedrooms total), six full size RV sites with full hookups, and two support buildings. This project will provide the much needed housing for long term staff and seasonal positions to improve outreach and better link people to recreational opportunities, educate and encourage people to connect with protected areas, and improve the quality of life for the local community.

**Background info and need for the project:**

Great Basin National Park currently provides housing to permanent employees, seasonal employees, interns, and volunteers who support the operational needs and mission of the National Park Service. Historically, most staff who worked at the park lived in the local area. Park housing was occupied mostly by management staff and a few seasonal employees. Over time, and as the park has hired more seasonal staff, the occupancy of the housing units has shifted to enable seasonal staff to live in park housing. Local employees who previously worked in the park and have retired, continue to live in the local area. The seasonal housing units built in 2006 do not accommodate the additional seasonals we have had to hire over the past 10-15 years. Nor does it accommodate the long-term, permanent employees that have been hired outside of the local area pool.

Recreational visits to Great Basin National Park have doubled since 2006, from 78,524 to 168,028 in 2017. As recreational visits to the park continue to increase, both in total numbers and in an expanding visitation season, the limited rental options in the local area have vanished as property owners realize that short term rentals (Air-B&B, Vacation Rental By Owner, etc.) provide a much higher income. The park is faced with managing twice as much visitation, a larger staff, and less housing than 10 years ago and all three trends are expected to grow. The housing shortage is particularly bad in Baker. Currently, there is no housing available for rent or purchase within a 60-mile radius. This lack of housing has prevented the park from hiring and retaining permanent, long term staff and hiring all needed seasonal positions, negatively effecting the parks ability to meet its mission. The remote location of the park, in an area surrounded by the Bureau of Land Management administered lands and limited private property, has resulted in limited land or housing to purchase, rent, or lease in the local communities. Ely is the largest community near Great Basin National Park which is 70 miles west, and employees must travel over two mountain passes to reach the park headquarters. Housing in Ely is also lacking homes for sale or rent. Even when housing is available for purchase or rent in Ely, the drive time and winter road conditions make this an unappealing, unworkable, and unsafe option.

*A Housing Market Analysis* conducted in March 2012 for the parks Housing Management Plan cited inadequate local markets, remoteness, and temporary workforce needs as justifications for additional residences. The contractor sought housing for purchase and rent in the local communities. During the on-site visit, the contractor found no housing units available for sale or

rent. The contractor identified 6 permanent positions and 16 seasonal positions that needed additional housing. This translates to at least a 22-bedroom shortage in 2012, assuming the permanent positions were single or without families. The recent White Pine County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (March 2020) noted several, county wide housing issues:

- Pg. 6 “White Pine County faces the same critical issues experienced throughout northern Nevada, lack of affordable housing, lack of General Contractors, high construction costs, and lack of available workforce.”
- Pg. 23 “The lack of affordable and adequate housing has severely impacted the ability of the County to attract, recruit and retain new industry and workers who want to live and work in the community.”
- Pg. 23 “The completed [*Needs Assessment for Housing*] concluded that White Pine County could currently absorb approximately 100 single family houses and between 125 and 175 multifamily units.”

The Park currently possesses four studio units, two 1-bedroom units, one 8-bedroom dormitory, one 2-bedroom unit, seven 3-bedroom units, and three RV pads for a total of 40 bedrooms. The majority of these bedrooms are used for seasonal staff (due to the complete lack of rental options in the local area) and we need to provide housing for permanent staff (who also cannot buy or rent in local area). The park is caught in a Catch-22 situation. The park is unable to provide housing for both populations, forcing management to make a case by case decision of renting a house (3 bedrooms) for one permanent position with a family or leaving the house empty for half the year so that we can house three seasonal positions in the summer. In either case, the park is unable to fully hire staff with consequences to both park resources and visitors.

### **Relationship to previous phases and anticipated future phases:**

This project is currently planned as a one-time, stand-alone action that would be fully functional and operational upon completion.

### **Project Deliverables:**

#### Primary Deliverables

1. Design new park housing consisting of 14 new facilities (6 new housing buildings, 6 full size RV sites with full hookups, and 2 support buildings). One support building will be a combined laundry, shower, and fitness facility; and the second support building will be a garage with four bays that can be independently assigned. The six new housing buildings will contain multiple configurations bulleted below, totaling 28 new bedrooms.
  - a. Dorm (four bedrooms)
  - b. 4-Plex (four 1-bedroom units)
  - c. 3-Plex #1 (three 2-bedroom units)
  - d. 3-Plex #2 (three 2-bedroom units)
  - e. 2-Plex #1 (two 2-bedroom units)
  - f. 2-Plex #2 (two 2-bedroom units)

2. Perform all required sitework and utility installation for the 14 facilities listed above.
3. Construct up to six new housing buildings with 28 total bedrooms.
4. Construct up to six RV sites with full hookups.
5. Construct up to two support structures (a laundry/shower/fitness facility and a garage).

#### Anticipated Deliverables

1. Perform restoration actions and invasive plant treatments resulting from site disturbance associated with construction activities.

#### Standard Deliverables

1. Complete NEPA compliance.
2. Complete NHPA compliance.
3. SMART workplan and reporting (e.g., quarterly, annually, final accomplishments and performance measures)
4. Quarterly budget request and budget tracking.
5. Project administration and oversight.
6. Contract preparation and oversight.
7. Final project report.

#### **Project Timeframe:**

The proposed project will be completed within the expected standard five-year timeframe to complete SNPLMA capital improvement projects. To determine a level of successful implementation, minimum benchmarks of 80% of planned components are to be completed following the timeline established within this proposal and agreed to within the approved SNPLMA work plan.

- Year 1: SMART workplan approved and project funding authorization awarded. Submit initial funds transfer. Initiate and finalize pre-design and final design. Initiate NEPA and NHPA Section 106 compliance. Develop contracting documents and Scope(s) of Work. Complete quarterly and annual reporting.
- Year 2: Complete NEPA and NHPA Section 106 compliance. Select contractor and begin site work, grading, utility connections, etc. Complete quarterly and annual reporting.
- Year 3: Begin building construction. Complete quarterly and annual reporting.
- Year 4: Continue building construction. Complete quarterly and annual reporting.
- Year 5: Complete building construction. Complete quarterly, annual reporting, and final accomplishments and performance measures. Complete project closeout and final report.

#### **Level of Project Readiness for Implementation:**

Work will be completed using a combination of NPS staff (pre-design, final design, and contracting document preparation) and contractors (NEPA, NHPA, and construction). The park, in cooperation with the NPS Denver Service Center (DSC), has already completed the class C cost estimate for the project using NPS standard building and unit designs. DSC is the central planning, design, and construction management office for the National Park Service, and

provides start-to-finish project management and delivery. The DSC is currently assisting the park with Rd 16 and 17 Capital Improvement projects. Together, we have the capability to plan, design, and complete the project within the period of performance. Upon project approval and release of funds, the park is ready to implement the action as proposed. The park also has a project management team which meets bi-weekly to address project status and resolve any issues, thus keeping projects moving forward and on schedule.

#### **Future Operations and Maintenance:**

O&M costs are based on what the park is currently committing to housing (18 structures), which is likely higher than the proposed project. The park currently obligates approximately \$50,000 per year for its existing housing, which includes operations (primarily utilities) and maintenance (staff time plus materials and equipment). Current housing (a mix of 1930s, 1960s, 1980s, and 2006 units) costs are barely offset by housing rental fees. We anticipate that the new housing, with substantially lower maintenance costs (being new instead of an average 50 years old), plus similar or higher rental rates, will result in a slight net gain of park housing rental incomes. We estimate that the park can sustain all housing O&M costs (existing plus proposed) for the next 40-50 years.

#### **Contributed funds directly applicable to completion of the project:**

No partnerships or non-SNPLMA contributed funds are planned.

#### **Funding Requested Budget Detail:**

The NPS request \$14,879,267 in SNPLMA appropriation to complete the project.

The project budget was developed by NPS Denver Service Center (DSC), as a class C cost estimate for the project using NPS standard estimating procedures. Buildings will meet all NPS and international building code requirements along with sustainability requirements. New buildings will include complete sprinkler systems and all accessibility requirements. Site work to include complete earthwork, utilities, parking, sidewalks, and all other hard surface requirements.

This estimate ensures that the funding is sufficient and includes percentage increases for remoteness and potential 8A contracting costs. Net costs are between \$450 and \$562 per square foot, averaging \$491 per square foot, which is similar to other NPS housing projects. For example, Yellowstone National Park recently completed a new housing project averaging \$507 per square foot. Estimated costs are for the for design, compliance, and construction of these facilities.

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**Schedule B**  
**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROPOSAL**  
**ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS & KEY MILESTONE DATES**

<b>Project Name:</b>	Great Basin Park Housing	<b>Agency:</b>	National Park Service Great Basin National Park
<b>Project &amp; Priority #:</b>	<i>N/A nomination submittal</i>	<b>Phone:</b>	303-969-2255
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Chris Osgood, Denver Service Center	<b>Date:</b>	8/10/2020 (updated 10/16/2020)

**Planning, Environmental Compliance & Preconstruction Engineering and Design** *(Not to exceed 27% of total project costs)*

(Pre-design sketches and conceptual drawings; environmental assessment and permitting, specialist surveys/reports for archaeology, wildlife, biology, etc.; architectural and engineering analysis, design survey & field investigations; construction drawings, specifications, cost estimates, and engineering technical reports.)

\$2,682,877

18.03%

**Construction Contract Costs**

(Including labor, supplies & materials, construction management, etc.; sampling/testing; site restoration; and government furnished supplies and materials.)

\$11,946,858

80.29%

**Project Equipment**

SNPLMA funds can only be used for "project related necessary expenses" and only reimburse equipment costs directly associated with completion of the approved project.)

\$0

0.00%

**Travel**

(Including per diem where official travel status is required to carry out the project, such as to serve as COR, experts to review reports, etc.)

\$0

0.00%

**Official Vehicle Use**

(Pro rata costs for use of Official Vehicles when required to carry out project.)

\$0

0.00%

**Other Direct and Contracted Labor**

Agency payroll for the Contracting Officer to do project procurements, COR Project Inspector, Section 106 Consultation, NEPA Lead, Project Manager, Project Supervisor, and subject experts to review contracted surveys, design/drawings, plans, reports, etc.; Also covered is the cost to contract for a Project Manager and/or Project Supervisor if contracted separately from other project costs.

\$248,032

1.67%

**FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act**

\$0

0.00%

**Direct Federal Labor**

(direct agency labor for construction, project inspection, CO and COR)

\$0

0.00%

**Other Necessary Expenses**

(See SNPLMA IA Part Two, Appendix B-3)

\$1,500

0.01%

**Total Requested/Estimated Budget**

**\$14,879,267**

**100.00%**

**Total Estimated In-kind Agency or Partner Contribution**

\$0

## Performance Measures:

1. Outcome: Meet National Historic Preservation Act goals by surveying the Area of Potential Effect to determine the presence of historic or pre-historic cultural materials.
  - Output (Standard deliverable): Survey forty (40) acres for Section 106 compliance.
    - Performance Measure C3 – Acres of Cultural / Paleontological Resources Surveyed, Inventoried, or Monitored. Forty (40) acres will be surveyed for the presence of cultural materials.
  
2. Outcome: Meet National Historic Preservation Act goals by completing one (1) standard 106 compliance report for the State Historic Preservation Office.
  - Output (Standard deliverable): Write one (1) standard 106 compliance report.
    - Performance Measure C4 – Number of Cultural Plans Completed or Revised. One (1) cultural plan will be completed.
  
3. Outcome: Design and construct up to 14 new facilities that meet or exceed Green Building standards.
  - Output (Primary Deliverable): Up to fourteen (14) new facilities (6 new housing buildings, 6 full size RV sites with full hookups, and 2 support buildings) will be designed and constructed that meet or exceed Green Building standards.
    - Performance Measure O8 - Buildings or Facilities that Support Green Sustainable Design and Construction. Up to fourteen (14) new facilities will be designed and constructed to meet or exceed Green Building standards.
  
4. Outcome: Construct new facilities that will improve park infrastructure beyond the existence of SNPLMA and improve staffing and outreach. Improved staffing will allow the park to better link people to recreational opportunities, encourage people to connect with protected areas, and improve the quality of life for the local community.
  - Output (Primary Deliverable): Up to fourteen (14) new facilities (6 new housing buildings, 6 full size RV sites with full hookups, and 2 support buildings) will be constructed.
    - Performance Measure O2 – Number of Buildings, Facilities and/or Amenities Constructed or Refurbished. Up to fourteen (14) new facilities will be constructed.
  
5. Outcome: Survey and Inventory forty (40) acres within the project Area of Potential Effect for the presence and density of invasive plants.
  - Output (Anticipated Deliverable): Forty (40) acres of invasive plants surveyed, inventoried, and monitored.
    - Performance Measure\_H10 –Acres of Invasive Plant Species Surveyed, Inventoried, or Monitored. Forty (40) acres of invasive plants will be surveyed.

- Performance Measure\_H10 –Acres of Invasive Plant Species Surveyed, Inventoried, or Monitored. Forty (40) acres of invasive plants will be inventoried.
  - Performance Measure\_H10 –Acres of Invasive Plant Species Surveyed, Inventoried, or Monitored. Forty (40) acres of invasive plants will be monitored.
6. Outcome: Treat any invasive plants found prior, during, or after construction activities.
- Output (Anticipated Deliverable): Up to ten (10) acres of invasive plants treated.
    - Performance Measure\_H9 – Acres of Invasive Plant Species Treated or Restored. Treat up to ten (10) acres of invasive plants.
7. Outcome: Inventory Upland habitat disturbed by construction activities.
- Output (Anticipated Deliverable): Up to twenty (20) acres of Upland habitat inventoried.
    - Performance Measure\_H5 – Acres of Upland habitat Surveyed, Inventoried, or Monitored. Inventory up to twenty (20) acres of disturbed Upland habitat.
8. Outcome: Restore Upland habitat disturbed by construction activities.
- Output (Anticipated deliverable): Up to ten (10) acres of Upland habitat restored.
    - Performance Measure\_H4 – Acres of Upland habitat Treated, Enhanced, or Restored. Restore up to ten (10) acres of Upland habitat.

#### **Executive Committee Strategic Plan Values:**

The ability to accommodate park staff, residents, and overnight visitors is critical to meeting the three Executive Committee’s values of sustainability, connectivity, community.

- Sustainability – This project will continue to remain relevant for the next 50 years by providing a benefit to the park, local community, and visitors, well beyond the existence of the SNPLMA. Changing demographics of the area have shown that the population of the local community, and the number of park visitors, will continue to increase.
- Connectivity – Increased housing will increase staffing and improve outreach, allowing the park to better link people to recreational opportunities and encourage people to connect with protected areas.
- Community – Increased housing will improve quality of life for both park staff and the community. This project is expected to improve the economic health of the local businesses, by allowing them to hire more staff and serve more visitors. An increase in ADA housing will allow the park to meet the needs of this underserved population.

#### **Compliance with Departmental Priorities, Strategic Goals, Executive Orders, and Secretarial Orders:**

Addressed as part of the ranking criteria below.

## Ranking Criteria:

### 1. SUSTAINABILITY & MODERNIZATION:

The project supports conservation, preservation, restoration, or modernization of natural, cultural, or historic resources (which includes infrastructure) to ensure availability of those resources for future generations. The project will remain relevant and continue to provide benefit to a recreation user over the anticipated life of the project.

#### *Factors:*

- A. *A new project or facility designed specifically to engender conservation stewardship and provide new opportunities within the management area that is ecologically, economically, and socially sustainable for present and future generations and restore or preserve natural resources or cultural resources of the area.*

Lack of housing results in both short- and long-term staff shortages. Construction of new park housing will result in an increase in park staffing and an increase in the quality of service the NPS is able to provide. Both the quality and quantity of service will improve conservation outreach and conservation stewardship and result in better management that will restore and preserve the natural and cultural resources of the area. Increased housing in the local area will improve the economic sustainability and social fabric of the local community by allowing for increased private visitor services and increase the long-term residence of private employees, visitors, and park staff. We expect this project to provide benefits for greater than 50 years (given the lifespan of the existing park housing).

- B. *Modernization or rehabilitation of an existing project, facility and/or amenities to enhance the visitor experience, improve unit operations, and reduce or eliminate user impacts to the natural or cultural resources, or restore natural processes within the immediate project area.*

This project would modernize housing facilities in the park which will improve quality and quantity of unit operations through increased staff, thereby providing better customer service to improve the visitor experience.

- C. *Conservation and stabilization, restoration, or rehabilitation of significant historic buildings, cultural sites, and other significant historic facilities for the present and future generations to enjoy and appreciate the areas cultural heritage. Project does not meet the criteria.*
- D. *New facilities that enhance or improve management of public lands. These might include visitor centers, contact stations, and campgrounds to improve public access; housing for staff, interns, and volunteers to carry out programs for improved conservation, education; and curation facilities and workspace to improve conservation of natural and cultural resources and opportunity for educational programming.*

This project will construct new housing for short- and long-term staff, interns, and volunteers to carry out all of the park operations which will improve conservation, education, law enforcement, fire response, and maintenance throughout the park. It will ensure that the NPS will continue to provide outstanding outdoor recreational opportunities that improve the quality of life for the visiting public.

## **2. CONNECTIVITY:**

The project provides recreational opportunities that link population centers, recreation facilities, and the user to the outdoors and natural landscapes. It encourages people to meaningfully connect with their natural environment, thus helping them appreciate and care for the environment. The project will also connect the user to the history and/or cultural of the site and engages the user in appreciation of the site/area.

### *Factors:*

- A. *Provides new, upgraded or modernized access and/or amenities or infrastructure to previously under-developed areas and/or new opportunities to enjoy/appreciate public lands (e.g., trails, kiosks with location maps and site information, roads, parking, way-finding information, restrooms, day or overnight camping).*

Construction of housing units for park staff would greatly improve management in this underserved area. The park currently has only two ADA accessible housing units, a dorm room and a studio apartment. Lack of accessible housing affects all individuals with mobility issues. All of the proposed housing units will be ADA compliant, allowing us to meet the needs of this underserved group. Construction of housing units for park staff would greatly improve the quality of the applicant pool, retention, and long term management in this underserved area.

- B. *Improves access to previously developed recreation areas and sites on public lands and/or rehabilitates, upgrades or modernizes site amenities (e.g., improves access to trails, area or site information and way-finding information, 4-wheel access roads to passenger vehicle accessible roads, parking)*

Increased housing in the town of Baker will allow park staff to take advantage of the SNPLMA funded PTNA access trails that will soon be constructed linking multiple BLM and NPS recreational sites. Increased housing availability in the local community stemming from increased park housing will allow more full-time residents, local staff, and increasing visitors to access local recreation areas on the surrounding public lands.

- C. *Provides new or additional recreation opportunities by connecting two or more existing facilities and increased access to primitive or developed outdoor recreation and educational opportunities to meet increased user demand, improves the recreation experience by constructing new facilities or expanded amenities that will connect to existing recreation facilities*

Construction of new park housing will increase access to outdoor recreation by increasing the housing available in the local market, allowing increase private short-term rentals and longer stays. Increase housing also allows the park to provide an increase in park staffing and an increase in the quality of service the NPS is able to provide to increased user demand.

- D. *Contains an outreach and education component to improve public awareness and engage the public in the conservation and protection of the surrounding natural environment*

*through the use of resource interpretation (e.g., information signage, kiosks, educational programs)*

This project will construct new housing for short- and long-term staff, interns, and volunteers to carry out all of the park operations which will improve conservation, education, law enforcement, fire response, and maintenance throughout the park. The largest program to benefit will be the interpretation division. Increased housing will allow for the full complement of staff to provide cave tours of Lehman Caves, operate both visitor centers at the same time, year-round, and conduct all of the outreach and education programs that the public wants (campfire programs, roving trail interpretation, astronomy programs, etc.)

### **3. COMMUNITY:**

The project provides or improves outdoor recreation opportunities to enhance the quality of life, especially for underserved communities. It conserves or restores the functionality, resiliency, and integrity of biological communities. The project encourages partnerships, which in turn builds community. (Encourages and engages the public in the conservation and protection of the surrounding natural environment through use of volunteer/stewardship resources)

*Factors:*

- A. *Outdoor recreation projects that provide economic benefits to local communities and social benefit to the recreationist and are responsive to changing demographics. The project has agreements or partnerships in place for the planning, design, implementation and management of the project.*

Increasing the amount of housing to the local community will provide both direct and indirect economic benefits. An increase in the staffing of the park will provide a direct economic stimulus to the area in terms of wages and money spent but also allows local business to expand their staffing and property owners to rent to visitors. This is in direct response to changing visitor demographics, both the rapid increase in visitation and the demand for AirB&B and VRBO rentals. The park has an agreement in place with our Denver Service Center for the planning, design, and implementation of this project.

- B. *Project has identified committed non-SNPLMA sources of funding or in-kind contribution for the planning, design, and development of the project.*

Great Basin National Park has spent over \$13,000 with the NPS Denver Service Center to develop the Class C cost estimate for this project. We anticipate spending over \$125,000 in staff time as an in-kind contribution for planning, design, and project administration.

- C. *Project provides agency or unit support/administrative infrastructure in underserved areas to improve management of and conservation stewardship, educational programming, and access to public lands.*

White Pine County is an economically underserved area due to poverty rate, low employment, and dependence on boom and bust mining industry. Construction of park housing will increase agency support and agency infrastructure in this area. The additional

housing units will enable the park to fully staff all departments, resulting in improved land management and increased educational outreach.

#### **4. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE:**

The agency has clearly demonstrated that the anticipated operations and maintenance costs for the project and resources necessary to operate the project are within existing appropriations or demonstrated how they will secure the necessary operations and maintenance funds. (Agency has detailed the estimated annual O&M cost and estimated use or permit fees to be collected.)

*Factors:*

- A. *The agency has demonstrated that current appropriations are sufficient for the operations and management of the project for new projects or that O&M costs will be reduced after reconstruction and will be offset by concessionaire or volunteer labor for O&M.*

If this proposal is funded, the park is committed to the operation and scheduled cyclic maintenance program utilizing rental fee revenues. Because housing is largely cost neutral (the park is able to charge appropriate rents to cover the annual operations and maintenance), current appropriations are sufficient to maintain the new infrastructure, once construction is complete. Any additional staff needed for the maintenance and operations program will utilize the rental fee revenue from staff occupying the housing.

- B. *Volunteers or partners will be responsible for operation and maintenance of the project and agency funds will not be needed.*

Volunteers or partners will not be responsible for the annual O&M.

- C. *The agency has included the current O&M costs, if any, and how this project will reduce current operations and maintenance costs. The entity has clearly shown what the anticipated savings will be, and/or how the project will reduce water use or energy costs for utilities.*

here are no current O&M costs, however the park currently obligates approximately \$50,000 per year for its existing housing. Current housing (a mix of 1930s, 1960s, 1980s, and 2006 units) costs are barely offset by housing rental fees. We anticipate that the new housing, with substantially lower maintenance costs (being new instead of an average 50 years old), plus similar or higher rental rates, will result in a slight net gain of park housing rental incomes.

- D. *Project would improve energy efficiency and/or independence.*

This project will be designed to meet all energy efficient standards for heating, cooling, and water usage. GRBA proposes to evaluate the components against sustainable benchmarks like the LEED certification evaluation checklist, recycle products will be emphasized and Buy-Green programs. As practical as possible in construction, local sources will be sought and sustainable construction practices will be outlined in contracting documents and used in project implementation.

## **5. LIFECYCLE REPLACEMENT/RECONSTRUCTION AND DEFERRED**

### **MAINTENANCE:**

Any existing project or facility that has met or exceeded its useful life, design life, or life cycle that requires major restoration or reconstruction to restore the historic fabric of the facility or meet standard new Federal accessibility guidelines.

*(Does not include reconstruction, changes, or new amenities for previously approved SNPLMA capital improvement projects. Excludes projects that were identified as phased construction, each phase must be fully operational and serve the intended purpose upon completion.)*

#### *Factors:*

- A. *The project remains relevant, but has exceeded its useful design life, does not meet current federal accessibility standards, or deferred maintenance costs exceed the cost of replacement or reconstruction.*

Current park housing, while quite old, has not yet exceed its useful life but is insufficient to meet park needs. Because the park is forced to leave some rooms empty half the year for summer seasonals, rental fees just keep up with deferred maintenance. As above, we anticipate that the new housing, with substantially lower maintenance costs (being new instead of an average 50 years old), plus similar or higher rental rates, will result in a slight net gain of park housing rental incomes. Additional housing units will allow us to place permanent long-term employees in housing year-round and improve rental incomes.

Only two existing housing units (one dorm room and one studio apartment) meet current ADA standards. The new housing units will all be designed to meet ADA standards.

- B. *Current use has exceeded the original planned visitation/use and impacts have created a need to replace or reconstruct the facility earlier than originally planned and increased deferred maintenance costs exceed the cost of replacement or reconstruction. The project proposal shows the current annual maintenance costs and the anticipated savings after construction/reconstruction is complete.*

Recreational visits to Great Basin National Park have doubled since 2006, from 78,524 to 168,028 in 2017. As recreational visits to the park continue to increase, both in total numbers and in an expanding visitation season, the limited rental options in the local area have vanished as property owners realize that short term rentals (Air-B&B, Vacation Rental By Owner, etc.) provide a much higher income. The park is faced with managing twice as much visitation, a larger staff, and less housing than 10 years ago and all three trends are expected to grow.

There are no current O&M costs associated with this project. Current park housing, while quite old, has not yet exceed its useful life but is insufficient to meet park needs. Because the park is forced to leave some rooms empty half the year for summer seasonals, rental fees have barely been keeping up with deferred maintenance. As above, we anticipate that the new housing, with substantially lower maintenance costs (being new instead of an average 50 years old), plus similar or higher rental rates, will result in a slight net gain of park housing

rental incomes. Additional housing units will allow us to place permanent long term employees in housing year round and improve rental incomes.

## **6. ADVANCES THE AGENCY/ENTITY PRIORITIES/GOALS**

The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination/project meets the priorities and strategic goals for their respective agency.

*Factors:*

### **A. Meets one or more of the Department of the Interior Priorities below:**

Yes, we meet the following priorities:

1. *Create a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt.* By providing adequate housing to retain and increase staffing, we are committing to providing the best possible conservation stewardship. Improved staffing will allow the park to better link people to recreational opportunities, encourage people to connect with protected areas, and improve the quality of life for the local community.
2. *Restore trust and be a good neighbor.* As our letters of support show, increasing the available housing units in the local market is highly supported by the Great Basin Business and Tourism Council as it frees up housing for their employees in an already crowded environment. As businesses are able to better operate and expand, they are able to enhance the visitor experience through increased outdoor recreation and increase local prosperity and jobs.
3. *Ensure the tribal sovereignty means something.* Consult with area Tribes on the Area of Possible Effect as well as all possible impacts to archeological or cultural resources.
4. *Modernize our infrastructure.* Existing park housing was constructed in the 1930s (one house, three cabins), 1962 (five houses), 1987 (two houses), and 2006 (one dorm, one triplex). Providing modern infrastructure to meet current and future needs is a must.
5. *Achieve our goals and lead our team forward.* Construction of sufficient modern housing will enable the NPS to meet its goals outlined in NPSNext to create a thriving workforce, provide effective stewardship in a changing environment, and advance partnerships with the local community.

### **B. Meets one or more of the U.S. Forest Service priorities below:**

Yes, we meet the following priorities.

1. *Uplifting and empowering our employees through a respectful, safe working environment.* The NPS will uplift and empower our employees by providing safe modern housing.
2. *Being good neighbors and providing excellent customer service.* As our letters of support show, increasing the available housing units in the local market is highly supported by the Great Basin Business and Tourism Council as it frees up housing for their employees in an already crowded environment. As businesses are able to better operate and expand, they are able to enhance the visitor experience through increased outdoor recreation and increase local prosperity and jobs.

3. *Promoting shared stewardship by increasing partnerships and volunteerism.* Providing more housing will enable the park to improve shared stewardship and increase volunteerism.
4. *Enhancing recreation opportunities, improving access, and sustain infrastructure.* Increased staffing will allow the park to better link people to recreational opportunities and encourage people to connect with protected areas.

- **Other Departmental/Agency Priorities and Strategic Goals.**

*NPS Priorities: NPSNext*

In July 2020, the National Park Service released the *NPSNext* initiative to prepare the NPS for its next 100 years of service. This initiative outlined five key emphasis areas, each with several key outcomes, that identifies the NPS's priorities and strategic goals for its second century. This project meets several of the NPS emphasis areas.

1. *Thriving Workforce, Outcome 5. NPS employees experience improved park service housing.* Most existing housing in Baker is comprised of single or double wide trailers, although a few traditional homes exist. Only one dwelling has been constructed in the past 10 years. All of the existing houses in park were built in the 1960's, with the units (dormitory and single room units) on the 80 acres site constructed in 2006. Construction of new housing would enable the recruitment of new employees and retention of existing employees who would move into the park housing, freeing up the local housing market.
2. *Stewardship in a Changing Environment, Outcome 1. All parks and programs more effectively plan and prepare for natural disasters.* With the exception of the units (dormitory and single room units) on the 80 acres site, housing in the park is located in a high-risk Wildland Urban Interface fire zone. Construction of new housing in a separate area would give the park flexibility if a natural disaster were to occur.
3. *Advancing Partnerships, Outcome 1, Tourism and recreation partnerships enhance the visitor experience and the prosperity of gateway communities.* As our letters of support show, increasing the available housing units in the local market is highly supported by local business and tourism council as it frees up housing for their employees in an already crowded environment. As business are able to better operate and expand, they are able to enhance the visitor experience through increased outdoor recreation and increase local prosperity and jobs.

**7. CONSISTENCY WITH SECRETARIAL ORDERS AND DIRECTIVE**

The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination / project meets the Secretarial Orders (SO) and Directive.

*Factors:*

- A. *Executive Order No. 13855: Promoting Active Management of America's Forests, Range Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk.*

Yes, we meet this. Additional housing units will enable the park to hire and retain qualified wildland firefighter and respond to fires faster. The extra housing units will also enable the park to hire and retain maintenance staff to better conduct road maintenance which provides access for emergency services and restoration work.

A. *SO No. 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation*

Yes, we meet this. The recruitment and retention of qualified staff will enable the park to provide better interpretation and outreach programs which will enhance conservation stewardship. Freeing up housing in the local area will allow for more short- and long-term rentals for local businesses and visitors, thereby increase outdoor recreation and other visitor services.

B. *SO No. 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes and Territories*

Yes, we meet this. Potential employees often outright refuse jobs because of the lack of housing or accept and then backout once they are unable to find a suitable place to live. This can lead to gaps in visitor services or conservation field work when getting an employee in place is delayed by weeks or even several months, the summer field conservation and visitor recreation season can come and go without critical staff.

Having a place to live that is suitable for a single person, family or couple is a key component in a potential employee's decision to come to work for the park. Being able to recruit the highest quality candidate for a position means the park can continue to work successfully on conservation project like the restoration of Bonneville Cutthroat trout, preventing the trout from being extirpated from this region.

Dark night skies are an amazing feature of the park and are wildly popular with the visiting public. The park ranger in-charge of that program was hired because of her astronomy experience and master's degree in dark sky preservation. She ran the public programming to school children and the general public, leading visitors to view and appreciation dark skies. She also trained staff to provide night sky recreational activities. This employee left in part because of a lack of housing, resulting in other temporary staff to try to help continue night sky programs and festival.

Each year as the summer visitor season approaches park managers meet to discuss how to best use the housing available for temporary summer staff that perform several park duties, including providing public access to the Lehman Caves. This summer staff increases the number of visitors that can visit the cave from one tour a day in the winter to over 15 tours a day on holiday weekends. A staff of 15 to 16 individuals is needed to provide access to the cave and provide other public outreach in the park. Seldom do we get to have a staff of this size in part because there is not enough housing, resulting in lack of cave tours for visitors.

Maintaining and constructing new trails is an important part of keeping public access open and safe for park visitors. Trail Crew members have a specific skill set and most come to the

park from outside the area and need housing. To keep skilled labor on our trail crew having individual housing they can stay in is important, so they are able to get adequate rest and perform their jobs safely. Having enough housing for permanent and seasonal staff allows the park to recruit for the best candidates. More housing located near each other also creates a sense of community and can improve cooperation across work groups, improving protection of park natural and cultural resources, visitor outreach and access to public lands.

This project will support the secretarial order, giving the park the flexibility to expand staffing and improve programming and collaboration with the state and tribes. With increased housing opportunity we can provide accommodations for state and tribes partnering in educational workshops, joint research ventures, and outreach for underserved communities. Housing opportunities for interns from the tribes and diversity programs will be more readily available. Traditional skills programs from state arts and humanities programs and tribes can be hosted providing housing for leaders and potentially for participants.

C. *SO No. 3362: Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors* No, we do not meet this.

D. *SO No. 3366: Increasing Recreational Opportunities on Lands and Waters Managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior.*

Yes, we meet this. Keeping and retaining qualified staff allows the park to offer year -round, high quality, recreational opportunities. Increased staff will enable to park to maintain roads later in the season, open roads earlier in the season (snow removal) and conduct high quality cave tours year-round.

E. *SO No. 3370: Improving Conservation Stewardship of and Increasing Public Access to Urban National Wildlife Refuges.* No, we do not meet this.

F. *SO No. 3372: Reducing Wildfire Risks on Department of the Interior Land Through Active Management*

Yes, we meet this. Additional housing units will enable the park to hire and retain qualified wildland firefighter and respond to fires faster. The extra of housing units will also enable the park to hire and retain maintenance staff to better conduct road maintenance provide access for emergency service/restoration work.

G. *SO No. 3373: Evaluating Public Access in Bureau of Land Management Public Land Disposals and Exchanges* No, we do not meet this.

H. *SO No. 3374: Implementation of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act* No, we do not meet this.

I. *SO No. 3376 Increasing Recreational Opportunities through the use of Electric Bikes*  
No, we do not meet this.

**Maps:**

The project area is within Great Basin National Park, White Pine County, Nevada.

Location: 39.017335°N by -114.124321°

See Figure 1 for a map of the project area with the proposed housing units and layout, and Figure 2 for a map of the area in relation to adjacent surrounding communities served.

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Figure 1 – Map of Project Area

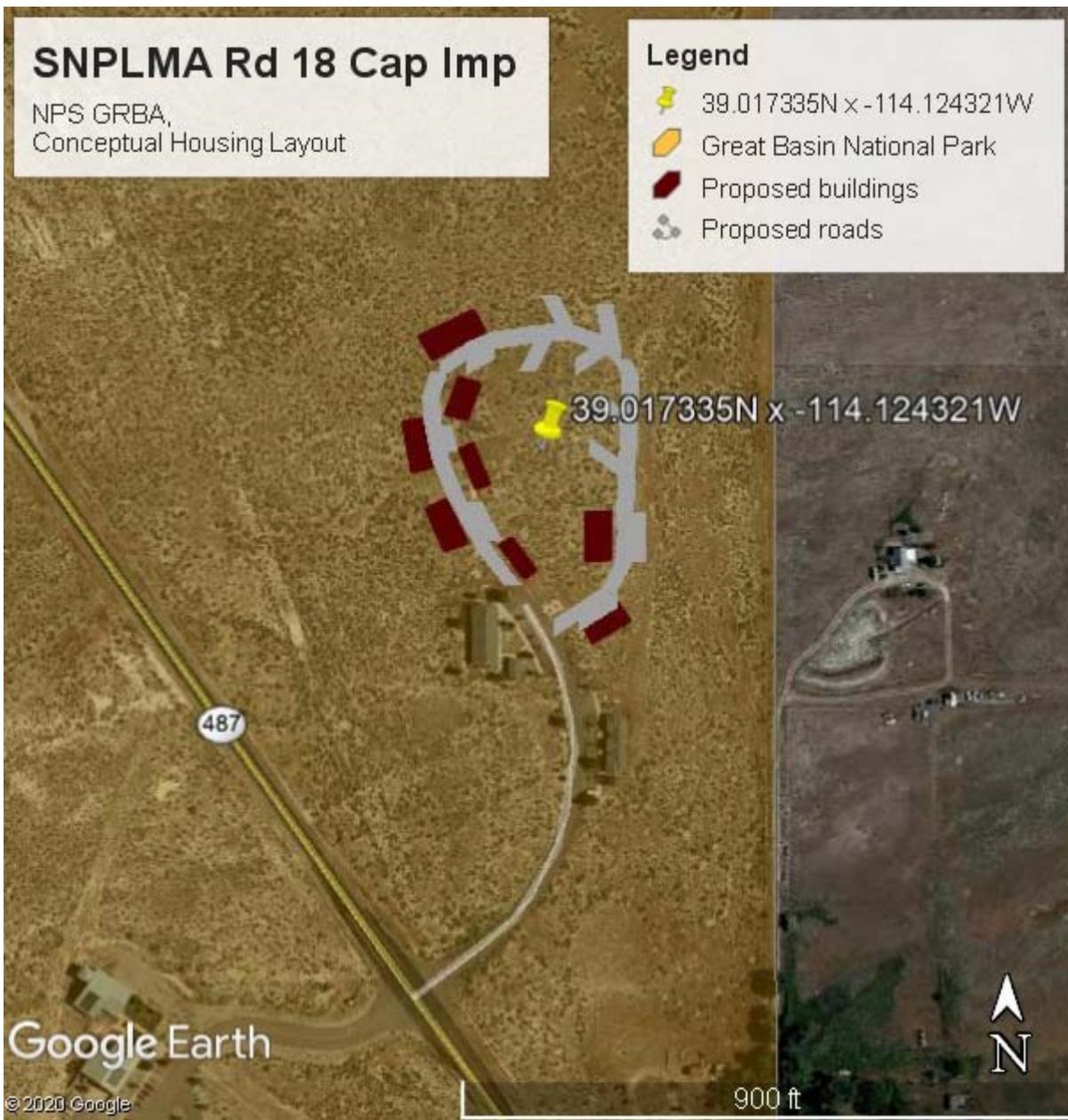


Figure 2 – Map of Area Served



**Photos:**

*Figure 3 - View of Area from VC entrance*



*Figure 4 - View of existing housing*



*Figure 5 - View of proposed location from existing housing*



*Figure 6 - View of proposed location*



**Letters of Support:**

## Letter of Support - White Pine Housing Committee

**White Pine Housing Committee**

150 6<sup>th</sup> Street – Ely, NV 89301 | 775/293-0550 | carolinemcintosh@live.com

July 17, 2020

James Woolsey  
Superintendent, Great Basin National Park  
11 Great Basin National Park  
Baker, NV 89311

Dear Superintendent Woolsey,

The White Pine Housing Committee has been actively meeting since 2018 to address the severe housing crisis in White Pine County. The majority of residential housing in White Pine County was built in the early 1900s through 1960s.

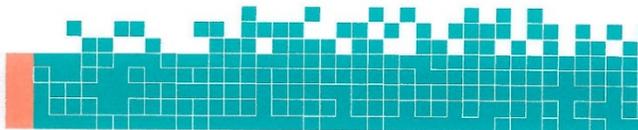
Currently there are 36 residential homes available on the Multiple Listing Service, with ten of those homes under contract. Essentially, the residential inventory is 26 housing units. At the same time in 2019 there were 74 homes available for sale on the Multiple Listing Service. The housing crisis is real and is getting worse in White Pine County. The availability of housing in Baker is even more severe.

The White Pine Housing Committee encourages and supports any and all construction to help ease the housing crisis throughout the county.

Sincerely,



Caroline McIntosh



## Letter of Support – Border Inn

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## The Border Inn

3777 East U.S. Hwy 50&6 Baker, Nevada 89311

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July 23, 2020

James Woolsey  
Great Basin National Park  
100 Great Basin National Park  
Baker, NV 89311

Dear Mr. Woolsey:

Thank you for the phone call yesterday. As I mentioned on the phone, we fully support the Great Basin's efforts in acquiring housing for Park employees. As an employer, our number one limiting factor in find and keeping employees is housing availability.

If the Great Basin National Park is successful, in building new housing units, it would help everyone in the area and free up other housing options. Good luck in your efforts for building additional Park housing.

Sincerely,



Gary Perea  
Owner

## Letter of Support – Stargazer Inn &amp; Kerouac’s



August 9, 2020

Bureau of Land Management  
Southern Nevada District Office  
SNPLMA Division  
4701 North Torrey Pines Drive  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130

Dear SNPLMA Project Committee:

I am writing to you in regard to our housing situation in Baker, Nevada. I am a small business owner in Baker, the gateway town for Great Basin National Park. Although Baker is home to only 100 permanent residents, our town hosts hundreds of thousands of visitors each year: visitors to the National Park, Mount Moriah Wilderness, and surrounding National Forest and Recreation areas.

When we moved here four years ago to start our business, we assumed that we would be able to hire locally or rent a house to accommodate a seasonal staff. That was not the case; there was nothing available to rent and there are not enough local residents to provide a strong hiring pool. We could only fill three positions with locals for a business that needs twelve employees. Therefore, we knew we needed to provide our own housing. We had to buy a dilapidated store (the only property on the market at the time) and renovate it to add bedrooms and an additional bathroom. We did not want to buy this property and become landlords, but we had to make a choice: purchase and maintain our own staff housing or lose out on potential employees. Great Basin National Park is in a similar position regarding housing and has been for many years.

Every year we receive calls from NPS employees who have been offered a job with Great Basin National Park, but do not have housing. They call and ask if we have season-long openings in our motel or if we have an extra room in our staff house. Our 10-room motel is full every night with tourists, so that is not an option. We are currently housing one park employee in our staff house, but if we want to grow our business and hire more staff, then we would have to dislodge him. We should not have to choose between our own staff and park employees.

I advocate for funds being allocated to Great Basin National Park for the purpose of employee housing. The burden of housing should lay with the park itself, not with our community. Our town is on the precipice of healthy growth, but we are still too small and resources too limited to accommodate housing at the volume that a fully-staffed national park requires.

Sincerely,  
Katherine Claeys  
Stargazer Inn & Kerouac's, owner

## Letter of Support - Great Basin Business and Tourism Council

To whom it may concern,

First and foremost, I love Great Basin National Park and the community, Baker, NV, surrounding it. I am proud to say that I have spent most of my life in this beautiful area. Not only have I owned and operated my business here for the past five years, but I also grew up here. After several years away, I chose to move back to the place I call my home. Snake Valley. Quickly, though, it became apparent that I would have difficulty finding a place to live. This is the heart of the reason I am writing this letter.

We have a severe housing crisis.

There isn't a single apartment to rent. There isn't a single house to buy. You need to wait for someone to either move or die before you can move. Even then, it's likely that the property will be purchased by a local too quickly for anyone from outside of the area to get a foothold on buying it. This problem has stunted the growth of Baker for as long as I can remember. I know several people personally who have been forced out of the town simply because they couldn't find anywhere to live.

Ultimately, this has created more problems than just the housing shortage.

First, Baker has seasonal business generated by tourism. To have employees to work for your business you must also have somewhere for them to live. Several businesses in the area have been forced to ask employees to live in RVs or 5th wheels because of the lack of housing. A building that was once a restaurant was converted into housing for employees which, while a fine temporary solution, will only prove to be detrimental in the long run. We cannot continue to have commercial property being forced to convert into temporary housing.

Second, even Great Basin National Park has limited housing for its employees. This forces park rangers to seek accommodations in town. They then take up even more of the housing that could otherwise have permanent occupants. Additionally, if they choose to live in Ely, NV they end up driving 70 miles one way on their commute to work. Not only does this create more pollution but it also forces money out of our local economy.

Third, Baker can never grow if there is nowhere to live. It's bad enough that locals can't find housing, but this issue is made worse by the fact that it is nearly impossible for anyone from out of town to find housing either. I have watched the population of all three schools plummet steadily for years. Not just the schools but the surrounding area as well.

To keep our economy, school systems, and the park alive we need to find a solution to this issue. I cannot stand idly by while my community dwindles more every year. We can and will become

a ghost town if something isn't done about the housing crisis that we are facing. I want to see Baker grow and thrive and I think that it deserves the chance to do so.

When I heard that the National park service was putting more housing in Baker I was thrilled. I fully support the NPS Baker housing project as it has been proposed. The people who work for the NPS at Great Basin are a vital part of our community. Having a place for these people to live will greatly improve our community. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Cheri Phillips,  
President, Great Basin Business and Tourism Council

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act  
Capital Improvements  
Round 18

Bureau of Reclamation



— BUREAU OF —  
RECLAMATION

**Hoover Dam Observation Areas Enhancements**

Amount Requested: \$10,864,434

Time Frame: 5 Years

Location: 36.01623°, -114.737118°

Congressional District Number: AZ-4, NV-3

Federal Manager: Theresa Saumier, Facility Manager

Contact: Pandora Wilson

P: (702) 494-2903

Email: [pwilson@usbr.gov](mailto:pwilson@usbr.gov)

**Purpose Statement:**

The Bureau of Reclamation will refurbish the Hoover Dam Visitor Center Observation Level finishes and fixtures, and enhance interpretive displays, accessibility and safety features of frequently visited-outdoor focused-public recreation areas. The Hoover Dam Visitor Center is located within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, 35 miles southeast of Las Vegas, Nevada. This project will provide an accessible experience to all visitors that will enhance their understanding of the historical significance of Hoover Dam, its critical role in the settlement and development of the desert southwest, and its role in managing water and power in the region.

**Background info and need for the project:**

Hoover Dam is a world-class tourist attraction and engineering marvel listed on the National Register of Historic Places and designated as a National Historic Landmark. It is also named as one of the seven wonders of the modern world by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

The Visitor Center (VC) Observation Level finishes have exceeded their useful life, ADA/ABA and multi-lingual upgrades are required. There is a much bigger story to tell regarding the outdoor spaces surrounding Hoover Dam and Lake Mead and that story needs to be available to everyone. This project will ensure that observation areas around the dam are compliant with accessibility and safety requirements, and Green Building Guiding Principles, to enhance visitor access and comfort. Building energy conservation, efficiency, and management will be enhanced by increasing the use of water and energy efficiency practices and technologies, low emitting materials, and environmentally preferable products in design elements for facility refurbishment. This project will improve the overall experience, access, and exhibit features for the nearly six million annual visitors to Hoover Dam. New exhibits will comply with accessibility requirements and relay information in multiple languages about a variety of topics, including why the dam was built, its construction, as well as the historical and cultural influence of this facility on our nation, region, and citizens.

Concerns identified in the *Hoover Dam Accessibility Assessment - Final Report Findings and Recommendations (May 2013)* will be addressed. The report indicated that current exhibits and display panels are highly reliant on text and visual graphics to communicate the information. The facility and exhibit refurbishment will improve the overall experience by providing the information in a variety of formats that can assist in better comprehension and retention of the exhibit concepts for visitors. Overlook enhancements will improve accessibility by providing improved paving and new curb cuts to walkways. Additionally, accessible benches, viewing scopes and better access to emergency call boxes will be provided. The VC Observation Level interior space currently has mismatched repurposed items as funding has never been available to develop this space.

Some interpretive exhibits were developed for the exterior space under a previous SNPLMA project but additional interpretive would enhance the visitors understanding of the vast vista they can see from all angles of the Observation Deck. The key areas of focus are summarized below:

- Floors – The original floors placed in 1995 are sandstone tile and carpet. The life expectancy of sandstone flooring in a commercial space is 10-20 years. The sandstone is significantly deteriorated and in need of replacement. The carpet has been replaced numerous times over the years and again in need of replacement. Carpet has proven a poor material choice as it is not durable enough to hold up to the high traffic, and traps dust which reduces air quality. The intention is to replace all flooring with terrazzo as was done on Theater level and will be done on the Exhibit level.
- Walls (paint and coverings) – Window coverings will be installed to provide improved viewing of exhibits and reduce heat to the exhibits and visitors. The incorporation of a sound mitigation system will greatly enhance visitor’s ability to hear audio presentations, improving their overall experience.
- Fixtures (lighting, sound system, etc.) – All fixtures were installed in 1995. The fixtures have exceeded their useful life, are not energy efficient, and are in dire need of replacement. Replacements installed under this program will include energy efficient fixtures supporting sustainability goals, and a strategic lighting plan to highlight features of interest.
- VC exterior enhancements – Assess the condition of the roof; repair, reseal, and reinforce as necessary to support the addition of ADA/ABA compliant viewing/photo platform and other enhancements to allow better use of the space.
- Exhibits – This project will develop interpretive exhibits focused on the outdoor features that are visible from the interior and exterior of the Observation Level, parking areas, and Memorial Bridge Plaza. Exhibits at all locations will be revised, updated, relocated, removed or created as determined in the design process. There will be a strong focus on correcting and adding ADA/ABA accessibility features and improved access to interpretive information for non-English speaking visitors. Visitors will be able to experience the site more fully through an enhanced story to include historical, cultural, geological, water, and others relevant themes.
- Observation areas- Numerous recommendations were identified by the Hoover Dam Accessibility Assessment Final Report (May 2013) related to benches, scenic viewers and pedestrian crosswalks with controls to improve visibility for both vehicles and pedestrians. The enhancements of these areas are necessary to meet the accessibility standards described in these findings.
- Guiding Principles – The refurbishment of the Observation Level and all improvements will encourage implementation of green building practices as per the Bureau of Reclamation’s Sustainable Buildings Implementation Plan (January 2010), encouraging energy efficiency, and use of low emitting materials, and renewable, recycled, or environmentally preferable products wherever possible.

### **Relationship to previous phases and anticipated future phases:**

Although not considered a “phase,” this project would supplement the Hoover Dam Visitor rehabilitation efforts with the Theater Level (SNPLMA Round 16, Project BR11) completed in 2018 and the Exhibit Level (SNPLMA Round 17, Project BR12) currently ongoing; both projects were accomplished with Hoover and SNPLMA funding.

### **Deliverables:**

#### Primary Deliverables:

1. Refurbish the Hoover Dam VC Observation Level interior and exterior spaces (including but not limited to the walls, floors, ceilings, doors, exterior decking, handrails, all fixtures and finishes, and lights.)
2. Purchase and install energy efficient window coverings to provide improved viewing of exhibits and reduce heat to the exhibits and visitors.
3. Develop updated and new interpretive content and install a variety of replacement and new accessible exhibits, including multi-lingual content, in spaces identified in the scope.
4. Address accessibility issues within the scope of spaces identified for this project including safety improvements and comfort amenities.
5. Design and construct enhanced viewing areas at selected observation areas.
6. Design and install enhanced wayfinding signage in observation areas to include interpretive topics such as visitor orientation, local environmental, historical and educational information.

#### Anticipated Deliverables

- None anticipated.

#### Standard Deliverables

- SMART quarterly status updates;
- SMART annual and final accomplishment reports;
- NEPA compliance including Cultural compliance (section 106) based upon the statement of work and associated documents with Nevada State Historic Preservation Office, National Landmarks Program (as appropriate), and the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation (as appropriate) for construction;
- scoping meetings.
- Accessibility reviews;
- Meetings with contracting and development of solicitation;
- Site visit, TPEC, and post award activities for contract(s);
- Inspection of contractor(s) work;
- Communication with stakeholders (local community, visitors, power contractors, etc.) through all phases of work;

- Final review of construction work and close-out (release of claims); and
- Final Close-out of the project.
- Close out paperwork to complete SNPLMA project.

### **Project Timeframe:**

The project will take five (5) years to complete. Tentative milestones are planned as follows:

#### Year 1

- Obtain work plan approval and funding authorization
- Complete planning and design and NEPA compliance, including:
  - Solicitation of design and interpretive services
  - Conceptual design
  - NEPA Scoping meetings
  - SHPO/Historic Properties consultation
  - Decision document
- Complete final construction documents

#### Year 2

- Contracting for construction through build out, including:
  - Develop solicitation package
  - Solicitation of the construction contract
  - Contract negotiations
  - Contract award

#### Year 3-4

- Construction, including:
  - Mobilization (bonds, security checks, etc.)
  - Construction through full build-out
  - Agency acceptance as complete
  - Payment of final invoice, close-out of contracts
  - Release of claims

#### Year 5

- Project close-out with SNPLMA
- Final site inspection
- Final review of project file and expenditures
- Request for close- out
- SNPLMA close-out of the funding authorization

5 years total anticipated period of performance for completion

### **Level of Project Readiness for Implementation:**

The Bureau of Reclamation proposes to refurbish the interior and exterior spaces, exhibits, and accessibility within the Hoover Dam observation areas to enhance the visiting public's experience. Use of the *Guiding Principles for Sustainable Federal Buildings* (The Council on

Environmental Quality February 2016) to promote building energy conservation and efficiency by increasing water and energy efficiency and implementing low emitting materials and environmentally preferable products will be incorporated and integral to all design and work completed. The proposed exhibit and wayfinding enhancements will provide improved accessibility and educational opportunities on the historical and cultural nature of Hoover Dam, its significance, and its impact on the American Southwest. In addition, these enhancements will help to incorporate an understanding of the local environment and natural ecosystems, resource sustainability, and conservation.

### Proposed Project Milestones

- Architectural and Engineering design services for both the VC Observation Level and outdoor areas
- Contracting for development of all interpretive materials
- Construction of VC interior and exterior renovations
- Construction of all exterior site improvements
- Installation of interpretive/amenities throughout site
- Project completion is determined when all tasks in the SNPLMA project have been completed, all invoices have been paid, work has been accepted, and releases of claims have been received.

### Level of Readiness for Project Implementation

Much of the work (design, construction, interpretive content development and fabrication) will be contracted and some of the work will be done in-house. Reclamation has conducted extensive market research and has a solid understanding of the scope of work and level of effort required. Once funded, the work will begin immediately.

Reclamation is staffed with a full-time, experienced federal workforce dedicated to the success of this project. A Project Manager and Contracting Officer's Representative (COR) have been tentatively identified who are familiar with the work to be performed in this project. Civil, electrical, and mechanical engineers and skilled craft personnel are available for consultation and review of technical requirements. No additional staffing is required for the completion of this project.

### **Future Operations and Maintenance:**

The anticipated refurbishments will have a projected life of 20- 25 years. This project may reduce operations and maintenance costs. Weekly repairs of the sandstone tile floors will be eliminated. Reduction in the amount of materials and labor hours needed to clean and maintain areas, such as carpet and walls, will occur by providing new durable materials in high traffic areas, and replacing the acoustic fabric panels with a material or surface that is easy to maintain. Durable low maintenance terrazzo flooring is planned. Maintenance is done "in-house" by Reclamation employees. Ongoing operations and maintenance costs will be budgeted through future Boulder Canyon Project Operating Work Plans. Hoover Dam has a full-time staff capable of completing all upkeep and maintenance of the refurbished spaces and exhibits. Current staff

includes but is not limited to janitorial services, general maintenance, electricians, mechanics, information technology specialists, and engineers.

**Lifecycle Replacement/Reconstruction and Deferred Maintenance:** Refurbishment will extend the Hoover Dam VC's life and, by using sustainable principles and materials, and make it more accessible and usable to the public. Current use of the Hoover Dam VC Observation Level has exceeded the original planned visitation / use and impacts have created a need to refurbish the facility earlier than originally planned. Enhancements of these areas will extend the lifecycle to allow enjoyment and education opportunities for visitors.

The VC hosts approximately 800,000 visitors a year, and that continuous usage over the last 25 years has shortened the useful design lifecycle of the exhibits. Refurbishment will extend the lifecycle to allow enhanced learning opportunities for visitors. Observation areas host approximately 6 million visitors each year and that continuous usage has degraded areas beyond the useful lifecycle.

#### **Contributed funds directly applicable to completion of the project:**

This nomination request is for improvements to the interior and exterior space of one level at the Hoover Dam VC and between 3 to 6 outdoor observation areas, along with modifications for accessibility and the design and construction of new exhibits. The total capital improvement cost of this project is projected to be \$11,005,305. Hoover Dam / Reclamation will contribute \$140,871 in funds directly applicable to the completion of the project, consisting of labor cost related to administration, contracting and project management support.

#### **Funding Requested Budget Detail:**

Costs were estimated using (1) previous similar projects to identify the type of work required; (2) forward-looking budgetary estimates for labor costs, and (3) the RSMMeans cost estimating system for costs that could not be derived from mentioned previous projects.

#### **Appendix B-3**

#### **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROPOSAL**

<b>Project Name:</b>	Hoover Dam Visitor Center Observation Areas Enhancements	<b>Agency:</b>	<b>Reclamation</b>
<b>Project #</b>		<b>Date:</b>	<b>9/1/2020</b>
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Shanon Handley	<b>Phone:</b>	<b>702-293-8352</b>
<b>Planning, Environmental Compliance &amp; Preconstruction Engineering and Design</b> <i>(Not to exceed 27% of total project costs)</i>	(pre-design sketches and conceptual drawings; environmental assessment and permitting, specialist surveys/reports for archaeology, wildlife, biology, etc.; architectural and engineering analysis, design survey & field investigations; construction drawing, specifications, cost estimates, and engineering technical reports.)	\$1,177,000	10.83%
<b>Construction Contract Costs</b>		\$8,541,814	78.62%

(including labor, supplies & materials, construction management, etc.; sampling/testing; site restoration; and government furnished supplies and materials.

<b>Project Equipment</b>	\$0	0.00%
(SNPLMA funds can only be used for "project related necessary expensed" and reimburse only those equipment costs directly associated with completion of the approved project)		
<b>Travel</b>	\$10,080	0.09%
(including per diem where official travel status is required to carry out the project, such as to serve as COR, experts to review reports, etc.)		
<b>Official Vehicle Use</b>	\$17,800	0.16%
(pro rata cost for use of Official Vehicles when required to carry out the project)		
<b>Other Direct and Contracted Labor</b>	\$1,116,240	10.27%
Agency payroll for the Contracting Officer to do project procurements, COR Project Inspector, Section 106 Consultation, NEPA Lead, Project Manager, Project Supervisor, and subject experts to review contracted surveys, design/drawings, plans, reports, etc.; Also covered is the cost to contract for a Project Manager and/or Project Supervisor if contracted separately from other project costs.		
<b>FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act</b>	\$0	0.00%
<b>Direct Federal Labor</b>	\$0	0.00%
(direct agency labor for construction, project inspection, CO and COR)		
<b>Other Necessary Expenses</b>	\$1,500	0.01%
(See SNPLMA IA Part Two, Appendix B-)		
<b>Total requested/estimated budget</b>	<b>\$10,864,434</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>Total Estimated in-kind agency or partner contribution</b>	\$140,871	

### Performance Measures:

SNPLMA program's vision, mission, and goals is associated with connecting people to the outdoors and conserving public lands while ensuring the projects' fiscal sustainability. The proposed Hoover Dam Observation Area Enhancements supports these goals and the anticipated performance measures as follows.

**Strategic Plan Outcome – Goal 1:** – *Sustain the quality of the Outdoor environment by conserving, preserving, and restoring natural and cultural resources.* The VC and outdoor observation areas contains information about how the Colorado River and Hoover Dam are operated, and discusses the ecosystems and associated plants, animals, birds and fishes that are sustained by the River's waters. Through this information, the VC and outdoor observation areas enhance the public's understanding of the role of the River and Dam in the sustainability of the natural environment as well as historical and cultural values associated with these resources.

**Strategic Plan Outcome – Goal 2:** *Improve the quality of life for all publics in urban and rural communities by enhancing recreational opportunities that connect people with the outdoor environment.* Refurbishing the VC Observation Level and upgrading the wayside interpretive

and safety features will improve access for those visitors and provide additional interpretive information to increase understanding of the Dam's outdoor features and areas.

- Output (Primary Deliverable): Design and renovation construction to VC Observation Level including enhancements to building flow and use, interior and exterior atmosphere modifications, and accessibility compliance.
  - Performance Measure R3 – Number of New Recreational Facilities / Structures Constructed or Improved
    - 1 Building (Interior and exterior Observation Level only) will be refurbished
    - Between 3 and 6 parking/observation areas

**Strategic Plan Outcome – Goal 3:** *Other Performance Measures that also Support the Three Values for SNPLMA Implementation of Sustainability, Connectivity, and Community:*

- Output (Primary Deliverable): Design and renovation construction to VC Observation Level including enhancements to building flow and use, interior and exterior atmosphere modifications, and accessibility compliance.
  - Performance Measure O2 – Number of Buildings, Facilities and/or Amenities Constructed or Refurbished
    - 1 Building (Interior and exterior Observation Level only) will be refurbished
    - Between 3 and 6 parking/observation areas
    - 8-15 improved and new benches in parking/observation areas
    - 30-50 outdoor interpretive displays (excluding the VC Observation Level)
  - Performance Measure O4 – Number of Scientific/Technical Reports Produced
    - 1 Value Engineering Report will be produced to determine best value alternatives to optimize the project.
    - Between 1 and 3 Statements of Work will be produced to procure design services, construction services, and interpretive development.
  - Performance Measure O6 – Number of New Interpretive or Educational Publications/Signs/Kiosks/Displays, etc. Produced
    - 5-20 learning exhibits will be produced for the VC Observation Level depending on final planning.
    - 1 enhanced viewing point will be added to the Hoover Dam VC Observation Deck
  - Performance Measure O8 – Buildings or facilities that Support Green Sustainable Design and Construction
    - 1 Building (Observation Level only) will be refurbished which will employ sustainable or green construction techniques and materials, including the use of renewable or recycled materials where possible.
    - Between 8-15 Outdoor amenities to be constructed with sustainable or green materials where possible

### **Executive Committee Strategic Plan Values:**

**Sustainability** - The project will protect healthy and resilient landscapes by adding new amenities in previously developed areas and minimizing environmental disturbances by clearly defining walking paths and observation areas. Social sustainability will be addressed by making information available in multiple languages and/or accessible formats. Interpretive updates will relay critical information to help reduce user impacts to our natural resources and develop a further understanding of sustainable ecosystems. The proposed Observation Level improvements will enhance energy efficiency and incorporate the use of sustainable materials.

**Connectivity** - This project provides outdoor recreational opportunities that improve the quality of life for the public and encourages interaction with nature by improving access to an area dense with natural and human built features (Hoover Dam, Memorial Bridge, Colorado River, Lake Mead, Old Highway 95). Improvements proposed in this project will provide interpretive information on the development of the site from its natural state through today. We will also provide interpretive on the geology and wildlife and plant communities visible from the various observation areas. Proximity to the Las Vegas metro area provides easy access for short term visitors to the area. STEM students as well as the general public will be inspired through an understanding of the technological efforts required to build the dam and the role renewable energy plays in securing reliable western power supplies.

**Community** - Project amenities and upgrades will be durable through the minimum of their useful life of 15+ years. This project will communicate a relevant message that will be seen by millions of recreationists - Hoover Dam has been a tourist destination since before construction was complete and hosts about 6 million visitors a year. Reclamation is ensuring shared support by providing funds to operate and maintain the project.

### **Compliance with Departmental Priorities, Strategic Goals, Executive Orders, and Secretarial Orders:**

Addressed in ranking criteria below.

### **Ranking Criteria:**

#### **1. SUSTAINABILITY & MODERNIZATION:**

This project supports conservation, preservation, restoration, and modernization of natural, cultural, and historic resources (which includes infrastructure) to ensure availability of these resources for future generations. The project will remain relevant and continue to provide benefit to a recreation user over the anticipated life of the project. Clearly explain what the anticipated design life of the project is and identify what and how the natural resources will be sustained.

- A. No, the project does not meet this criteria/factor
- B. The proposed Observation Level refurbishment and enhancements will modernize existing facilities and amenities to enhance the experience of hundreds of thousands of visitors

annually. The upgrades include the outdoor viewing deck which will have educational information about the Colorado River, Hoover Dam, Memorial Bridge and related systems. Interpretive updates will relay critical information to help reduce user impacts to our natural resources and develop a further understanding of sustainable ecosystems. In addition, development of the outdoor observation areas provides new amenities including benches, interpretive panels that provide socially sustainable ways for present and future generations to enjoy Hoover Dam's natural and historical resources.

- C. The project will provide enhanced opportunities for present and future generations to enjoy the features within the Hoover Dam security zone and provide an understanding of their historical, cultural and modern-day significance.
- D. The proposed project will enhance management of public lands by improving public access and enrich education through interpretive materials and exhibits. We will provide interpretive information with an emphasis on conservation and an understanding of natural resources.

## **2. CONNECTIVITY:**

The project provides recreational opportunities that link population centers, recreation facilities, and the user to the outdoors and natural landscapes. It encourages people to meaningfully connect with their natural environment, thus helping them appreciate and care for the environment. The project will also connect the user to the history and/or cultural of the site and engages the user in appreciation of the site/area.

- A. No, the project does not meet this criteria/factor.
- B. In addition to refurbishing the Hoover Dam's VC Observation Level, development of outdoor observation areas throughout the site will provide modern safety and accessibility enhancements, and socially sustainable interpretive information.
- C. No, the project does not meet this criteria/factor
- D. The project contains an outreach and educational component – it will provide educational interpretive that relates to on-site exhibits about local natural resources. Educational displays will encourage people to meaningfully connect with their natural environment, thus helping them appreciate and care for the environment. There will be an emphasis on water conservation and drought.

## **3. COMMUNITY:**

The project provides recreational opportunities that link population centers, recreation facilities, and the user to the outdoors and natural landscapes. It encourages people to meaningfully connect with their natural environment, thus helping them appreciate and care for the environment. The project will also connect the user to the history and/or cultural of the site and engages the user in appreciation of the site/area.

- A. This project confers social benefits through enhanced accessible amenities designed to reach a broad demographic. Hoover Dam attracts visitors to the local communities. Improved Hoover Dam amenities could attract additional visitation providing greater economic benefits to the local communities and tour operators. Reclamation has the subject matter expertise for the planning, design, implementation and management of the project.
- B. Hoover Dam / Reclamation can contribute \$140,871 in labor and funds for the contract.
- C. Hoover Dam is visited by about 6 million people a year, including approximately 9,000 local students annually. Through Reclamation Diversity Programs, the Dam provides targeted educational opportunities to students. The facilities that will result from this project will be available to visiting students, improving their recreation experience.

#### **4. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE:**

The agency has clearly demonstrated that the anticipated operations and maintenance costs for the project and resources necessary to operate the project are within existing appropriations or demonstrated how they will secure the necessary operations and maintenance funds.

*(Agency has detailed the estimated annual O&M cost and estimated use or permit fees to be collected.)*

- A. Operations and maintenance funding for the Hoover Dam is provided via a contract with water and power stakeholders for Hoover Dam.
- B. Reclamation will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the project.
- C. Reclamation has identified that funds for O&M are sufficient to cover future operations and maintenance costs. Moreover, once refurbishment on the facility and exhibits is complete, it is anticipated that associated labor costs will decrease.
- D. The proposed Observation Level improvements will enhance energy efficiency and incorporate the use of sustainable materials.

#### **5. LIFECYCLE REPLACEMENT/RECONSTRUCTION AND DEFERRED MAINTENANCE:**

Any existing project or facility that has met or exceeded its useful life, design life, or life cycle that requires major restoration or reconstruction to restore the historic fabric of the facility or meet standard new Federal accessibility guidelines.

*(Does not include reconstruction, changes, or new amenities for previously approved SNPLMA capital improvement projects. Excludes projects that were identified as phased construction, each phase must be fully operational and serve the intended purpose upon completion.)*

- A. The VC hosts approximately 800,000 visitors per year. Hoover Dam observation level finishes have exceeded their useful lives and the level has deficiencies non-compliant with current federal accessibility standards. Refurbishment will extend the VC's useful life. Observation areas host approximately 6 million visitors each year. Outdoor observation areas were not developed for their current function and visitation and enhancements are required to comply with accessibility standards.
- B. No, the project does not meet this criteria/factor.

#### **6. ADVANCES THE AGENCY/ENTITY PRIORITIES/GOALS**

The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination/project meets the priorities and strategic goals for their respective agency.

The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination/project meets the priorities and strategic goals for their respective agency.

#### **A. Meets one or more of the Department of the Interior Priorities:**

1. *Increase revenues to support the Department and national interests.* By refurbishing and updating locations which visitors use for activities including weddings, group and individual photography, special events and educational programs. It may support revenue recovery from visitors utilizing the Hoover Dam VC (through collection of tour and exhibit viewing fees, and parking) and visitors using commercial tour services (through collection of commercial use fees). These revenues will offset operations and maintenance costs of the project deliverables.
2. *Modernize our infrastructure.* This project will refurbish Hoover Dam's VC Observation Level finishes and fixtures, and Hoover Dam observation spaces by enhancing interpretive displays, accessibility and safety features of frequently visited outdoor focused public recreation areas. The proposed VC refurbishments will have a projected life of 20- 25 years and will extend the life of the facility and its exhibits by that period of time. They will incorporate newer, modern technologies (such as energy-efficient window coverings, multi-lingual content) that will allow enhanced learning opportunities for visitors. Observation areas host approximately 6 million visitors each year and continuous usage has degraded areas beyond their useful life. Enhancements of these areas will extend their useful life and improve available amenities to allow enjoyment and educational opportunities for visitors.

**B. Meets one or more of the U.S. Forest Service priorities:** This is not applicable

#### **7. CONSISTENCY WITH SECRETARIAL ORDERS AND DIRECTIVE**

The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination / project meets the Secretarial Orders (SO) and Directive.

The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination / project meets the Secretarial Orders (SO) and Directive.

- A. **EO No. 13855 Promoting Active Management of America’s Forests, Range Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk** This is not applicable
- A. **SO No. 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation**
- We may enhance conservation stewardship, increase outdoor recreation, and improve the management of game species and their habitat through the proper design and enhancement of existing and new interpretive displays which relay information to help reduce user impacts to our natural resources and improve understanding of sustainable ecosystems,
- B. **SO No. 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes and Territories**
- This is not applicable
- C. **SO No. 3362: Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors**
- This is not applicable
- D. **SO No. 3366: Increasing Recreational Opportunities on Lands and Waters Managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior**
- This is not applicable
- E. **SO No. 3370: Improving Conservation Stewardship of and Increasing Public Access to Urban National Wildlife Refuges.**
- This is not applicable
- F. **SO No. 3372: Reducing Wildfire Risks on Department of the Interior Land Through Active Management.**
- This is not applicable
- G. **SO No. 3373: Evaluating Public Access in Bureau of Land Management Public Land Disposals and Exchanges**
- This is not applicable
- H. **SO No. 3374: Implementation of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act**
- This is not applicable
- I. **SO No. 3376 Increasing Recreational Opportunities through the use of Electric Bikes**
- This is not applicable

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**Maps:**

Figure 1 - Hoover Dam Overview Map



Figure 2 - Project Site Overview



**Photos:**

Figure 3 - Damage to Floors in the Visitor Center Observation Level Lobby



Figure 4 - Windows/Walls in the Visitor Center Observation Level



Figure 5 - Lack of Accessible Benches/ Handrails at Memorial Bridge Plaza



Figure 6 - Lack of Accessible Exhibits



Figure 7 - Lack of Safety Railings for Viewing Area



Photo 8 - No accessible or safe crossing to viewing areas



Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act  
Capital Improvements  
Round 18

Bureau of Reclamation



— BUREAU OF —  
RECLAMATION

**Hoover Dam Water Study**

Amount Requested: \$10,917,894

Time Frame: 5 Years

Location: 36.01623° / -114.737118°

Congressional District Number: AZ-4, NV-3

Federal Manager: Theresa Saumier, Facility Manager

Contact: Pandora Wilson

P: (702) 494-2903

Email: [pwilson@usbr.gov](mailto:pwilson@usbr.gov)

**Purpose Statement:**

The Bureau of Reclamation will develop a complete set of construction planning documents for a water system that incorporates existing facilities and infrastructure, and up to four additional public restroom locations on Bureau of Reclamation lands at Hoover Dam within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area to have shovel ready construction documents. These construction planning documents are required to seek funding for water system improvements including additional ADA/ABA accessible public restrooms and drinking water throughout the site to improve current and future visitor access and enjoyment.

**Background info and need for the project:**

Hoover Dam is a world-class tourist attraction and engineering marvel listed on the National Register of Historic Places and designated as a National Historic Landmark. It is also named as one of the seven wonders of the modern world by the American Society of Civil Engineers. Hoover Dam hosts approximately six million visitors annually. Our current restroom facilities are inadequate to serve current and projected future visitors and not in alignment what a reasonable person would expect to find when visiting a National Historic Landmark.

Currently, Hoover Dam treats water from the Colorado River to create potable water used throughout the site. The potable water treatment plant is in the Arizona Valve house above the transformer deck. Water is distributed throughout the site to all normally occupied buildings. This plant meets current needs and could be expanded at its current location if this is determined to be the best option through a lifecycle cost analysis.

Wastewater is collected and treated on the Arizona side of the facility at a plant located in a historic construction tunnel accessible at the transformer deck level. Treated water is returned to the river and process sludge is pumped to evaporative waste ponds located approximately 1,000 feet above the plant on the opposite side of Interstate 11. While most of the wastewater is treated onsite, Hoover Dam has three leach fields to serve buildings near the security entrance station as no return flow piping currently exists beyond the parking garage. The plant was expanded in the mid-1990s when the visitor center was built. On days with heavy visitation (25,000+), the plant operates at or near full capacity (about 150 days a year). Typically, a wastewater plant is operated at about 80% capacity to minimize the risk of accidental discharge of untreated wastewater, which in our case would end up in the Colorado River. Hoover Dam maintains compliance with the terms of our Arizona discharge permit, through careful monitoring and plant management. The existing system is nearing the end of its useful life and it cannot be expanded due to space constraints and the configuration of the plant.

The Reclamation Technical Services Center (TSC), in partnership with Hoover Dam, is currently conducting an initial investigation of existing water and wastewater treatment systems and scoping for an appropriate number of public restroom facilities. This investigation began on October 2019 and is expected to be completed November 2020. This effort was fully funded by Hoover Dam. This TSC investigation will yield a report of viable options to be analyzed in the Special Study of Alternatives (Special Study) proposed under this project.

A lack of accessible restrooms has dampened the enjoyment of many Hoover Dam visits. The purpose of the Special Study is to lay out a clear path to allow us to meet our objective of providing appropriate public restrooms and drinking water throughout the site for the visiting public. The final project deliverable of shovel-ready construction drawings will enable us to seek funding to move forward on this critical infrastructure improvement project.

#### Improve Visitor Safety and Accessibility:

- Visitor heat-related illness has been a significant safety issue. It is not unusual for visitors unaccustomed to the extreme heat at the site to suffer from heat related issues. To mitigate this, Hoover Dam added bottled water vending machines throughout the site two years ago and updated our public outreach sites to educate visitors. This has addressed heat related issues but increased our solid waste. The only existing drinking fountains are at the dam proper where infrastructure exists. The inclusion of water bottle filling stations throughout the site will provide free, cool, easily accessible drinking water for visitors, improving safety and decreasing solid waste.
- Design work will encompass eliminating of the existing vault toilets (other than those on the hiking trail that receive low usage.) The existing vault toilets are identified in the *Hoover Dam Accessibility Assessment Final Report Findings and Recommendations (May 2013)* as non-ABA compliant. The vault toilets cannot be modified to meet ABA requirements. Replacing the vault toilets with ABA compliant flush restrooms would eliminate this issue.

#### Reduce Operation and Maintenance Costs:

- The entire system will be designed to meet current and anticipated future restroom and potable water needs. Design will consider for possible future changes so that modifications could be cost-effectively implemented.
- In the Special Study phase, alternatives will be evaluated with a goal of minimizing overall lifecycle costs of water and wastewater treatment systems, piping system equipment and materials, and restroom facility building materials, finishes and fixtures. All components of the system will be constructed using sustainable, environmentally friendly materials with durability and ease of maintenance as priorities.

#### Sustainability and Reduction of Potential Negative Environmental Impacts:

- Plumbed restrooms would significantly reduce or eliminate potential biohazard exposure associated with pumping of vault toilets, and exposure to and cleanup of human excrement in heavily trafficked public areas around the site.
- A goal will be to reduce or eliminate onsite hazardous chemical usage for potable water and wastewater treatment. One of the possible alternatives under consideration is to connect into the City of Boulder City municipal system and eliminate onsite treatment altogether. Any alternative selected will reduce the potential for accidental discharge of chemicals or untreated wastewater into the river by being sized to meet treatment demand.

- Hoover Dam would phase out the sale of disposable plastic water bottles as the project is developed, reducing our solid waste.
- Guiding Principles – The current domestic water system was built in the 1930's, refurbished in the 1980's, added onto during the construction of the Hoover Dam Visitor Center in the 1990s and piecemeal repairs made throughout its life. As such there is currently moderate use of sustainable materials. The design will encourage the use of these measures as per the Bureau of Reclamation's Sustainable Buildings Implementation Plan, (January, 2010), emphasizing water efficiency, energy efficiency, low emitting materials, and use of renewable, recycled, or environmentally preferable products to be employed wherever possible.

#### Economic Impacts:

- Follow-on work from this project may provide local economic impact through phased construction. A wide variety of skilled crafts and laborers will be utilized in completing construction work.
- These documents will also allow us to pursue possible partnership funding with the State of Nevada under our existing agreement with the Department of Training, Education, and Rehabilitation for operation of concessions. Without a comprehensive design package and cost estimate it will be extremely challenging if not impossible to seek funding to improve these critical systems.

#### **Relationship to previous phases and anticipated future phases:**

The final construction documents are a stand-alone project. The construction documents allow for future phased construction. Each phase will be a stand-alone project. Phases will be implemented in logical progression as Boulder Canyon Project funding and/or funding from other sources becomes available. It is anticipated that construction phases will be procurement packages valued at \$5-\$15M each.

#### **Deliverables:**

##### Primary Deliverables:

1. A special study of alternatives including lifecycle cost analysis of at least the two highest ranked water and wastewater treatment plans.
2. 100% Finalized Construction Drawings and Specifications, and cost estimates for a Hoover Dam water system master plan including water and wastewater treatment systems, a distribution and collection system, public restroom buildings and associated water system features.

Anticipated Deliverables: None

Standard Deliverables:

- SMART reporting (quarterly/annually/final accomplishment and performance measures)
- Environmental compliance (e.g., NEPA, Sec.106, National Landmarks Program)
- Scoping meetings
- SHPO consultation, coordination, etc.
- Meetings with subject matter experts
- Development of statement of work and associated documents
- Review of statement of work and associated documents by management at Hoover Dam
- Accessibility reviews
- Meetings with acquisitions and development of solicitation
- Site visit, post award activities for contract(s)
- Communication with stakeholders through all phases of work
- Final review of developed construction documents and close out of project
- Close out paperwork to complete SNPLMA project

**Project Timeframe:**

The project should take five (5) years. Tentative milestones are planned to be as follows:

- Year 1
  - Complete work plans and funding authorization
  - Special Study of Alternatives
  - Conceptual design / NEPA scoping meetings
  - Site investigation
  - Lifecycle cost analysis
  - Determine the preferred option for final design
  - Assess need for contract support and requirements and begin preparations
  - Full site investigation
  - Topographical and utility surveys
  - Geological investigations
  - Develop topographical and utility drawings
  - Initiate NEPA process, including Sec 106 consultations
  - Award contracts if necessary
  - Pipe system preliminary alignment w/ with features
  - Identify locations for restrooms and drinking water stations
- Year 2
  - 30% design drawings, specifications and cost estimate

- Value engineering study and a constructability review
- Security review and a draft basis of design report
- Complete draft Basis-of-Design Report
- Year 3 and 4
  - Updated drawings, specifications, and basis-of-design report
  - Complete all geological testing
  - Complete draft Geological Design Report
  - 90% Design
  - Technically approved drawings
  - Complete draft specifications
  - Complete final Basis-of-Design Report
  - Updated cost estimate
- Year 5
  - 100% Final Design / Construction Documents
  - Updated drawings, specifications, and basis-of-design report
  - Updated cost estimate
  - Routing and final approvals
  - SNPLMA close-out of the funding authorization
- 5 years Total anticipated period of performance for completion

### **Level of Project Readiness for Implementation:**

Much of the work (Special Study and final construction documents) will be completed through an advanced funding agreement with the Reclamation Technical Services Center and in-house forces. Reclamation is staffed with a full time experienced federal workforce with a variety of experiences dedicated to the success of this project. A Project Manager has tentatively identified and is familiar with the required characteristics of this project. Civil, electrical, and mechanical engineering staff are available for consultation and review of technical requirements. No additional staffing is required for the completion of this project.

### Description of the Implementation Process:

The first step of this project is completing the Special Study of Alternatives, which will include lifecycle cost analysis of construction, operation and maintenance of the two most viable potable water and wastewater treatment alternatives identified in the currently underway initial investigation. The preferred alternative will be developed through typical 30%, 60%, 90% and 100% design phases. The final deliverable is shovel ready construction documents developed to

allow for phased construction. This is a standalone project with a deliverable that will be used for procurement of phased construction as funding is available.

#### Proposed Project Milestones:

- The Special Study will evaluate the two most viable potable water and wastewater treatment options identified in the initial investigation. These alternatives will be developed to a feasibility level. The study phase will involve some amount of site investigation and development of lifecycle cost analyses. An alternative for potable water and wastewater treatment will be selected upon completion of the Special Study that will inform the basis of design.
- The second phase is a full site investigation and data collection including topographical and utility surveys, geological investigations, development of topographical/utility drawings, and NEPA initiation including Section 106 consultations. A preliminary alignment for the pipe systems and associated features, locations and sizing of 2-4 restroom buildings and drinking water stations will be identified.
- 30% design - Upon completion of the 30% design drawings, specifications and cost estimate, a value engineering study and a constructability review will be conducted to ensure maximizing the value of the construction project. Siting of major project features is finalized. As part of the 30% design phase, a security review and a draft basis of design report will be completed. All designs will meet current building codes and ADA and ABA requirements.
- 60% design – Includes updated drawings, specifications, and basis of design report taking into consideration the findings of the Value Engineering Study and the Constructability Review. At this point all geological testing is completed, and a draft Geologic Design Report is prepared.
- 90% design – Includes technically approved drawings, complete draft specifications, a finalized Basis of Design Report, and an updated cost estimate, are all prepared at this phase. A 90% review meeting is held between all parties to facilitate the approval and completion of the documents.
- 100% final design/construction documents – findings from the 90% review meeting are incorporated into the drawings, specifications, design report, and cost estimate. These documents are finalized and signed through their respective originators. At completion of this phase, shovel ready design/construction documents and a 100% construction cost estimate are then complete and ready for solicitation upon available funding.
- Project completion is determined when all tasks in the SNPLMA project have been completed, all invoices have been paid, work has been accepted, and releases of claims have been received.

#### **Future Operations and Maintenance:**

This project will provide for shovel ready construction documents. Upon implementation of construction, operational improvement includes convenient access to public restrooms and drinking water, and treatment plants sized to operate within industry standards over their projected life of 25-50 years. Ongoing operations and maintenance costs will be budgeted through Boulder Canyon Project Operating Work Plans. Hoover Dam has a full-time staff

capable of all needed upkeep and maintenance. Current staff includes, but is not limited to, water/wastewater plant personnel, janitorial services, general maintenance, electricians, mechanics, information technology specialists, and engineers.

### Contributed funds directly applicable to completion of the project:

- Power and water customers will continue to fund Hoover Dam for the operations and maintenance of the water system and facilities once constructed.
- If the project study results in a follow-on decision to connect to the Boulder City municipal water system and facilities partnerships with NPS and Boulder City will expand.
- These documents will also allow us to pursue possible partnership funding with the State of Nevada under our existing agreement with the Department of Training, Education, and Rehabilitation for operation of concessions.
- Reclamation can contribute \$168,201 in labor and funds for the contract. These contributions do not include overhead charges.

### Funding Requested Budget Detail:

Reclamation requests \$10,917,894 in SNPLMA appropriation to complete the proposed project. This estimate was developed by BOR TSC (Technical Service Center) using their own extensive databased that is based on past and current projects to identify work required and future-looking labor cost estimates. TSC also uses vendor quotes at each stage of estimating and RSMMeans Construction Cost Estimating Software. Below is the Budget Detail for the SNPLMA Round 18 Hoover Dam Water Study project.

Schedule B			
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROPOSAL			
ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS & KEY MILESTONE DATES			
<b>Project Name:</b>	<u>Hoover Dam Water Study</u>	<b>Agency:</b>	<u>Bureau of Reclamation</u>
<b>Project &amp; Priority #:</b>	<u>N/A – Round 18 nomination submittal</u>	<b>Phone:</b>	<u>702-494-2903</u>
<b>Prepared by:</b>	<u>BOR Technical Service Center and Manuel Hernandez</u>	<b>Date:</b>	<u>8/18/2020</u>
<b>1 Planning, Environmental Compliance &amp; Preconstruction Engineering and Design</b> <i>(Not to exceed 27% of total project costs)</i>		\$9,074,547	83.1%
Pre-design sketches and conceptual drawings; environmental assessment and permitting, specialist surveys/reports for archaeology, wildlife, biology, etc.; architectural and engineering analysis, design survey & field investigations; construction drawings, specifications, cost estimates, and engineering technical reports.			
<b>2 Construction Contract Costs</b>		\$0	0.0%
Including labor, supplies & materials, construction management, etc.; sampling/testing; site restoration; and government furnished supplies and materials.			
<b>3 Project Equipment</b>		\$0	0.0%

SNPLMA funds can only be used for "project related necessary expenses" and reimburse only those equipment costs directly associated with completion of the approved project.		
<b>4 Travel</b>	\$114,217	1.1%
Including per diem where official travel status is required to carry out the project, such as to serve as COR, experts to review reports, etc.		
<b>5 Official Vehicle Use</b>	\$5,000	0.1%
Pro rata costs for use of Official Vehicles when required to carry out the project.		
<b>6 Other Direct and Contracted Labor</b>	\$1,695,330	15.5%
Agency payroll for the Contracting Officer to do project procurements, COR Project Inspector, Section 106 Consultation, NEPA Lead, Project Manager, Project Supervisor, and subject experts to review contracted surveys, design/drawings, plans, reports, etc.; Also covered is the cost to contract for a Project Manager and/or Project Supervisor if contracted separately from other project costs.		
<b>7 FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act</b>	\$28,800	0.3%
<b>8 Direct Federal Labor</b>	\$0	0.00%
direct agency labor for construction, project inspection, CO and COR)		
<b>9 Other Necessary Expenses</b>	\$0	0.00%
See SNPLMA IA Part Two, Appendix B-3		
<b>Total Requested Estimated Budget</b>	<b>\$10,917,894</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Total Estimated In-kind Agency or Partner Contribution</b>	\$168,201	
<b>Total Estimated Project Value</b>	\$11,086,095	

### Performance Measures:

SNPLMA program's vision, mission, and goals is associated with connecting people to the outdoors and conserving public lands while ensuring the projects' fiscal sustainability. The proposed Special Study of Alternatives and Final Construction Documents project supports these goals and the anticipated performance measures.

- Outcome – Goal 3. Other Performance Measures that also Support the Three Values for SNPLMA Implementation of Sustainability, Connectivity, and Community
  - O4 - Number of Scientific / Technical Reports Produced
    - 1 Special Study of Alternatives
    - 1 Lifecycle Cost Analysis
    - 1 Value Engineering Study
    - 1 Geological Design Report
    - 1 set of 100% Final Construction Documents

### Executive Committee Strategic Plan Values:

Addressed in Ranking Criteria below.

### Compliance with Departmental Priorities, Strategic Goals, Executive Orders, and Secretarial Orders:

Addressed in Ranking Criteria below.

## Ranking Criteria:

### 1. SUSTAINABILITY & MODERNIZATION:

The project supports conservation, preservation, restoration, or modernization of natural, cultural, or historic resources (which includes infrastructure) to ensure availability of those resources for future generations. The project will remain relevant and continue to provide benefit to a recreation user over the anticipated life of the project.

Clearly explain what the anticipated design life of the project is and identify what and how the natural resources will be sustained.

- The project supports conservation, preservation, restoration, or modernization of natural, cultural, or historic resources (which includes infrastructure) to ensure availability of those resources for future generations. The project will remain relevant and continue to provide benefit to a recreation user over the anticipated life of the project.
- This project will produce a Special Study on alternatives of water and wastewater treatment options and a package of shovel ready construction documents for a modernized sustainable water/wastewater system with a life span of 25-50 years once constructed. The eventual system would allow for expansion to meet anticipated future restroom and potable water needs to provide benefit to a recreation user over the 25-50-year lifespan of the project once constructed.
- This project will include design for modernization of the Hoover Dam water/wastewater system infrastructure. Modernization will implement new and environmentally friendly technologies in water and wastewater systems and provide expandable capacity that would eliminate the need for vault toilets, vault toilet pumping and hazardous human waste cleanup, and on-site chemical use while ensuring that the new water/wastewater system is fully compliant with environmental and safety regulations.

### 2. CONNECTIVITY:

The project provides recreational opportunities that link population centers, recreation facilities, and the user to the outdoors and natural landscapes. It encourages people to meaningfully connect with their natural environment, thus helping them appreciate and care for the environment. The project will also connect the user to the history and/or cultural of the site and engages the user in appreciation of the site/area.

- The project provides recreational opportunities that link population centers, recreation facilities, and the user to the outdoors and natural landscapes. It encourages people to meaningfully connect with their natural environment, thus helping them appreciate and care for the environment. The project will also connect the user to the history and/or cultural of the site and engages the user in appreciation of the site/area.
- This project will improve access to previously developed recreation areas and sites on public lands by providing construction documents which outline a comprehensive plan to

improve recreation opportunities through appropriately located accessible public restrooms and drinking water in areas normally accessed by the public.

- The follow-on work for this project will provide new or additional recreational opportunities by connecting two or more existing facilities via a water system master plan that encompasses the currently dispersed Hoover Dam water and wastewater facilities.
- Plumbed restrooms would significantly reduce or eliminate potential biohazard exposure associated with pumping of vault toilets, and exposure to and cleanup of human excrement in heavily trafficked public areas around the site.
- Hoover Dam would phase out the sale of disposable plastic water bottles as the project is developed, and after the installation of reusable water bottle fillers. This would help our visitors to care for the environment and reduce our solid waste.
- The design will consider pipe alignments that minimize impacts to the viewshed, facility designs that are complimentary to the surrounding landscape and the dam and include interpretive information relative to the locations of the facilities.

#### **1. COMMUNITY:**

The project provides or improves outdoor recreation opportunities to improve the quality of life, especially for underserved communities. It conserves or restores the functionality, resiliency, and integrity of biological communities. The project encourages partnerships, which in turn builds community.

*(Encourages and engages the public in the conservation and protection of the surrounding natural environment through use of volunteer/stewardship resources)*

- The project provides or improves outdoor recreation opportunities to improve the quality of life, especially for underserved communities. It conserves or restores the functionality, resiliency, and integrity of biological communities. The project encourages partnerships, which in turn builds community.
- Hoover Dam is visited by about six million people a year, including approximately 9,000 students annually from the local community. Through Reclamation Diversity Programs, the Dam provides targeted educational opportunities to students. The facilities that will result from this project will be available to visiting students, improving their recreation experience.
- A goal will be to reduce or eliminate onsite chemical usage for potable water and wastewater treatment. One of the alternatives under consideration is to connect into the City of Boulder City municipal system and eliminate onsite treatment altogether. This alternative would result in a partnership with Boulder City, which in turn builds community. Any alternative selected will reduce the potential for accidental discharge of chemicals or untreated wastewater into the river, reducing risks to riverine biological communities.

- This project encourages partnerships because Reclamation will consult or work with the local Boulder City community and National Park Service at Lake Mead National Recreation Area in evaluating water and wastewater treatment alternatives. If tying into the City of Boulder City municipal water system is the selected alternative, significant coordination and partnership will be necessary including exploration of additional benefits that could be realized through development of this project.

#### **4. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE:**

The agency has clearly demonstrated that the anticipated operations and maintenance costs for the project and resources necessary to operate the project are within existing appropriations or demonstrated how they will secure the necessary operations and maintenance funds.

*(Agency has detailed the estimated annual O&M cost and estimated use or permit fees to be collected.)*

- The agency has clearly demonstrated that the anticipated operations and maintenance costs for the project and resources necessary to operate the project are within existing appropriations or demonstrated how they will secure the necessary operations and maintenance funds. This project will provide for shovel ready construction documents. Phases will be implemented in logical progression as Boulder Canyon Project funding and/or funding from other sources becomes available.
- Operations and maintenance of the new system will be performed by Reclamation staff and funded through the Boulder Canyon Project.

#### **5. LIFECYCLE REPLACEMENT/RECONSTRUCTION AND DEFERRED MAINTENANCE:**

Any existing project or facility that has met or exceeded its useful life, design life, or life cycle that requires major restoration or reconstruction to restore the historic fabric of the facility or meet standard new Federal accessibility guidelines.

*(Does not include reconstruction, changes, or new amenities for previously approved SNPLMA capital improvement projects. Excludes projects that were identified as phased construction, each phase must be fully operational and serve the intended purpose upon completion.)*

- Any existing project or facility that has met or exceeded its useful life, design life, or life cycle that requires major restoration or reconstruction to restore the historic fabric of the facility or meet standard new Federal accessibility guidelines.
- The project has exceeded its useful design life and does not meet current federal accessibility standards. Hoover Dam hosts approximately 6 million visitors a year, and through that continuous usage over the last 25 years, it has become evident that there are not enough restrooms or potable water sources. This project would determine where

those new facilities would be located to increase the enjoyment and experience for visitors.

- The facility has exceeded its design life, or does not meet current federal accessibility standards, or deferred maintenance costs exceed the cost of replacement or reconstruction. Additional restrooms and potable water sources will extend Hoover Dam's life cycle as a world-class tourist destination. We will be using whenever possible, sustainable principles and materials, and will make the dam more accessible and usable to the public.

## **6. ADVANCES THE AGENCY/ENTITY PRIORITIES/GOALS**

The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination/project meets the priorities and strategic goals for their respective agency.

The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination/project meets the priorities and strategic goals for their respective agency.

### **A. Meets one or more of the Department of the Interior Priorities:**

- a. *Create a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt.* A goal will be to reduce or eliminate onsite chemical usage for potable water and wastewater treatment. Any alternative selected will reduce the potential for accidental discharge of chemicals or untreated wastewater into the river, reducing risks to riverine biological communities.
- b. *Modernize our infrastructure.* The shovel ready construction documents will include design for modernization of the water/wastewater system. Modernization will implement new and environmentally friendly technologies in water and wastewater systems and provide expandable capacity.
- c. *Increase revenues to support the Department and national interests.* This project develops materials to address an important and large-scale facility need. It provides a required foundation for follow-on work that will support revenue recovery from visitors utilizing the Hoover Dam Visitor Center (through collection of tour and exhibit viewing fees) and visitors using commercial tour services (through collection of commercial use fees). These revenues will offset operations and maintenance costs of the projected facilities.

### **B. Meets one or more of the U.S. Forest Service priorities:** This is not applicable

## **7. CONSISTENCY WITH SECRETARIAL ORDERS AND DIRECTIVE**

The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination / project meets the Secretarial Orders (SO) and Directive.

- *EO No. 13855 Promoting Active Management of America's Forests, Range Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk.*
  - This is not applicable

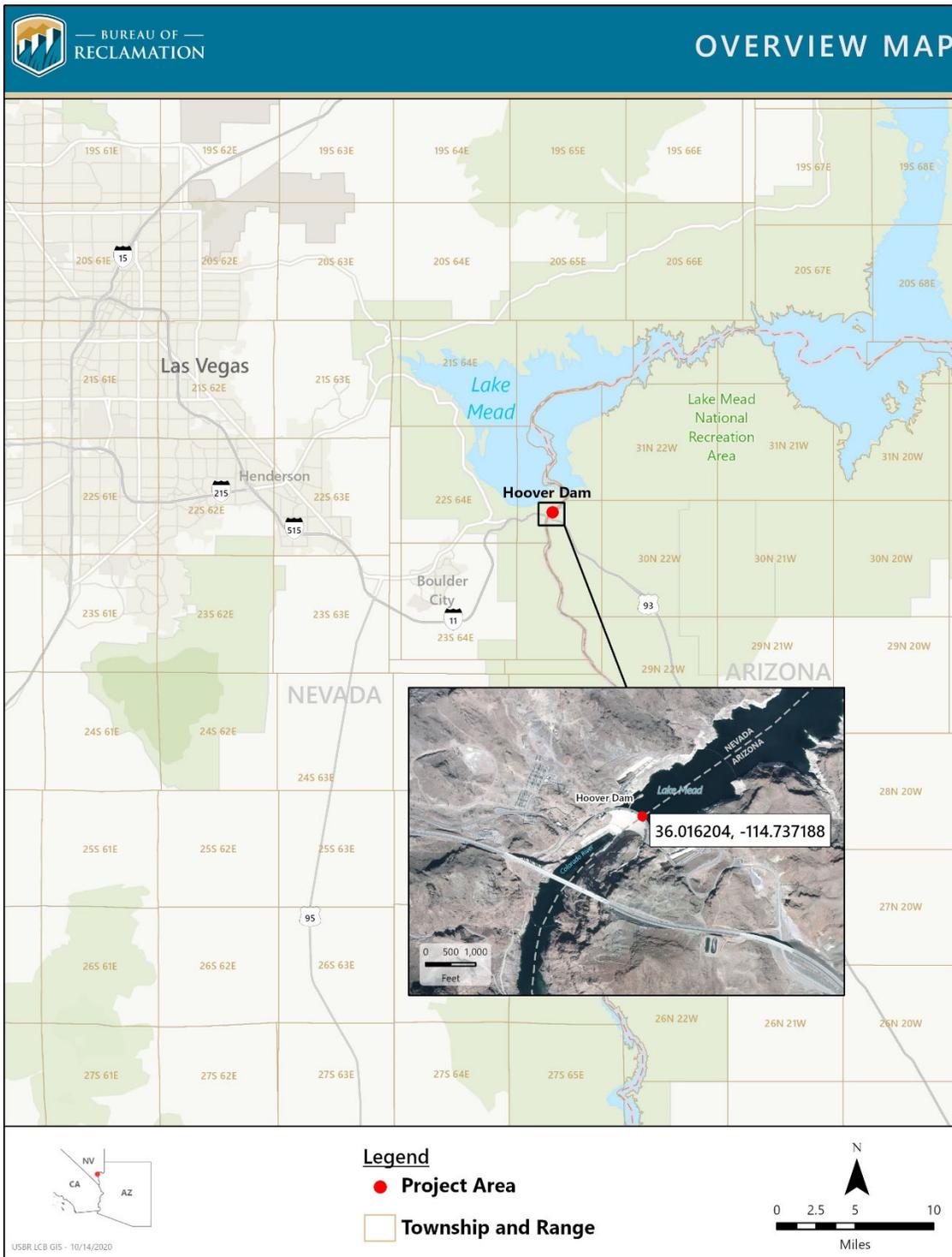
- ***SO No. 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation.***
  - Shovel ready construction documents will allow for future construction of plumbed, accessible outdoor restroom facilities near hiking trails and nature observation areas. The follow-on work resulting in accessible public restrooms and drinking water at the regularly accessed public areas of the Hoover Dam site will increase visitor satisfaction, reduce or eliminate the use of disposable plastic water bottles, and allows for a more comfortable outdoor experience.
- ***SO No. 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes and Territories.***
  - This is not applicable
- ***SO No. 3362: Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors.***
  - This is not applicable
- ***SO No. 3366: Increasing Recreational Opportunities on Lands and Waters Managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior.***
  - This is not applicable
- ***SO No. 3370: Improving Conservation Stewardship of and Increasing Public Access to Urban National Wildlife Refuges.***
  - This is not applicable
- ***SO No. 3372: Reducing Wildfire Risks on Department of the Interior Land Through Active Management.***
  - This is not applicable
- ***SO No. 3373: Evaluating Public Access in Bureau of Land Management Public Land Disposals and Exchanges.***
  - This is not applicable
- ***SO No. 3374: Implementation of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act.***
  - This is not applicable
- ***SO No. 3376 Increasing Recreational Opportunities through the use of Electric Bikes.***
  - This is not applicable

### **Maps and Location of the Project:**

Location of the Project: Hoover Dam is located adjacent to the borders of Arizona in Mohave County and Nevada in Clark County within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, 35 miles southeast of Las Vegas, Nevada. The closest residential area is Boulder City, Nevada.

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### Map 1. Hoover Dam Overview Map



USBR LCB GIS - 10/14/2020

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### Map 2. Project Site Overview



**Photos:**

Photo 1. Historic Tunnel before wastewater tank was installed



Photo 2. Wastewater tank currently in place in the historic tunnel



Photo 3. Porta-potties at Overlook



Photo 4. Vault toilets at Memorial Bridge Plaza



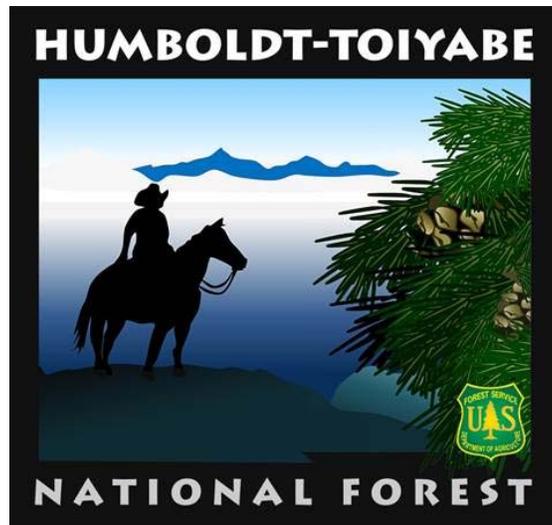
Photo 6. Evaporation Ponds at Wastewater Treatment Facility



Photo 6. Evaporation Ponds at Wastewater Treatment Facility

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act  
Capital Improvements  
Round 18

USDA Forest Service



**Improvements for Upper Kyle Canyon Trails System  
and Parking**

Amount Requested: \$4,712,863

Time Frame: 5 Years

Location: 36.26571°, -115.65866°

Congressional District Number: NV-4

Federal Manager: Deborah MacNeill, Area Manager

Contact: SMNRA Recreation Officer

P: (702) 515-5448

**Purpose Statement:**

The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Spring Mountains National Recreation Area (SMNRA) will implement the improvements for the Upper Kyle Canyon Trail System by reconstructing the Mary Jane Falls Trail and parking complex to include surveying authorized and unauthorized trails to determine areas of the Mary Jane Falls trail to reconstruct, re-route, or restore. Mary Jane Falls trail is the busiest and most degraded trail in the system. This project will improve recreational access to the heaviest use area in the SMNRA and give visitors a more sustainable user outdoor experience.

**Background info and need for the project:**

The Spring Mountains are one of the primary outdoor recreation destinations for the Las Vegas metropolitan area due to their accessibility and cooler temperatures in the summer, and snow play recreation opportunities in the winter. The Spring Mountains is also considered the place of creation for the Nuwuvi (a group of Seven Southern Paiute Tribes) and the center of their ancestral territory. Since the area's original design in the 1920-30's, the Las Vegas metropolitan area has grown from under 9,000 to 2.6 million people, with 42.5 million visitors annually. The SMNRA is Southern Nevada's place to escape the heat in the summer and recreate in the winter. The Upper Kyle Canyon complex contains one of the most highly used trails on the SMNRA. Mary Jane Falls, the highlight of the trail, was named after Mary Jane Griffith, daughter of E.W. Griffith who helped establish the Mt. Charleston community in the early 1900's. The trail was likely constructed by Civilian Conservation Corp crews based in Kyle Canyon in the early 1930's. A historic logging road, and campground constructed by the Forest Service are mostly gone now, due to winter snow and rain events. Visitors began using the current parking areas as a trailhead when the logging road was closed.

Currently authorized and unauthorized social trails spiderweb into the forest from the parking complex. These trails are related to sheer visitor numbers, and growing user groups utilizing specific locations not previously managed for, such as technical rock climbers. Trail crews completed some moderate maintenance work in 2011, and there has been some maintenance performed by Spring Mountain Youth Camp in subsequent years on the Upper Kyle Canyon trails, including Mary Jane Falls trail. More substantial reinforcements, rebuilding, possible rerouting, and visitor education and signage are needed to maintain the quality of the Mary Jane Falls trail and natural resources surrounding it. The Upper Kyle Canyon parking infrastructure is generally closed in the winter due to safety concerns. The Upper Kyle Canyon complex was redesigned with SNPLMA funds, but unfortunately do not meet current and future requirements. Improvements to the parking areas need to be assessed and modernized to improve operations, enhance visitor experience, and address safety issues for year-round recreation. This project will improve the complex by helping the Forest Service to analyze what the trail system needs to become to better serve the public, and by bringing Mary Jane Falls Trail to appropriate standards that can sustainably withstand high visitor use.

The Upper Kyle Canyon Complex is approximately 25 miles northwest of Las Vegas, within the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, SMNRA. This area is easily accessed by State Route 157.

### Relationship to previous phases and anticipated future phases:

- Upper Kyle Canyon Day Use Complex (SNPLMA Round 3 project FS14): Parking lot infrastructure and development was initiated to establish a more sustainable recreation site, with phases extending until 2012. The parking lot unfortunately does not meet current and future requirements.
- Cathedral Rock Picnic Area Renovation Projects (5-21 FS26; 6-4 FS28)

### Deliverables:

#### Primary Deliverables:

1. Increase educational outreach and trail stewardship, through a minimum of 60 days of visitor monitoring and interaction.
2. Complete environmental analysis for improvements to the Upper Kyle Canyon Parking Complex and Trail System.
3. Implement improvements to the Upper Kyle Canyon Parking infrastructure pending environmental analysis findings.
4. Survey and map existing authorized and unauthorized trails within the Upper Kyle Canyon Trail System.
5. Implement reconstruction or rerouting of Mary Jane Falls Trail.

#### Anticipated Deliverables:

1. Identify need for new trails in the Upper Kyle Canyon Trail system.

#### Standard Deliverables:

- Complete required site inventories, site assessment, and cultural assessment
- Complete site surveys and contract preparation activities
- Complete the planning and environmental planning process including:
  - Public Scoping
  - NEPA analysis and decision.
  - Coordination with U.S. Fish and Wildlife
  - SHPO consultation, coordination, etc.
  - Tribal Consultation
- Coordination with the SNPLMA Program Manager
  - SMART quarterly status updates
  - SMART quarterly expenditures/obligations updates
  - SMART annual reporting and updates on final accomplishment and performance measures
  - Preparation of the close out package is a required standard deliverable

### Project Timeframe:

The project will occur over a 5-year (60-month) period with anticipated benchmarks:

#### Year 1

- Hiring of term position to be project lead.
- Public scoping for improvements to the Upper Kyle Canyon parking infrastructure.

- Execute agreements with non-profit partners to begin Upper Kyle Canyon Trail system survey work.
- Hire education and outreach trail steward position.
- Complete required inventories, site assessment, and cultural assessment for Upper Kyle Canyon parking infrastructure and trail system.
- Coordinate with County, Tribal Governments, community, and other interested groups

### **Year 2**

- Prepare news releases notifying the public about plans for the improvement.
- Coordination meetings with the County, Tribal Governments, the community, and other interested groups throughout the project, as required.
- Complete analysis on parking infrastructure improvements and Mary Jane Falls Trail reconstruction/reroute and Upper Kyle Canyon trail system.
- Complete engineering design for the Upper Kyle Canyon parking infrastructure, along with trail reconstruction/rerouting.
- Preparation of contract(s) and/or acquisition packages.
- Notify the public about future construction activities in the Upper Kyle Canyon Complex.
- Begin process for amending management plan, if applicable.

### **Year 3**

- Solicitation and award of contracts/acquisitions.
- Temporary closure of the Upper Kyle Canyon Complex during improvement implementation.
- Upgrade Upper Kyle Canyon parking infrastructure to FLREA standards.
- Begin restoration to reduce unauthorized use of unauthorized trails.

### **Year 4**

- Complete reconstruction and reroute improvements to Mary Jane Falls Trail.
- Complete Upper Kyle Canyon parking infrastructure improvements, update infrastructure management and maintenance plans.
- Complete restoration of unauthorized trails.

### **Year 5**

- Update the Forest website with details, maps, photos and descriptions of the improved recreation opportunities.
- Complete process of amending management plan, if applicable.
- Final accomplishments report completed and the public, news releases prepared.
- Prepare close-out, final accomplishments, and return unexpended transferred funds.

### **Level of Project Readiness for Implementation:**

The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest plans to contract and utilize in-house services for the proposed improvements. Management of the project will be done by our recreation and engineering staff and/or term position included in this proposal. The Regional FS Enterprise team will also be utilized as needed. Education and outreach components may be completed through collaboration with established partners such as Southern Nevada Conservancy or Great Basin Institute, both of whom have provided these components for the SMNRA previously.

The project includes:

- GPS, map, analyze and plan for the Upper Kyle Canyon Trail System, including authorized and unauthorized trails for restoration and trails system additions.
- Complete required surveys and NEPA documentation.
- Reconstruction of the Mary Jane Falls Trail and installation of educational and outreach components
- Improve and modernize Upper Kyle Canyon Parking infrastructure, and construction of contact station
- Utilizing education and outreach position(s) to mitigate trail use patterns during reconstruction phase and better educate public on sustainable trails use.

#### **Future Operations and Maintenance:**

The anticipated lifecycle of the parking infrastructure with proper maintenance is 30 years. The intent of the trail design will be a sustainable corridor that can last indefinitely with basic maintenance, barring unforeseen natural events. The Mary Jane Falls Trail portion will result in no change in the annual operations and maintenance costs; however, it will result in a significant decrease in the deferred maintenance costs for this trail system. Without this project we will almost surely have more trail and resource degradation, coinciding with growing visitor dissatisfaction. The following table reflects a comparison of the minimum annual operations and maintenance cost for this trail before and after reconstruction. Most operations and maintenance for this trail system are completed using volunteers and through partnerships with organizations like the Southern Nevada Conservancy, Spring Mountains Youth Camp, Friends of Nevada Wilderness, and Back Country Horsemen. These costs do not reflect the deferred maintenance costs that will be reduced significantly upon completion of this project.

The Upper Kyle Complex Trail system improvements would:

<b>Trail Work</b>	<b>Estimated Forest Service Annual Costs</b>	<b>EST Annual Volunteer/Partnership Contributions</b>
<b>Current Conditions</b>	<b>\$14,424</b> (12 days @ \$1,202/day)	<b>\$24,412.80</b> (120 days @ 25.43/hour)
<b>After Upgrades</b>	<b>\$14,424</b> (12 days @ \$1,202/day)	<b>\$24,412.80</b> (120 days @ 25.43/hour)

Costs involve 1-day GS-9 Trails Recreation Technician (\$308), 4-day, 5-person trail crew (\$4,500 per hitch, including vehicle).

Operations and maintenance costs to maintain the Upper Kyle Canyon parking infrastructure will involve volunteer and partnership support. The largest cost variance would be whether the FS is

plowing these lots for winter recreational use. Parking area operations and maintenance costs are estimated as:

- Snow Plowing Lots – \$15,000 per year
- Crack sealing - \$3,000 per year (needed every 2-3 years)
- Seal Coat - \$4,000 per year (needed every 5 years – \$20,000 total)
- Drainage cleanout and repair - \$2,000 per year.
- Contact Station maintenance – \$2,000 per year.
- Total \$26,000 with plowing, \$11,000 without plowing in annual maintenance.
- Drainage cleanout and repair - \$2,000 per year.
- Contact Station maintenance – \$2,000 per year.
- Total \$26,000 with plowing, \$11,000 without plowing in annual maintenance.

Long term trail maintenance on the trail system will be accomplished by the collaboration of the Forest Service and our long-established volunteer partners and collaborators, ensuring a quality recreational experience for future generation.

#### **Contributed funds directly applicable to completion of the project:**

Anticipated partners may include Southern Nevada Conservancy, Great Basin Institute, Back Country Horseman, Spring Mountains Youth Camp, and Friends of Nevada Wilderness. Although volunteer groups and partners are anticipated, no matching funds have been established. The Upper Kyle Canyon Trail system could easily support 100 volunteer days of time between maintenance, trail hosts, and education and interpretation outreach conducted by volunteers per year.

#### **Funding Requested Budget Detail:**

The U.S. Forest Service requests \$4,712,863 of SNPLMA appropriation to complete the proposed project. Below is the

Remainder of page intentionally left blank.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROPOSAL  
ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS & KEY MILESTONE DATES**

<b>Project Name:</b>	Improvements for Upper Kyle Canyon Trails System and Parking	<b>Agency:</b>	US Forest Service
<b>Project &amp; Priority #:</b>	N/A nomination submittal	<b>Phone:</b>	702-515-5448
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Spring Mountains National Recreation Area	<b>Date:</b>	8/5/2020
<b>Planning, Environmental Compliance &amp; Preconstruction Engineering and Design</b>			
		\$810,300	17.19%
(Pre-design sketches and conceptual drawings; environmental assessment and permitting, specialist surveys/reports for archaeology, wildlife, biology, etc.; architectural and engineering analysis, design survey & field investigations; construction drawings, specifications, cost estimates, and engineering technical reports.)			
<b>Construction Contract Costs</b>			
		\$2,946,060	62.51%
(Including labor, supplies & materials, construction management, etc.; sampling/testing; site restoration; and government furnished supplies and materials.)			
<b>Project Equipment</b>			
		\$105,000	2.23%
(Pg. 89 of the Implementation Agreement - SNPLMA funds can only be used for "project related necessary expenses" and SNPLMA can reimburse only for those equipment costs directly associated with completion of the approved project.)			
<b>Travel</b>			
		\$36,000	0.76%
(Including per diem where official travel status is required to carry out the project, such as to serve as COR, experts to review reports, etc.)			
<b>Official Vehicle Use</b>			
		\$73,000	1.55%
(Pro rata costs for use of Official Vehicles when required to carry out the project.)			
<b>Other Direct and Contracted Labor</b>			
		\$547,200	11.61%
Agency payroll for the Contracting Officer to do project procurements, COR Project Inspector, Section 106 Consultation, NEPA Lead, Project Manager, Project Supervisor, and subject experts to review contracted surveys, design/drawings, plans, reports, etc.; Also covered is the cost to contract for a Project Manager and/or Project Supervisor if contracted separately from other project costs.			
<b>FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act</b>			
		\$2,730	0.06%
<b>Direct Federal Labor</b>			
		\$60,200	1.28%
(direct agency labor for construction, project inspection, CO and COR)			
<b>Other Necessary Expenses</b>			
		\$132,373	2.81%
(See SNPLMA IA Part Two, Appendix B-3)			
<b>Total Requested/Estimated Budget</b>		<b>\$4,712,863</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Total Estimated In-kind Agency or Partner Contribution</b>			
<b>Total Estimated Project Value</b>		\$4,727,263	

## Performance Measures:

The SNPLMA program's vision, mission, and goals are associated with connecting people to the outdoors and conserving public lands while ensuring the projects' fiscal sustainability. The proposed Improvements for Upper Kyle Canyon Complex supports these goals and the anticipated performance measures.

**Outcome** – Complete the surveys and planning for the Improvements for Upper Kyle Canyon Complex. Achieving the following outputs will accomplish this outcome:

- Complete environmental analysis for improvements to the Upper Kyle Canyon parking infrastructure and Upper Kyle Canyon Trail system, including Mary Jane Falls Trail.
- Survey and map existing authorized and unauthorized trails within the Upper Kyle Canyon Trail system.
- Identify the potential need for new trails and incorporating unauthorized trails in the Upper Kyle Canyon Trail system.

### The SNPLMA Performance Measures Include:

- C3 – Acres of Cultural/Paleontological Resources Surveyed, Inventoried or Monitored: Between 0-10
- H5 – Acres of Upland Habitat Surveyed, Inventoried, or Monitored: Between 0-10
- H10 – Acres of Invasive Plant Species Surveyed, Inventoried, or Monitored: Between 0-10
- O9 – Number of GIS Databases generated and/or Map Layers Produced: Between 0-3
- H17 – Miles of Roads or Trails Surveyed, Inventoried, or Monitored: Between 10-40

**Outcome** – Improve recreational opportunities and access to those opportunities for both residents and visitors to Clark County. Achieving the following outputs will accomplish this outcome:

- Implementation of improvements to the Upper Kyle Canyon parking infrastructure pending environmental analysis findings.
- Implementation of reconstruction or rerouting of Mary Jane Falls Trail.
- Increase educational outreach and trail stewardship.
- Develop sustainable infrastructure and trail sustainability.
- Improve visitor satisfaction and recreation opportunities.
- Acquire better visitor use information on trails and recreational facilities.

### The SNPLMA Performance Measures Include:

- H16 – Miles of Roads or Trails Decommissioned and/or Rehabilitated: Between 0-10
- R3 – Number of New Recreation Facilities/Structures Constructed or Improved: Between 0-8
- R4 – Miles of New Recreation Roads/Trails Constructed or Routes improved: Between 0-8

- O2 – Number of Buildings, Facilities and/or Amenities Constructed or Refurbished : Between 4-10
- O6 – Number of New Interpretative or Education Publications/Signs/Kiosk/Displays/etc. Produced: Between 4-20
- O10 – Number of Volunteers Used : Between 20-200
- O5 – Number of Outreach Contacts Made: Between 600-9,000

#### **Executive Committee Strategic Plan Values:**

This may be addressed in the Ranking Criteria.

#### **Compliance with Departmental/Agency Priorities and Strategic Goals:**

See Ranking Criteria for responses.

#### **Consistency with Executive Orders (EO) and Secretarial orders (SO):**

See Ranking Criteria for responses.

#### **Ranking Criteria:**

##### **1. SUSTAINABILITY & MODERNIZATION:**

The project supports conservation, preservation, restoration, or modernization of natural, cultural, or historic resources (which includes infrastructure) to ensure availability of those resources for future generations. The project will remain relevant and continue to provide benefit to a recreation user over the anticipated life of the project.

Clearly explain what the anticipated design life of the project is and identify what and how the natural resources will be sustained.

Within the Spring Mountains is a place considered the creation place for the Nuwuvi (a group of Seven Southern Paiute Tribes) and the center of their ancestral territory. Furthermore, since the early 1900's Las Vegas residents have used the Spring Mountains to escape the summer heat and enjoy snow activities. Improvements to the Upper Kyle Canyon Complex, including parking infrastructure, trails surveys, and rebuilding the Mary Jane Falls Trail will help to provide a sustainable and modern system that can withstand the impacts and needs of a growing number of recreationists and improve visitor experience.

Improved visitor parking and a new contact station along with public outreach will help to create a more inclusive and educated public that can interact sustainably with the Forest, especially in a high use area. A trails inventory will help to shape and plan for a sustainable future for both visitor management and resource use. Trail and education stewardship will not only improve the recreational experience of visitors, but also help to mitigate shifting recreation needs during reconstruction and repairs of Mary Jane Falls Trail.

**2. CONNECTIVITY:**

The project provides recreational opportunities that link population centers, recreation facilities, and the user to the outdoors and natural landscapes. It encourages people to meaningfully connect with their natural environment, thus helping them appreciate and care for the environment. The project will also connect the user to the history and/or cultural of the site and engages the user in appreciation of the site/area.

This project would modernize access at a heavily used area on the SMNRA to meet user demand and improve visitor experience. With the possibility of a sustained growth in interest in outdoor activity relating to COVID-19, this project would create a long term resource to foster a deep connection and educational opportunities with both local and non-local visitors and the unique ecological island that the Spring Mountains represent.

Mary Jane Falls Trail is likely a first outdoor experience for many coming from an urban environment. The safer and more sustainable these trails are, the greater the positive experience we can foster for our forest visitors

**3. COMMUNITY:**

The project provides or improves outdoor recreation opportunities to improve the quality of life, especially for underserved communities. It conserves or restores the functionality, resiliency, and integrity of biological communities. The project encourages partnerships, which in turn builds community.

*(Encourages and engages the public in the conservation and protection of the surrounding natural environment through use of volunteer/stewardship resources)*

By providing sustainable trails, better infrastructure and increasing educational outreach and trail stewardship this project can engage a host of SMNRA visitors, including the large underserved and low-income populations that live in the Las Vegas metropolitan area. Since this area and specifically Mary Jane Falls trail is often recommended to new hikers and experienced hikers alike, it is the perfect place to engage forest visitors in with accurate and pertinent educational information to help foster more sustainable behavior and knowledge of outdoor recreation. This project will also balance the protection of the Spring Mountains, a highly biodiverse sky island ecosystem, while maintaining recreational access.

**4. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE:**

The agency has clearly demonstrated that the anticipated operations and maintenance costs for the project and resources necessary to operate the project are within existing appropriations or demonstrated how they will secure the necessary operations and maintenance funds.

*(Agency has detailed the estimated annual O&M cost and estimated use or permit fees to be collected.)*

Project partners currently assist with many operations on the SMNRA including over 30 miles of trail maintenance and repair, visitor center operations, campground hosts, and other operations and activities. Possible project partners may include backcountry horseman, Friends of Nevada Wilderness, Great Basin Institute, Southern Nevada Conservancy, and the Clark

County Spring Mountains Youth Camp one of the longest running agreements in the Forest Service at 50 years. We are currently outreaching to more potential partners in the community that may result in improved stewardship and additional volunteers. If the trail is rebuilt to sustainable standards, a significant reduction in operations and maintenance costs will be achieved by allowing the area to be maintained by volunteers, partners, and SMNRA staff as part of their regular duties. Parking lot improvements and the potential installation of a contact station will reduce law enforcement time dealing with parking and traffic-related issues.

The parking lot and infrastructure costs would increase between an estimated \$11,000 and \$26,000 based on whether plowing equipment was used in the winter. These costs may be offset through special use permits, grants, partnerships, or other long-term sustainability plans for the SMNRA.

**5. LIFECYCLE REPLACEMENT/RECONSTRUCTION AND DEFERRED MAINTENANCE:**

Any existing project or facility that has met or exceeded its useful life, design life, or life cycle that requires major restoration or reconstruction to restore the historic fabric of the facility or meet standard new Federal accessibility guidelines.

*(Does not include reconstruction, changes, or new amenities for previously approved SNPLMA capital improvement projects. Excludes projects that were identified as phased construction, each phase must be fully operational and serve the intended purpose upon completion.)*

The redesign of the Upper Kyle Trail complex exceeds the original planned use. Improvements to the parking complex need to be made to better facilitate the existing high use and improve the outdoor experience for the community and visitors alike. In addition to the parking complex improvements, the usage of the Mary Jane Falls Trail far exceeds the design life. Continued maintenance from project partners temporarily alleviates the direst issues, but a full redesign/reconstruction is needed to support the sustained high use. A trail use life of 40+ years and parking complex lifecycle of 30 year is expected.

**6. ADVANCES THE AGENCY/ENTITY PRIORITIES/GOALS**

The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination/project meets the priorities and strategic goals for their respective agency.

The proposed project meets the following:

**1. Department of the Interior Priorities:**

- a) Create a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt.
  - o The long-term effects of the sustainable design, coupled with the efforts of the education and outreach position, will help conserve natural resources in the area.
- b) Sustainably develop our energy and natural resources.
  - o This project will rebuild Mary Jane Falls trail and improve parking infrastructure. The project utilizes natural resources and incorporates recreational developments by improving the existing trail system and

enhancing the recreational experience for locals and visiting public; which will improve and increase opportunities for Clark County, a trails assessment and inventory will also provide a baseline for possibly expanding the trail system.

- c) Restore trust and be a good neighbor.
  - The Spring Mountains National Recreation Area has been working closely with non-profit organizations to improve access and the recreational experience in the high-density use area.
- d) Ensure the tribal sovereignty means something.
  - The Spring Mountains National Recreation has worked closely with the representatives of the Nuwuvi Working Group on previous SNPLMA projects. Thru this work there is a catalog of information available about cultural significance and interpretation. We will continue this work to incorporate this information and guidance into this project. Along with continuing to meet with the Nuwuvi Working Group.
- e) Increase revenues to support the Department and national interests.
  - Not Applicable
- f) Protect our people and the border.
  - Not Applicable
- g) Strike a regulatory balance.
  - Not Applicable
- h) Modernize our infrastructure.
  - This project will upgrade and modernize the Mary Jane Falls trail, as well as, Upper Kyle Canyon parking infrastructure by increasing and improving trails, access, improving parking infrastructure and public outreach.
- i) Reorganize the Department for the next 100 years.
  - Not Applicable
- j) Achieve our goals and lead our team forward.
  - Not Applicable

## **2. U.S. Forest Service Priorities:**

- a) Uplifting and empowering our employees through a respectful, safe working environment.
  - Improvement of the parking infrastructure and trails will improve the safety of the area for Forest Service employees and visitors alike.
- b) Being good neighbors and providing excellent customer service.
  - The Spring Mountains National Recreation Area has been working closely with non-profit organizations to improve access and the recreational experience in the high-density use area.
  - This project will significantly improve recreational opportunities and customer service for the public near the Las Vegas Metropolitan area by increasing and improving trails, access, infrastructure and public outreach.
- c) Promoting shared stewardship by increasing partnerships and volunteerism.
  - The Spring Mountains National Recreation Area has been working closely with non-profit organizations to improve access and the recreational

- experience in the high-density use area.
- d) Improving the condition of forests and grasslands.
    - This project will reconstruct and upgrade the Mary Jane Falls Trail, parking infrastructure and assess unauthorized trails in the area, while protecting and reducing impacts to resources on National Forests.
  - e) Enhancing recreation opportunities, improving access, and sustain infrastructure.
    - This project will significantly increase recreational opportunities immediately adjacent to the Las Vegas metropolitan area.
    - This project will improve access both on the trail system as well as the associated parking infrastructure.
    - This project will upgrade and improve the trail, parking and trailhead infrastructure.

#### **7. CONSISTENCY WITH SECRETARIAL ORDERS AND DIRECTIVE**

The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination / project meets the Secretarial Orders (SO) and Directive.

#### **EO No. 13855 Promoting Active Management of America’s Forests, Range Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk**

-- Not Applicable

#### **SO No. 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation**

Yes. This project will significantly increase recreational opportunities within Clark County and the Las Vegas metropolitan area by increasing and improving trails, access, infrastructure, and public outreach. This project will increase tourism opportunities for the local communities and provides recreational opportunities for both residents and visitors to the area.

#### **SO No. 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes and Territories**

Yes. This project will significantly increase recreational opportunities within Clark County and the Las Vegas metropolitan area. This project will increase tourism opportunities for the local communities and provides recreational opportunities for both residents and visitors to the area. Proper recreation management will reduce impacts to wildlife from dispersed recreation. The Spring Mountains National Recreation Area has been working closely with non-profit organizations to improve access and the recreational experience in the high-density use area.

#### **SO No. 3362: Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors -- Not Applicable**

#### **SO No. 3366: Increasing Recreational Opportunities on Lands and Waters Managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior**

Yes. This project will significantly increase recreational and improving trails, access, infrastructure and public outreach. This project will increase tourism opportunities for the local communities and provides recreational opportunities for both local residents and visitors to the area. The Spring Mountains National Recreation Area has been working closely with non-profit

organizations to improve access and the recreational experience in the high-density use area.

**SO No. 3370: Conservation Stewardship and Increasing Public Access to Urban National Wildlife Refuges -- Not Applicable**

**SO No. 3372: Reducing Wildfire Risks on Department of the Interior Land Through Active Management -- Not Applicable**

**SO No. 3373 Evaluating Public Access in Bureau of Land Management Public Land Disposals and Exchanges -- Not Applicable**

**SO No. 3374 Implementation of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act -- Not Applicable**

**SO No. 3376 Increasing Recreational Opportunities through the use of Electric Bikes -- Not Applicable**

**Other Secretarial Order(s) and Directive(s): Describe any other Secretarial Order(s) and Directive(s) that apply to the nomination and are not listed above.**

--None

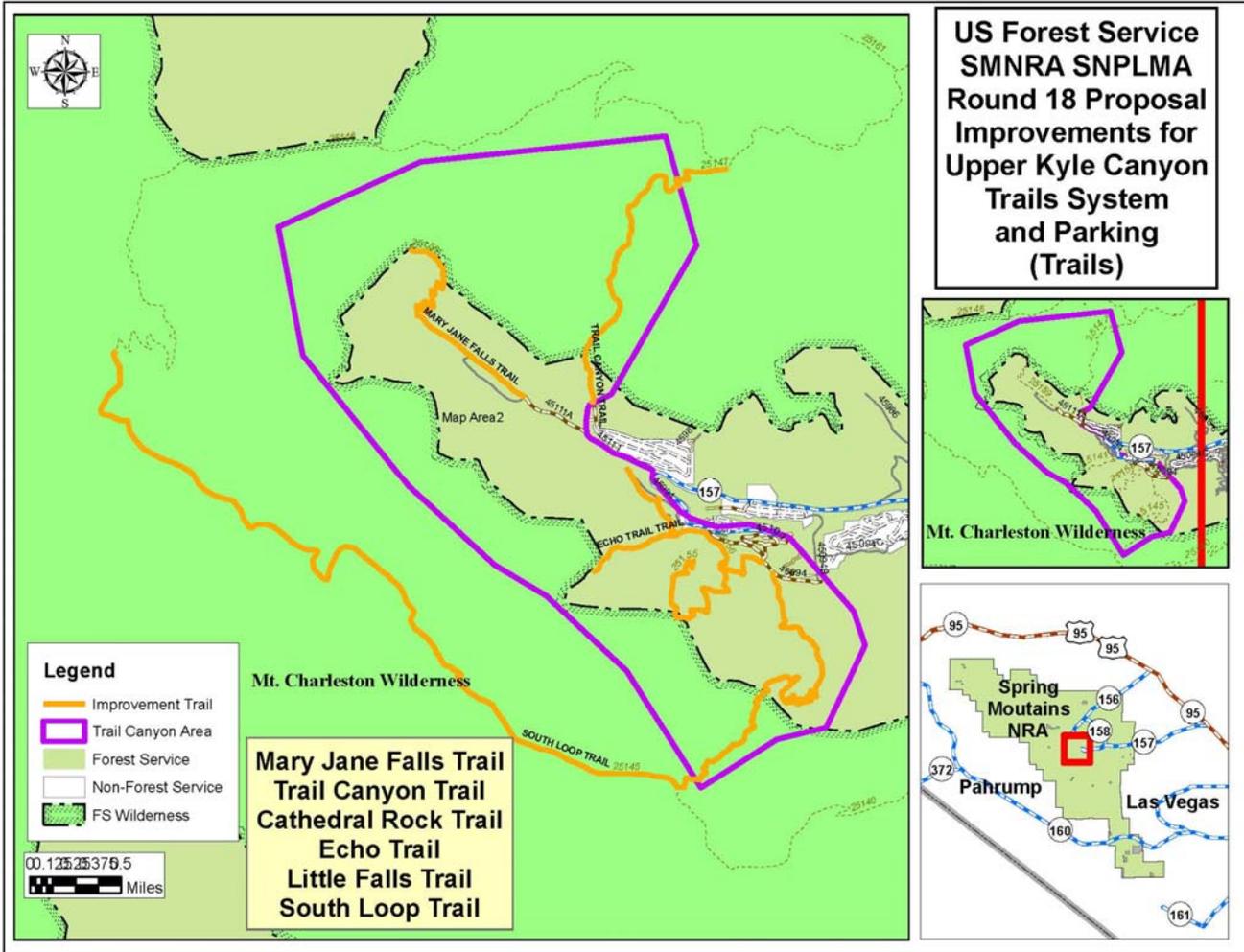
#### **Maps:**

The Upper Kyle Canyon Complex is approximately 25 miles NW of Las Vegas, within the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. This area is easily accessed via Nevada State Highway 157. The Upper Kyle Canyon parking infrastructure is located at 36.26571°, -115.65866°.

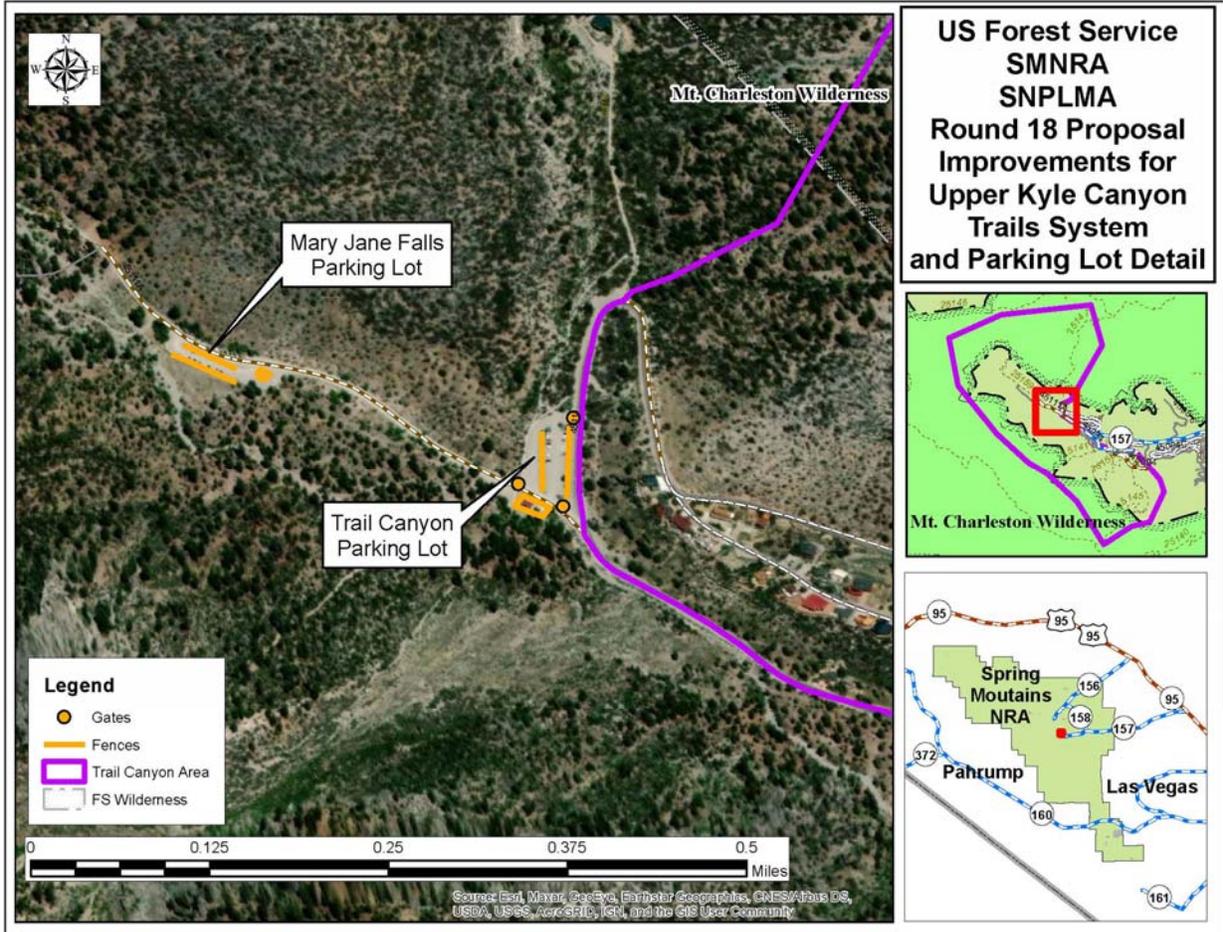
Maps provided below.

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**Figure 1.** Overview of project area. Yellow outlines currently designated trails in the area; purple outlines the general project boundary, which includes trail survey areas and parking lots. The parking complex is located at 36.26571°, -115.65866°.



**Figure 2.** Upper Kyle Canyon Parking Infrastructure. The right upper map shows the large map location within the project boundary. The general project boundary is denoted by the purple line. Parking extends between lots on busy days blocking traffic. Upper Kyle Canyon Parking Infrastructure is located at 36.26571°, -115.65866°.



**Figure 3.** Climbers at a cliff accessed via unauthorized trails.



**Figure 4.** Trail erosion at Mary Jane Falls (2016).



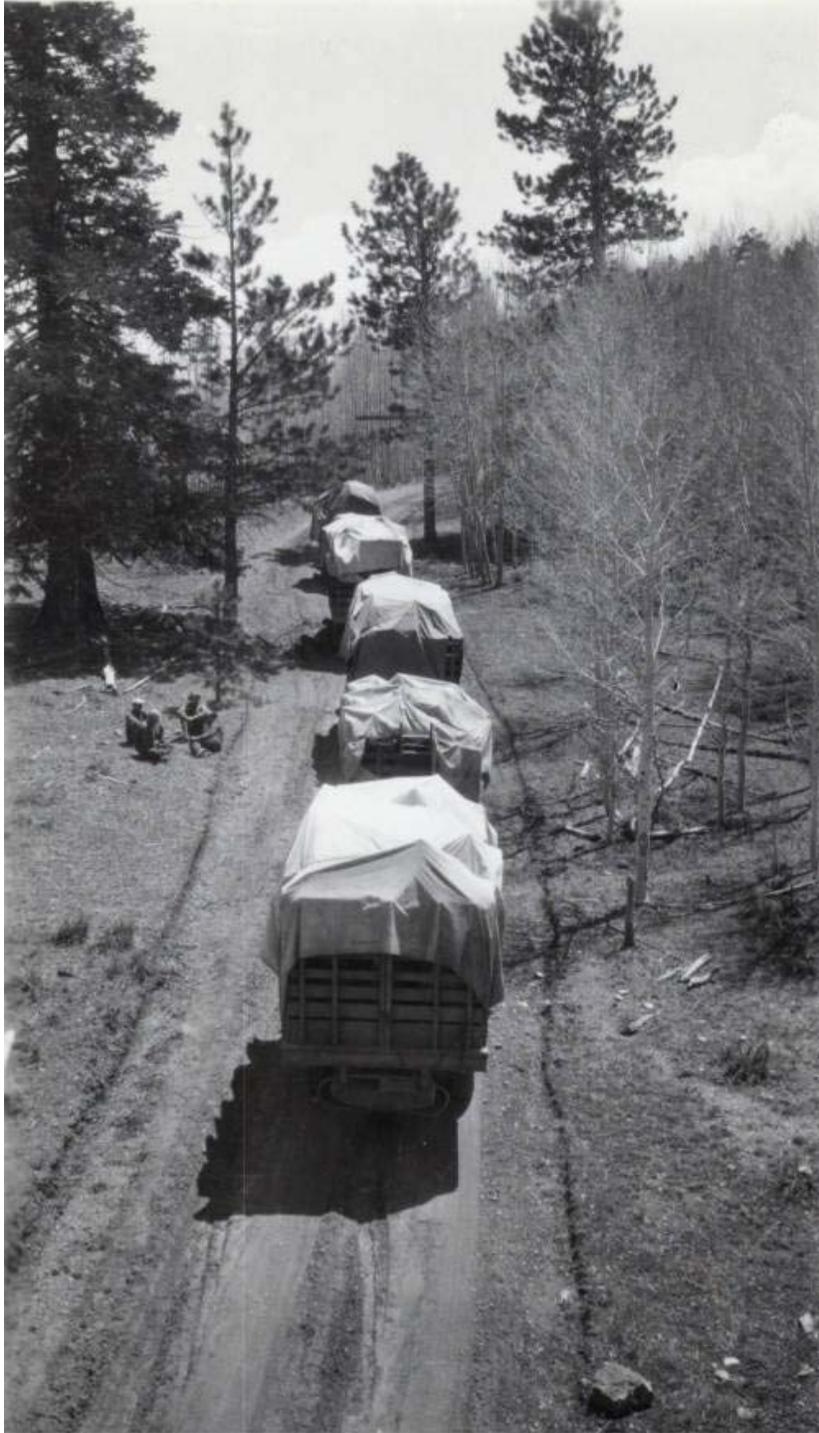
**Figure 5.** Trail erosion and fragmentation on lower Mary Jane Falls trail (2016).



**Figure 6.** Looking towards Mary Jane Falls in the Upper Kyle Canyon.



**Figure 7.** Historic Union Pacific trucks on the Spring Mountains (1920-1930's).



**Letters of Support:**

August 28th, 2020

Robert Wandel  
Conservation Initiatives Program Manager  
SNPLMA Division  
Bureau of Land Management  
4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr.  
Las Vegas, NV 89130



Re: SNPLMA Round 18 Grant Proposal – Upper Kyle Canyon Trail System

Southern Nevada Conservancy would like to express our support for the Upper Kyle Canyon Trail System proposal authored by the US Forest Service.

The Spring Mountains National Recreation Area is the most heavily visited part of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest due to its proximity of Las Vegas with its population of over 2 million people. Las Vegasans visit the mountain year-round to escape the summer heat of the valley, play in the snow in the winter and observe the changing leaves the shoulder seasons bring. One of the most popular trails in the Spring Mountains is the short and steep Mary Jane Falls Trail. This trail attracts many visitors due to its accessibility, physical challenge, scenic views and ultimately, the waterfall the trail is named after. Many of the visitors that hike this trail are newcomers who may not be aware of proper trail ethics, namely the cutting of switchbacks. The trail's steepness necessitates the inclusion of many switchbacks that are often cut by folks wanting to take a shortcut or lessen the time of their hike. These negative actions have been ongoing for many years to the point where the trail is unsustainable and dangerous.

Conducting a survey to analyze in which ways the trail can be improved for visitors and protect the resource is long overdue. Southern Nevada Conservancy values the goals sought to be achieved through this proposal and applauds the actions by the Forest Service to enact a plan to protect the natural and recreation values of the Spring Mountains.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or further information.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jose Witt", is written over a light yellow rectangular background.

Jose Witt  
Executive Director  
Southern Nevada Conservancy  
jwitt@snconservancy.org

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act  
Capital Improvements  
Round 18

National Park Service



**Modernize Critical Interagency Communications  
Infrastructure and Systems**

Amount Requested \$12,306,650

Time Frame: 5 Years

Location: 35.981168°, -114.846599°

Congressional District Number: NV-1, NV-3, NV-4, AZ-4

Federal Manager: Margaret L. Goodro, Superintendent

Project Manager: Trouper Snow, Chief Ranger

P: (70) 293-8964

C: (702) 343-2087

Email: [trouper\\_snow@nps.gov](mailto:trouper_snow@nps.gov)

**Purpose Statement:**

The National Park Service, as lead agency, with the Southern Nevada Agency Partnership, will modernize the Lake Mead Interagency Communications Center (LMICC) communications system to provide sustainable connectivity across Southern Nevada and Northwestern Arizona between dispatch and interagency conservation officers, agency staff, and the public. This project will modernize a radio infrastructure system comprised of five communications towers that feed into one physical location at the LMICC in Boulder City, NV. The site at the LMICC relies on these site towers and a Computer Aided Dispatch to accomplish its mission to provide life-saving support. The project will improve sustainability, connectivity, and community by modernizing infrastructure, protecting personnel, and updating technology.

**Background info and need for the project:**

The LMICC is one of the Department of the Interior's (DOI) busiest dispatch centers, providing life-saving support to 150 federal conservation officers and more than 40 million visitors across more than 55 million acres of public lands, along with 15 U.S. marshals who protect 32,000 federal judges, prosecutors and court officials. In 2019, the center recorded nearly 13,000 incidents into the computer-aided dispatch system along with nearly one million radio transmissions and 35,500 inbound phone calls. This includes responding to search and rescues and calls for emergency medical service.

The public lands serviced by the LMICC in Clark County, Nevada, and Mohave County, Arizona, range from America's largest reservoir, deserts, dry lakebeds, slot canyons, in-valley parcels and alpine forests in both the front country and remote backcountry. The recreation opportunities on these lands range from hiking to boating to snow skiing to climbing to hunting and fishing. At Lake Mead National Recreation Area alone, conservation officers protect \$1.78 billion in infrastructure and respond to calls along 700 miles of roadways, including 500 miles of backcountry dirt roads.

The federal lands serviced by the dispatch center are some of the most visited across the entire country. Lake Mead National Recreation Area alone is the sixth most visited unit of the National Park Service (NPS). This is due, in large part, to the millions of residents in the neighboring urban Las Vegas Valley and the area's nearly 43 million annual tourists. This combination of varied terrain and millions of visitors, engaging in a large variety of recreational activities results in the need to respond to and manage a multitude of law enforcement incidents, medical emergencies, search and rescue missions, as well as wildland and structural fires. All of these require coordination by the dispatch center of federal, state and local resources to ensure the appropriate and timely response and resolution of the incident.

The interagency law enforcement team in Southern Nevada has been working collaboratively for more than 15 years in this environment. Our ability to work with each other as well as partner state and local agencies has been well demonstrated. Partnerships, relationships, and agreements

have been established and renewed. Team members meet monthly, work together frequently and work constantly with partners. Conservation officers work hand-in-hand with local Las Vegas Metro Police Departments, Arizona Department of Public Safety, and Nevada Highway Patrol, regularly assisting with pursuits bridging the gap between jurisdictions.

Over the past few years, several large-scale public safety incidents have occurred in Clark County, some on public lands, others have had a nexus to public lands. After Action Reports from these incidents, as well as others across the country, show the need for reliable interoperable communications. Also highlighted is the need for information sharing of reference checklists, manuals, and guidebooks. In the 21st century, technology and internet use has replaced ring binders, pocket guides and analog radio signals.

This project will modernize ailing critical infrastructure and systems to provide better services for interagency conservation officers, visitors and federal partners with the NPS, Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and U.S. Marshals Service (USMS). The project has a three-prong approach to improving sustainability, connectivity and community by modernizing infrastructure, protecting personnel and updating technology.

#### *1. Communication Site Towers and Ancillary Infrastructure:*

It starts with modernizing the parkwide communications site infrastructure and communications capabilities to provide sustainable connectivity between dispatch and interagency staff. Five communications site towers and their associated infrastructure service the NPS, BLM, FWS, BOR, USFS, U.S. Coast Guard, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Clark County Nevada, Access Parks, Mohave County Sheriff's Department, USMS, Great Basin National Park, Grand Canyon Parashant National Monument, Federal Highways Department of Transportation, the Southern Nevada Area Communications Counsel, in-park concessioners and visitors using marine band radios. None of the federal land management repeater sites in Southern Nevada or Northwestern Arizona are P25 compliant. Nor are any of the radio frequencies used by land management agencies in Southern Nevada or Arizona digital or encrypted. Many of the repeater sites have problems with reliability of power sources and operating status. The aged equipment at the sites are largely outdated and unreliable, getting replacement parts for older technology is becoming more difficult and costly, and frequently results in communications site system failures that cause safety risks for conservation officers and visitors.

There have been several studies and incident reviews identifying inadequacies of the current communications site system as an aggravating factor to efficient management of response activities. The NPS Gap 2.0 Officer Involved Shooting (OIS) study identified interoperable radio systems as a must. Public safety incidents that occur in critical infrastructure and transportation corridors around Hoover Dam, the Bypass Bridge and the new Interstate 11 corridor require multi-agency management. Communicating with all agencies is paramount. Additionally, DOI law enforcement policy requires all Interior law enforcement officers operate in a narrowband digital encrypted system, achievable through these upgrades.

Interagency law enforcement personnel routinely patrol in areas where radio reliability is strongest because communications is critical for officer and visitor safety, ultimately the lack of coverage leaves many areas unpatrolled and puts conservation officers and visitors at risk. Modernization of these communications sites will immediately increase coverage area of the lands serviced, and law enforcement personnel will patrol in areas more regularly where they otherwise may not have, including remote areas popular for hunters and anglers. The millions of acres of lands that are serviced by this project provides direct lifesaving response to millions of visitors annually. Greater interoperability is key to these lifesaving missions.

<b>Table1: Communications site towers</b>						
<b>Comm-Site/ Repeater Name</b>	<b>Owner / ROW Holder</b>	<b>General Location</b>	<b>Land Status</b>	<b>Twp, Rng, Sec, QQ or Decimal Degrees</b>	<b>Type of Facility</b>	<b>Type of Access</b>
<b>Virgin Peak</b>	NPS LMNRA	Virgin Peak Ridge, Clark County, Nevada	BLM, Virgin Mountains ACEC	36.568793, -114.070805	1 tower 40 ft. tall solar powered, radio repeater with helipad	Fly in only
<b>Mt. Perkins</b>	NPS LMNRA	MT Perkins, Black Mountains, Mohave County Arizona	BLM	35.569937, -114.508640	1 tower 20ft tall solar powered radio repeater and microwave radios with helipad	Fly in only
<b>Mt. Wilson</b>	NPS LMNRA	MT Wilson, Black Mountains, Mohave County Arizona	NPS	36.023606, -114.619427	3 towers, one 80ft tall and 2 40ft tall, solar powered radio repeaters and microwave radio with helipad	Fly in only
<b>Consolidation Point</b>	NPS LMNRA	Callville Bay, Consolidation PT, Clark County Nevada	NPS	36.130106, -114.732653	2 towers 20ft tall, solar powered radio base station and microwave radios	Drive to
<b>TV Hill</b>	NPS LMNRA	TV Hill, Katherine Landing, Clark County Nevada	NPS	35.211608, -114.556577	1 tower 20ft tall, AC Powered radio repeater and microwave radio	Drive to

The *fiber optic communications* connection for Alan Bible Visitor Center, Boulder Beach Entrance Station, Boulder Beach Ranger Station and fiber conduit for Willow Beach Ranger Station will dramatically increase the functionality for the Boulder Beach operations of Lake Mead and Willow Beach operations on Lake Mohave. These areas of the park see millions of visitors a year. Conservation officers will be able to complete administrative work from these busy areas of the park, and they will be able to initiate the use of body cameras, which require high-speed internet to upload data. Installing hard line fiber from the Boulder Beach Ranger

Station to the Boulder Beach Aids to Navigation and nursery buildings and running fiber optic conduit along the new Willow Beach Road alignment will allow for the deployment of security cameras at these locations to improve physical security. It will also allow for improved connectivity to Internet and Lake Mead Local Area Network. The connection to the Boulder Beach Entrance Station will improve reliability for servicing visitors, where unreliable communications causes high frustration by visitors when the system is down, and they are wanting to use credit cards to gain access to the park. It will also ensure reliability in communications at the busy entrance station to ensure reliable communications for employee and visitor safety and emergencies that occur at the station.

## *2. Mobile Data Terminals*

The second prong to this project is protecting personnel by equipping NPS and BLM first responders with up-to-date mobile data terminals (MDTs) and radios to create more reliable communications from field-based conservation officers. With the integration of updated mobile and portable multi-band radios, the current infrastructure cannot meet frequency demands and signals are degrading. This leads to unreadable transmissions or larger “dead” zones throughout the service area. Conservation officers are at greater risk when providing support to our community. The public is at greater risk when first responders are unable to communicate with communications centers on a reliable basis. Providing MDTs to the NPS and BLM officers relieves pressure on the emergency dispatch service, allowing field-based conservation officers to conduct preliminary inquiries on wanted vehicles and persons. This project modernizes interagency infrastructure and furthers the effort to consolidate and streamline agencies within the Department.

This project further protects and preserves our natural and cultural resources. Many park personnel and partners carry radios during their duties and quite regularly those staff call into dispatch to report vandalism or destruction to government resources. Without these communication measures in place, it prevents the timely notification to law enforcement personnel for investigation and apprehension. The new systems will provide real time information to know offenders who continue to deface and destroy federal property and both natural and cultural resources.

## *3. Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD)*

The final component to this project is updating the park’s CAD system and dispatch center technology to meet compliance and create efficiencies in communications. This is key to providing sustainable interagency connectivity that spreads across the federal, state and local communities. The improved CAD will have improved interface capabilities with the DOI Information Management and Reporting System (IMARS) and the Criminal Justice Information Systems (CJIS) and will allow dispatchers to more easily manage multiple incidents. Considering the call volume and nearly one million radio transmissions that currently come into the center, this type of efficiency is critical when lives are on the line. The new CAD system will offer duplicity with another federal site in California, providing safeguards during a catastrophic event or other time of need. It also has the ability to expand its services, which is a benefit to all current and future federal, state and local partners. Along with the CAD system, the

real-time video monitoring capabilities will allow dispatchers to view more than 400 closed-circuit cameras across DOI lands. They will be able to quickly change and alter video feeds when there is increased activity or a significant incident taking place.

Modernizing infrastructure, protecting personnel, and updating technology will allow multiple agencies to meet the needs of today and tomorrow. There is a critical need to bring these projects to today's standards to better provide services to the visiting public. There are hundreds of miles of unimproved roads within these areas that provide recreational opportunities for off-highway vehicles. Initial work has already begun to partner as a failsafe backup with BLM's Federal Law Enforcement Communications Center in Phoenix, Arizona. This center provides dispatch services to nationwide USFWS officers in addition to BLM officers who protect our Southern Border. Having the ability to safely dispatch personnel is critical when the visitors need assistance. Without these upgrades, the entire interagency communication center and systems run the risk of becoming dangerously obsolete.

LMICC is located just minutes from the Greater Las Vegas Valley. The conservation officers, federal staff and firefighters who are serviced by LMICC to protect about 40 million people annually. Every piece of the communications system is critical, from the conservation officer, firefighter and federal employees in the field to the communications site then to the dispatch center. Each piece must function properly for our federal staff, partners, and visitors to have essential lifesaving communications and support. The communications system provides essential support to numerous partners and agencies, including:

- Bureau of Land Management
  - All of Nevada
  - Northern California District
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Reclamation
- United States Forest Service
- U.S. Coast Guard
- Nevada Department of Wildlife
- Arizona Game and Fish Department
- Clark County, Nevada
- Mohave County Sheriff's Department
- U.S. Marshals
- National Park Service
  - Lake Mead National Recreation Area
  - Great Basin National Park
  - Grand Canyon Parashant- National Monument
  - Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument
- Federal Highways Department of Transportation
- The Southern Nevada Area Communications Counsel
- In-park concessioners
- Visitors using marine band radios
- Las Vegas Interagency Communications Center partners – wildland fire dispatch services

### **Relationship to previous phases and anticipated future phases:**

Lake Mead acknowledges that there is no guarantee or expectation of future funding for this project or future phases.

### **Project Deliverables:**

#### Primary Deliverables:

#### **1. Modernize parkwide radio site infrastructure and communications capabilities to provide sustainable connectivity between dispatch and interagency staff:**

- a. Remove and replace communications equipment shelters at Mount Perkins, Mount Wilson, Virgin Peak, Consolidation Point and TV Hill communications sites with shelters that have environmental control and security monitoring systems, physical security fencing and back-up LP-fueled generator.
- b. Remove and replace the communications towers to include tower foundations at five communications sites as follows:
  1. Mount Perkins: Remove and replace existing tower with a 40ft tall tower.
  2. Mount Wilson: Remove three existing towers and install one 80ft tall tower.
  3. Virgin Peak: Remove and replace existing tower with a 40ft tall tower.
  4. Consolidation Point: Remove two existing towers and replace with one 40ft tall tower.
  5. TV Hill: Remove and replace existing tower with a 40ft tall tower.
- c. Remove and replace existing solar power systems at Mount Wilson and Virgin Peak
- d. Improve existing solar power system at Mount Perkins to support the expected electrical load for the shelter improvement.
- e. Install Motorola R-56 grounding systems at all communication sites.
- f. Install new Land Mobile Radio and Microwave Radio antennas and antenna cabling at all communication sites.
- g. Re-design the Parkwide Microwave Radio Network Backhaul system to an industry standard for system reliability to a benchmark of 99.99999% of operational time. (Percent of time over a year that the system is operationally available and on the air)
- h. Install primary network connection/backhaul Microwave Radio equipment, connecting Mount Perkins, Mount Wilson, Virgin Peak, Consolidation Point and TV Hill communication sites to the Lake Mead Communications Shelter in Boulder City, NV, as well as to Temple Bar entrance and ranger station, Willow Beach saddle site, Cottonwood Cove ranger station, Placer Cove, Northshore entrance and Echo Bay maintenance. This system provides for all of the following Park Wide Systems: computer network, VoIP telephone system, security system monitoring, access control, fire alarm systems, and dispatch access to all remote radio equipment.

- a. Install commercial electrical power at the Consolidation Point communications site. This will replace the solar power system as the primary power system for all equipment at this site.
- 2. Replace radios to create more reliable communications from field-based conservation officers and increase safety:**
    - a. Purchase and distribute 50 APX8000 AES encryption capable handheld radios to field-based conservation officers.
    - b. Provide direct connection and interface between radios and LMICC CAD to ensure real time tracking of personnel via Radio over IP connections
  - 3. Update the park's Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system and dispatch center technology to meet current security compliance and create efficiencies in communications:**
    - a. Purchase and install a CAD system that complies with DOI Field Comm Contract standards that is capable of:
      1. multi-PSAP (public safety answering point), multi-agency, multi-jurisdiction/discipline CAD implementation and be expandable and flexible enough to allow additional agencies to join the system
      2. keeping the CAD online if additional programming or hardware/software changes are needed
      3. allowing the agency to meet current and future needs without extensive software customization
      4. transitioning critical system components to a backup that takes over in event of a failure
      5. secure access to stored data for report retrieval/development and data analysis
      6. not affecting CAD storage capability with Legacy CAD data storage
    - b. Purchase annual service contract of 10 years.
    - c. Purchase and install an interactive closed-circuit LCD video wall platform that integrates all CCTV and television systems
    - d. Purchase and install AES Encryption modules for the MCC7500 Dispatch equipment.
  - 4. Recruit and hire a Project Manager to oversee project implementations and oversight**

Anticipated Deliverables: None.

Standard Deliverables:

1. NEPA compliance – Categorical Exclusions
2. NHPA consultation with SHPO, Section 106 review
3. Site Survey and geotechnical analysis for communication sites
4. Design build contracts
5. Engineering design

6. Construction and installation
7. Construction inspection
8. Supply contracts for non-construction scopes of work
9. End user training
10. Project closeout

### **Project Timeframe:**

This project will be completed over a five-year period that includes project closeout. The CAD system will provide a 10-year service contract.

<b>Schedule for completion</b>	<b>Description of work</b>
Year 1	<p>The Lake Mead intends to use staff resources at the park to prepare documentation needed to complete compliance and contracting. The milestones include the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recruit and hire project manager.</li> <li>2. Develop scopes of work for site infrastructure, CAD and TV wall design phases.</li> <li>3. Develop supply scopes for radios</li> <li>4. Develop scope and contract for site surveys and geotechnical analysis for Mount Wilson, Mount Perkins, Virgin Peak, Consolidation Point and TV Hill</li> <li>5. Conduct NEPA Categorical Exclusions and SHPO Consultation</li> </ol>
Years 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Award design build contracts for communication sites to include design and construction concurrent with geotechnical analysis.</li> <li>• Award design build contract for tower foundation and microwave path analysis.</li> <li>• Award supply contract for radios</li> </ul>
Year 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receive and deploy radios; provide user training.</li> <li>• Construction of infrastructure on Mount Wilson</li> <li>• Construct and install CAD.</li> <li>• Construct and install TV wall.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
Year 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAD and TV wall project close out.</li> <li>• Construction of infrastructure on Virgin Peak and Mount Perkins to include the installation of the microwave radio equipment linking Mount Wilson, Virgin Peak and Mount Perkins</li> <li>• Inspection and acceptance.</li> <li>• Finalize and complete trainings</li> </ul>
Year 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of infrastructure on Consolidation Point and TV Hill</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of the microwave radio equipment at Consolidation Point, TV Hill and all remaining end points in the system.</li> <li>• Radio site infrastructure project closeout.</li> <li>• Final acceptance – The project will be accepted by Lake Mead following completion of all construction and purchase elements.</li> <li>• Final invoice and release of claims – Following official acceptance, the contractor will submit a final invoice and a release of claims.</li> <li>• Project closure – The request for project closure will be submitted following clearing of all invoices, and all financial documentation of Lake Mead labor. The closeout package will be made available for review.</li> <li>• Final site inspection with SNPMA Program Manager.</li> <li>• Final review of project file/expenditures</li> <li>• Request for close out</li> <li>• SNPLMA close out of the funding authorization</li> </ul>
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#### **Level of Project Readiness for Implementation:**

The agencies have the staff on hand to begin several components of the proposal immediately. Agency partners have been briefed on the project, and we have working relationships established in order to accomplish any necessary work. The proposal includes a term project manager, this position description is drafted and will be added to the organizational chart upon project approval. This position will assist with coordination of site work across the project and through several vendors. Additionally, the park has a staff of Engineers and Project Managers that will assist with project implementation.

#### **Future Operations and Maintenance:**

- **Lifecycle Replacement/Reconstruction and Deferred Maintenance**

See ranking criteria for detail response

#### **Contributed funds directly applicable to completion of the project:**

The project will be managed by the Lake Mead Telecommunications Staff and overseen by the Branch Chief of Communications. Agency in-kind labor contributions estimated at \$90,640 toward implementing this project include:

- Compliance Manager's (NEPA Coordinator) partial salary
- Supervisory Telecommunications Manager's partial salary
- Financial Officer's (Budget Analyst) partial salary

Additionally, the agency (Yosemite National Park) is contributing \$280,000 towards the project for the development of the CAD.

## Funding Requested Budget Detail:

The NPS requests \$12,306,650 in SNPLMA appropriation to complete the proposed project. NPS will provide an estimated additional \$370,640 in non-SNPLMA funds to cover staff's salary in the implementation of this project and to partially fund the CAD.

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROPOSAL ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS & KEY MILESTONE DATES

<b>Project Name:</b>	Modernize Ailing Critical Interagency Communications Center Infrastructure and Systems	<b>Agency:</b>	<b>NPS Lake Mead NRA</b>
<b>Project &amp; Priority #:</b>	<i>N/A nomination submittal</i>	<b>Phone:</b>	<b>(702)343-2087</b>
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Trouper Snow	<b>Date:</b>	<b>9/8/2020</b>

<b>Planning, Environmental Compliance &amp; Preconstruction Engineering and Design</b> ( <i>Not to exceed 27% of total project costs</i> )	\$216,000	1.8%
(Pre-design sketches and conceptual drawings; environmental assessment and permitting, specialist surveys/reports for archaeology, wildlife, biology, etc.; architectural and engineering analysis, design survey & field investigations; construction drawings, specifications, cost estimates, and engineering technical reports.)		
<b>Construction Contract Costs</b>	\$7,673,190	62.3%
(Including labor, supplies & materials, construction management, etc.; sampling/testing; site restoration; and government furnished supplies and materials.)		
<b>Project Equipment</b>	\$3,694,000	30.0%
SNPLMA funds can only be used for "project related necessary expenses" and reimburse only for those equipment costs directly associated with completion of the approved project.		
<b>Travel</b>	\$0	0.0%
(Including per diem where official travel status is required to carry out the project, such as to serve as COR, experts to review reports, etc.)		
<b>Official Vehicle Use</b>	\$28,800	0.2%
(Pro rata costs for use of Official Vehicles when required to carry out the project.)		
<b>Other Direct and Contracted Labor</b>	\$692,160	5.6%
Agency payroll for the Contracting Officer to do project procurements, COR Project Inspector, Section 106 Consultation, NEPA Lead, Project Manager, Project Supervisor, and subject experts to review contracted surveys, design/drawings, plans, reports, etc.; Also covered is the cost to contract for a Project Manager and/or Project Supervisor if contracted separately from other project costs		
<b>FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act</b>	\$0	0.0%
<b>Direct Federal Labor</b>	\$0	0.0%
(direct agency labor for construction, project inspection, CO and COR)		
<b>Other Necessary Expenses</b>	\$2,500	0.0%
(See SNPLMA IA Part Two, Appendix B-3)		
<b>Total Requested/Estimated Budget</b>	<b>\$12,306,650</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>Total Estimated In-kind Agency or Partner Contribution</b>	\$370,640	
<b>Total Estimated Project Value</b>	\$12,677,290	

### Performance Measures:

NPS Lake Mead is committed to the SNPLMA Strategic Plan Goals of sustaining the quality of the outdoor environment by conserving, preserving, and restoring natural and cultural resources and improving the quality of life for all public in urban and rural communities by enhancing recreational opportunities that connect people with the outdoor environment. The proposed project supports these goals and the associated performance measures.

**Outcome:** Modernize ailing critical interagency communications center infrastructure and systems, providing services for interagency conservation officers, visitors and federal partners within NPS, BOR, BLM, USFWS, USFS and the U.S. Marshal Service.

- Output: Remove and replace the communications equipment shelters at Mount Perkins, Mount Wilson, Virgin Peak, Consolidation Point and TV Hill communications sites with shelters that have environmental control and security monitoring systems, physical security fencing and back-up LP-fueled generator. (Primary Deliverable)
  - O2 – Number of facilities constructed - 5 communications equipment shelters within one project area.
  - O8 – Number of facilities that support green sustainable design and construction - 5 communications sites within one project area.
- Output: Remove and replace the communications towers to include tower foundations at five communications sites. (Primary Deliverable)
  - O2 – Number of facilities constructed - 5 communications towers within one project area.

**Outcome:** Update the park's Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) system and dispatch center technology to meet compliance, improve interface capabilities and create efficiencies in communications

- Output: Purchase and install a CAD system that complies with DOI Field Comm Contract standards that is capable of: multi-PSAP (public safety answering point), multi-agency, multi-jurisdiction/discipline CAD implementation and be expandable and flexible enough to allow additional agencies to join the system; keeping the CAD online if additional programming or hardware/software changes are needed; allowing the agency to meet current and future needs without extensive software customization; transitioning critical system components to a backup that takes over in event of a failure; secure access

to stored data for report retrieval/development and data analysis; and not affecting CAD storage capability with Legacy CAD data storage. (Primary Deliverable)

- O11 – Number of electronic means of documenting activities – 1 new CAD system

### **Executive Committee Strategic Plan Values:**

See ranking criteria for responses

### **Compliance with Departmental Priorities, Strategic Goals, Executive Orders and Secretarial Orders:**

See ranking criteria for responses

### **Ranking Criteria:**

#### **1. SUSTAINABILITY & MODERNIZATION:**

The project supports conservation, preservation, restoration, or modernization of natural, cultural, or historic resources (which includes infrastructure) to ensure availability of those resources for future generations. The project will remain relevant and continue to provide benefit to a recreation user over the anticipated life of the project.

Clearly explain what the anticipated design life of the project is and identify what and how the natural resources will be sustained.

- A. A new project or facility designed specifically to engender conservation stewardship and provide new opportunities within the management area that is ecologically, economically, and socially sustainable for present and future generations and restore or preserve natural resources or cultural resources of the area. Yes, this project meets this criteria/factor. The project will provide support for interagency conservation officers who work to engender conservation stewardship in visitors and preserve natural and cultural resources. Additionally, the project will provide new opportunities throughout the areas managed by the agencies through efficient, expanded, and reliable communications that are ecologically, economically and socially sustainable for present and future generations. This will be achieved in the following ways:
- CAD replacement will be a state-of-the-art CAD that will provide the best response to all public safety calls to officers throughout the serviced areas
  - Establishing a new communication systems infrastructure will not only modernize the system, it will significantly increase the coverage area for all officers, which will provide better protection for all resources, cultural and natural
  - Handheld radio acquisition will provide officers with modern equipment to communicate with partners and provide real time location to dispatch for safer officer tracking

- B. Modernization or rehabilitation of an existing project, facility and/or amenities to enhance the visitor experience, improve unit operations, and reduce or eliminate user impacts to the natural or cultural resources, or restore natural processes within the immediate project area. Yes, this project meets this criteria/factor. The project will modernize facilities and amenities with an overarching objective to provide services for interagency conservation officers, visitors and federal partners serving more than 40 million visitors to public lands. These overarching objectives are attained by modernizing facilities and expanding amenities in the following ways:
- Replacing radio towers with new ones that meet Departmentally required code standards – sets the framework to continue to update the systems in the future, creating a more sustainable radio network.
  - Implementing a state-of-the-art CAD will set LMICC as the Departmental standard for dispatch centers across the bureaus – sustainable for at least 10 years with included service contract.
  - Providing officers with reliable communication systems directly relates to the areas they patrol, and in turn where visitors recreate. Providing reliable service enhances all visitor experience and increases their access
- C. Conservation and stabilization, restoration, or rehabilitation of significant historic buildings, cultural sites, and other significant historic facilities for the present and future generations to enjoy and appreciate the areas cultural heritage. This criteria/factor does not apply to the project.
- D. New facilities that enhance or improve management of public lands. These might include visitor centers, contact stations, and campgrounds to improve public access; housing for staff, interns, and volunteers to carry out programs for improved conservation, education; and curation facilities and workspace to improve conservation of natural and cultural resources and opportunity for educational programming. Yes, this project meets this factor/criteria. This new infrastructure will improve management of public lands. It increases patrol response to visitor recreation throughout public lands. This project will include:
- New and upgraded radio site infrastructure, CAD and radios that increase safety of all user groups, including federal employees and the public.
  - Reliable data collection which in turn will create efficiencies in emergency response management that will improve the overall visitor experience.
- D. This new infrastructure will improve management of public lands. It increases patrol response to visitor recreation throughout public lands. This project will include:
- New and upgraded radio site infrastructure, CAD and radios that increase safety of all user groups, including federal employees and the public.
  - Reliable data collection which in turn will create efficiencies in emergency

response management that will improve the overall visitor experience.

## **2. CONNECTIVITY:**

The project provides recreational opportunities that link population centers, recreation facilities, and the user to the outdoors and natural landscapes. It encourages people to meaningfully connect with their natural environment, thus helping them appreciate and care for the environment. The project will also connect the user to the history and/or cultural of the site and engages the user in appreciation of the site/area.

- A. Provides new, upgraded or modernized access and/or amenities or infrastructure to previously under-developed areas and/or new opportunities to enjoy/appreciate public lands (e.g., trails, kiosks with location maps and site information, roads, parking, way-finding, restrooms, day or overnight camping). Yes, this project meets this factor/criteria. This project provides new upgraded, and modernized infrastructure that links population centers throughout Southern Nevada to the outdoors and natural landscapes, including undeveloped areas in the backcountry. By providing reliable radio communications to these remote outdoor spaces, conservation officers will be able to connect more frequently with users in remote areas, engaging them on ways to appropriately appreciate Nevada's public lands.
  
- B. Improves access to previously developed recreation areas and sites on public lands and/or rehabilitates, upgrades or modernizes site amenities (e.g., improves access to trails, area or site information and wayfinding, 4-wheel access roads to passenger vehicle accessible roads, parking). Yes, this project meets this factor/criteria. Millions of people visit the many developed areas on Southern Nevada's public lands, including Lake Mead's popular beaches and marinas and Red Rock Canyon's visitor center and trails. This project modernizes site amenities that are needed for emergency response as well as conservation outreach by improving both the infrastructure within the communications center, as well as throughout the county, promoting connectivity that links people to nature and to recreational opportunities.
  
- C. Provides new or additional recreation opportunities by connecting two or more existing facilities and increased access to primitive or developed outdoor recreation and educational opportunities to meet increased user demand, improves the recreation experience by constructing new facilities or expanded amenities that will connect to existing recreation facilities. Yes, this project meets this factor/criteria. This project provides new or additional recreation opportunities by providing safer access for visitors to enjoy the backcountry, knowing officers will patrol the areas more frequently and can likely respond quicker. Additionally, this increases the educational opportunities to meet the increased user demand in many areas such as along unpaved approved roads.
  - First Responder locations will be identifiable in the field by dispatch operators and will be more efficiently dispatched to incidents.
  - This improved response by first responders will garner the confidence of our community to recreate and discover more primitive resource areas
  - Implements new GPS locating radios which allow officers to be located immediately

in emergencies or while providing assistance to visitors. Frequently, visitors' vehicles become stuck along some of the 500+ miles of backcountry roads. Not only does this increase the access to backcountry roads, it provides lifesaving support when visitors become stranded in the desert far from regular amenities.

- D. Contains an outreach and education component to improve public awareness and engage the public in the conservation and protection of the surrounding natural environment through the use of resource interpretation (e.g., information signage, kiosks, educational programs). Yes, this project meets this factor/criteria. Increasing the officer's abilities to patrol these backcountry areas will drastically increase the interpretive and educational experience to the visiting public.
- o Conservation Officer patrols throughout the resource area will increase due to the improvement in safety and these areas will see better oversight of land use.
  - Officers will provide more opportunities to educate and engage the communities served, providing improved land use and enhanced compliance with regulations.

### **3. COMMUNITY:**

The project provides or improves outdoor recreation opportunities to improve the quality of life, especially for underserved communities. It conserves or restores the functionality, resiliency, and integrity of biological communities. The project encourages partnerships, which in turn builds community.

*(Encourages and engages the public in the conservation and protection of the surrounding natural environment through use of volunteer/stewardship resources)*

- A. Outdoor recreation projects that provide economic benefits to local communities and social benefit to the recreationist and are responsive to changing demographics. The project has agreements or partnerships in place for the planning, design, implementation and management of the project. Yes, this project meets this factor/criteria. The project improves the quality of life for all visitors and recreators. Lake Mead and surrounding parks welcome the extremely diverse population of Southern Nevada, including a 30% Hispanic/Latino community. By providing reliable communications in the field, conservation officers may radio back to dispatch to request assistance in matters where language barriers exist. With the current system, there may be delays in identifying a visitors' needs. Visitors who know they have an ability to call for help or see patrolling personnel are much more likely to return versus an area that has no communication capabilities. The communications system serves to ensure public safety and resource protection to all communities in the region both historically underserved and facing economic barriers. Providing these services increases the safety of all visitors.
- B. Project has identified committed non-SNPLMA sources of funding or in-kind contribution for the planning, design, and development of the project. Yes, this project meets this factor/criteria. The National Park Service plans to commit \$280,000 to this project in addition to partial salaries for a Compliance Manager (NEPA Coordinator), Supervisory Telecommunications Manager and Financial Officer (Budget Analyst).

- C. Project provides agency or unit support/administrative infrastructure in underserved areas to improve management of and conservation stewardship, educational programming, and access to public lands. Yes, this project meets this factor/criteria. The updating, installation and repairing of radio infrastructure improves all parks, trails and natural areas throughout the region, including one of the most economically challenged communities in Clark County on the eastern boundary of the city that abuts to National Park and Bureau of Land Management administered lands. In recent years, members of these communities have embraced the education and outreach opportunities that have been introduced in these areas. This project will drastically improve emergency response to these locations; therefore, improving the overall public health and reducing safety concerns.

#### **4. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE:**

The agency has clearly demonstrated that the anticipated operations and maintenance costs for the project and resources necessary to operate the project are within existing appropriations or demonstrated how they will secure the necessary operations and maintenance funds.

*(Agency has detailed the estimated annual O&M cost and estimated use or permit fees to be collected.)*

- A. The agency has demonstrated that current appropriations are sufficient for the operations and management of the project for new projects or that O&M costs will be reduced after reconstruction and will be offset by concessionaire or volunteer labor for O&M. Yes, this project meets this factor/criteria. These projects will have a slight decrease to the agency's regular operations and upkeep. The project manager assigned to this project will implement all equipment and technology so that the park may continue to operate successfully with its current staffing. The CAD system will include a 10-year service contract.
- B. Volunteers or partners will be responsible for operation and maintenance of the project and agency funds will not be needed. Yes, this project meets this factor/criteria. Agency partners will assist financially for operation and maintenance of the project
- Existing interagency agreements can be utilized to offset the cost of recurring maintenance in the future.
  - The agency has identified \$280,000 toward the purchase of a new CAD.
- C. The agency has included the current O&M costs, if any, and how this project will reduce current operations and maintenance costs. The entity has clearly shown what the anticipated savings will be, and/or how the project will reduce water use or energy costs for utilities. Yes, this project meets this factor/criteria. This project will reduce current operations and maintenance costs by approximately \$20,000 annually. This project will also reduce the number of flights that are required to keep up with the maintenance. Flights cost approximately \$3,000 each trip. With proper equipment and technology this will save annually on flights for repairs. This project will also utilize

more solar power by increasing the technology at the sites so that the connectivity is stable. Current power outages due to inadequate power supplies continues to lead to expensive repair bills. Appropriate solar power will work to eliminate these costly repairs.

- D. Project would improve energy efficiency and/or independence. Yes, this project meets this factor/criteria. Project would improve energy efficiency and most of the sites will rely 100% on solar power. The newest solar technology will be utilized.

#### **5. LIFECYCLE REPLACEMENT/RECONSTRUCTION AND DEFERRED MAINTENANCE:**

Any existing project or facility that has met or exceeded its useful life, design life, or life cycle that requires major restoration or reconstruction to restore the historic fabric of the facility or meet standard new Federal accessibility guidelines.

*(Does not include reconstruction, changes, or new amenities for previously approved SNPLMA capital improvement projects. Excludes projects that were identified as phased construction, each phase must be fully operational and serve the intended purpose upon completion.)*

- A. The project remains relevant, but has exceeded its useful design life, does not meet current federal accessibility standards, or deferred maintenance costs exceed the cost of replacement or reconstruction. Yes, this project meets this factor/criteria. The project is critical to the safety of the public and conservation officers. Replacements and upgrades are needed to meet communications standards and to create interoperability with current partners. Repairs on existing systems are difficult and expensive because the system has dated equipment that no longer communicates with newer technology.
- This project will address \$8.5 million worth of the park's \$237 million in deferred maintenance. This project components being replaced have exceeded their normal design life and thus would be appropriate under SNPLMA.
- B. Current use has exceeded the original planned visitation/use and impacts have created a need to replace or reconstruct the facility earlier than originally planned and increased deferred maintenance costs exceed the cost of replacement or reconstruction. The project proposal shows the current annual maintenance costs and the anticipated savings after construction/reconstruction is complete. Yes, this project meets this factor/criteria. The current radio infrastructure has far exceeded its anticipated lifecycle. Making repairs is challenging and costly, because the dated equipment is either no longer available or is limited. Communications specialists apply band-aid solutions, but there is an essential need to replace the infrastructure to more reliable, modern, energy efficient technology. Doing so will reduce maintenance costs by around \$2,000 per year and will provide a new lifecycle of 7 years for portable radios, 10 years for mobile radios, radio base stations and repeaters, 15 years for power systems and up to 30 years for towers.

## **6. ADVANCES THE AGENCY/ENTITY PRIORITIES/GOALS**

The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination/project meets the priorities and strategic goals for their respective agency.

This initiative meets multiple Department of the Interior priorities. First, we will protect our people and the border by providing enhanced interagency emergency and communication services. Next, we will restore trust and be a good neighbor to our communities through increased and more efficient interagency responses to community needs. This project links 16 federal, state, and local partners to increase interoperability. We will modernize our infrastructure that will allow us to achieve our goals and lead our team forward far into the future. Finally, we meet the priority of reorganizing our Department for the next 100 years by providing a streamlined method of interagency communications and dispatching that supports, and will continue to support, multiple agencies providing critical lifesaving communications.

### **A. Create a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt.**

Teddy Roosevelt established 150 national forests, 51 federal bird reserves, 4 national game preserves, 5 national parks and 18 national monuments by enabling the 1906 American Antiquities Act. During his presidency, he protected approximately 230 million acres of public land. Conservation officers of today continue to protect these special places. At Lake Mead Interagency Communications Center plays a critical role in the protection of around 55 million acres. This communications infrastructure project has a direct connection to Roosevelt's initial intent. Through the components of the project, conservation officers will be able to safely assess more of the land, which will foster a better understanding of the resources and the mission we uphold to protect our visitors and America's valuable resources.

### **B. Sustainably develop our energy and natural resources.**

This project will utilize more solar power by increasing the technology at the sites so that the connectivity is stable. Current power outages due to inadequate power supplies continues to lead to expensive repair bills. Appropriate solar power will work to eliminate these costly repairs. The project will improve energy efficiency and most of the sites will rely 100% on solar power. The newest solar technology will be used.

### **C. Restore trust and be a good neighbor**

The Lake Mead Interagency Communications Center has proven to be a trusted model among local, state and federal first responders. To maintain the level of service that Nevada's first responders depend upon, communications components need to be modernized to adjust to advancements in technology. These improvements will not only benefit the officers, but they will support the pursuits of 40 million people who visit these public lands in Nevada, providing added safety for all and allowing agencies to continue to protect the resources that make Nevada so special.

### **D. Protect our people and the border**

Many remote areas of these federal lands do not have any cellular signal and reliance on radio communication is critical. Reliable radio communications provide conservation officers with the

peace of mind they can reach help when needed. The faster the conservation officers can respond to emergencies, the faster the visiting public can receive the support and lifesaving response they may need. This project holistically increases the safety of all those working or recreating on these federal lands.

#### **E. Modernize our infrastructure**

Every component of this project establishes critical communications infrastructure for today's and tomorrow's standards. It brings the communications program in line with essential Departmental standards. It provides the capacity to expand the communication center's possibilities to bring on new federal and local partners, creating interagency efficiencies. The new system will be designed to be compatible with other regional dispatch center systems to improve shared interoperable capabilities, expanding continuity of operations.

#### **F. Reorganize the Department for the next 100 years**

The Lake Mead and the Interagency Communications Center is already a lead example of how the Department of the Interior envisions reorganizing for the next 100 years. The Interagency Center serves NPS, BOR, BLM, USFWS, USFS, U.S. Marshals Service and the American public so all these agencies do not have to build their own centers and we contract that service. The center is an example of how agencies can work together to maximize efficiency. Specifically, Lake Mead NRA is in a contract with the Bureau of Reclamation to perform Law Enforcement, EMS, and SAR for Hoover Dam. The communications center will continue to facilitate partnerships across the Department, with capacity to expand in the future.

#### **G. Achieve our goals and lead our team forward**

Completing the components of this project will allow multiple agencies to achieve their goals of resource and visitor protection. Reliable communications will provide the public and conservation officers with increased safety. Providing park personnel with adequate and appropriate communications infrastructure will allow for more regular and routine monitoring of cultural and archaeological sites throughout our federal lands.

### **7. CONSISTENCY WITH SECRETARIAL ORDERS AND DIRECTIVE**

The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination / project meets the Secretarial Orders (SO) and Directive.

This initiative meets multiple Department of the Interior priorities. First, we will protect our people and the border by providing enhanced interagency emergency and communication services. Next, we will restore trust and be a good neighbor to our communities through increased and more efficient interagency responses to community needs. This project links 16 federal, state, and local partners to increase interoperability. We will modernize our infrastructure that will allow us to achieve our goals and lead our team forward far into the future. Finally, we meet the priority of reorganizing our Department for the next 100 years by providing a streamlined method of interagency communications and dispatching that supports, and will continue to support, multiple agencies providing critical lifesaving communications.

**A. EO No. 13855 Promoting Active Management of America’s Forests, Range Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk and SO No. 3372: Reducing Wildfire Risks on Department of the Interior Land Through Active Management**

The LMICC provides dispatch for Lake Mead’s fire program (wildland and structural), which protects 1.5 million acres and \$1.78 billion in park infrastructure. The LMICC also provides after hours dispatch for wildland fire in Southern Nevada both on land and water. This communications package helps the active management of Federal Lands to reduce wildfire risk and provide critical wildland and structural response communications.

**A. SO No. 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation, SO No. 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes and Territories and SO No. 3366: Increasing Recreational Opportunities on Lands and Waters Managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior**

The Department is entrusted with overseeing federal lands for the benefit of current and future generations. By improving Southern Nevada’s interagency communications infrastructure, dispatch center and overall network, visitors can feel safer recreating on public lands, especially in backcountry areas where hunting and fishing are authorized. Visitors will have new confidence traveling down unpaved roads or boating to remote coves, knowing that officers will be able to assist them if the need arises. Conservation officers will be able to interact more frequently with these visitors, providing education and outreach, which will facilitate conservation

### **Maps and Location:**

While the project infrastructure and equipment deployment will be located in Southern Nevada (Clark County and a portion of Nye County) and in Mohave County, Arizona the project will benefit conservation officers responsible for over 55 million acres of public lands located in Nevada, Arizona, and California.

Project location coordinates: 35.981168°, -114.846599°.

Map 1: LMICC Service Area – California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah



Figure 2: LMICC Radio Network

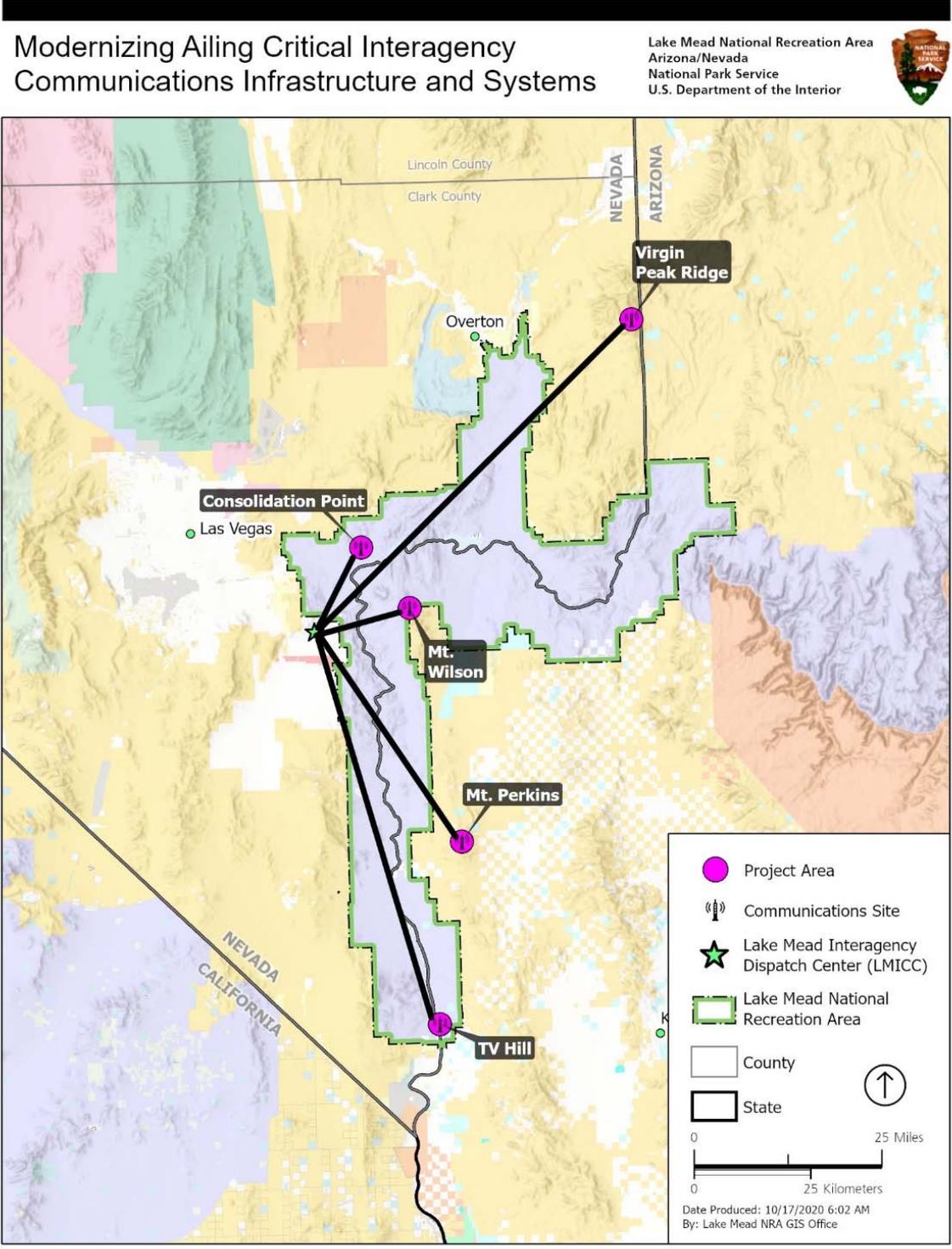


Figure 3: Mt Perkins (35.569971, -114.508573) Specific Township and Land Status

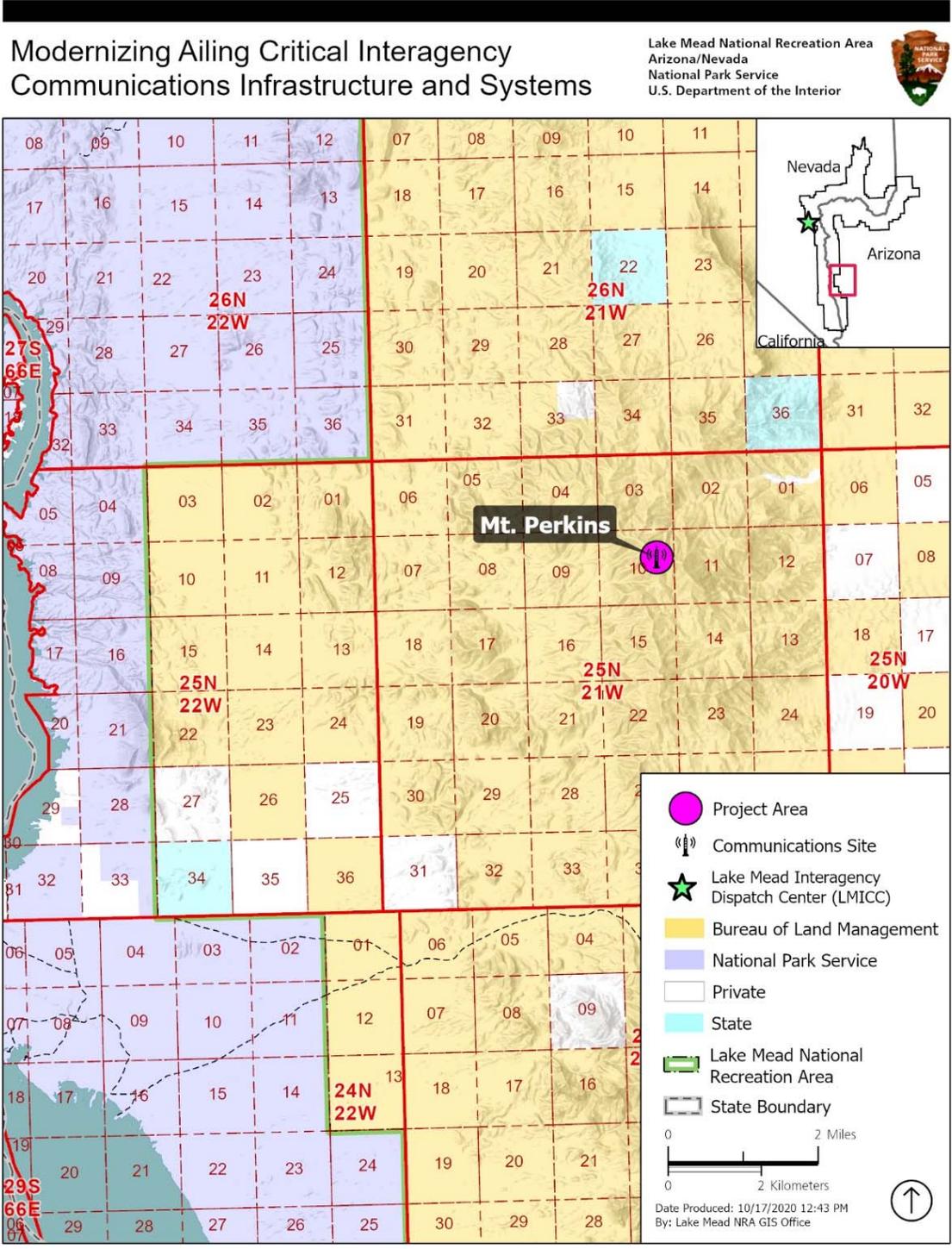


Figure 4: Consolidation Point (36.130109, -114.732660) and Mt. Wilson (36.023600, -114.619418) Specific Township and Land Status

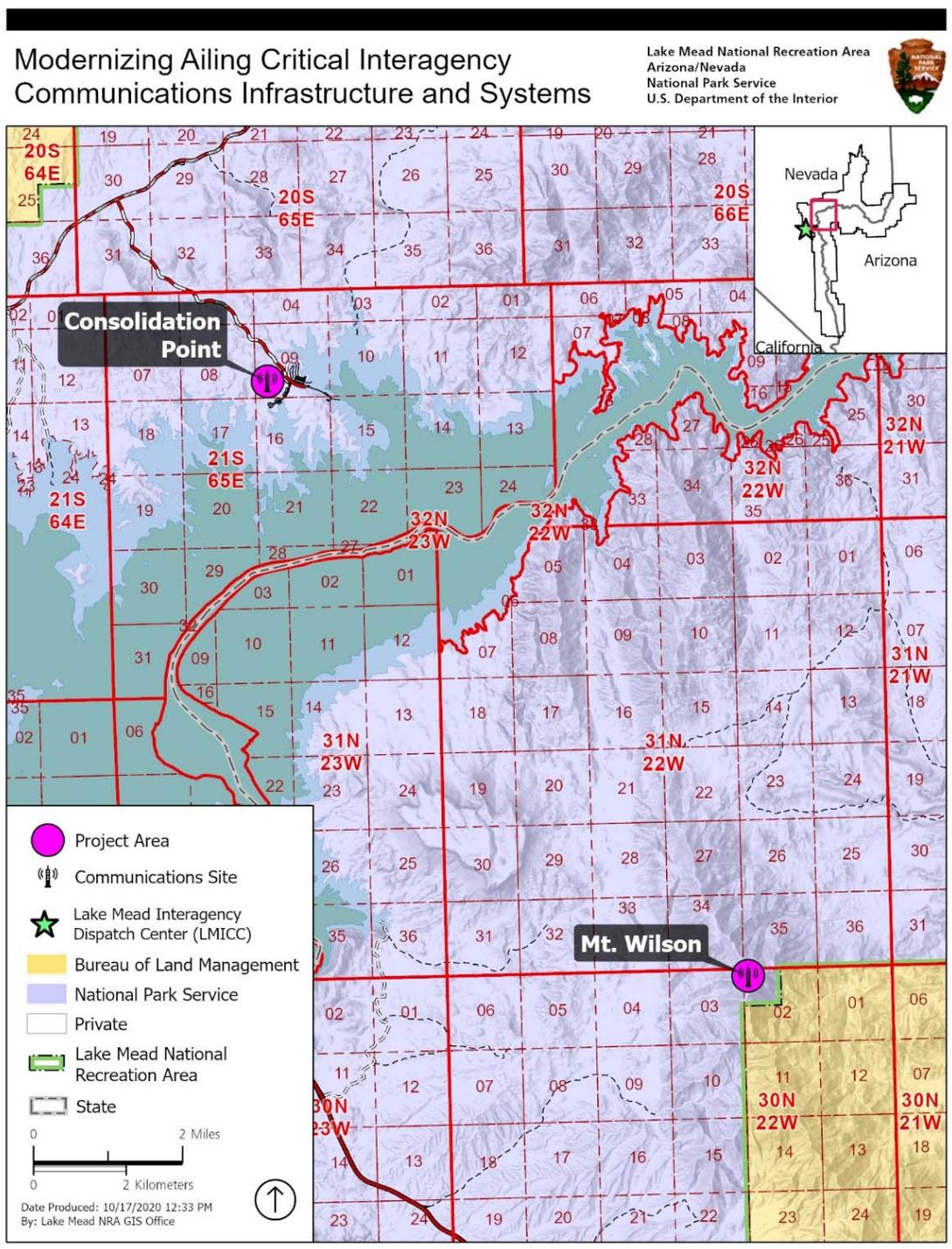


Figure 5: TV Hill (35.211601, -114.556585) Specific Township and Land Status

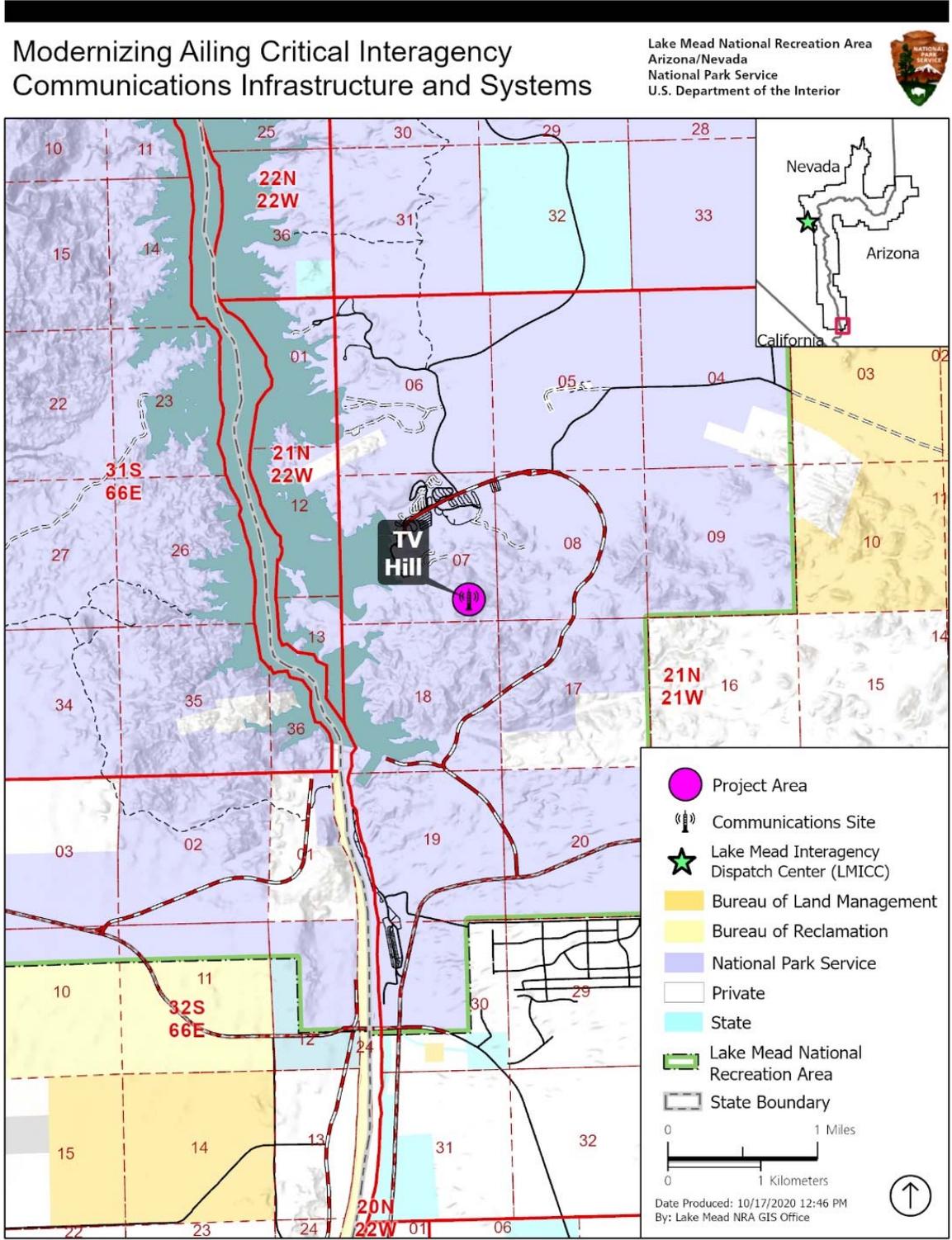
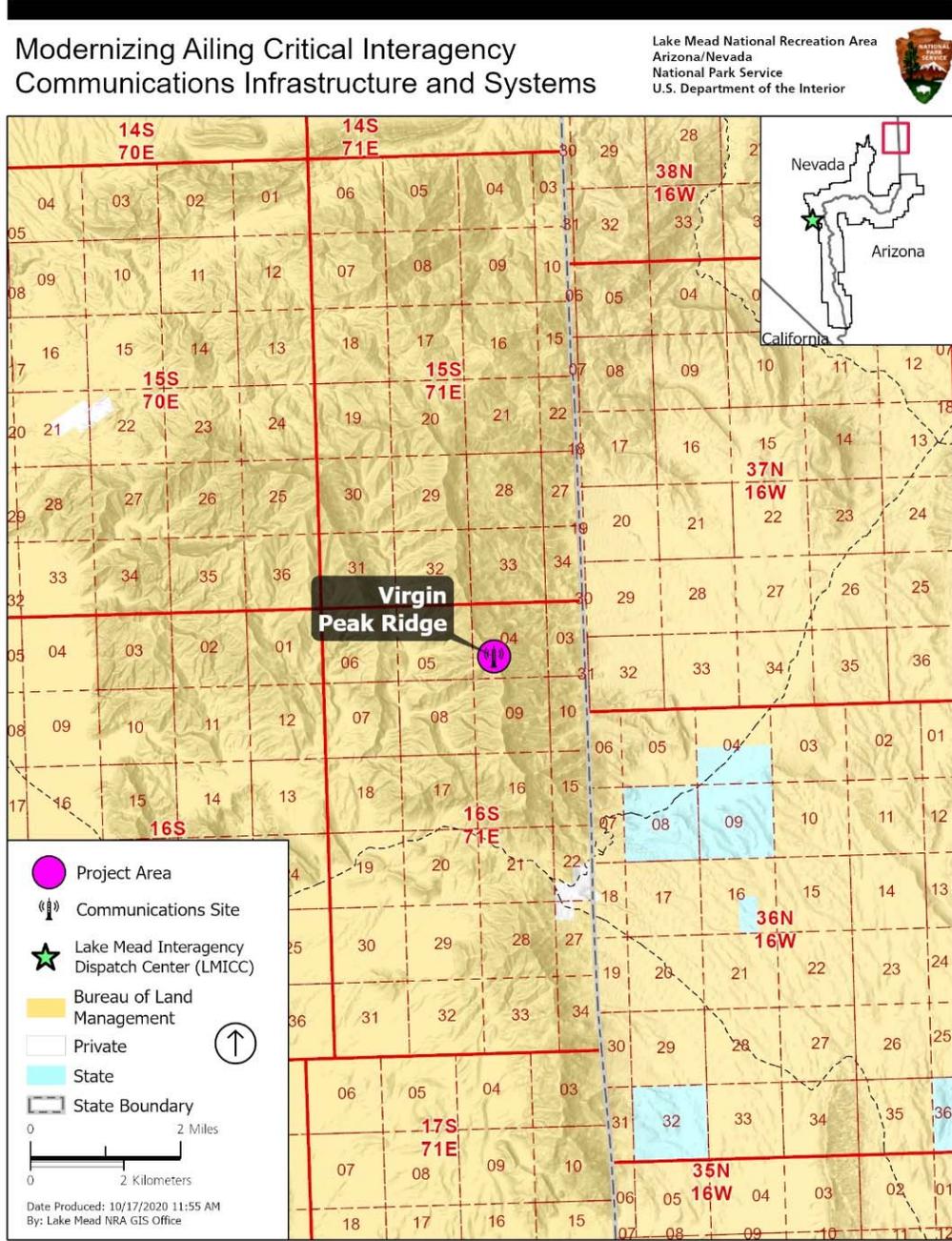


Figure 6: Virgin Peak (36.568793, -114.070805) Specific Township and Land Status



**Photos:**

Photo 1: Radio communications sites have been repaired in a piecemeal fashion. An orchestrated repair is required to bring these systems from the past to the future



Photo 2: This site at Mount Perkins illustrates an inadequate photovoltaic system and an inadequate storage facility. This project will replace tower foundations, replace towers to accommodate proper antennae and repeaters, replace equipment shelters, and improve power systems.



Photo 3: This site at Mount Wilson illustrates inadequate photovoltaic system, inadequate storage facility, and inadequate tower. This project will replace tower foundations, replace towers to accommodate proper antennae and repeaters, replace equipment shelters, and improve power systems.



Photo 4: Sites such as these lack physical security and safety. This project will properly establish security fencing.



Photo 5: The state-of-the-art Interagency Communication Center is hamstrung without a network of infrastructure that can support their critical missions.

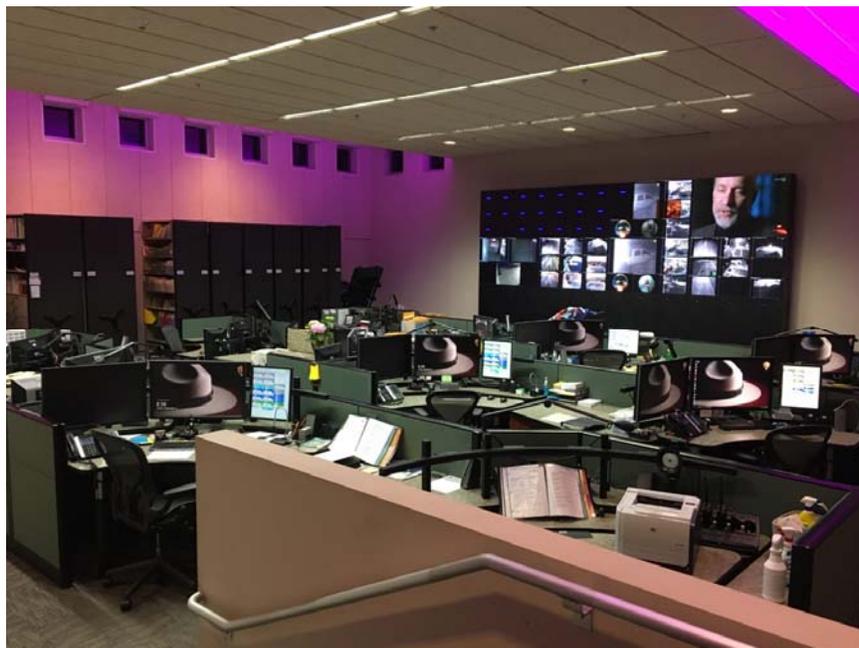


Photo 6: Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) are essential to keep our Conservation Officers safe and to maximize their efficiency.



Figure 7 - SNAP “Interagency Project” Confirmation Letter



IN REPLY REFER TO:

LCB-2000  
3.1.03

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

## United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
P.O. Box 61470  
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470

## Memorandum

To: Margaret L. Goodro  
Superintendent  
Lake Mead National Recreation Area

From: Mary J. Reece, P.E., Ph.D.  
Chief, Resource Management Office  
Acting Board Chair  
Southern Nevada Agency Partnership Board

Digitally signed by Mary J.  
Reece  
Date: 2020.10.19 16:23:13  
-0700'

**Mary J. Reece**

Subject: Southern Nevada Agency Partnership Board (SNAP) Intent for Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 18 Capital Improvement Project.

On behalf of SNAP, I would like to express our intent for the SNPLMA Round 18 Capital Improvement project ‘Modernize Ailing Critical Interagency Communications Center Infrastructure and Systems’ submitted by Lake Mead National Recreation Area (NRA) to be considered an interagency project. The submission of this interagency project shall be done by the National Park Service.

This project benefits all of our agencies as it provides services for Interagency Conservation Officers, visitors, and Federal Partners. It also updates the Computer Aided Dispatch for the Interagency Center that serves the National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, and U.S. Marshal Service.

We are thankful to Lake Mead NRA for submitting this project on behalf of the SNAP Board. The benefits of this project will go far beyond our agencies and improve the lives of so many in our shared region. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [mreece@usbr.gov](mailto:mreece@usbr.gov).

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 INTERIOR REGION 8 • LOWER COLORADO BASIN
 

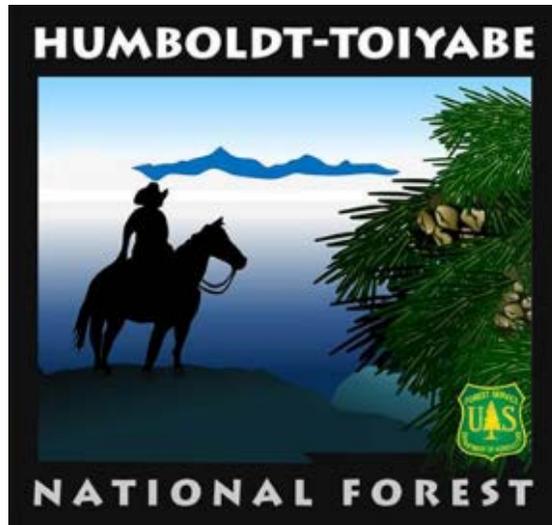
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ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA\*, NEVADA\*

\* PARTIAL

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act  
Capital Improvements  
Round 18

USDA Forest Service



**Mountain Springs Fire Complex**

Amount Requested: \$17,141,320

Time Frame: 7 years

Location: 36.017500°, -115.20916667°

Congressional District Number: NV-3

Federal Manager: Deborah MacNeill, Area Manager

Project Contact: Marty Woods, Fire Management Officer

Phone: (702) 533-9609

Email: [martin.woods@usda.gov](mailto:martin.woods@usda.gov)

**Purpose Statement:**

The USDA Forest Service, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Spring Mountains National Recreation Area (SMNRA) will construct a new fire station complex to develop a permanent fire and public safety presence on the south and west sides of the SMNRA. This fire station complex, approximately 31 miles southwest of Las Vegas, will improve safety, operational effectiveness and increase protection of the public and natural resources. The increased population, visitation, and expansion of State Route (SR)160 have increased the threat of wildfires and other hazardous conditions on the SMNRA. As evidenced by the Carpenter One Fire in 2013, the lack of available resources and aviation support near fires starting in this area significantly contributes to the growth of catastrophic wildfires. This facility will be located near SR160 on National Forest lands near the unincorporated community of Mountain Springs, in Clark County, Nevada.

**Background info and need for the project:**

The SMNRA has documented fire history dating back to the 1920's and has been host to numerous fires of all sizes up to and including the 2013 Carpenter One Fire burning over 28,000 acres in fuel types ranging from grass and brush to Ponderosa and Bristlecone Pine. The fire began on the West side of the SMNRA and burned over to the East side affecting additional SMNRA and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (NCA) public land, and threatening the Trout Canyon, Coal Springs, Torino Ranch, Kyle Canyon, Lee Canyon and Harris Springs communities or inholdings.

The configuration and construction of the project will be based on final Architecture and Engineering (A&E) design consistent with USFS Fire Facility policy and the SMNRA General Management Plan. The SMNRA is seeking a willing seller for the acquisition of approximately 4-acre feet annually (afa) ground water rights for the new fire station complex. Acquisition of water rights will require change applications, permitting and drilling for a groundwater well system. If acquisition is unsuccessful the alternative in providing water to the complex will be above-ground water storage tanks filled with potable water by a local vendor for the fire station, barracks and trailer pads (10,000 gallons each). Water for the heliwell will be delivered by non-potable water tender. An additional 10,000-gallon tank will also be needed for firefighting water.

Access to the power grid will be managed by the SMNRA. There is power adjacent to the proposed fire complex sites. SMNRA will work through a contractor, in conjunction with the local power company Valley Electric, for power connection and the addition of power poles and distribution lines inside the complex. Power will need to be distributed to the fire station, barracks, hazardous material storage and helicopter landing area/heliwell. Connection of propane from a local vendor will require propane tanks and distribution lines to support the fire station and barracks. There is no local sewer system, so installation of sewer is needed to support the complex.

SMNRA Fire is working with Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) to ensure proper access and that NDOT's highway right-of-way will not be negatively impacted by the additional traffic of light vehicles and Wildland Fire Engines.

SMNRA is considering four sites (A through D) all within the same general area on forest vacant lands located adjacent to the community of Mountain Springs in Clark County, Nevada, for construction of the proposed new fire station complex (See Map ##):

- Option A: +/- 19.91 acres (APN 174-20-303-001) within NE4SW4 of S20 T22S R58E.
- Option B: +/- 20.34 acres (APNs 174-20-402-002, -003) within PT SE4SW4 of S20 T22S R58E; and PT SE4 SW4 SEC 20 22 58.
- Option C: +/- 4.21 acres (APN 174-20-401-015) within PT SE4SW4 S20 T22S R58E.
- Option D: +/- 42.85 acres (APN 174-20-801-001, -002) within lots 1-2, S20 T22S R58E.

Option A is one land parcel that has a County public road (Benedict Drive) along the westerly boundary, across from a residential area with utility poles running up to the proposed site on its southwest corner. This location borders the La Madre Mountains Wilderness on two sides (north and east). This location is best located for helicopter operations since aircraft will not have to overfly private residences during takeoff and landing with the southwest predominant winds.

Option B encompasses two land parcels that has a County road along the westerly boundary (Benedict Drive) with utility poles running up to the proposed location, and southeasterly boundary is Pinion Drive and adjacent residential areas. SR160 abuts the southerly boundary of the two parcels that make up this proposed site. This site is less than a mile from our current location behind the Clark County Volunteer Fire Station, where the issue being adjacent to SR160 is consistent vandalism and theft due to it being visible from that major highway. This proposed site is less ideally located for helicopter operations since aircraft could potentially need to overfly private residences or SR160 during takeoff and landing with the southwest predominant winds.

Option C is one land parcel that has utility poles bisecting the proposed site in the northern 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the property. This parcel is adjacent to SR160 on the south side of the highway, less than 2 miles from our current location behind the Clark County Volunteer Fire Station and has the same theft and vandalism issues that we might experience at option B. This location is less ideally located for helicopter operations due to the utility line and poles bisecting the area as well as the concern of aircraft potentially needing to overfly private residences or SR160 during takeoff and landing with the South West predominant winds.

Option D encompasses two land parcels with an undeveloped County public right-of-way along the southerly boundary but no existing access. This proposed site has SR160 including utility poles located adjacent to the southerly boundary, and residential to the west. The La Madre Mountains Wilderness border the site on two sides (north and east). This location is not as flat as the others and will require more work to create suitable building sites. This location is better for helicopter operations than Options B and C since aircraft should not have to overfly private residences during takeoff and landing with the southwest predominant winds, however they may have to overfly SR160.

### Relationship to previous phases and anticipated future phases:

No previously funded or additional phases to this project.

### Project Deliverables:

#### Primary Deliverables:

Design and construct a fire station complex near the community of Mountain Springs on the SMNRA to house two, 7-person Engine Crews, one Fire Prevention Technician, and provide work space for Law Enforcement Officers, and any additional resources on temporary assignment to the area. This includes:

1. 2 each secure/private workspace (~100 sq. ft. each) for 2 Fire Engine Captains.
2. 1 each secure/private workspace (~100 sq. ft.) for a Law Enforcement Officer.
3. 1 each shared workspace (~500 sq. ft.) for crewmembers and Fire Prevention Patrol.
4. 3 each Fire engine bays to provide an indoor, secure and environmentally-controlled parking structure with “pull through” bays to accommodate two heavy fire engines (Type 3 or 4); the third bay will be a shared space for one light fire engine (Type 7 Patrol Truck) and a Utility Task Vehicle (UTV).
5. Security fence (~4,000 ft. in length depending on topography and design) around the entire complex with a motorized electric gate (with manual override).
6. Electrical power connection to the local power grid. This requires addition of 2-3 power poles and distribution lines inside fire complex, along with power distributed to the fire station, barracks, hazardous material storage and helicopter landing area/heliwell.
7. Connection of propane. This requires propane tanks and distribution lines to provide propane to the fire station and barracks.
8. Installation of sewer system to support fire station, trailer pads and barracks.
9. Acquisition of groundwater rights (~4 acre-feet annually). If acquisition is unsuccessful, storage and delivery of potable and non-potable water for the facility will be sought.
10. Installation of a water system (well system and above-ground storage tanks) includes infrastructure development and plumbing. Alternatively, if acquisition is unsuccessful, the system will require potable water tanks for the fire station, barracks and trailer pads (10,000 gallons each). Water for the heliwell to be delivered by non-potable water tender, and an additional 10,000-gallon tank for firefighting water.
11. A hydrant or standpipe for filling fire engines and water tenders consistent with current design standards.
12. Construction of asphalt road system (~8 acres, contingent on final design) to connect the fire station, barracks and helicopter pad, parking areas and aprons.
13. A training/meeting/conference room (~ 25’x20’ or 500 sq. ft.) to accommodate 25 agency representatives and the public when appropriate.
14. Secure-equipment storage (fire cache) for a fire/fuels warehouse (~25’x20’ or 500 sq. ft.).
15. Indoor workshop areas along the sides of the engine bays using work benches on casters that can be positioned anywhere in the engine bays. This area can be incorporated into the proposed engine bays and safely accommodate two-wheeled work benches per side.
16. Covered outdoor work area for cleaning chainsaws and other equipment. This work area will be an addition off the side of the fire station, running the length of the building.

17. Kitchen with sufficient space (~200 sq. ft.) for refrigerator, stove, microwave, etc. (equipment/appliances to be funded by USFS, not SNPLMA).
18. A separate Hazardous Materials storage facility (~80 sq. ft.).
19. A workout room (~210 sq. ft.) for indoor physical training, weights, benches and cardio machines (equipment will be provided by the USFS, not SNPLMA).
20. Barracks facilities to accommodate 10 fire station crews or resource personnel assigned to the area plus one ADA compliant room.
21. 8 each trailer pads for housing government employees in privately owned trailers.
22. Parking lot to accommodate 5-7 visitor vehicles.
23. Parking lot for accommodate 15 agency/employee vehicles.
24. Connections for Internet and Wi-Fi for fire station, and a cell phone booster for fire station and barracks.

#### Anticipated deliverables

1. A paved and lighted helicopter pad (~20'x20') and safety circle (~90 ft. in diameter) around heliwell to accommodate a Type II or Type III Helicopter with clear and level-paved touchdown pad meeting FAA specifications. This area will be used for fire suppression helicopters and night operations used by Emergency Medical helicopters.
2. 6,000-gallon Heliwell (helicopter water dip tank for wildfire suppression) exclusively for helicopter fire suppression.
3. 2 each bulk fuel tanks to fuel agency vehicles (a 500-gallon unleaded and a 1,000-gallon diesel fuel tank).
4. Parking shade structures with solar panels to accommodate 15 agency/employee vehicles.
5. A weed wash station/vehicle wash rack (~12'x40') with drainage to manage runoff containing noxious weeds and seeds for vehicles going to or returning from the field.

#### Standard deliverables

1. NEPA process for construction activities and acquisition of water rights.
2. Scoping meetings.
3. SHPO consultation, coordination, etc.
4. Nevada Division of Water Resources application and permitting process, as appropriate.
5. NDOT application and permitting process, as appropriate.
6. SMART quarterly/annual updates; final accomplishment and performance reporting.
7. Preparation of the close out package is a required standard deliverable.

#### **Project Timeframe:**

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Years 1-3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work plan approval and funding authorization</li> <li>• Planning Initiative, including the following:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Secure a willing seller</li> <li>○ Acquisition of groundwater or contracting of potable water delivery</li> <li>○ Conceptual design</li> <li>○ Scoping meetings</li> <li>○ FWS consultation (if required)</li> <li>○ SHPO/Historic Properties Consultation</li> <li>○ NEPA Preparation and Decision Document</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
|-----------|---|

- Years 3-4
  - Design Initiative, including the following
    - Access approval (if required)
    - Engineering Design
    - Preparation of contract documents/specifications
- Year 5
  - Contract Solicitation and Award
  - Begin Construction
- Year 6
  - Construction continuation
- Year 7
  - Final Construction Completion
  - Agency acceptance
  - Payment of final invoice, close out of contracts
  - Release of lien
  - Project close out with SNPLMA
  - Final site inspection
  - Final review of project file and expenditures
  - Request for close out
  - SNPLMA close out of the funding authorization

#### **Level of Project Readiness for Implementation:**

This project will be completed through a combination of in house and contract resources. The SMNRA has the necessary staff expertise, and/or resources to initiate the project once funding is available. NEPA will be managed in house by a local team. SHPO documents will be prepared in house with assistance from the HTF Supervisor's Office (due to our vacant Cultural Resources Specialist position on the SMNRA) and provide to SHPO to meet consultation/documentation requirements. Initial planning is being worked on in house now by a local team. Responsibility for operations and maintenance is being planned with the HTF Fire Management Staff at the Supervisor's Office. There is currently a local team working with the Supervisor's Office and Regional Office to acquire water rights or obtain services for delivery of potable and non-potable water.

Upon completion a "turn-key" facility will be move in ready by SMNRA Fire personnel and available for use by other portions of the SMNRA from all functional areas along with our Federal and Non-Federal cooperating agencies as appropriate through our Cooperative Fire Protection Agreements. While this facility is primarily a Fire Station, it can be used for a variety of additional purposes centered around resource protection, community awareness and providing for enhanced and safer communities and recreation experience on the SMNRA.

#### **Future Operations and Maintenance:**

The anticipated lifecycle of the project is 7 years to completion; the anticipated use of this facility is indefinite.

- General operation and maintenance costs are managed at the Regional Office.

- The operation and maintenance of the facility would be the responsibility of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (primarily, the Spring Mountain NRA Fire & Aviation program and with support as needed from other natural resource programs utilizing the facility).
- Operation and Maintenance of the Fire facility will be managed and funded by SMNRA/HTF and USFS Region 4 Fire budgets.
- Operation and maintenance of the barracks will be managed and funded by SMNRA/HTF Quarters Maintenance budgets.
- The indirect costs will be reduced by providing facilities to secure and maintain fire engines, vehicles & equipment which will reduce the theft, vandalism and damage that consistently occurs from the current facility due to the nature of it being hidden behind the County Fire Station but still adjacent to a major highway.
- Operations and maintenance costs will increase, but the project will improve the existing situation by providing a safe, secure and comfortable working and living environment for USFS employees.
- The ability to connect with the local community and the public that accesses this part of the Forest will assist to offset the increase in costs. The efficiencies and cost savings by other program areas will enable the Forest to support the costs of operation and not just depend on the fire budget.
- The development of the facility as an integrated public contact and natural resource protection operation enables additional resources from other Natural Resource Programs and projects, Clark County Operations, Metro Police, partners and stakeholders to contribute to long-term facility sustainability.
- This project is not a phase of a prior approved project, and as proposed would not require any additional phases.

#### **Contributed funds directly applicable to completion of the project:**

No contributed funds anticipated at this time. A partnership with Clark County Fire Department may be appropriate in the future. If so, moving a facility for Clark County Fire Department onto adjoining or nearby USFS owned lands may be an option, this would not be a SNPLMA project.

#### **Funding Requested Budget Detail:**

The anticipated cost of the seven-year project as outlined is \$17,141,320. The budget for the Mountain Springs Fire Station Complex includes planning, design and construction of a fire station complex including the acquisition of groundwater rights.

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## Capital Improvement Project Proposal Estimated Necessary Expenses

<b>Project Name:</b>	<u>Mountain Springs Fire Complex</u>	<b>Agency:</b>	<u>USDA Forest Service, Humboldt-Toiyabe NF, Spring Mountains National Recreation Area</u>
<b>Project #:</b>	<u>N/A Nomination Submittal</u>	<b>Phone:</b>	<u>775-352-1265</u>
<b>Prepared by:</b>	<u>Sierra Brewer</u>	<b>Date:</b>	<u>8/5/2020</u>

<b>1</b>	<b>Planning, Environmental Compliance &amp; Preconstruction Engineering and Design</b> <i>(Not to exceed 27% of total project costs)*</i>	<u>\$2,721,000</u>	<u>15.9%</u>
	(pre-design sketches and conceptual drawings; environmental assessment and permitting, specialist surveys/reports for archaeology, wildlife, biology, etc.; architectural and engineering analysis, design survey & field investigations; construction drawing, specifications, cost estimates, and engineering technical reports.)		
<b>2</b>	<b>Construction Contract Costs</b>	<u>\$13,000,400</u>	<u>75.8%</u>
	(including labor, supplies & materials, construction management, etc.; sampling/testing; site restoration; and government furnished supplies and materials.)		
<b>3</b>	<b>Project Equipment</b>	<u>\$0</u>	
	SNPLMA funds can only be used for "project related necessary expenses" and SNPLMA can reimburse only for those equipment costs directly associated with completion of the approved project. Does not include office furnishings or equipment necessary for operations or maintenance of the project).		
<b>4</b>	<b>Travel</b>	<u>\$275,000</u>	<u>1.6%</u>
	(including per diem where official travel status is required to carry out the project, such as to serve as COR, experts to review reports, etc.)		
<b>5</b>	<b>Official Vehicle Use</b>	<u>\$31,300</u>	<u>0.2%</u>
	(pro rata cost for use of Official Vehicles when required to carry out the project)		
<b>6</b>	<b>Other Direct and Contracted Labor</b>	<u>\$540,000</u>	<u>3.2%</u>
	Agency payroll for the Contracting Officer to do project procurements, COR Project Inspector, Section 106 Consultation, NEPA Lead, Project Manager, Project Supervisor, and subject experts to review contracted surveys, design/drawings, plans, reports, etc.; Also covered is the cost to contract for a Project Manager and/or Project Supervisor if contracted separately from other project costs.		
<b>7</b>	<b>FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act</b>	<u>\$8,000</u>	<u>0.0%</u>
<b>8</b>	<b>Federal Direct Labor</b> <i>(direct agency labor for construction, PI, CO, COR work)</i>	<u>\$0</u>	
<b>9</b>	<b>Other Necessary Expenses</b> (See IA Appendix B-3)	<u>\$565,620</u>	<u>3.3%</u>
<b>Total Requested/Estimated Budget</b>		<u><b>\$17,141,320</b></u>	<u><b>100.00%</b></u>

### **Performance Measures:**

SNPLMA program's vision, mission, and goals is associated with connecting people to the outdoors and conserving public lands while ensuring the projects' fiscal sustainability. The proposed fire station complex supports these goals and the anticipated performance measures.

**Strategic Goal 1:** Sustain the quality of the Outdoor environment by conserving, preserving, and restoring natural and cultural resources.

- Output O2 Number of buildings, facilities and/or amenities constructed or refurbished: This project will provide 4 buildings, facilities or amenities to be constructed to provide: A Fire Complex consisting of one Fire Station, one 10 person Barracks, eight Trailer pads and a helicopter landing area & water tank for helicopter water drops.
- Output O6 Number of new interpretive or education presentations signs and or kiosks displays produced – One informational kiosk will be constructed outside of toe fenced in complex for sharing information when personnel are not in station. When personnel in station there will be personnel to share information with visitors on site, this will provide more in-depth information that a standalone kiosk. There will also be a meeting/training room used for informative and training purposes for fire personnel and when appropriate the community as well.
- Output O8 Buildings or facilities that support green sustainable design and construction – The two buildings will be constructed with any and all sustainable design and construction elements allowed by the agency and design needs. If approved, the additional solar panel/shaded parking cover will provide additional efficiency with the use of electricity.

### **Executive Committee Strategic Plan Values:**

Addressed in the ranking criteria below.

### **Compliance with Departmental Priorities, Strategic Goals, Executive Orders and Secretarial Orders:**

Addressed in the ranking criteria below.

### **Ranking Criteria:**

#### **1. Sustainability & Modernization:**

The project supports conservation, preservation, restoration, or modernization of natural, cultural, or historic resources (which includes infrastructure) to ensure availability of those resources for future generations. The project will remain relevant and continue to provide benefit to a recreation user over the anticipated life of the project.

*A) A new project or facility designed specifically to engender conservation stewardship and provide new opportunities within the management area that is ecologically, economically, and*

***socially sustainable for present and future generations and restore or preserve natural resources or cultural resources of the area.***

Yes, this project meets this criteria factor - the Spring Mountains range is a sky island ecosystem and contains about two miles of vertical relief, from the desert valley floor (600 meters) to the top of Mount Charleston (3,632 meters). This dramatic elevation gradient creates eco-zones that provide a refuge for endangered and sensitive flora and fauna, some of which are found nowhere else in the world. In addition to endangered species like the Mount Charleston blue butterfly, the SMNRA contains ecosystems that host ancient Bristlecone pines, 15 endemic plant species, and over 80 springs and seeps. The Spring Mountain is also a special and significant place for the local Tribal communities, with many sensitive cultural areas and archeological resources throughout the SMNRA. Three wilderness areas and one wilderness sturdy area also occur within the SMNRA. The implementation of this project is important for the continued protection of endangered and endemic species, sensitive ecosystems, cultural legacy, and untrammeled places.

This project will provide a facility for a more rapid and effective response to wildland fires in the southern and western portions of the Spring Mountain NRA as well as the southern portion of the Las Vegas Interagency Response area. This will result in increased safety for residents, public land users, and firefighters in this area. This project will also enhance the efficiency of current and future agency and SNPLMA funded Fuels Reduction Projects. The addition of law enforcement at this location will increase our presence on the south and west sides of the Spring Mountain to better manage and protect the natural and cultural resources. This project will incorporate options for sustainable/renewable energy sources. Solar and wind power are both being researched and considered for this facility. Working with Nevada Energy, we have determined that electricity that is being produced, but not used can be put back into the power grid for a credit to the USFS.

The facility does have the support of the Southern Nevada Interagency Fire Operations Group, Clark County Fire and Rescue, Metro Police, Clark County Commissioners and the local Community of Mountain Springs as a focal point for integrated operations and long-term natural resource protection and education program enhancement.

An incorporated vehicle weed wash station on site would provide for reduced opportunity to transfer noxious weeds from one environment to another, slowing the spread of those noxious weeds.

***B) Modernization or rehabilitation of an existing project, facility and/or amenities to enhance the visitor experience, improve unit operations, and reduce or eliminate user impacts to the natural or cultural resources, or restore natural processes within the immediate project area.***

Yes, this project meets this criteria factor – the current Fire Station is located behind a county volunteer fire station that is on and adjacent to the right of way for a busy state highway. The new location will put the station, employees, and visitors in a location off the highway and away from traffic. The new facilities, including fencing and exterior lighting, will also enhance the security and safety of equipment, employees, and the public. With limited space and connectivity at the current facility provides for less than efficient and effective response by USFS fire resources to USFS fires. Only providing parking and workspace for 1 Engine and crew to work from with no meeting space or workspace for most of the crew. The proposed facility will provide integrated

operational ability for USFS personnel to work with the Clark County Fire Department, Las Vegas Metro Police Department to manage incidents in Mountain Springs and will support the Mountain Springs Community. This proposed facility will help to decrease USFS response times for critical incidents and would be a focal point for Public Contact and future Natural Resource and Recreation Programs on the South and West side of the Spring Mountains and adjacent Clark County and BLM-managed lands. The ability to provide a helipad and water source not only provides for fire suppression support but also any other emergency medical services response by giving Air Ambulances and Las Vegas Metro helicopters a safe and secure place to land.

The ability to provide a work center for staging other USFS project operations creates a more efficient and effective strategy for all integrated programs and enables volunteers and partners to better serve the public and care for the land. It often takes over 2 hours to reach some of the Western areas of the SMNRA, which only leaves 4 hours in a normal day to perform work. When crews are able to begin their workday at this facility, they are able to increase productivity and create a more sustainable operation.

***C) Conservation and stabilization, restoration, or rehabilitation of significant historic buildings, cultural sites, and other significant historic facilities for the present and future generations to enjoy and appreciate the areas cultural heritage.***

Yes, this project meets this criteria factor – this project will provide a facility for a more rapid and effective response to wildland fires in the Southern and Western portion of the Spring Mountain NRA as well as the Southern portion of the Las Vegas Interagency Response area. This will result in increased safety for residents, public land users, and firefighters in this area. The addition of law enforcement at this location will increase our presence on the south and west sides of the Spring Mountain to better manage and protect the natural and cultural resources.

***D) New facilities that enhance or improve management of public lands. These might include visitor centers, contact stations, and campgrounds to improve public access; housing for staff, interns, and volunteers to carry out programs for improved conservation, education; and curation facilities and workspace to improve conservation of natural and cultural resources and opportunity for educational programming.***

Yes, this project meets this criteria factor - the current station is located behind a county volunteer fire station that is on and adjacent to the right of way for a busy state highway. The new location will put the station, employees, and visitors in a location off the highway and away from traffic. The new facilities, including fencing and exterior lighting, will also enhance the security and safety of equipment, employees, and the public. With limited space and connectivity at the current facility provides for less than efficient and effective response by USFS fire resources to USFS fires. Only providing parking and workspace for 1 Engine and crew to work from with no meeting space or workspace for most of the crew. The proposed facility will provide integrated operational ability for USFS personnel to work with the Clark County Fire Department, Las Vegas Metro Police Department to manage incidents in Mountain Springs and will support the Mountain Springs Community. This proposed facility will help to decrease USFS response times for critical incidents and would be a focal point for Public Contact and future Natural Resource and Recreation Programs on the South and West side of the Spring Mountains and adjacent Clark County and BLM-managed lands. The ability to provide a helipad and water

source not only provides for fire suppression support but also any other emergency medical services response by giving Air Ambulances and Las Vegas Metro helicopters a safe and secure place to land.

The new facility would have individual bedrooms for ten employees, this would provide space for our personnel and out-of-town resources and a conference room for up to twenty-five people. The new fire station also would provide a safer, improved, and strategically located facility from which to conduct:

- *Fire Operations* (fire suppression, prevention, hazardous fuels removal, and helicopter support) across the Spring Mountain Range and as an interagency partner. This facility will also provide a facility for Wildland Fire Incident Management Teams of any size, to work from or to use as an Incident Command Post, staging area, spike camp and/or briefing location during incidents on Federal Lands on and adjacent to the SMNRA.
- *Law Enforcement* to accommodate increased public use on west of the Spring Mountain Range.
- *Work Center* from which other SMNRA staff and partners can stage recreation and resource projects to better maintain, restore and protect the quality and quantity of the environment.

## **2. Connectivity:**

The project provides recreational opportunities that link population centers, recreation facilities, and the user to the outdoors and natural landscapes. It encourages people to meaningfully connect with their natural environment, thus helping them appreciate and care for the environment. The project will also connect the user to the history and/or cultural of the site and engages the user in appreciation of the site/area.

***A) Provides new, upgraded or modernized access and/or amenities or infrastructure to previously under-developed areas and/or new opportunities to enjoy/appreciate public lands (e.g., trails, kiosks with location maps and site information, roads, parking, way-finding, restrooms, day or overnight camping).***

Yes, this project meets this criteria factor – This facility would increase Forest Service employee presence in the community of Mountain Springs. Having this presence and involvement within the community is important to both the agency and the community. The facility will improve the Forest Service's ability to outreach to the community and public land users regarding recreation, natural resources, fire/law enforcement issues, as well as promote the Forest Service's agency goals of ecological restoration. The addition of sustainable building design features will also provide for an educational opportunity and demonstrate that the agency is a leader in sustainable facilities.

The ability for staff, partners, and volunteers to work out of this facility enables a more concentrated effort to maintain and sustain the recreation areas on the south and west side. The distances from the current office, precludes more investment in the trails and amenities located in this area. Crews will be more efficient and successful in supporting trails, public interaction, and natural resource protection because of this facility location.

There are numerous cultural, historical, and natural resource values (e.g. historical structures,

archeological sites, wildlife habitat, endemic species, recreational sites, etc.) which we will be better able to protect and manage as a result of this project. It will enhance our abilities to respond to fires and illegal activities that can have significant impacts on these resources. Additionally, the increase in public outreach and engagement will allow us to better disseminate information about land management/stewardship, and the conference room for employee trainings/meetings will promote information exchange regarding the natural resource protection, recreation and create an ownership opportunity for the local population to be engaged in these management approaches.

***B) Improves access to previously-developed recreation areas and sites on public lands and/or rehabilitates, upgrades or modernizes site amenities (e.g., improves access to trails, area or site information and way-finding, 4-wheel access roads to passenger vehicle accessible roads, parking).***

Yes, this project meets this criteria factor - The facility would increase our ability to manage current recreation activities and future development of recreation programs on the west side of the SMNRA. Additionally, fire and law enforcement response capabilities would be improved which could increase our ability to control fires with initial attack and to respond to illegal activities that could have impacts on recreation activities, environmental and cultural resources. The increased employee presence would increase public outreach regarding recreation, natural resources, information, federal land rules/regulations and land stewardship. The current situation in this area is that there are numerous shooting caused fires in the area adjacent to Mountain Springs, in the Sandy Valley and Mule Springs the BLM is experiencing a large number of shooting related fires that pose a direct threat to USFS lands in that area. The increased Fire and Law Enforcement presence should help in managing that activity and increase the effectiveness of Inter-Agency fire response to those incidents.

This facility would increase our ability to respond to activities that could have impacts on resources and recreation sites. This includes providing a safe landing area and a readily available water source for our local interagency helicopter operation. Also, in anticipation of increased population growth in Las Vegas and surrounding communities, we are seeking to strategically locate our resources to meet public demand.

***C) Provides new or additional recreation opportunities by connecting two or more existing facilities and increased access to primitive or developed outdoor recreation and educational opportunities to meet increased user demand, improves the recreation experience by constructing new facilities or expanded amenities that will connect to existing recreation facilities.***

Yes, this project meets this criteria factor – The facility would increase our ability to manage future recreation activities and future development of recreation programs on the west side of the SMNRA. Additionally, fire and law enforcement response capabilities would be improved which could increase our ability to control fires with initial attack and to respond to illegal activities that could have impacts on recreation activities, environmental and cultural resources. The increased employee presence would increase public outreach regarding recreation, natural resources, information, federal land rules/regulations and land stewardship.

This facility would increase our ability to respond to activities that could have impacts on

resources and recreation sites. This includes providing a safe landing area and a readily available water source for our local interagency helicopter operation. Also, in anticipation of increased population growth in Las Vegas and surrounding communities, we are seeking to strategically locate our resources to meet public demand.

***D) Contains an outreach and education component to improve public awareness and engage the public in the conservation and protection of the surrounding natural environment through the use of resource interpretation (e.g., information signage, kiosks, educational programs).***

Yes, this project meets this criteria factor – The facility will include recreation and natural resource kiosks to provide public education and information for recreation and cultural sites in the proximity to this area and the West side of the SMNRA. The kiosks could be placed outside of the compound in order to be accessible by the public when the station is not staffed and would be maintained by the fire personnel assigned to the station. The facility will also provide for public meetings and education presentations on the unique characteristics of the Spring Mountain and opportunities for recreation and volunteer involvement.

### **3. Community:**

The project provides or improves outdoor recreation opportunities to improve the quality of life, especially for underserved communities. It conserves or restores the functionality, resiliency, and integrity of biological communities. The project encourages partnerships, which in turn builds community.

*Outdoor recreation projects that provide economic benefits to local communities and social benefit to the recreationist and are responsive to changing demographics. The project has agreements or partnerships in place for the planning, design, implementation, and management of the project.*

A) Yes, this project meets this criteria factor – The development of a facility that enables outreach activities to surrounding communities to be locally based and available for community meetings and activities to better educate the public and enable local citizens to take ownership of public lands in their area. The side benefit of the desired location will be that it borders wilderness on 2 sides in an area where there are numerous user created trails, thus allowing us to assist in managing the use of the wilderness in that area and potentially even rehab and monitor those user created trails.

If the population growth of Las Vegas and surrounding communities will continue to rise, we seek to plan ahead for this growth. Additionally, the increased use of the South and West side of the Spring Mountain (by user such as OHV riders, horse riders, mountain biking, hikers, etc.) requires that we analyze our current management strategy and place our resources in strategically located sites to maximize management effectiveness.

The management challenges of increased public land use are two-fold. For one, increased public land use in and around this part of the Spring Mountain has put more people on the ground, and with this comes the potential for an increase in events that require the response of fire and law personnel (e.g. human caused fires, medical emergencies, law violations, etc.). Response to such events not only benefits the public but can significantly reduce the costs by expediting response times. Secondly, increased use of the land places a greater demand on resources. Unique plants, animals, and cultural sites exist on this part of the Spring

Mountain and will require a strong Forest Service presence in the area to promote our land stewardship message.

***B) Project has identified committed non-SNPLMA sources of funding or in-kind contribution for the planning, design, and development of the project.***

No, this project does not meet this criteria factor - Current CIP funding is extremely limited within USFS Region 4, therefore creating a new fire complex using USFS funds is not supported by the Region.

***C) Project provides agency or unit support/administrative infrastructure in underserved areas to improve management of and conservation stewardship, educational programming, and access to public lands.***

Yes, this project meets this criteria factor – The current fire station facility does not meet visitor or community needs. Because there will be an increase in the number of personnel stationed at the facility, and additional personnel living on site, we will achieve more efficient and effective response to events and request for information such as recreation, trails, allowable activities, fire, medical emergencies, cultural areas and law enforcement issues which provide immeasurable benefits to the public. Additionally, the increased presence of the Forest Service at this location provides a better opportunity to do public outreach, which increases the knowledge base of our public land users in areas such as federal rules/regulations, natural resources, recreation, Firewise communities and land stewardship.

This shared stewardship approach has generated increased interest by our partners and stakeholders who have committed to working with us to create a sustainable and long term approach to management of this facility and the services that it will provide to the public, employees and the land.

***4. Operations and Maintenance:***

*The agency has clearly demonstrated that the anticipated operations and maintenance costs for the project and resources necessary to operate the project are within existing appropriations or demonstrated how they will secure the necessary operations and maintenance funds. (Agency has detailed the estimated annual O&M cost and estimated use or permit fees to be collected.)*

***A) The agency has demonstrated that current appropriations are sufficient for the operations and management of the project for new projects or that O&M costs will be reduced after reconstruction and will be offset by concessionaire or volunteer labor for O&M.***

Yes, this project meets this criteria factor – Current appropriations are sufficient for the operation and maintenance of this facility. Funding for operating and maintaining facilities is managed at the Regional level. The Forest Fire Management Staff and Regional Fire Management Staff will manage these costs. It should be considered that the lack of secure facilities to store vehicles/equipment and the lack of a proper, indoor facility to maintain vehicles/equipment creates a situation of increased, indirect costs. As identified previously, the new facility with secure storage for equipment and vehicles will reduce our current issues of theft and vandalism. By providing facilities to secure and maintain fire engines, vehicles & equipment. operations and maintenance costs will increase, but the project will improve the existing situation. Our most recent experience is having a foreign material deposited into the fuel tank of our

Mountain Springs Fire Engine, causing \$10,000 in damage to the engine and taking that apparatus out of commission during a very busy fire season. This incident occurred at the Volunteer Fire Station, where the Engine is parked adjacent to a busy highway.

The ability to connect with the local community and the public that accesses this part of the Forest offset the increase in costs. The efficiencies and cost savings by other program areas will enable the Forest to support the costs of operations and not just depend on the fire budget.

***B) Volunteers or partners will be responsible for operation and maintenance of the project and agency funds will not be needed.***

No, this project does not meet this criteria factor – Only SMNRA Fire personnel will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of this facility using agency funds.

***C) The agency has included the current O&M costs, if any, and how this project will reduce current operations and maintenance costs. The entity has clearly shown what the anticipated savings will be, and/or how the project will reduce water use or energy costs for utilities.***

No, this project does not meet this criteria factor – We are currently operating out of 2 tuff sheds behind a Clark County Fire Station, our only operating cost is for internet service, all other costs are being paid by the Clark County Fire Department. The development of the new complex will provide us with our own facilities and the agency will bear the cost of utilities for this facility.

***D) Project would improve energy efficiency and/or independence.***

Yes, this project meets this criteria factor – We intend to incorporate solar and wind power elements to the facility reducing the need for power and when possible sending surplus electricity back to the power grid.

## **5. Life Cycle Replacement/Reconstruction**

***A) The project remains relevant, but has exceeded its useful design life, does not meet current federal accessibility standards, or deferred maintenance costs exceed the cost of replacement or reconstruction.***

- This factor is not applicable to this project – The current facility does not meet agency definitions of a fire facility and has been a long term stop gap with the hopes that at some point the agency would consider providing funding to build an appropriate facility.

***B) Current use has exceeded the original planned visitation/use and impacts have created a need to replace or reconstruct the facility earlier than originally planned and increased deferred maintenance costs exceed the cost of replacement or reconstruction. The project proposal shows the current annual maintenance costs and the anticipated savings after construction/reconstruction is complete.***

- This factor is not applicable to this project - Having said that, in the COVID-19 environment we are seeing significantly more visitation in the areas managed by the

resources assigned to Mountain Springs, this includes day visitors, shooters, campers and displaced homeowners living on public lands due to the loss of their homes.

## **6. ADVANCES THE AGENCY/ENTITY PRIORITIES/GOALS**

The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination/project meets the priorities and strategic goals for their respective agency.

*(This is scored as Yes, No, or NA. Nominations that have not adequately described what priorities and strategic goals they will meet and how they will meet the priorities and strategic goals will not be recommended for funding)*

### **A. Meets one or more of the Department of the Interior Priorities below:**

1. Create a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt.
  - Not Applicable
2. Sustainably develop our energy and natural resources.
  - This project will greatly enhance wildfire protection and prevention on the West and South sides of the SMNRA, benefiting multiple communities on those parts of the District. The project increases our ability to protect natural resources and incorporates recreational activity by providing a kiosk that can be used to educate the visiting recreators.
3. Restore trust and be a good neighbor.
  - The SMNRA has been working closely with Local and State governments, non-profit organizations, other federal agencies, and our communities to provide the most efficient and coordinated wildfire response program possible.
4. Ensure the tribal sovereignty means something.
  - The SMNRA has been coordinating with Nuwuvi (Southern Paiute Tribes) for the past several years, building our relationships. As part of that coordination, we are working Tribes to identify opportunities which can benefit tribal interests regarding fire in the area.
5. Increase revenues to support the Department and national interests.
  - Not Applicable
6. Protect our people and the border.
  - Not Applicable
7. Strike a regulatory balance.
  - Not Applicable
8. Modernize our infrastructure.
  - This project will significantly upgrade and a fire station that currently exists in the

form of two Tuff Sheds (one for office space and one for storage) and outdoor parking adjacent to a major highway for agency and privately owned vehicles.

9. Reorganize the Department for the next 100 years.

- Not Applicable

10. Achieve our goals and lead our team forward.

- Not Applicable

***B. U.S. Forest Service Priorities:***

1. Uplifting and empowering our employees through a respectful, safe working environment.

- This project will create a fire station. Currently, employees work out of two Tuff Sheds. Construction of an actual fire station will provide a safe and respectful work environment and provide government housing in the form of barracks and trailer pads at the fire station.

2. Being good neighbors and providing excellent customer service.

- The SMNRA has been working closely with Local and State governments, non-profit organizations, other federal agencies, local communities, and members of the public to plan and develop an improved level of response to wildfires in that area.

3. Promoting shared stewardship by increasing partnerships and volunteerism.

- The SMNRA has been working closely with Local and State governments, non-profit organizations, other federal agencies, the communities and individuals to plan and develop an improved level of response to wildfires in that area. All partners have been working across boundaries to improve response to wildfires.

4. Improving the condition of forests and grasslands.

- This project will increase capacity to respond to wildfires, while protecting and reducing impacts to resources on National Forests.

5. Enhancing recreation opportunities, improving access, and sustain infrastructure.

- This project will increase the safety of recreational opportunities immediately adjacent to the City of Las Vegas, City of Pahrump and the smaller communities within the SMNRA.

**7. CONSISTENCY WITH SECRETARIAL ORDERS AND DIRECTIVE**

The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination / project meets the Secretarial Orders (SO) and Directive.

*(This is scored as Yes, No or NA. Nominations that have not adequately described how the nomination complies with the SOs and Directive will not be recommended for funding)*

**A) EO No. 13855 Promoting Active Management of America's Forests, Range Lands to**

**Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk:**

- This project will create a fire station. Currently, employees work out of two Tuff Sheds (one for office space and one for storage). This project will increase the preparedness of the one engine crew stationed at that location, allow us to relocate our Fire Prevention Patrol to the area, that position was moved to the District Office due to a lack of space when we increased the size of the Engine Crew from 5 personnel to 7 in order to have 7 day coverage at that station.
- This project will give us the additional space to move another Engine Module to help in covering the South and West sides of the SMNRA, effectively doubling our resources available at that location.
- This project will increase the efficiency of fuels reduction projects in the area by providing a location closer to the worksites where briefings and work can begin and equipment can be cleaned and managed at the end of shift without returning to the Kyle Fire Station or District Office.

**SO No. 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation:**

- This project will support and enhance the safety of recreational opportunities within SMNRA and surrounding area by increasing the preparedness of responders to wildfires in the area.

**SO No. 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes and Territories:**

- This project will significantly increase recreational opportunities within the SMNRA, providing better response to shooting caused fires and enhancing the educational opportunity, sharing the message about the dangers of shooting caused fires in the area.
- Proper wildfire management will reduce impacts to wildlife from dispersed recreation and campfires.
- The SMNRA has been working closely with Local and State governments, non-profit organizations, other federal agencies, the communities to plan and develop a comprehensive interagency plan for wildfire response in this area.
- All partners have been working across boundaries to improve fire response and recreational opportunities.

**SO No. 3362: Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors**

- Not Applicable

**SO No. 3366: Increasing Recreational Opportunities on Lands and Waters Managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior**

- This project will support and enhance the safety of recreational opportunities within SMNRA and surrounding area by increasing the preparedness of responders to wildfires in the area.
- The SMNRA has been working closely with Local and State governments, non-profit organizations, other federal agencies, the communities to plan and develop a comprehensive interagency plan for wildfire response in this area.
- All of these partners have been working across boundaries to improve fire response and

recreational opportunities.

**SO No. 3370: Conservation Stewardship and Increasing Public Access to Urban National Wildlife Refuges**

- Not Applicable

**SO No. 3372: Reducing Wildfire Risks on Department of the Interior Land Through Active Management**

- This project will reduce wildfire risk to BLM-managed lands by actively managing the USFS lands adjacent to the Red Rock National Conservation Area.

**SO No. 3373 Evaluating Public Access in BLM Public Land Disposals and Exchanges**

- Not Applicable

**SO No. 3374 Implementation of John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management 7 Recreation Act**

- Not Applicable

**SO No. 3376 Increasing Recreational Opportunities through the use of Electric Bikes**

- Not applicable

**Other Secretarial Order(s) and Directive(s):** Describe any other Secretarial Order(s) and Directive(s) that apply to the nomination and are not listed above.

- Not Applicable

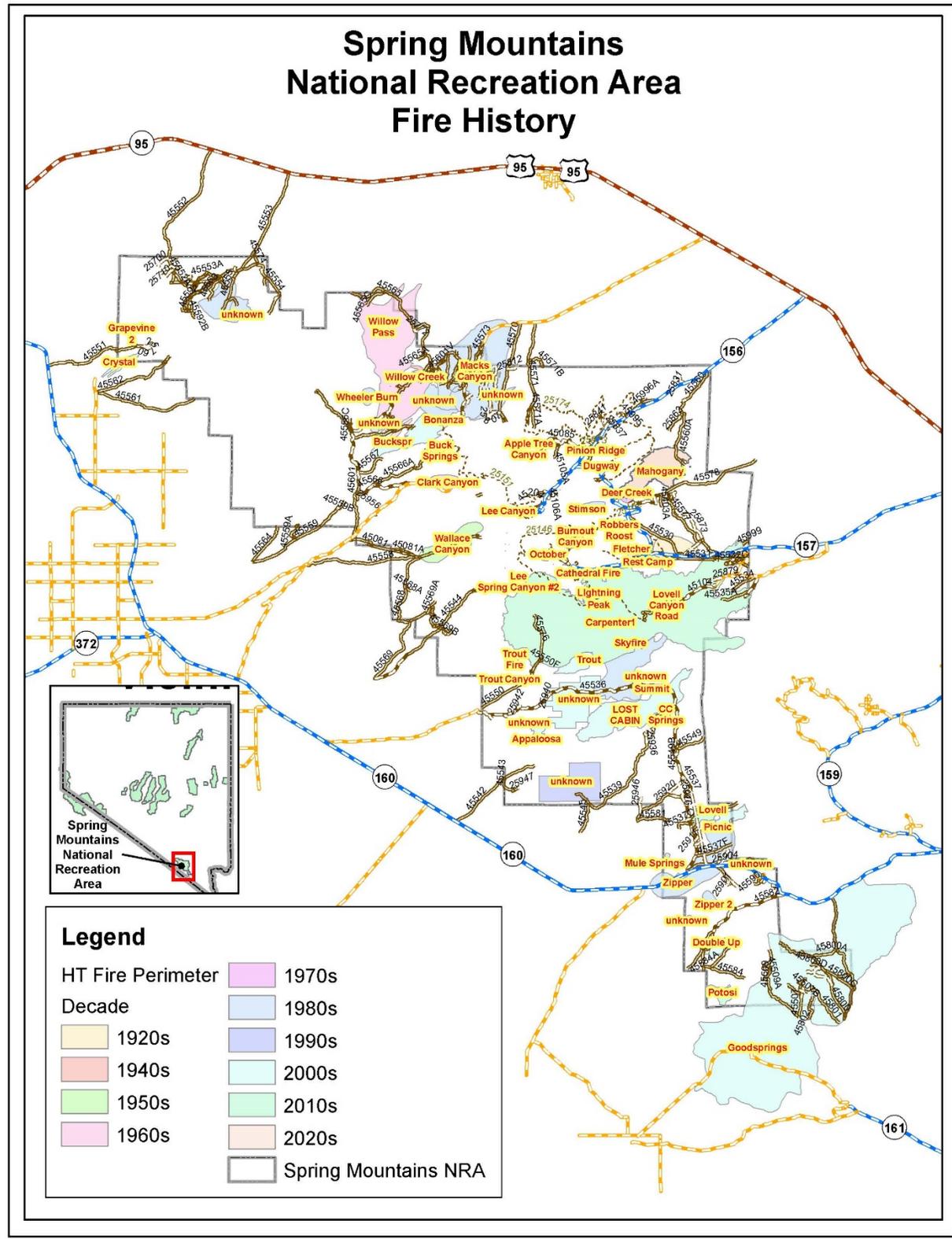
**Maps and Location of the Project:**

This facility would be in the community of Mountain Springs, Nevada (Figure 6), which is approximately 25 miles southwest (37 by road) from the main Spring Mountain NRA offices in northern Las Vegas, Clark County, Nevada.

- on 2 sides (the North and East sides). The location is not as flat as the others and will require more work to create suitable building sites. This location is better located for helicopter operations than Options B and C since aircraft should not have to overfly private residences during takeoff and landing with the South West predominant winds, however they may have to overfly SR160.

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Map 1: Fire History Map



### Map 2: Map from Mountain Springs to FS District Office

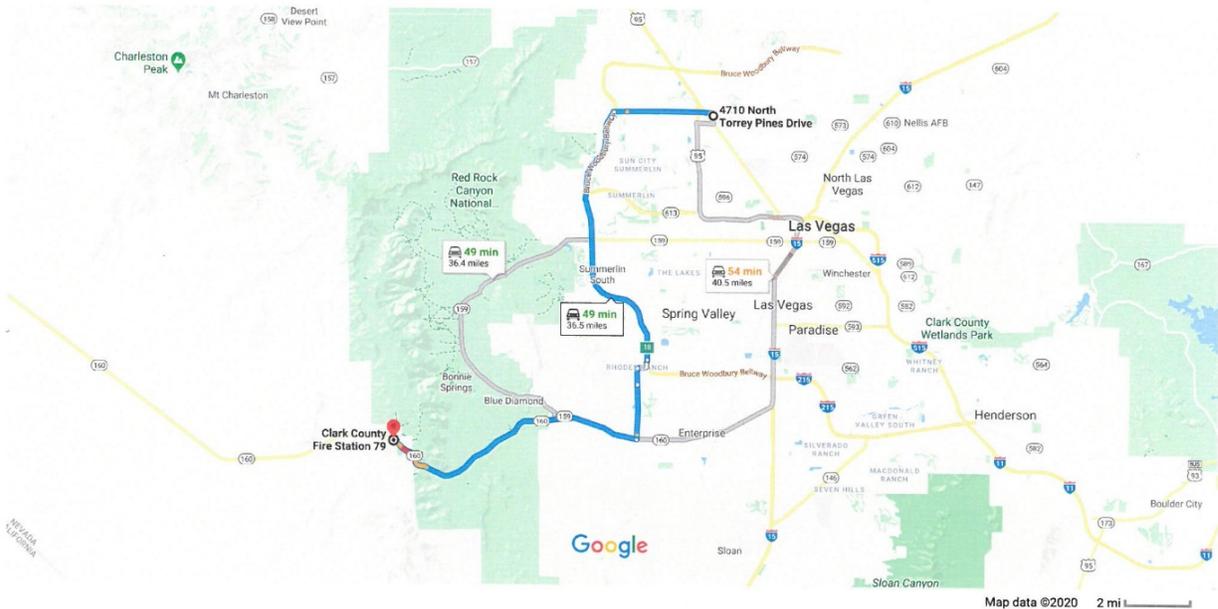
8/5/2020

4710 N Torrey Pines Dr to Clark County Fire Station 79 - Google Maps



4710 N Torrey Pines Dr to Clark County Fire Station 79

Drive 36.5 miles, 49 min





**Photos:**

Photo 1: Current Mtn Springs Fire Station (2 Tuff Sheds)



Photo 2: Current Mtn Springs Fire Station (2 Tuff Sheds behind Clark County Fire Station)



- 1 USFS Tuff Sheds
- 2 USFS Engine Parking
- 3 Clark County Fire station
- 4 Rerouted State Route 160

Photo 3: Potential end state (helicopter view of the Kyle Fire Station)



Photo 4: Potential end state (ground view of the Kyle Fire Station)



**SNPLMA Round 18  
CIP BLM Red Rock/Sloan NCA Addendum**

**Nomination:** Tab 11

**Entity:** Bureau of Land Management

**Project:** Red Rock Legacy Trail

**Revision:** Red Rock Legacy Trail - Zone 2

The BLM Southern Nevada District – Red Rock/Sloan Field Office proposes to scale-back their SNPLMA Round 18 capital improvement nomination “Red Rock Legacy Trail” from its original scope and cost for construction of approximately 28 miles of trail and elements, such as trailhead improvements and underpasses, totaling over \$63 million. This change is based on the SNPLMA Capital Improvement Subgroup recommendation to fund planning for all Zones, and Zone 2 implementation for approximately \$33 million. After the Subgroup meeting the SNPLMA Division and the BLM Red Rock/Sloan Field Office refined the scope and cost estimate to be \$34,640,296. This change to a phased approach reduces the project nomination amount requested in Round 18 by 55 percent.

The scope change reduces the Round 18 nomination to planning and design for the entire 28-mile trail alignment including two of the seven proposed trailheads, and construction of approximately 8 miles of the 28-mile trail system and two trailheads. Refer to the addendum map.

Planning and design will cover all phases of the 28-mile trail system in its entirety including the two proposed trailheads (Moenkopi and Blue Diamond Mesa). Construction of the 8 miles of trails encompasses segments 2A (5 miles) and 2B (2.5 miles). Construction of these trail segments will develop the trail on the southern side of SR159 beginning at the north creating a loop trail (crossing Moenkopi Road north towards SR159) as it eventually connects with the first segment of the Legacy Trail on the northern side of the highway currently being planned for construction. It also extends the trail from the entry to the scenic drive on the northern side of the highway and takes it all the way down to the Scenic Drive exit. The Legacy Trail will serve as an alternate 'non-motorized' route to the Scenic Drive. Red Rock Canyon expects hundreds of thousands of visitors to the trail annually with Zones 1, 2a, and 2b being the most popular. Construction of the Moenkopi and Blue Diamond Mesa trailheads are also important aspects of this phase as it will provide improved parking, restrooms, and safe access on and off State Route 159 as well as support recreational use.

# Legacy Trail Segments 2a and 2b

Section 1 (planning and construction happening outside of proposed project)

Section2a

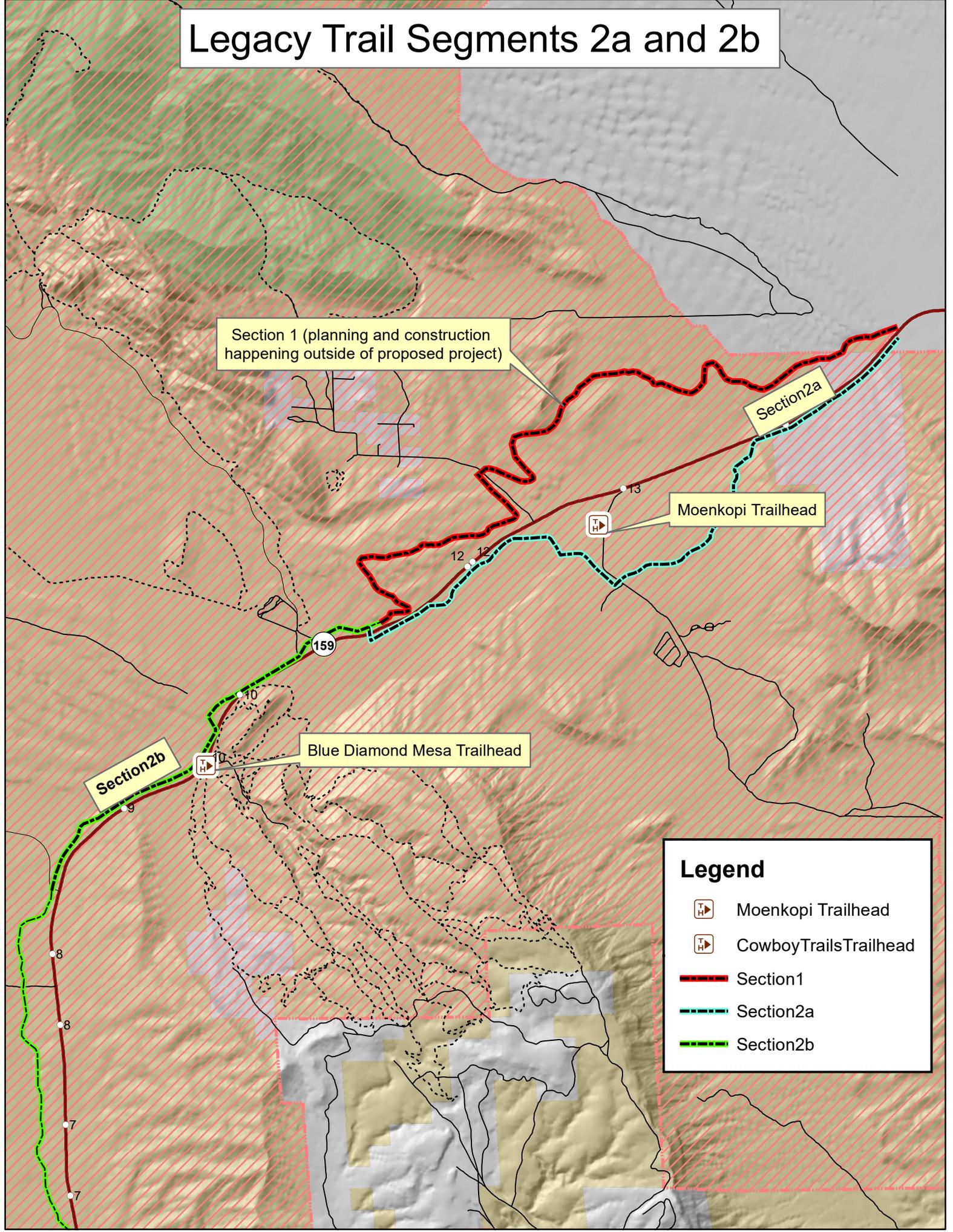
Moenkopi Trailhead

Blue Diamond Mesa Trailhead

Section2b

**Legend**

-  Moenkopi Trailhead
-  Cowboy Trails Trailhead
-  Section 1
-  Section 2a
-  Section 2b



Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act  
Capital Improvements  
Round 18

Bureau of Land Management



**Red Rock Canyon Legacy Trail**

Amount Requested \$63,090,580

Time Frame: 6 Years

Location:

Congressional District Number: NV-3, NV-4

Federal Manager: Angelita S. Bulletts, District Manager

Contact: Joshua Travers

P: (702) 515-5370

Email: [jtravers@blm.gov](mailto:jtravers@blm.gov)

**Purpose Statement:**

The Bureau of Land Management, Southern Nevada District – Red Rock/Sloan Field Office proposes to contract the planning, design, and construction of a non-motorized multi-use trail system within the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (RRCNCA) in Clark County, Nevada. The trail would provide recreational opportunities for a broad range of non-motorized users and would provide a safer link from State Route 159 to State Route 160 and serve as a community access trail with connections to key access points within the RRCNCA including the Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, the town of Blue Diamond, and other existing and planned trails system in the greater Las Vegas Valley, such as the proposed Vegas Valley Rim Trail.

**Background info and need for the project:**

BLM seeks \$63,090,580 in SNPLMA funds to complete the Red Rock Legacy Trail. The trail has been identified by Clark County and the community of Las Vegas as a high priority in their community development plan. Over the last year, Clark County approved the beginning (called Phase 1) and end (Phase 5) sections to be planned and funded for construction beginning in 2021. This six-year project proposal will complete the Red Rock Legacy Trail, add important connecting staging areas and facilities that support safe and sustainable use. Although Las Vegas has been expanding their trails network to reduce conflicts with automobiles and other vehicles, State Route 159 is the one road with the biggest need for a parallel trail that reduces mixing bicyclists and other recreationists with high-speed moving traffic. Red Rock Canyon is getting crowded with overflowing parking lots, vehicle and pedestrian accidents; many involving deaths, and traffic on State Route 159 at a standstill waiting to enter the Red Rock Scenic Drive during busy periods. State Route 159 is supposed to be the road haven for Las Vegas metro bicyclists. Annually, the BLM Red Rock area hosts more than 3.5 Million visitors and has grown at a rate of 15-35% year over year the last 3 years during peak use seasons. A 10-year study of Hwy 159 identified 190 traffic related injury accidents, with 15 fatalities and 102 injuries. With traffic increasing by 1000 cars a day each year, public safety conflicts will only continue. The Red Rock Legacy Trail will not only serve as an important resource to the Las Vegas Valley network of community trails it is essential to protecting public safety while providing recreational opportunities for those who seek non-motorized recreational activities including the demand from locals and visitors looking for eBike opportunities.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing the continued development of a non-motorized multi-use trail system within the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (RRCNCA). The trail would provide recreational opportunities for a broad range of non-motorized users and would provide a safer link from the end of West Charleston Boulevard (Blvd) at the north end of State Route 159 (SR159) to State Route 160 (SR160), running roughly parallel to SR159. The trail system would include approximately 28 miles of trail as well as elements such as trailhead improvements and underpasses. This alignment would serve as a community access trail from which connections to key access points such as the Red Rock Canyon Campground, Red Springs and Kraft Mountain in Calico Basin, Red Rock Canyon Visitor Center, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park (SMRSP), and Blue Diamond, as well as popular trailheads along SR159 could be made. This trail system would also connect trail users

to existing and planned trail systems in the greater Las Vegas Valley, such as the proposed Vegas Valley Rim Trail.

Las Vegas serves as a hub to locals and visitors from all over the world who love hiking, scrambling, site-seeing, climbing, mountain biking, picnicking, and many other outdoor activities. Red Rock Canyon has a 13-mile Scenic Drive through the picturesque core area of Red Rock Canyon. With the first and last sections of the Red Rock Legacy Trail already being planned for, the trail is branded and will be used by millions of visitors as the non-motorized version of the Scenic Drive. The multi-use trail will provide breath-taking views of Red Rock Canyon points of interest and convenient developed access points and restrooms along the approximate 28 miles of trail. The trail will offer opportunities for bicycling including eBikes, walking, running hiking and site/nature viewing.

A series of trail system design guidelines have been developed to provide guidance for site-specific design of the trail and trail elements such as underpasses, steep slopes, wash crossings, and trailheads. The design guidelines also provide the look and feel of the project and demonstrate how the proposed trail system would seamlessly integrate into the desert landscape providing a high-quality visitor experience, and minimize undue operations/maintenance without negatively impacting the variety of natural and cultural resources present at RRCNCA.

The primary need of this proposed non-motorized multi-use trail system is to construct a trail "spine" that roughly parallels SR159 from West Charleston Blvd to SR160 and to improve access to various key access points within RRCNCA. This need is in alignment with the Resource Management Plan for RRCNCA, which calls for providing recreation opportunities that allow the public to enjoy, appreciate, and interact with the unique natural setting of Red Rock Canyon, while conserving and protecting the RRCNCA's natural resources. Given that management direction, a multi-use trail system satisfies the need for safe recreational use while minimizing disturbance of the site's resources is critical or of utmost importance. The RRCNCA is located immediately adjacent to the Las Vegas metropolitan area, which is historically one of the country's fastest growing urban populations and has over 40 million annual tourists. As such, RRCNCA has experienced a noteworthy increase in use from both residents and tourists seeking to enjoy the high-quality, unique desert landscape that was the impetus for the original National Conservation Area designation.

The purpose of the project is to provide safe access to the various recreational key access points in RRCNCA for non-motorized users from the greater Las Vegas Valley and to provide recreational loops within RRCNCA. The trail system would fulfill a number of RRCNCA objectives including improving safety, increasing trail network access from the greater Las Vegas Valley, and improving circulation for non-motorized users within RRCNCA. This high-quality recreational experience promotes the preservation of natural and cultural resources in RRCNCA and greatly enhances human health, while minimizing additional operations and maintenance costs. This trail is also an opportunity to provide informational, educational and interpretive signage to users. No paved off-road routes currently exist in RRCNCA that allow recreational users to circulate through the conservation area and connect easily to recreational key access points; therefore, families, walkers, runners, and less skilled cyclists use the highway shoulder. SR159 is heavily used as a high-speed transportation link between West Charleston

Blvd and SR160. Increased use of SR159 and SR160 has continued to escalate, and both routes are unpleasant, dangerous and provide the recreational user a low-quality experience of RRCNCA because the shoulder was not built for this kind of use.

This project proposal is directly in line with the three values in which the SNPLMA Strategic Plan has prioritized: Sustainability, Connectivity, and Community.

Additionally, this project outline details how the three identified SNPLMA values are promoted by the project including the following items:

- Restores and protects healthy and resilient landscapes that connect important habitats and protect the integrity of the human and biological communities.
- Provide outdoor recreation opportunities that improve the quality of life for the public and encourage interaction with nature; and
- Incorporate durability, relevancy, and shared support to ensure benefits in the near and long term.

The project emphasizes two redefined goals listed in the Strategic Plan:

- Goal 1: Sustain the quality of the outdoor environment by conserving, preserving, and restoring natural and cultural resources.
- Goal 2: Improve the quality of life for all publics in urban and rural communities by enhancing recreational opportunities that connect people with the outdoor environment.

### **Relationship to previous phases and anticipated future phases:**

A study for this project was approved in Round This project is being submitted as a stand-alone project. If this project is broken into phases the BLM acknowledges that there is no guarantee of future funding.

### **Deliverables:**

#### Primary Deliverables

1. A trail design within the identified general study width area originally planned for in the 2009 Programmatic Environmental Assessment of up to 300 feet (ft) located in the vicinity of SR159 that connects both Red Rock Legacy Trail Project Phase 1 to Red Rock Legacy Trail Project Phase 5.
2. Approximately 28 linear constructed miles (10-ft-wide paved with unpaved shoulders on either side that would be located within the corridor based on study and analysis consistent with the planning from Phase 1 and Phase 5 alignments.) of multi-use trail including approximately:
  - 14 miles of trail on existing disturbance, road, and trail
  - 9 miles of trail on undisturbed lands
  - 3 miles in the SR159 ROW
  - 1 mile in the Calico Basin Rd ROW connecting to facilities cat Red Spring

3. Development of approximately eight miles of designated equestrian trail in addition to the 28 miles of paved multi-purpose trail (existing disturbance)
4. Informational, Educational, and Interpretative Signage along 28 miles of trail and key access points
5. Develop and implement a revegetation plan for all temporary disturbed areas
  - o Includes seed collection, container grow out, planting, watering, and monitoring and reporting of planted plants.
6. Redesign and the construction of seven trailheads
7. Closure of one existing trailhead (First Creek)
8. Realignment of one hiking/equestrian trail (First Creek Trail)
9. Three pedestrian underpasses

\*(Note: Trail lengths are approximate and based on planning level data.)

#### Anticipated Deliverables:

1. Plan and reconstruct the Cowboy Trails Parking Lot and Trailhead directly adjacent to SR159.
2. Plan and install interpretation and education signage to Phase 1 and 5 trail segments.
3. If funding allows, construct the Red Rock Scenic Drive Return Route.

#### Standard Deliverables:

- Develop scopes of work for planning, design and construction contracts and award the contracts.
- Develop and implement a revegetation plan for all temporary disturbed areas
  - o Salvage impacted cactus and yucca
- NEPA for site specific trail and trailhead plan for redevelopment.
- Survey of existing and social trails proposed for use as well as new trail alignment.
- Writing request for bids
- Submittal for obtaining management approval of project documents
- Specialist analysis of all projects
- Project close out with the SNPLMA Division
  - o SMART quarterly status updates
  - o SMART annual and final accomplishment reports
  - o Preparation of the close out package is a required standard deliverable.

#### **Project Timeframe:**

The BLM is requesting an initial period of performance of six years, or one year over the standard timeframe for Capital Improvements.

#### **Level of Project Readiness for Implementation:**

In 2011, the BLM received \$2 million from the SNPLMA Pre Proposal Planning (PPP) fund in Round 6 to complete a conceptual study and environmental analysis for the trail alignment.

### Future Operations and Maintenance:

Clark County has committed to owning all maintenance of the Red Rock Legacy Trail and BLM will continue to maintain trailheads and their improvements through the Field Ranger Program and contracted janitorial services through Opportunity Village. Contracted trailhead maintenance will include the collection of garbage from provided receptacles and the cleaning of restrooms. BLM Ranger staff, as they do now, will monitor, assess for hazards, make visitor contacts, inform visitors of regulation and enforce rules, ensure accurate signage is provided and will conduct annual inspections and condition assessments.

### Contributed funds directly applicable to completion of the project:

Clark County has secured \$14.7 million for Phase 1 and \$11.4 million for Phase 5 of the overall project, thereby reducing BLM's request to Phases 2-4 (this proposal).

### Funding Requested Budget Detail:

The anticipated cost of the six-year project as outlined is \$61,326,820. The budget for the Red Rock Legacy Trail Project includes design, planning, and construction of approximately 38 miles of multi-use and equestrian trail. Also, this project includes the design, planning, construction, and installation of seven trailheads.

<b>Schedule B</b>			
<b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROPOSAL</b>			
<b>ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS &amp; KEY MILESTONE DATES</b>			
<b>Project Name:</b>	<u>Red Rock Canyon National</u>	<b>Agency:</b>	<u>BLM</u>
<b>Project &amp; Priority #:</b>	<u>N/A nomination submittal</u>	<b>Phone:</b>	<u>702-515-5370</u>
<b>Prepared by:</b>	<u>Joshua Travers</u>	<b>Date:</b>	<u>8/18/2020</u>
<b>1</b>	<b>Planning, Environmental Compliance &amp; Preconstruction Engineering and Design</b> <i>(Not to exceed 27% of total project costs)</i> (Pre-design sketches and conceptual drawings; environmental assessment and permitting, specialist surveys/reports for archaeology, wildlife, biology, etc.; architectural and engineering analysis, design survey & field investigations; construction drawings, specifications, cost estimates, and engineering technical reports.)	<u>\$5,507,231</u>	<u>8.73%</u>
<b>2</b>	<b>Construction Contract Costs</b> (Including labor, supplies & materials, construction management, etc.; sampling/testing; site restoration; and government furnished supplies and materials.)	<u>\$51,354,312</u>	<u>81.40%</u>
<b>3</b>	<b>Project Equipment</b> (Pg. 89 of the Implementation Agreement - SNPLMA funds can only be used for "project related necessary expenses" and SNPLMA can reimburse only for those equipment costs)	<u>\$57,500</u>	<u>0.09%</u>

	directly associated with completion of the approved project.)		
4	<b>Travel</b> (Including per diem where official travel status is required to carry out the project, such as to serve as COR, experts to review reports, etc.)	\$4,000	0.01%
5	<b>Official Vehicle Use</b> (Pro rata costs for use of Official Vehicles when required to carry out the project.)	\$72,925	0.12%
6	<b>Other Direct and Contracted Labor</b> Agency payroll for the Contracting Officer to do project procurements, COR Project Inspector, Section 106 Consultation, NEPA Lead, Project Manager, Project Supervisor, and subject experts to review contracted surveys, design/drawings, plans, reports, etc.; Also covered is the cost to contract for a Project Manager and/or Project Supervisor if contracted separately from other project costs.	\$3,745,760	5.94%
7	<b>FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act</b>	\$125,000	0.20%
8	<b>Direct Federal Labor</b> (direct agency labor for construction, project inspection, CO and COR)	\$765,552	1.21%
9	<b>Other Necessary Expenses</b>	\$1,458,300	2.31%
<b>Total Requested/Estimated Budget</b>		<b>\$63,090,580</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

### Performance Measures:

The table below displays quantifiable data on project accomplishments that will be submitted in the project close-out request package. All performance measures applicable to this project are listed below. Performance measures provided include measures directly related to the purpose of the project and that will happen indirectly because of the project work.

<b>SNPLMA STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 1: Sustain the Quality of the Outdoor Environment by Conserving, Preserving, and Restoring Natural, Cultural, and Historical Resources</b>		
<b>Performance Measures for Habitat Enhancement</b>	<b>Definition of Performance Measure</b>	<b>Estimated Data</b>
H2 - Miles of Riparian Stream or Shoreline Habitat Treated, Enhanced, or Restored	Report the number of miles of riparian stream and/or shoreline vegetation and/or wildlife habitat treated, enhanced, or restored. This can include retreatment and/or maintenance treatments only if the initial treatment was not funded through SNPLMA and the miles have not been accounted for in the performance measures for another SNPLMA project. Include acres treated by fire for resource benefits,	5 miles

	but not other types of wildland fire. Do not report treatments targeting invasive vegetation, as those should be reported under the H9 performance measure. Do not report hazardous fuels reduction projects, as those should be reported under either the F1 or F2 performance measures. Report to the nearest whole mile.	
H3 - Miles of Riparian Stream or Shoreline Habitat Surveyed, Inventoried, or Monitored	Report the number of miles of riparian stream and/or shoreline vegetation and/or wildlife habitat surveyed, inventoried, or monitored. Report to the nearest whole mile.	8 miles
H6 - Acres of Wetland / Riparian Habitat Treated, Enhanced, or Restored	Report the number of acres of wetland vegetation and/or wildlife habitat treated, enhanced, or restored. This can include retreatment and/or maintenance treatments only if the initial treatment was not funded through SNPLMA and the acres have not been accounted for in the performance measures for another SNPLMA project. Include acres treated by fire rehabilitation projects or by fire for resource benefits, but not other types of wildland fire. Do not report treatments targeting invasive vegetation, as these should be reported under the H9 performance measure. Do not report hazardous fuels reduction projects, as these should be reported under either the F1 or F2 performance measures. Report to the nearest whole acre.	25 Acres
H7 - Acres of Wetland / Riparian Habitat Surveyed, Inventoried, or Monitored	Report the number of acres of wetland vegetation and/or wildlife habitats inventoried or monitored. Report to the nearest whole acre.	5 miles
H9 - Acres of Invasive Plant Species Treated or Restored	Report the number of acres of weed infestation treated with chemical, mechanical, physical, or biological control agents for the purpose of weed control. Include acres treated by fire when fire is used as a physical control agent for weed control rather than as a hazardous fuels treatment. Each acre treated is counted only once during the life of the project, no matter how many re-treatments occurred during the project. Report to the nearest whole acre.	50 acres
H10 - Acres of Invasive Plant Species Surveyed, Inventoried, or Monitored	Report the number of acres of weed infestation inventoried or monitored. Include monitoring of weed treatment projects reported under performance measure H9. Report to the nearest whole acre.	75 Acres
H14 - Number of Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Actions Implemented	Report the number of individual recovery actions performed for threatened or endangered species recovery as identified in recovery plans, conservation management plans, or land use planning documents. Include surveys, inventories, and monitoring as recovery actions. Note: One distinct action repeated 5 times over the course of the project would report as 1	5 Actions

	<p>action, not 5. The same recovery action conducted at distinct sites can be counted once for each site (this does not apply to individual plots within one single project site). The number of acres over which the actions were taken are reported under either H4 or H6.</p> <p>Report each action as one unit.</p>	
H15- Number of Conservation Actions Implemented for Non-Listed Species	<p>Report the number of individual conservation actions for species not listed under the Endangered Species Act. Note: One distinct action repeated 5 times over the course of the project would report as 1 action, not 5. The same conservation action conducted at distinct sites can be counted once for each site (this does not apply to individual plots within one single project site).The number of acres over which the actions were taken are reported under either H4 or H6.</p> <p>Report each action as one unit.</p>	50 Actions
H16 - Miles of Roads or Trails Decommissioned and/or Rehabilitated	<p>Report the number of miles of roads and/or trails decommissioned and/or rehabilitated within all habitats (urban, upland, riparian, stream, trails in caves, etc.). Closure may include designation, signing, blockage by physical means, obliteration, etc.</p> <p>Report to the nearest whole mile.</p>	5 miles
H17 – Miles of Roads or Trails Surveyed, Inventoried, or Monitored	<p>Report the number of miles of roads and/or trails inventoried or monitored. Report to the nearest whole mile or linear foot.</p> <p>Report to the nearest whole mile.</p>	CI, MSHCP, LTRA, CIP
<b>Performance Measures for Cultural / Paleontological Resources</b>	<b>Definition of Performance Measure</b>	<b>SNPLMA Project Type</b>
C1 - Number of Cultural or Historic Sites or Structures Stabilized or Protected	<p>Report the number (one unit for each site or each structure) where work is completed to protect, stabilize, restore, excavate, and/or manage cultural features. For sites receiving multiple treatments, count each site only once, but if multiple structures are on a site, count each structure separately. For example an archeological dig site would be counted as one although multiple excavations may take place on the site, whereas a site having remnants of three separate dwellings would be counted as three. Report installation of interpretive signs and structures (e.g., kiosk displays) under O6. Report administrative actions such as mineral withdrawals, closures, or special designations under H1.</p> <p>Report each site or structure as one unit.</p>	15 Sites
C2 - Number of Cultural or Paleontological Artifacts Protected	<p>Report the number of cultural and/or paleontological artifacts protected,</p>	50 Volunteers

	<p>stabilized, or catalogued. Report one unit for each repatriation or transfer of custody of Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and/or objects of cultural patrimony (cultural items) held in collections, pursuant to Title 43 CFR Part 10.10.; each instance in which all requirements of Title 43 CFR Part 10.10 have been met but where actual repatriation has not been completed because of decisions made by lineal descendants or Indian tribes or lack of a valid claim; and reburial of repatriated cultural items on BLM public lands. Report the number of accessions cataloged, inventoried, rehoused and/or otherwise upgraded. Materials from several sites or localities that are accessioned and cataloged under a single accession number should be considered one unit. An accession for which any one or more of the tasks of cataloging, inventorying or upgrading has been completed should be reported as one unit. Report each artifact as one unit.</p>	
C3 - Acres of Cultural / Paleontological Resources Surveyed, Inventoried or Monitored	<p>Report the number of acres of land surveyed, inventoried, or monitored for cultural and/or paleontological resources. Include acres surveyed using Class I study of existing information inventory, Class II probabilistic field survey, or Class III intensive field survey and resultant inventory as required by Section 14 of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) or Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Report to the nearest whole acre.</p>	25 Acres
<p><b>SNPLMA STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 2: Improve the Quality of Life for all Public in Urban and Rural Communities by Enhancing Recreational Opportunities that Connect People with the Outdoor Environment</b></p>		
Performance Measures for Recreation Management	Definition of Performance Measure	SNPLMA Project Type
R3- Number of New Recreational Facilities / Structures Constructed or Improved	<p>Report the number of new recreational buildings, structures, park amenities, or similar facilities constructed or improved. Existing recreational facilities may be counted under this performance measure if functional improvements are made as defined in the project nomination. Include shade shelters, picnic areas, playgrounds, arenas, amphitheaters, pedestrian bridges, etc. Do not report acres of land acquired for new parks or natural areas as this should be reported under performance measure R5 or R6. Report each facility or structure as one unit.</p>	30 Facilities

R4- Miles of New Recreational Roads / Trails Constructed or Routes Improved	Report the number of miles of new recreational roads and/or trails constructed or improved. Restoration of existing roads and/or trails may be counted under this performance measure if functional improvements are made as defined in the project nomination. Report to the nearest whole mile.	36 Miles
<b>SNPLMA STRATEGIC PLAN: Other Performance Measures that also Support the Three Values for SNPLMA Implementation of Sustainability, Connectivity, and Community</b>		
Performance Measures for Habitat Enhancement	Definition of Performance Measure	SNPLMA Project Type
O2 – Number of Buildings, Facilities and/or Amenities Constructed or Refurbished	Report the number of buildings, facilities, or amenities constructed or refurbished to improve access, functionality and/or health and safety for employees and the public, or to facilitate the integrity of resource values. Include cross walks, park/trail lighting, fencing, barriers, retaining walls, weirs, signing, security cameras, etc. Report each building, facility or amenity as one unit.	30 Structures
O4 - Number of Scientific / Technical Reports Produced	Report the number of scientific technical reports produced. Report each report as one unit.	45 Reports
O6 - Number of New Interpretive or Education Publications/Signs/ Kiosks/Displays/etc. Produced	Report the number of new interpretive or education publications produced, signs produced and installed, public informational websites or other electronic media presentations designed and implemented, and informational or interpretive kiosk displays produced and installed. Report each item produced as one unit.	Administration, CI, CIP, ENLRP, Fuels, PTNA, LTRA
O7 - Number of Interpretive or Education Presentations Given and/or Community Events Participated In or Hosted	Report the number of interpretive or educational presentations given. Report each presentation as one unit.	Administration, CI, ENLRP, Fuels, LTRA
O8 – Buildings or Facilities that Support Green Sustainable Design and Construction **	Report the percent reduction in the carbon footprint accomplished through green design, water conservation, energy independence, etc. Report the Leed certification level (silver, gold, platinum), if applicable. Report each building or facility as one unit.	30 Structures
O9 – Number of GIS Databases Generated and/or Map Layers Produced	Report the number of GIS databases created and/or the number of map layers produced to identify the location of natural resources within the environment and	5 Databases

	provide mapping for use in educational programs. Report each database or map layer as one unit.	
O10 – Number of Volunteers Used	Report the number of volunteers used in educational or interpretive programs and for surveying, monitoring, or restoration activities. Report each volunteer as one unit.	75 Volunteers
O11 – Number of Databases, Reports, and Other Electronic Means of Documenting Activities	Report the number of new databases, electronic reporting tools, mathematical/statistical models, websites, or reports developed and implemented to document project and/or program work. Report each electronic document or method developed as one unit.	25 Databases
O12 – Number of Management Plans/Handbooks/Manuals/ Guides for Activity on Public Lands Completed (formerly under H11, F3, C4, and R1)*	Report the number of new or revised ecosystem restoration, hazardous fuels reduction, recreation, cultural, resource management, or other activity plans when the decision document for the plan is signed. Revisions include modification of a significant portion of the decisions in the activity plan. Do not report minor amendments or changes in these plans. Report each plan as one unit.	8 Plans/Manuals/Guides

### **Executive Committee Strategic Plan Values:**

This project proposal is directly in line with the three values in which the SNPLMA Strategic Plan has prioritized: Sustainability, Connectivity, and Community.

Additionally, this project outline details how the three identified SNPLMA values are promoted by the project including the following items:

- Restores and protects healthy and resilient landscapes that connect important habitats and protect the integrity of the human and biological communities.
- Provide outdoor recreation opportunities that improve the quality of life for the public and encourage interaction with nature; and
- Incorporate durability, relevancy, and shared support to ensure benefits in the near and long term.

The project emphasizes two redefined goals listed in the Strategic Plan:

- Goal 1: Sustain the quality of the outdoor environment by conserving, preserving, and restoring natural and cultural resources.
- Goal 2: Improve the quality of life for all publics in urban and rural communities by enhancing recreational opportunities that connect people with the outdoor environment.

## Compliance with Departmental Priorities, Strategic Goals, Executive Orders, and Secretarial Orders:

Addressed as part of the ranking criteria below.

## Ranking Criteria:

### 1. SUSTAINABILITY AND MODERNIZATION:

“The project supports conservation, preservation, or restoration of natural, cultural, or historic resources to ensure availability of those resources for future generations. The project will remain relevant and continue to provide benefit to a recreation user over the anticipated life of the project”.

- A. *A new project or facility designed specifically to engender conservation stewardship and provide new opportunities within the management area that is ecologically, economically, and socially sustainable for present and future generations and restore or preserve natural resources or cultural resources of the area.*

This project will create new opportunities for both residents and visitors to the City of Las Vegas and surrounding areas through the development of a concrete 10 ft wide path from Summerlin into Red Rock Canyon and back around South Las Vegas. It will provide multiple loop opportunities and will further enhance and expand the recreational opportunities for Las Vegas’s premier Outdoor Recreation Area, Red Rock Canyon. In addition, this project will establish and improve trailheads along the trail corridor which provides access to the multi-use path and other popular recreation areas as well as provide restrooms and other amenities for that support further use of the recreation improvement projects.

This area fosters preservation of natural and cultural resources in RRCNCA. Developing these opportunities will provide a unique experience for area locals and visitors to safely and sustainably engage with their public lands and take pride in a new and exciting way. The intent of this proposal is to uphold a community-driven and locally sustainable trail system model. Community leaders, BLM, local citizens, organizations, federal partners, volunteers, and trail users can use this trail to strengthen stewardship and dedication to improve a world-class, diverse trail system as one of Nevada’s greatest legacy trails. This strategically targeted investment supports Las Vegas intent for strengthening economic health and growth.

- B. *Modernization or rehabilitation of an existing project, facility and/or amenities to enhance the visitor experience, improve unit operations, and reduce or eliminate user impacts to the natural or cultural resources, or restore natural processes within the immediate project area.*

Due to the popularity of this multi-use trail it will serve locals, regional visitors, and tourists and will be viewed as the non-motorized version of the Red Rock Canyon Scenic Drive. The Proposed Action would create a modern multi-use trail that will provide world-famous views of Red Rock Canyon and the Las Vegas Valley through non-motorized activities including the growing interest in use of eBikes. The proposed trail alignment would include trail loop opportunities and connections at each end and will provide amenities within the RRCNCA. The existing corridor was selected as the after

extensive field study, public input, and BLM staff input because it would safely provide all of the needed connections and desired loops by using a substantial amount of existing disturbance, while providing a diverse and high-quality recreational experience and having the least impact to natural and cultural resources. It is important to note that the trail would provide a safe, high-quality, and diverse recreational experience to a broad range of nonmotorized users, meeting the project purpose and criteria noted previously and will relieve pressure from recreation sites and areas that are currently being impacted from overuse. In addition, trailheads will be upgraded to include modern vault toilets, benches, shade structures, bike repair stations and racks and other modern facilities. There are known cultural resources in the project area and will be avoided. Avoidance and/or appropriate mitigation would be a consideration of any proposed action. There will be critical opportunities to sensitively and seamlessly integrate these resources into the design of the trail system through interpretation or other means. This project is complimentary to the City of Las Vegas named as a bicycle-friendly community and labeled as one of the best places to bicycle in the Southwest.

*C. Conservation and stabilization, restoration, or rehabilitation of significant historic buildings, cultural sites, and other significant historic facilities for the present and future generations to enjoy and appreciate the areas cultural heritage.*

The project will promote sustainable use of the trail and minimize future creation and use of social trails that currently have direct or indirect impacts to cultural and historic sites such as Oliver Ranch, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park, Blue Diamond and at strategically planner overlook points. The community of Blue Diamond is a listed historic community and Oliver Ranch, a registered historic site will be interpreted and educational as well as identification signage will be placed along the trail that supports the conservation and protection of these structures and places. Signs and markers will be developed that will promote conservation, stabilization, and protection of these notable sites. The trails within this plan purposely avoid areas of cultural sensitivity, but enhance the nearby sites through provided information, education, and interpretation signage.

*D. New facilities that enhance or improve management of public lands. These might include visitor centers, contact stations, and campgrounds to improve public access; housing for staff, interns, and volunteers to carry out programs for improved conservation, education; and curation facilities and workspace to improve conservation of natural and cultural resources and opportunity for educational programming.*

Currently there is a significant strain on parking along SR159 and the trailheads identified for improvements and reconstruction within this project. Year over year, a 20-40% increase in use at trailheads along SR159 during peak seasons. This has led to a consistent uptick in unauthorized road shoulder parking that continues to create new disturbances and requires additional maintenance and staff and law enforcement patrol. It also has made it very difficult and sometimes impossible to allow emergency vehicles to enter main access points. Trailhead improvements will include additional and designated parking outside the shoulder of SR159 and will feature improved restroom facilities, picnic tables, shade structures, and bicycle repair stations. Importantly, these facilities will improve visibility and allow for safer and easier access on and off SR159. See Appendix Design Criteria for Trailhead Design Standards.

## 2. CONNECTIVITY:

“The project provides recreational opportunities that link population centers, recreation facilities, and the user to the outdoors and natural landscapes. It encourages people to meaningfully connect with their natural environment, thus helping them appreciate and care for the environment. The project will also connect the user to the history and/or cultural of the site and engages the user in appreciation of the site/area”.

- A. *Provides new, upgraded or modernized access and/or amenities or infrastructure to previously under-developed areas and/or new opportunities to enjoy/appreciate public lands (e.g., trails, kiosks with location maps and site information, roads, parking, wayfinding, restrooms, day or overnight camping.)*

The Red Rock Legacy Trail will be utilized by local and regional visitors as well as tourists from afar as a non-motorized alternative to the Red Rock Canyon Scenic Drive. In addition, this project will open the door to additional commercial opportunities that provide a diversity of new recreational opportunities and methods to visit and access Red Rock Canyon. In addition, the project will improve trailheads and underdeveloped parking areas that will support access and use of the constructed trails. The proposed trails would provide connection to various key access points including Red Rock Canyon Campground, Kraft Mountain/Calico Basin, Red Rock Canyon Visitor Center and the Scenic Loop Drive, SMRSP, Bonnie Springs, Blue Diamond, and SR160 and Recreation Facilities in RRCNCA. Subsequent phases of trail development are planned to expand the network of trails in RRCNCA and to make connections to trail systems outside RRCNCA.

- B. *Improves access to previously developed recreation areas and sites on public lands and/or rehabilitates, upgrades or modernizes site amenities. (e.g., improves access to trails, area or site information and wayfinding, 4-wheel access roads to passenger vehicle accessible roads, parking)*

A variety of trailheads and parking areas in the vicinity of SR159 are developed to various levels. None of the identified trailheads and facilities adequately meet the current needs of visitors; many are filled beyond capacity on high-use days in road shoulder parking SR159. On such days, there is heavy use of the shoulder use of SR159 for parking. Trailheads will be developed to improve parking capacity, and to relocate so traffic is off the shoulder of SR159 and SR160. These trailheads will improve access to the proposed multi-use trail as well as access to popular recreation areas within RRCNCA. Site improvements will be made to increase the available parking and provide better management and control of how cars will park, install state of the art vault toilets, picnic tables and shade structures as well as increase visibility and allow for easier and safer access to and from each trailhead. All existing trailheads are undeveloped. This project enhances access to existing trails and will serve as staging areas for the new multi-use trail.

- C. *Provides new or additional recreation opportunities by connecting two or more existing facilities and increased access to primitive or developed outdoor recreation and educational opportunities to meet increased user demand, improves the recreation experience by constructing new facilities or expanded amenities that will connect to existing recreation facilities.*

The trail developed through the SR159 corridor would serve as a connector to a larger network of trails and trailheads, some existing and some proposed. The proposed trail would provide connection

to various key access points including Red Rock Canyon Campground, Kraft Mountain/Calico Basin, Red Rock Canyon Visitor Center and the Scenic Loop Drive, SMRSP, Bonnie Springs, Blue Diamond, and SR160 and Recreation Facilities in RRCNCA). Subsequent phases of trail development are planned to expand the network of trails in RRCNCA and to make connections to trail systems outside RRCNCA. In addition, a series of trailheads are proposed to make it easier for a broader range of users to access a diversity of areas within RRCNCA and different sections of this trail. The Red Rock Legacy Trail will serve as an alternative to the Red Rock Scenic Drive and will serve as a non-motorized trail system providing scenic access

- D. Contains an outreach and education component to improve public awareness and engage the public in the conservation and protection of the surrounding natural environment using resource interpretation. (e.g., information signage, kiosks, educational programs)

A significant component of the visitor experience on the Legacy Trail will be provided through the sharing of information through informational, educational, and interpretive signage along the Legacy Trail. Information will be shared and easy to understand for users. BLM will work with both premier partner organizations, Friends of Red Rock Canyon, and the Southern Nevada Conservancy, to coordinate public information about safety and sustainable use on the Trail. In addition, there will be information sharing through various outlets about how to get the best experience when using the facility. Interpretive and educational signage will offer information and educational messaging through stories designed to stimulate trail visitors' interest while challenging imaginations and perhaps present new perspectives on various topics related to trail use and recreation opportunities, as well as the natural, cultural, and historic resources.

### **3. COMMUNITY:**

The project provides or improves outdoor recreation opportunities to improve the quality of life, especially for underserved communities. It conserves or restores the functionality, resiliency, and integrity of biological communities. The project encourages partnerships, which in turn builds community.

*A. Outdoor recreation projects that provide economic benefits to local communities and social benefit to the recreationist and are responsive to changing demographics. The project has agreements or partnerships in place for the planning, design, implementation, and management of the project.*

The Red Rock Legacy Trail will provide a free and safe experience for diverse populations of locals and visitors to explore the rich landscapes and history of RRCNCA through interpretive signage and exhilarating recreational opportunities and activities. By combining outdoor experiences with learning opportunities, the Las Vegas community, will learn to appreciate and properly utilize the outdoor treasures in their own backyard. The Trail will not only impart knowledge of the area but will share important safety and environmental best practices for users. The Red Rock Legacy Trails will be a high-profile asset to Las Vegas that will increase commerce, support, and create jobs, increase property values, reduce commuter costs, provide low-cost benefits to a diversity of recreational interests and users. According to a recent analysis by the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable of the U.S. Bureau of Economics Analysis's statistics it has been reported that Nevada's outdoor recreation industry contributes \$4.5 billion in value and has created about 56,940 jobs to the state's economy.

With the addition of the Red Rock Legacy Trail, it can be expected that job creation, maintenance and use of this trail will positively impact economic growth.

*B. Project has identified committed non-SNPLMA sources of funding or in-kind contribution for the planning, design, and development of the project.*

Both Clark County and NDOT has committed to continue their participation in the planning for the Red Rock Legacy Trail. Both agencies are currently involved in the Phase 1 and Phase 5 Legacy Trail planning efforts and have committed to assisting BLM in-kind as stated in their provided Letters of Support. In addition, BLM will partner will organizations such as Southern Nevada Conservancy, Friends of Red Rock Canyon, Southern Nevada Climbing Coalition, Backcountry Horsemen, Save Red Rock and other organizations providing input and information to the planning for this project as well as providing assistance to trail and trailhead signage and the installation of signs. Other partners will also participate in the public scoping and planning of the Legacy Trail as well as the planning for improved trailheads that offer access to a variety of recreation user groups.

*C. Project provides agency or unit support/administrative infrastructure in underserved areas to improve management of and conservation stewardship, educational programming, and access to public lands.*

A main goal of this project is to break down barriers between participants and their public lands. Currently the RRCNCA Field Office has a robust field trip program led by BLM Interpretive Rangers and partners. In 2019, 10,000 Clark County School District Title 1 school children visited Red Rock Canyon. The Red Rock Legacy Trail will allow for even more local and regional school children to engage with their public lands in a meaningful way. In addition, this trail will provide free recreational access to Red Rock Canyon NCA and will allow for a variety of recreational activities and use types as well as serve as an accessible trail.

#### **4. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE:**

The agency has clearly demonstrated that the anticipated operations and maintenance costs for the project and resources necessary to operate the project are within existing appropriations or demonstrated how they will secure the necessary operations and maintenance funds.

*A. The agency has demonstrated that current appropriations are sufficient for the operations and management of the project, for new projects, or that O&M costs will be reduced after reconstruction and will be offset by concessionaire or volunteer labor for O&M.*

Clark County has committed to providing maintenance to the entire length of the Red Rock Legacy Trail including Phases 1 and Phase 5 that are already funded and currently in the planning phase for construction and not included in is project. BLM will ensure developed trailheads are designed and built with the most robust materials and designed for the lowest amount of maintenance required. BLM currently visits all proposed sites as they serve as undeveloped recreation trailheads and require a significant amount of maintenance due to the lack of amenities and developments that will improve how these trailheads are used.

*B. Volunteers or partners will be responsible for operation and maintenance of the project and agency funds will not be needed.*

Clark County has committed to the operations and maintenance of the Red Rock Legacy Trail. Volunteers currently provide trail support services through monitoring and maintaining existing trails within the corridor that will provide access to the Red Rock Legacy Trail. The Trail will provide new volunteer opportunities for trail monitoring and data collection as well as providing light maintenance to the trail network. FORRC currently manages reoccurring volunteer group activities and is planning to develop a group specific to providing light maintenance to and along the Legacy Trail as well as providing volunteer visitor contact services.

*C. The agency has included the current O&M costs, if any, and how this project will reduce current operations and maintenance costs. The entity has clearly shown what the anticipated savings will be, and/or how the project will reduce water use or energy costs for utilities.*

Clark County has committed to the operations and maintenance of the Legacy Trail. (See Letter of Support from Clark County). The maintenance of this trail has not been considered by BLM as the responsibility is owned by the County. However, BLM Maintenance Operations Lead is participating in the planning of all phases of the Legacy Trail to work with the county on expectations of required maintenance.

*D. Project would improve energy efficiency and/or independence.*

The trail and trailheads will provide access to the Canyon using non-motorized recreation activities. Facility improvements will be self-contained and will not require any connection to public utilities. Trailheads will be designed and constructed to provide easy and efficient access to Red Rock Canyon for non-motorized recreational activities that will reduce the number of motorized vehicles accessing the Red Rock Canyon Scenic Drive.

## **5. LIFECYCLE REPLACEMENT/RECONSTRUCTION AND DEFERRED MAINTENANCE:**

Any existing project or facility that has met or exceeded its useful life, design life, or life cycle that requires major restoration or reconstruction to restore the historic fabric of the facility or meet standard new Federal accessibility guidelines.

*(Does not include reconstruction, changes, or new amenities for previously approved SNPLMA capital improvement projects. Excludes projects that were identified as phased construction, each phase must be fully operational and serve the intended purpose upon completion.)*

*A. The project remains relevant, but has exceeded its useful design life, does not meet current federal accessibility standards, or deferred maintenance costs exceed the cost of replacement or reconstruction.*

This project will significantly improve the quality of life for multiple communities by encouraging social connection, safety, and an accessible place for recreation and commuting. ADA compliance is

of utmost importance when designing and constructing the Trail. The proposed trails will increase recreational opportunities for eBikes, equestrians and will provide new and improved bathroom facilities for historically high-use areas.

*B. Current use has exceeded the original planned visitation/use and impacts have created a need to replace or reconstruct the facility earlier than originally planned and increased deferred maintenance costs exceed the cost of replacement or reconstruction. The project proposal shows the current annual maintenance costs and the anticipated savings after construction/reconstruction is complete.*

Seven trailheads have been identified in this project that are currently developed to various levels. None of these facilities adequately meet the current needs of visitors. Nine months out of the year these areas are filled beyond capacity on high-use days. On such days, there is heavy use of the shoulder of SR159 for parking causing congestion and dangerous ingress/egress to SR159. The reconstruction of the trailheads will improve safety, access to and from SR159, parking management and provide facilities to improve the visitor experience.

Due to the demand of recreational use on the shoulders of SR159, the corridor has become increasingly dangerous for both users and high-speed vehicles. This trail will move a large portion of the recreational use to the Legacy Trail.

In addition, visitation to the Red Rock Canyon Scenic Drive has increased substantially, especially over the last 5 years. The Red Rock Legacy Trail will be a highly attractive alternate route and access point for visiting Red Rock Canyon and will remove a percentage of the traffic and congestion issues.

## **6. ADVANCES THE AGENCY/ENTITY PRIORITIES/GOALS**

The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination/project meets the priorities and strategic goals for their respective agency.

**(This is scored as Yes, No, or NA. Nominations that have not adequately described what priorities and strategic goals they will meet and how they will meet the priorities and strategic goals will not be recommended for funding)**

### **Advances the Agency/Entity Priorities/Goals.**

The proposed multi-use trail project at RRCNCA meets a number of the Bureau of Land Management's priorities and goals.

YES

NO

**1. Create a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt.**

NA

*“The beauty and charm of the wilderness are his for the asking, for the edges of the wilderness lie close beside the beaten roads of the present travel.”*

Teddy Roosevelt's quote captures the vision, main objectives, and execution strategies of the proposed RRCNCA multi-use trail. The trail will responsibly provide an interactive experience for the user, not far from safety or the current arteries of the core area of use, while maintaining the integrity of the

Congressional Designation of RRCNCA. Through a highly strategic and inclusive community planning model, the multi-use trail planning team will uphold Teddy Roosevelt's core value of responsible stewardship.

Additional information can be found within section 1.

**2. Sustainably develop our energy and natural resources.**

N/A

**3. Restore trust and be a good neighbor**

The creation of a responsible and safe recreation opportunity for visitors and locals at RRCNCA will improve trust with the larger community and neighbors of RRCNCA. As stated earlier in the proposal, safety of recreationists is a main concern of RRCNCA neighbors, the larger community, law enforcement, and land managers. The public should have a safe and enjoyable path that does not disturb the integrity of the RRCNCA Congressional Designation. In addition, throughout the planning stages of this project the community will be asked to participate. This collaborative planning model will encourage trust between all parties but will create ownership of the path by the community which will encourage long-term proper use and stewardship.

Additional information can be found within Section 3.

**4. Ensure that tribal sovereignty means something.**

N/A

**5. Increase revenues to support the Department and national interests.**

N/A

**6. Protect our people and the border.**

N/A

**7. Strike a regulatory balance.**

N/A

**8. Modernize our infrastructure.**

Recreationists and the 198,000+ acres that make up RRCNCA requires the most modern, efficient, and sustainable infrastructure for this multi-use trail to sustain

the high profile demands and use of the core recreation area. This project will not only provide a safe experience, but the modern infrastructure will exemplify the look and feel of BLM's brand. From the moment a user arrives at a location to access the trail, they will be greeted and then ushered into a seamless experience that has them safely interacting with the land. In addition to interpretive signage there will be parking lots, trailhead amenities, improved washes, and safety underpasses.

Additional information can be found within section 1.

9. Reorganize the department for the next 100 years.

N/A

10. Achieve our goals and lead our team forward.

The objectives and goals of the DOI, BLM, and RRCNCA is the center and the driver of this proposed plan. This collaborative planning model will encourage trust between all parties but will create ownership of the path by the community which will encourage long-term proper use and stewardship.

Additional information can be found within Section 1 and 2.

## 7. CONSISTENCY WITH SECRETARIAL ORDERS AND DIRECTIVE

The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination / project meets the Secretarial Orders (SO) and Directive.

**(This is scored as Yes, No or NA. Nominations that have not adequately described how the nomination complies with the SOs and Directive will not be recommended for funding)**

### SO No. 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation

The Department of the Interior is entrusted with overseeing Federal lands for the benefit of current and future generations. This includes advancing conservation stewardship and increasing outdoor recreation opportunities, including hunting and fishing, for all Americans. The purpose of this Order is to enhance conservation stewardship, increase outdoor recreation, and improve the management of game species and their habitat.

The trail would provide recreational opportunities for a broad range of non-motorized users and would provide a safer link from the end of West Charleston Boulevard (Blvd) at the north end of State Route 159 (SR159) to State Route 160 (SR160), running roughly parallel to SR159. The trail system would include approximately 28 miles of trail as well as elements such as trailhead improvements and underpasses. This alignment would serve as a community access trail from which connections to key access points such as the Red Rock Canyon Campground, Red Springs and Kraft Mountain in Calico Basin, Red Rock Canyon Visitor Center, Spring Mountain Ranch State Park (SMRSP), and Blue Diamond, as well as popular trailheads along SR159 could be made. This trail system would also connect trail users to existing and planned trail systems in the greater Las Vegas Valley, such as the proposed Vegas Valley Rim Trail.

YES

NO

NA

This proposed trail system is a multi-use trail that roughly parallels SR159 from West Charleston Blvd to SR160 and provides connections to various key access points within RRCNCA for recreational use. As mentioned above, almost all users access the amenities in RRCNCA by bicycle or vehicle using SR159 or SR160. In addition, SR159 is a popular route for road cyclists and runners, many of whom are training for road racing or generally conditioning themselves. No paved off-road routes currently exist in this area of RRCNCA that allow recreational users to circulate through the area and connect easily to recreational key access points; therefore, families, other less skilled cyclists and runners also use the highway shoulder.

SR159 is heavily used as a high-speed transportation link between West Charleston Blvd and SR160. As of July 2009, the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) reduced the speed limit from 60 miles per hour (mph) to 50 mph by following a legislative action. The resulting law required regular NDOT review of the speed limit based on safety concerns along the highway. Increased use of SR159 has continued to escalate annually at an average of 1,000 cars per day and continues to increase year over year. This increase in traffic has had adverse safety impacts on cyclists and runners on the road shoulder. Like SR159, SR160 is also unpleasant and dangerous. Both routes provide a low-quality experience of RRCNCA for the recreational cyclists and runners. The purpose of the project is to provide safe access to the various recreational key access points in RRCNCA for non-motorized users from the greater Las Vegas Valley, to expand opportunities by providing loops within RRCNCA, and to improve the overall recreational experience of RRCNCA. The trail system would fulfill many objectives of RRCNCA, including:

- Improve safety along the SR159 corridor for motorized and non-motorized users
- Increase access to RRCNCA from the greater Las Vegas Valley system of on- and off-road non-motorized trails
- Further protect the natural and cultural resources of the NCA
- Improve circulation for non-motorized users between existing recreational amenities, key access points, and services within RRCNCA
- Provide visitors a high-quality recreational experience of RRCNCA's unique desert landscape Continue to promote preservation of natural and cultural resources in RRCNCA
- Provide an opportunity to encourage positive human health benefits

**SO No. 3366: Increasing Recreational Opportunities on Lands and Waters Managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior**

The purpose of this Order is to ensure public lands and waters under the management and administration of the U.S. Department of the Interior are open and accessible for recreational pursuits by all Americans and visitors to the United States.

This project will provide new and increased access into Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area and will enhance and increase the number of recreational opportunities with the Red Rock Legacy Trail, equestrian trail, and the key access trailheads. This trail system will serve as a non-motorized alternative to the very popular Red Rock Canyon Scenic Drive.

 YES

 NO

 NA

SR159 and SR160 are the only paved routes into and crossing the RRCNCA core area. All visitors must use these high-speed routes to access the diverse amenities within RRCNCA. Currently, no paved off-highway route for recreational users exists besides the shoulder of SR159, which varies in width from 5 to 8 ft. Cyclists and runners frequently use this road shoulder, and the experience can be unpleasant and stressful due to exhaust fumes, noise, and high-speed traffic. SR160 provides access to SR159, as well as the Upper Blue Diamond Detention Basin and the BLM's Late Night Lot Trailhead almost 5 miles west of SR159. The experience along SR160, which traverses the southern portion of the project area, is much the same with the addition of even heavier truck traffic, though the shoulder has a designated bicycle lane.

Once inside RRCNCA, a series of roads provide connections from SR159 to destinations within RRCNCA. Various jurisdictions manage these roads, including the BLM, Clark County, and NDOT. These roads do not explicitly accommodate cyclists/hikers/runners either by designation and/or by design criteria. The Red Rock Canyon Legacy Trail provides safe and sustainable access to these areas and opportunities.

### **SO No. 3376 Increasing Recreational Opportunities through the use of Electric Bikes**

This Order is intended to increase recreational opportunities for all Americans, especially those with physical limitations, and to encourage the enjoyment of lands and waters managed by the Department of the Interior. This Order simplifies and unifies regulation of electric bicycles (e-bikes) on Federal lands managed by the Department of the Interior and also decreases regulatory burden.

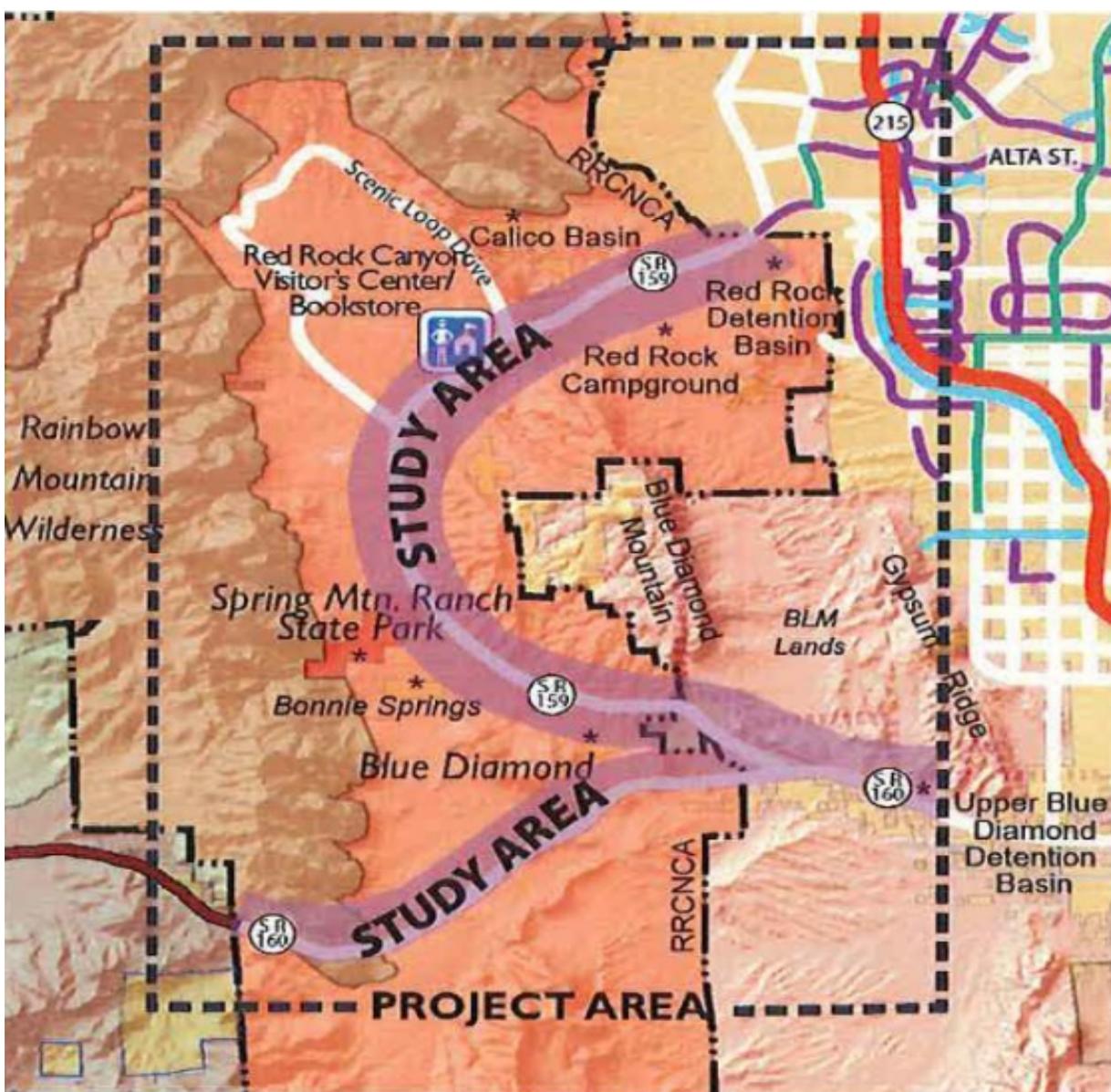
To encourage those with physical limitations or certain preferences to experience RRCNCA in a safe and scenic way, electric bikes will be permitted on the 28 miles of multi-use trail. The path will be paved and have minimal grades to encourage safe and responsible use.

 YES

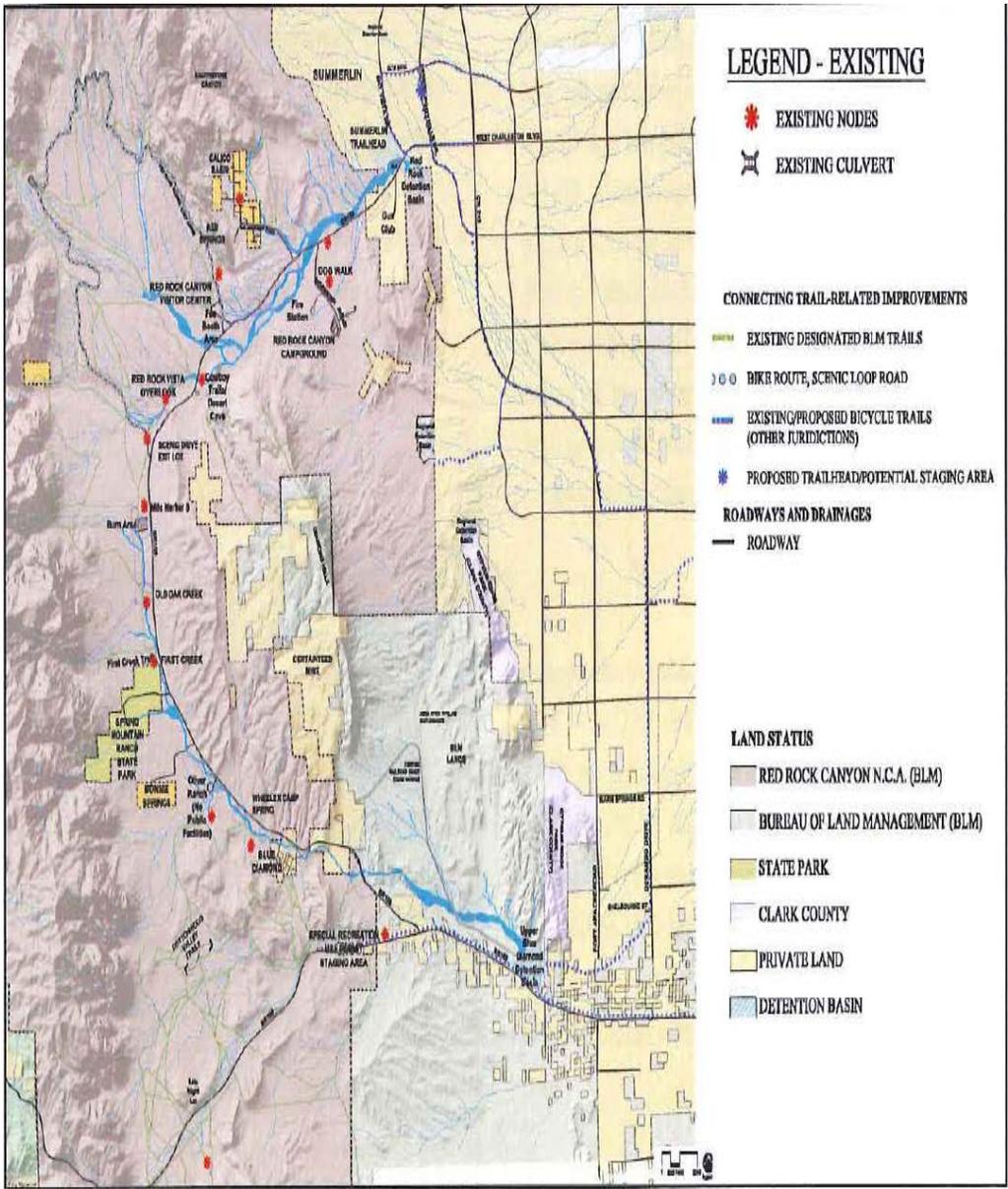
 NO

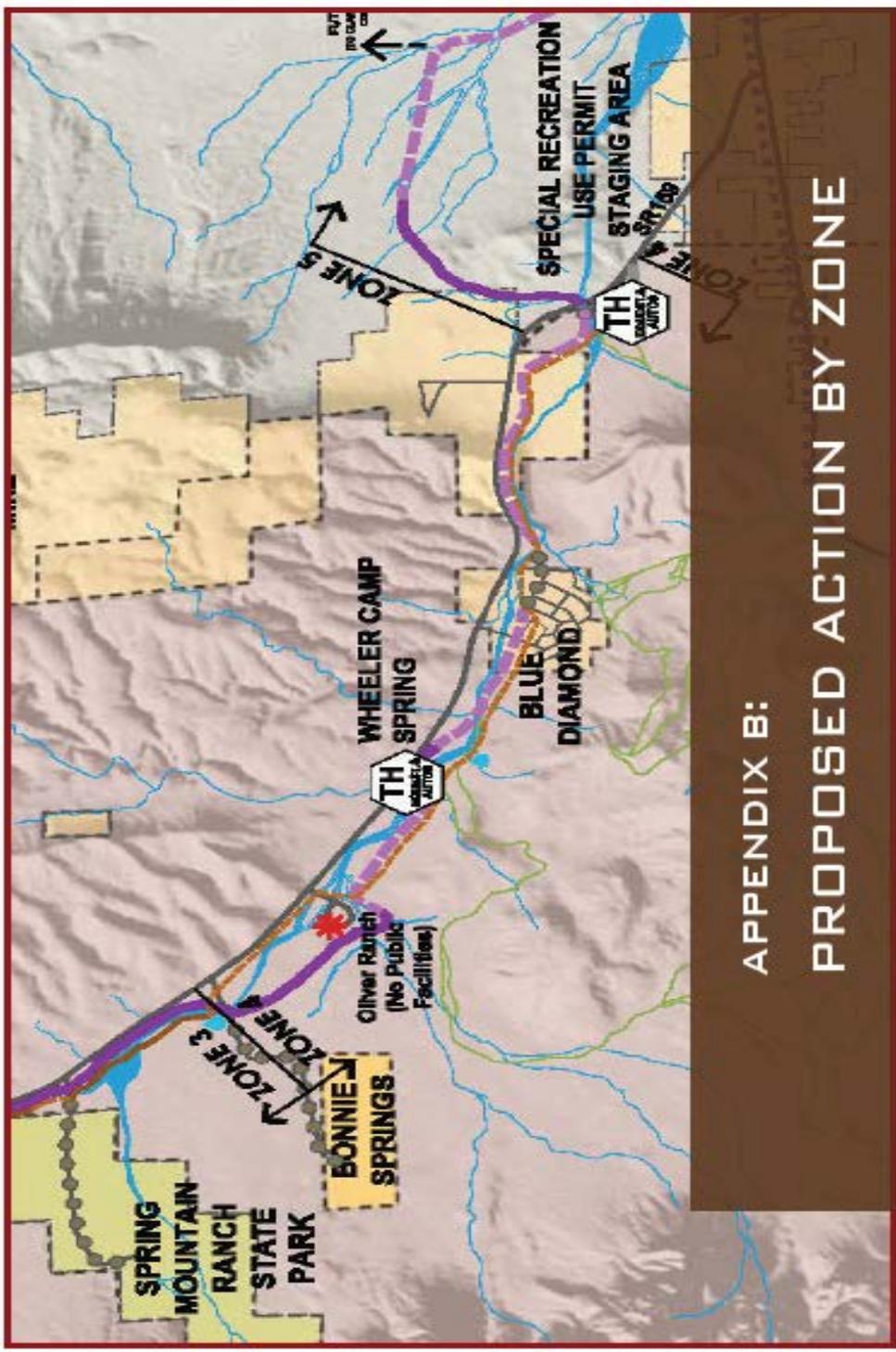
 NA

Maps:







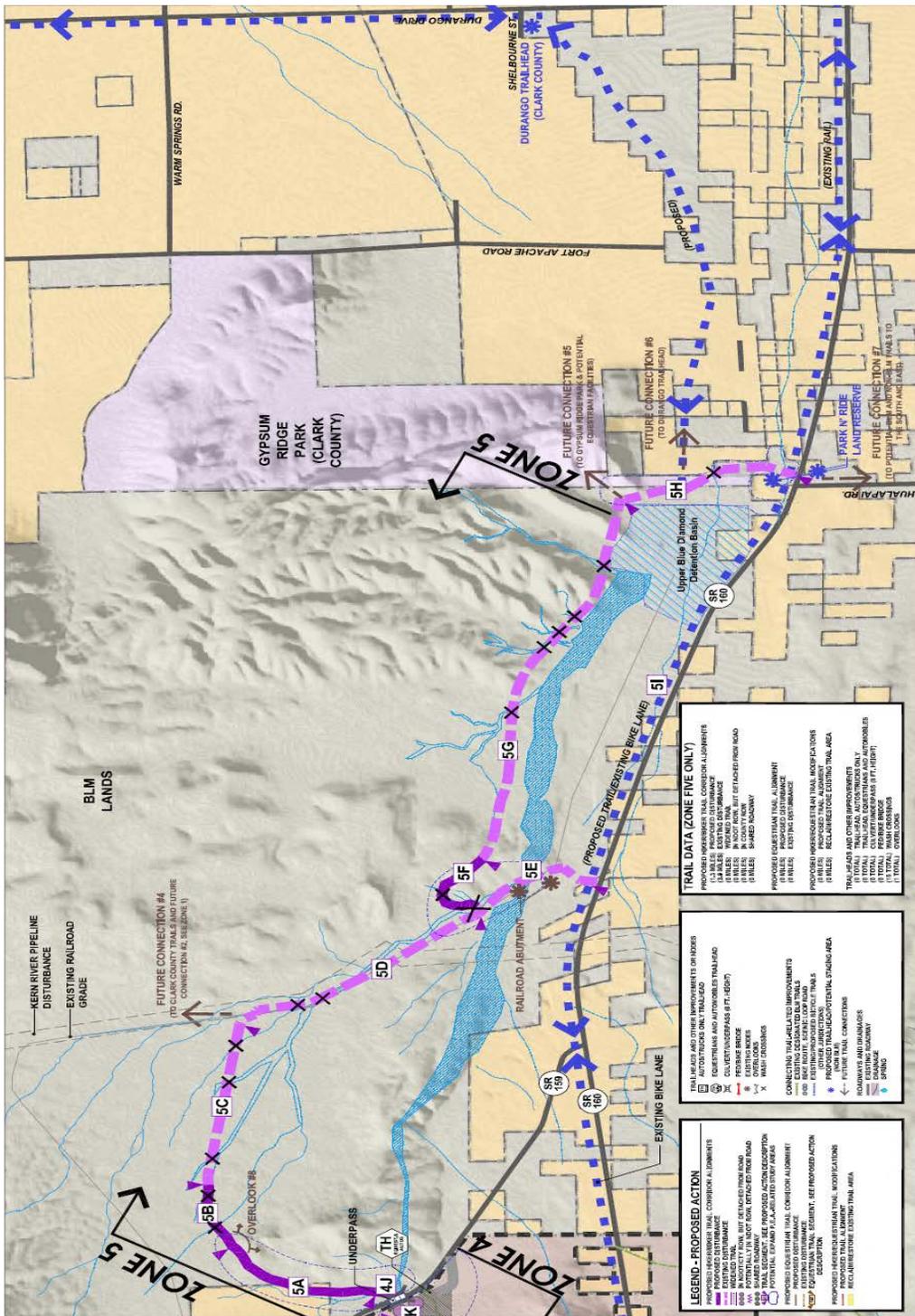


**APPENDIX B:  
PROPOSED ACTION BY ZONE**









**LEGEND - PROPOSED ACTION**

- PROPOSED EQUESTRIAN TRAIL ALIGNMENT
- PROPOSED HORSE/EQUESTRIAN TRAIL
- PROPOSED MULTI-USE TRAIL
- PROPOSED MULTI-USE TRAIL WITH POTENTIAL EXPANSION STUDY AREAS

**TRAIL DATA (ZONE FIVE ONLY)**

- PROPOSED HORSE/EQUESTRIAN TRAIL ALIGNMENT
- PROPOSED HORSE/EQUESTRIAN TRAIL
- PROPOSED MULTI-USE TRAIL
- PROPOSED MULTI-USE TRAIL WITH POTENTIAL EXPANSION STUDY AREAS

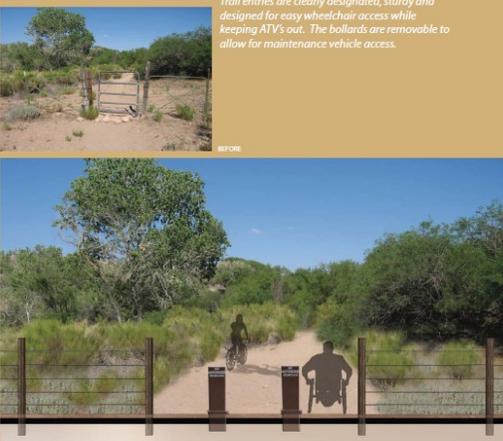
**LEGEND - PROPOSED ACTION**

- PROPOSED EQUESTRIAN TRAIL ALIGNMENT
- PROPOSED HORSE/EQUESTRIAN TRAIL
- PROPOSED MULTI-USE TRAIL
- PROPOSED MULTI-USE TRAIL WITH POTENTIAL EXPANSION STUDY AREAS

APPENDIX A  
PROJECT DESIGN GUIDELINES

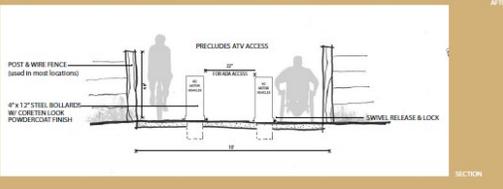
**4 TRAILHEAD REMOVABLE BOLLARD**

*Trail entries are clearly designated, sturdy and designed for easy wheelchair access while keeping ATVs out. The bollards are removable to allow for maintenance vehicle access.*



**BEFORE**

**AFTER**



**SECTION**

POST & WIRE FENCE (used in most locations)

6" x 12" STEEL BOLLARD W/ CORE TEN LOCK POWDERCOAT FINISH

PRECLUDES ATV ACCESS

36" FOR ADA ACCESS

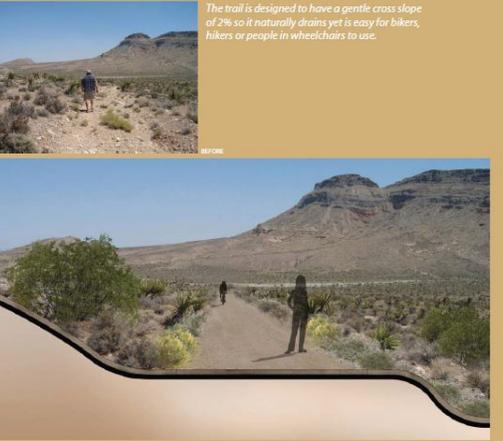
SWING RELEASE & LOCK

12'

APPENDIX A  
PROJECT DESIGN GUIDELINES

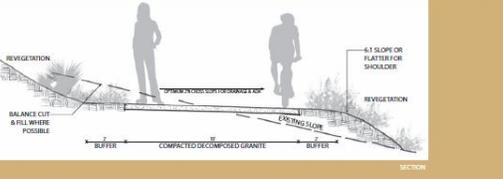
**5 TYPICAL CROSS SLOPE**

*The trail is designed to have a gentle cross slope of 2% so it naturally drains yet is easy for bikers, hikers or people in wheelchairs to use.*



**BEFORE**

**AFTER**



**SECTION**

REVEGETATION

BALANCE CUTS & FILL WHERE POSSIBLE

2' BUFFER

COMPACTED DECOMPOSED GRANITE

EXISTING SLOPE

6:1 SLOPE OR FLATTER FOR SHOULDER

REVEGETATION

APPENDIX A  
PROJECT DESIGN GUIDELINES

**6 TRAIL SITING ON STEEP CROSS SLOPES**

*Trails in areas with steep slopes are designed to blend naturally into the environment and to minimize erosion and trail wash out.*

ACCEPTABLE TRAIL GRADES	
UPHILL	10%
DOWNHILL	10%
UPHILL	15%
DOWNHILL	15%
UPHILL	20%
DOWNHILL	20%

SECTION

**SR-159 TRAIL CORRIDOR FEASIBILITY STUDY AND PEA**  
RED ROCK CANYON NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA  
INTERIM DRAFT 11/04/2009

APPENDIX A  
PROJECT DESIGN GUIDELINES

**9 UNDERPASS AT BOX CULVERT ON HWY 159 (NEAR HWY 100)**

*An attractive underpass is designed just beyond the major wash to provide a pleasant and safe trail connection for users coming or going to south Las Vegas and the Mountain's Edge Development.*

PROPOSED ROADWAY ELEVATION	
MINIMUM LONGITUDE TRANSITION	5% PER 1' OF ELEVATION +/- 3400 FEET NEW ROADWAY

SECTION

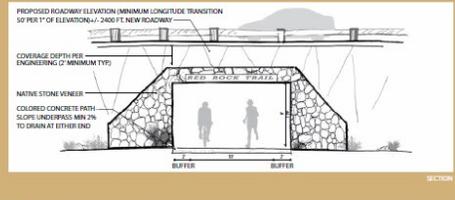
**SR-159 TRAIL CORRIDOR FEASIBILITY STUDY AND PEA**  
RED ROCK CANYON NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA  
INTERIM DRAFT 11/04/2009

APPENDIX A  
PROJECT DESIGN GUIDELINES

12 SOUTH TO NORTHSIDE UNDERPASS



To safely connect the south side trail and campground to north side connections an attractive underpass is constructed in a location where impacts to Highway 159 can be minimized.

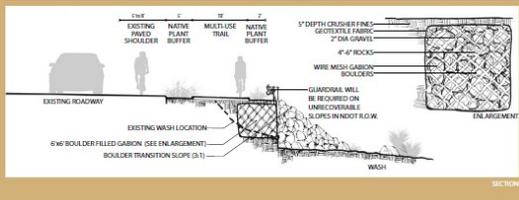


APPENDIX A  
PROJECT DESIGN GUIDELINES

11 GABION REINFORCED TRAIL ALONG WASH



To minimize environmental impacts in areas where massive washes exist, the trail is placed near Highway 159 yet remains separated from the road by a landscaped buffer.



**Letter of Support:**

**From:** [Maisano, Barbie](#)  
**To:** [Travers, Joshua M](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Bike Path Support  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 8, 2020 9:56:56 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

---

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Hello Catrina Williams and Josh Travers,

I am writing in support of the new bike path initiative that I would like to see turned into a reality. I heard of the project through Rich Schneider and he sent along your contact details. Safety for the riders is of the utmost importance and I am pleased to hear that this is top of mind. I have no doubt that the trail system would be an amazing asset for the entire Las Vegas community. You have my full support. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I can be of further assistance. I look forward to seeing this into completion. Thank you for your hard work.

Best,

Barbie Maisano

**Barbie Maisano**

Senior Executive Assistant  
to Siobhan Lane & Matt Wilson

**Scientific Games**

**M:** 702-285-4066

**Visit [SGGaming.com](http://SGGaming.com)**



**From:** [Wilson, Matt](#)  
**To:** [Travers, Joshua M](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Bike Path Support  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 8, 2020 9:53:52 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

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**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Hello Catrina Williams (Red Rock Field Manager) and Josh Travers (Assistant Field Manager),

I am writing in support of the new bike path initiative that I would like to see turned into a reality. With over 50 miles of trails and improved safety for riders, the trail system would be an amazing asset for the entire Las Vegas community. You have my full support. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I can be of further assistance. I look forward to seeing this into fruition. Thank you for your hard work.

Best,

Matt Wilson



**Matt Wilson**

Chief Executive Officer, Gaming

**Scientific Games**

M: 702-686-8735

[Visit SGGaming.com](http://Visit.SGGaming.com)





*Juan Palma*  
Phone: (801) 885-1043  
Email: [JuanMPalma@gmail.com](mailto:JuanMPalma@gmail.com)

Catrina Williams,  
Red Rock Canyon/Sloan Field Manager  
Bureau of Land Management  
4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr.  
Las Vegas, NV 89130

RE: Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 18, Capital Improvement Category – Red Rock Legacy Trails

Dear Katrina:

This memo is to express support for the SNPLMA Round 18 Capital Improvement Project nomination to complete the loop for the Red Rock Legacy Trails.

My personal support for the completion of the Red Rock Legacy Trails system is focused on the benefit that our diverse and under served publics would receive by having access to our Public Lands through this trail system. Clark County is a mirror of the diversity of residents that reside in the western US for example the current Latino population is about 750,000 residents or 33 percent of Clark County population. This Latinx population demographically is younger and may not have the financial resources to access other public lands that are more distant from the city. Therefore, the Red Rock Legacy Trails will provide for easier access to our public lands for these diverse populations because of the proximity to the city.

Some segments (zone 1 and zone 5) of the trail system have already been funded by FLAP; however, there is a need to close the loop (gap) so that public land users can enjoy the full scope of this iconic place – Red Rock Canyon. The trail will be designed in keeping with the other zones, with a 12-foot paved trail with one-foot gravel sides. This trail system would be an important amenity for all residents and visitors, but a bonus will be to provide access to our diverse and underserved residents of Clark County.

I support this nomination and ask that it be given strong consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Juan Palma". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in black ink.

Juan Palma,  
Former BLM State Director

cc: Joshua Travers  
Save Red Rock

---



---

September 4, 2020

Southern Nevada Bicycle Coalition  
8420 Kawala Dr.  
Las Vegas, NV 89128

Dear Catrina Williams and Josh Travers:

The Southern Nevada Bicycle Coalition actively supports the effort to build zones 1a – 4 of the Red Rock Legacy Bike Path. It is our understanding that the Bureau of Land Management is submitting these zones for SNPLMA funding. Constructing this trail would be a huge benefit to Las Vegas residents and visitors connecting them from residential areas through the Red Rock Conservation Area via a car-free bicycle/pedestrian path.

Residents need transportation alternatives to go to work, shop, exercise, pray and play. State Route 159 at W. Charleston Blvd. to State Route 160 south to Forte Apache is a heavily traveled biway for bikes, runners and walkers. It is also heavily travelled by tourists and even large 18-wheelers in some sections making this a very dangerous section for recreationalists. Once the Red Rock Legacy Bike Path is constructed, residents and visitors from all over metropolitan Las Vegas region will be able to ride an entire loop around this region, safely. This is a critical need for the residents of Las Vegas and southern Nevada in general.

The Southern Nevada Bicycle Coalition is the VOICE of the biking community in the region. We represent non-motorized, on and off-road user needs on issues of bicycle safety, infrastructure, education, and law enforcement. We are a 501(c) 3 non-profit in the State of Nevada and are administered entirely by concerned volunteers.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Keely Brooks*

Keely Brooks  
President  
Southern Nevada Bicycle Coalition

[keely@snavbc.org](mailto:keely@snavbc.org)  
702-250-0032



09/09/2020

Red Rock Trail Partnership  
10575 Discovery Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89135

To Whom It May Concern,

Assurnet Inc wholehardely supports Red Rock Trail Partnership in their application to the Federal Lands Access Program for planning and construction of a shared use path through Red Rock Canyon.

The proposed trail will have a positive economic impact on our community, and will enhance the lifestyle of its citizens and those visiting from out of town. This project will open the area to new enthusiasts and increase the appreciation of our natural resources. The construction of this pathway will reduce the traffic on the existing access points in the Canyon.

As a cyclist I've seen deaths on the Highway as a result of motorist hitting riders. This infrastructure would keep our community of cyclists safe.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "garrett boylan". The signature is written in a cursive, lowercase style.

Garrett Boylan  
President

THE  
CONSERVATION FUND

Southwest Regional Office  
5055 W. Patrick, Suite 101-A  
Las Vegas, NV 89118  
(702) 655-8167

August 17, 2020

Catrina Williams  
Field Manager  
Bureau of Land Management  
Red Rock/Sloan Field Office  
1000 Scenic Lop Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89161

**RE: Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act – Round 18 nomination**

Dear Katrina:

On behalf of The Conservation Fund I am writing in support and the nomination of two (2) longstanding Infrastructure and Capital Improvement needs within and adjacent to the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (RRCNCA). Specifically, the **“Red Rock NCA Legacy Trail”** and the **“Sandstone Quarry Return Road”**. These import projects are vital to the future of RRCNCA and will help address critical recreation and public access needs that are, arguably, among the highest in the state. Given current and historic visitor use and enjoyment of one of BLM’s “Crown Jewels”, and the lack of recent funding for projects within RRCNCA, now is the time to move forward aggressively.

For 35 years, The Conservation Fund has delivered bold conservation solutions that are good for both people and the environment. We have worked together with BLM, and the other federal land management agencies, to conserve and protect over 1,240,257 acres in Nevada since 1985. Much of that work has been done under the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA). We have been directly involved in over 50 previous SNPLMA projects balancing economic development with environmental objectives by partnering with local communities, business, government, and private landowners to find collaborative and innovative solutions.

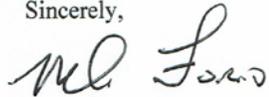
Management of the RRCNCA is tied to the “Las Vegas experience” and the unique nature of the RRCNCA is like nothing else is all of BLM. However, historical limitations under the SNPLMA process, and other considerations, have not allowed project funding to keep pace. We believe the subject projects are the highest current priorities in the state designed to meet critical recreational access and resource protection needs vital to the future well being of RRCNCA, and the public.

Even before the current pandemic, southern Nevada and RRCNCA faced complex challenges such as air quality, transportation, recreational access, climate change, flooding, and fire just to name a few. Now, more than ever, we need smart solutions and important capital improvements in the southwest valley that prove we can have a healthy environment while meeting the diverse social and cultural needs of the public. We believe making this investment now will help address critical infrastructure needs consistent with local and regional planning and management, while ensuring compatible public access resulting in responsible visitor use and enjoyment.

Please know The Conservation Fund remains ready to work with BLM, Clark County, and other stakeholders to make permanent protection and enhanced visitor use and management a reality for our community, and the public at large. With the recent passage of the Great America Outdoors Act (which emphasizes similar goals and objectives), and the legacy of past Capital Improvements funded under the SNPLMA throughout Clark County, now is the time to double down at RRCNCA. We strongly support this nomination and, when funded, these projects will substantially preserve the unique character and resource values of RRCNCA and the surrounding landscape.

We appreciate your consideration, support, and leadership for this proposal. If you have any questions concerning this letter of support, please feel free to contact me at (702) 499-1535 or by email at [mford@conservationfund.org](mailto:mford@conservationfund.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Ford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and the last name "Ford" clearly distinguishable.

Mike Ford  
Nevada and Southwest Director



JUSTIN C. JONES  
Commissioner

*Board of County Commissioners*

CLARK COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER  
500 S GRAND CENTRAL PKY  
BOX 551601  
LAS VEGAS NV 89155-1601  
(702) 455-3500 FAX: (702) 383-6041

August 13, 2020

Catrina Williams, Field Manager  
Bureau of Land Management, Red Rock Field Office  
1000 Scenic Loop Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89161

**Re: SNPLMA Round 18 Red Rock Proposed Projects**

Ms. Williams:

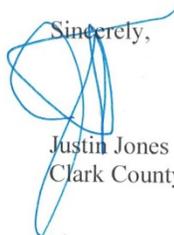
As the County Commissioner for much of the Red Rock Canyon area, I write on behalf of the Clark County Commission in support of the Bureau of Land Management's proposal to seek funding for the Red Rock Canyon Legacy Trail – Phases 2, 3, and 4 in connection with the recently-opened SNPLMA Round 18. Clark County has actively supported the Red Rock Canyon Legacy Trail, including providing matching funds for Phase 1, a commitment to matching funds for Phase 5, and agreeing to maintenance of the completed trails for Phase 1 and Phase 5. Clark County hereby also commits to participate as appropriate and needed in the planning for Phases 2, 3, and 4. Clark County further commits to enter into a maintenance agreement for all five phases of the Red Rock Canyon Legacy Trail. Equitable access to parks and trails is a priority for Clark County, and finishing this trail would allow both Nevadans and our visitors to better access and enjoy the beauty of Red Rock Canyon.

In addition to the Red Rock Canyon Legacy Trail, we want to express our support for the Red Rock Return Loop Project. The shortened loop will decrease traffic and allow for a safer experience for all Red Rock Canyon visitors.

August 13, 2020  
p. 2

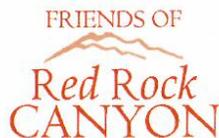
Clark County looks forward to a continuing partnership with the Bureau of Land Management to ensure these important projects come to fruition. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Justin Jones  
Clark County Commissioner, District F

cc: Joshua Travers, Assistant Field Manager, BLM Red Rock Field Office  
Denis Cederburg, Director of Public Works, Clark County



September 12, 2020

Robert Wandel  
Assistance District Manager - SNPLMA Division  
Bureau of Land Management  
4701 North Torrey Pines Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89131

RE: Support for SNPLMA Round 18 Grant Proposal – Red Rock Canyon NCA Legacy Trail

Dear Mr. Wandel;

Friends of Red Rock Canyon (Friends) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, founded in 1984, whose sole missions are the protection and enhancement of Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (RRCNCA) and the public lands of Southern Nevada. Friends has actively assisted in and promoted the responsible usage of RRCNCA since our founding.

On behalf of the board, staff and 500 members of Friends, I take great pleasure in supporting the BLM, Southern Nevada District - Red Rock/Sloan Field Office in their application for \$63,090,580 in funding that will contract, plan, design and construct a multi-use trail system within the Conservation Area. The proposed trail and improvements will not only keep our community and visitors safe while recreating at Red Rock, but will also create a unique opportunity for users to interact with their Public Lands in an accessible way.

The Legacy Trail project will benefit the estimated 3,000,000 annual users of RRCNCA while upholding the guidelines defined by the approved Resource Management Plan. Safety on State Route 159 is of great concern to Friends and this Trail will greatly improve conditions for users traveling to and amongst this wonderful resource.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns regarding this letter of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erin J. McDermott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "E" and "M".

Erin McDermott  
Executive Director  
erin@friendsredrock.org  
702-515-5366



September 2, 2020

Catrina Williams – Field Manager - Red Rock / Sloan Field Office  
 Josh Travers – Assistant Field Manager  
 Bureau of Land Management  
 4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr.  
 Las Vegas, NV 89130

Subject: Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 18, Capital Improvement Category - Red Rock Loop

Dear Ms. Williams and Mr. Travers:

On behalf of Get Outdoors Nevada, I write to express my support for the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 18 Capital Improvement project nomination to complete the Red Rock Loop.

Get Outdoors Nevada is a non-profit organization whose mission is to connect Nevadans and visitors from all backgrounds and ages to the state's diverse outdoor places. Many of our efforts and programs focus on the needs and lives of families and school children, especially those who are at-risk and often have limited opportunity to experience the great outdoors. We empower residents and visitors alike by promoting options for healthy and happy lifestyles through outdoor adventures. Completion of the Red Rock Loop would provide residents and visitors with a safe way to travel by foot and bicycle from the communities adjacent to Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (NCA).

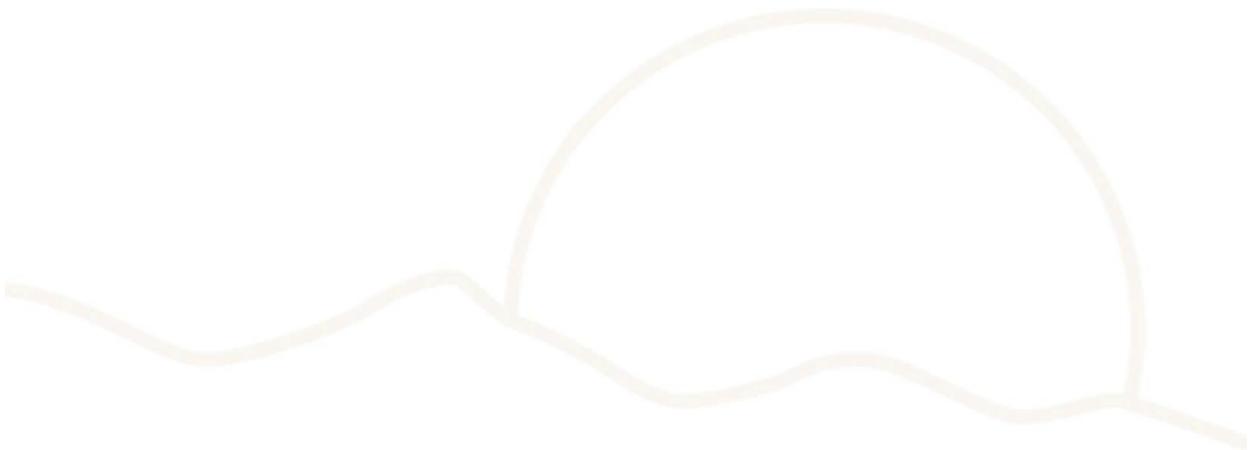
Currently, the only way to get to Red Rock Canyon NCA is by car or alongside the road. Confident cyclists are able to bicycle along the road. Unfortunately, this excludes those uncomfortable with cycling along a road as well as those with younger children, etc. In addition, there has been a long and sad history of accidents involving motorists who critically or fatally injure cyclists. Thus, there is a strong need for an alternative to cycling on the road. The Red Rock Loop provides that alternative. Funds for a segment of this trail have been secured through the Federal Lands Access Program. These funds allow for the construction of a trail connecting Summerlin to the NCA visitor center and then from the Mountains Edge community to a point near Blue Diamond Village. This leaves a large gap of about 30 miles that would be a good candidate for funding through SNPLMA Round 18 capital improvement funds. The path will be designed in keeping with the other zones, with a 12-foot paved path with one-foot gravel sides. This will create an important amenity that will keep visitors and residents safe.

I strongly support the nomination of this worthwhile project. Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (702) 997-3350 or by email at [mbaca@getoutdoorsnevada.org](mailto:mbaca@getoutdoorsnevada.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,



Executive Director  
Outside Las Vegas Foundation,  
DBA Get Outdoors Nevada



21 N. Pecos Road, Suite 106, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 | 702-997-3350 |  
[www.GetOutdoorsNevada.org](http://www.GetOutdoorsNevada.org)

Mark R. Dunn  
1905 Alcova Ridge Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89135

VIA EMAIL – JTravers@blm.gov

September 7, 2020

Ms. Catrina Williams, Field Manager  
Mr. Josh Travers, Assistant Field Manager  
Bureau of Land Management  
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89130

Re: Red Rock Legacy Trails

Dear Josh:

I write to you to express my support for the Red Rock Legacy Trails Project. For many reasons, I believe that this proposed project is one that is seminal to the continued growth and enhancement of the Las Vegas community for present and future residents and visitors.

For the past 18 years, I have had the privilege of calling Las Vegas my home. When I left St. Louis in 2002, many people I knew questioned my decision to uproot my young family by leaving a community known for its “Midwestern values” and moving to “Sin City”. While I only visited the Las Vegas on a couple of occasions prior to my move, I had a nagging feeling that Las Vegas held great potential for growth, that there was much more to it than The Strip, and that what surrounded it would be a great platform for my kids to learn to appreciate the great outdoors.

As it turned out, I was right. My family has thrived here, and much of that has come from the ability to take advantage of all that surrounds Las Vegas. In order for Las Vegas to continue its growth and maintain its position as a “top tier” metropolitan area, it must embrace projects like this one in order to attract a business base that Las Vegas sorely needs to diversify an economy that has proven challenging in the world of COVID-19. In addition to rewarding those who have already chosen to make Las Vegas their home, projects like this will help springboard the growth and livability of the community and differentiate Las Vegas from others that will aid future growth, as well as further entice potential tourists in viewing Las Vegas as a well-round destination location.

For the foregoing reasons, I emphatically and respectfully suggest that the Las Vegas Office of the BLM should undertake all effort necessary to obtain the financing necessary to make this project a reality. Should you desire to discuss this matter further with me, please feel free to reach out to me at (242)424-0950. Thanks for your consideration in this matter in trying to make the Las Vegas community a better place for all of us in which to live.

Sincerely,

*Mark R. Dunn*

Mark R. Dunn



September 3, 2020

Red Rock Trail Partnership  
10575 Discovery Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89135

To Whom It May Concern,

The Mountain's Edge Marketing Co Op, on behalf of the Mountain's Edge Master Planned Community, supports the Red Rock Trail Partnership in their application to the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) for planning and construction of a shared use path project through Red Rock Canyon.

From the very initial days of planning and design of the community, Mountain's Edge has worked to connect the community and its resident with the surrounding open spaces. Outdoor adventure, exploration and discovery are the basic tenets of our brand, and we invest heavily in promoting outdoor activities as part of a high quality of life.

This proposed trail will significantly improve the safety of our residents, and the entire community, as they seek to access the rich natural assets our valley has to offer. Additionally, we believe this project will have a positive environmental impact through improved air quality

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "TJ DeVore", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Thomas J. DeVore  
Manager



STEVE SISOLAK  
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
1263 S. Stewart Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89712

KRISTINA L. SWALLOW, P.E., Director

In Reply Refer to:

August 21, 2020

JOSHUA TRAVERS  
SUPERVISORY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLANNER  
RED ROCK CANYON NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
1000 SCENIC LOOP DRIVE  
LAS VEGAS NV 89161

**RE: Proposed Shared-Use Path paralleling State Highway Route (SR) 159 Corridor**

Dear Mr. Travers:

The Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) strives to provide mobility access for all federally recognized modes of transportation. The SR159 corridor, a recognized Nevada Scenic Byway, is a very popular route for both vehicles and non-motorized users to escape the hectic urban environment and enjoy the natural wonders Southern Nevada has to offer. Small communities, State Park facilities and the National Conservation Area, are all situated along this route. The SR159 also provides a vital regional network connection linking the west side of the Las Vegas Valley to Nye County and destinations north such as Death Valley National Park.

A steady increase in traffic volumes has been observed along this route over the years, as well as an increase in bicycles and other recreationalists. Unfortunately, crashes involving non-motorized users, vehicles, burros and wildlife have occurred on this corridor.

The NDOT supports and would be happy to participate in exploring opportunities to provide additional safe non-motorized user accommodation, such as a shared-use path or other infrastructure, through the corridor. Ideally, this planning should be done as a collaboration of stakeholders including State agencies, Clark County, the RTC of Southern Nevada, land management agencies, advocates and adjoining private property interests.

Please contact Bill Story, Assistant Chief of Multimodal Program Development at (775) 888-7765 or [wstory@dot.nv.gov](mailto:wstory@dot.nv.gov) if you have additional questions or to discuss coordination on this effort.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sondra Rosenberg".  
895F72355AF94F2...  
Sondra Rosenberg  
Assistant Director - Planning

September 12th, 2020



Robert Wandel  
Conservation Initiatives Program Manager  
SNPLMA Division  
Bureau of Land Management  
4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr.  
Las Vegas, NV 89130

Re: SNPLMA Round 18 Grant Proposal – Red Rock NCA Legacy Trail

Southern Nevada Conservancy would like to express our support for the Red Rock NCA Legacy Trail proposal authored by the Bureau of Land Management.

In close proximity to Las Vegas, it's population of 2 million people and the millions of tourists that visit the city, sits Red Rock Canyon NCA, the crown jewel of the BLM National Conservation Lands. Visitors come to Red Rock to scramble on the rocks, watch wildlife and visit sites inhabited by native peoples. They also come to recreate in many forms including hiking, jogging, bicycling, equestrian riding and much more. Although RRNCA is very close to Las Vegas, access is primarily limited to state route 159, a high-speed route with many distractions. Those wanting to access the NCA not in a non-motorized vehicle are forced to travel along the highway which can be nerve wracking for the bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorists alike.

A positive solution is the proposed Legacy Trail which will dedicate a path for the sole use of non-motorized users along the entirety of state route 159. The trail would tie into a Las Vegas wide effort to provide more non-motorized trails and provide direct access to Red Rock. Additionally, the proposal includes the improvements of trailheads outside of the scenic loop. The Legacy Trail and trailhead improvements will help disperse the 6 million visitors who visit Red Rock annually, which in turn, will help protect natural resources and improve the visitor experience in regard to overcrowding at popular sites.

The Southern Nevada Conservancy is excited to see a trail that will provide more access to the public as well as balance the natural resources the NCA was created to protect. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or further information.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jose Witt".

Jose Witt  
Executive Director  
Southern Nevada Conservancy  
jwitt@snconservancy.org

September 11, 2020

Bureau of Land Management  
4701 North Torrey Pines Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89130

Attention: Catrina Williams, Red Rock Field Manager  
Josh Travers, Assistant Field Manager

Subject: Red Rock Legacy Trails

Dear Ms. Williams,

I am writing you today to support the request for SNPLMA funds from round 18 in the amount of \$61 million to complete the 30-mile loop on the Red Rock Legacy Trails project.

My company works to bring new businesses, large and small to Las Vegas. As you might expect, we are often competing with another state or locations for the projects. When I was involved in the World Market Center, it was the quality of life and the access to open space that attracted the developers. Their employees need to be content in the location, and their families look for affordability, schools, and recreation. As we know, we score very high in two of those categories. As a result, the higher we can score in the recreational and outdoor opportunities, the better.

Red Rock Legacy Trails is a unique, scenic, and family oriented project. Cyclists, equestrians and those who enjoy a simple walk, will benefit from this amazing project.

The most unique aspect of the project is the "loop" configuration. As a result, it is imperative to "close the loop". The \$61 million will be an investment well spent on a project that appeals to a very broad audience.

If the pandemic has taught us a few things, it would be that we need the outdoors to be happy, and we need to get and stay healthy. The Red Rock Legacy Trails will offer both of these opportunities to Southern Nevadans and the tourist who visit us.

Sincerely,

Lisa Mayo-DeRiso  
CEO  
Mayo & Associates



Regional Transportation  
Commission of  
Southern Nevada

600 S. Grand Central Pkwy., Suite 350, Las Vegas, NV 89106-4512

September 10, 2020

Catrina Williams  
Field Manager, Red Rock/Sloan Field Office  
Bureau of Land Management  
4701 North Torrey Pines Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89130

Subject: Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 18  
Capital Improvements Nomination  
Red Rock Canyon Legacy Trails and Trailhead Improvements

Dear Ms. Williams:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) to express support for the *Red Rock Canyon Legacy Trails and Trailhead Improvements* project. As the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization, we share the region's vision for a "safe, connected, and convenient walking and bicycling system that serves as a viable transportation and recreation asset while advancing the region's economic, educational, health, and environmental goals."

The Red Rock Legacy Trails connect to the urban active transportation network included in the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, which identifies a proposed shared use path along Charleston Boulevard (State Route 159). After reviewing the project description, we also believe that the proposed improvements align with the regional plan's goal to "prioritize access to parks, trails, open space, recreation, and opportunities for physical exercise."

The nomination includes 30 miles of the Legacy Trail, 8 miles of equestrian trail, First Creek Trail relocation and improvements, and the design and construction of seven trailheads along State Route 159. Due to the scope and cost, the RTC also supports any project phasing that may be necessary due to SNPLMA funding availability. We also understand that the project is located on public land and/or within existing public right-of-way.

RTC staff have participated in the Red Rock Legacy Trail Partnership, including collaboration on the group's charter and action plan, supporting the Phase 1 Trail project, and providing other technical assistance. We look forward to continued work with the Bureau of Land Management to expand trails and outdoor recreation opportunities at Red Rock Canyon.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (702) 676-1500 or by email at [MaynardM@rtcsonv.com](mailto:MaynardM@rtcsonv.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M.J. Maynard".

M.J. Maynard  
Chief Executive Officer  
Regional Transportation Commission of Southern

Cc: Josh Travers, Bureau of Land Management (via email)



September 3, 2020

Red Rock Trail Partnership  
10575 Discovery Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89135

To Whom It May Concern,

Focus Property Group wholeheartedly supports the Red Rock Trail Partnership in their application to the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) for planning and construction of a shared use path project through Red Rock Canyon.

The proposed trail will have a positive economic impact on our community, and will enhance the lifestyle of its citizens and those visiting from out of town. This project also would open up the area to new user groups, thereby increasing the appreciation in our valley of our natural resources. Importantly, the construction of this pathway will reduce the traffic on the existing access points in the Canyon.

As an avid cyclist, my personal attraction to this trail is that it would result in moving pedestrian and bicycle traffic off the busy roadway, increasing the safety of outdoor enthusiasts in and around Red Rock Canyon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bill Boschetto', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bill Boschetto  
Partner & Broker



August 21, 2020

Bureau of Land Management  
1000 Scenic Loop Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89161

To Whom it May Concern:

As the Chair of the Red Rock Legacy Trail Partnership and President of Save Red Rock, I write this letter in full support of the Bureau of Land Management's application to the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act for planning and construction of phases 1b and 2-4 of the Red Rock Legacy Trail multi-use shared path project through Red Rock Canyon.

By connecting the already approved and funded phases 1a and 5, this trail would provide responsible, disbursed recreation opportunities and traffic alternatives to release some of the pressure off of the Red Rock Scenic Loop and 159 Scenic Byway.

In 2005, Save Red Rock was founded with a series of NDOT safety Charettes on the principals of safer recreation in Red Rock, from which the number one public alternative emerged as this separated multi-use path concept. Federal support was garnered, a \$2 million study was conducted, and in 2009, an Environmental Assessment was completed on this trail system. Then in 2017 we formed a committee to support this project through public private partnerships. The Red Rock Legacy Trail Partnership (RRLTP) and friends consists of representatives from local, state and federal agencies including, BLM, NDOT, RTC, FHA, FLAP, Clark County, Red Rock Citizen's Advisory Council, IMBA, SNVBC, Get Outdoors Nevada, and Save Red Rock. We can ask for letters of support from any of these organizations as well as the 6 federal delegates we have been working with on issues in Red Rock Canyon, many of whom have toured with us on site for this very issue, Senators Catherine Cortez Masto and Jacky Rosen, and Representatives Dina Titus, Mark Amodei, Susie Lee, and Steven Horsford.

The RRLTP believes that each biker or walker or runner on the trail is one less car on the road, providing relief for overcrowded parking and congestion. This also provides safer, more comfortable opportunities for user groups previously not accommodated. The public need for this was clearly made evident during the pandemic shut down of the scenic loop in March and April, when families, kids, minority groups, teenagers, and dog walkers enjoyed the scenic loop safely and legally from the exit in the absence of automobile traffic.

We also understand that BLM resources are limited, so we work to facilitate support from the community, such as the maintenance agreement by Clark County and Get Outdoors Nevada and the initial construction by the Federal Highway Administration.

As this project is primarily on BLM land, the RRLTP has been working to ensure that it can serve to further the BLM's mission to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

We feel that it does, and so we write this letter to support the BLM's application to SNPLMA for the continuation and continuity of the Red Rock Legacy Trail. We feel that the future generations especially, can benefit from and appreciate the legacy that this SNPLMA application for connectivity could attain.

Sincerely,

Heather Fisher  
President, Save Red Rock  
Chair, Red Rock Legacy Trail Partnership

Save Red Rock Canyon Community Development Corporation 501(c)(3)  
10575 Discovery Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89135, [www.saveredrock.com](http://www.saveredrock.com), (702) 518-1954

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act  
Capital Improvements  
Round 18

Bureau of Land Management



**Sloan Canyon Visitor Contact Station**

Amount Requested \$19,834,600

Time Frame: 5 years

Location: 35.91604167° / -115.12613056°

Congressional District Number: NV-3

Federal Manager: Angelita S. Bullets, District Manager

Contact: Joseph Varner, Sloan Canyon NCA Manager

Phone: 702-515-5354

Email: [jvarner@blm.gov](mailto:jvarner@blm.gov)

**Purpose Statement:**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Southern Nevada District, Red Rock/Sloan Field Office (RRSFO) will perform the construction management and will contract the construction of the Sloan Canyon Visitor Contact Station and associated amenities. The project is located on BLM-administered lands within the Sloan NCA, Clark County, Nevada approximately one-mile South of Democracy Drive and Naghaw Poa Road intersection. The primary purpose of the proposal is to promote protection of the Sloan NCA and its valuable resources, while at the same time, increase recreational opportunities in the Las Vegas Valley by constructing an already designed project.

**Background info and need for the project:**

In November 2002, Congress designated the Sloan NCA to preserve and protect a portion of southern Nevada's Mojave Desert for future generations. The 48,438-acre national conservation area forms the southern mountainous skyline of Las Vegas valley and the City of Henderson. The Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site is one of the most significant, scenic, and important cultural resources in southern Nevada having more than 300 rock art panels, and nearly 1,700 designs representing native cultures dating from Archaic to historic era.

The 14,763-acre North McCullough Wilderness lies entirely within the Sloan NCA and contains unique and spectacular natural resources including thousands of acres of pristine land that remain in a natural state. The North McCullough Wilderness is volcanic in origin and examples of lava flows, ash falls, and glassy zones are clearly displayed in the Wilderness. The North McCullough Wilderness, located only a few miles from Cities of Las Vegas and Henderson, provides opportunities for solitude and a primitive and unconfined type of recreation in an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled.

Visitation to the area has been increasing from over 35,000 visitors when Phase one of the Visitor Contact Station was completed to over 82,000 visitors in 2019. This 81% increase in visitation provides an opportunity for needed economic development; and brings management challenges. Providing adequate infrastructure for trails, trailheads, other recreation types and the need for public interpretation of the area is much needed to meet the needs of diverse user groups.

This proposal includes construction of a 3,000 square foot facility that would house multiple Sloan NCA staff and an indoor exhibit space, outdoor amphitheater, three miles of post and cable fencing, a ½ mile interpretive hiking loop, and a control point where interpretive tours would take place and allow the BLM to manage the Petroglyph Trail along with other ancillary facilities such as a Booster pump station for city water tie-in and the installation of city sewer.

The project area is located near the intersection of Democracy Drive and Naghaw Poa Road, which BLM funded from other sources as Phase one of the Sloan NCA Visitor Contact Station. The multi-purpose facility and surrounding areas complement existing and planned trails within the City of Henderson, connecting to the communities of Inspirada. Facilities, signage, and

outreach materials will be located to support diverse recreational demands for various types of recreation within Clark County.

This project implements deliberate recreation planning, Sloan NCA growth and resource protection, developed in response to increasing demand on BLM-administered lands in Clark County, directly conserving natural resources into the future while providing additional recreational opportunities for expanding user demographics.

The Visitor Contact Station will provide recreational opportunities for the communities of Inspirada, Anthem, and other neighborhoods that about the Sloan NCA by providing picnic areas, interpretive hiking, outdoor exhibits, and other facilities for the community to use. It will meet demands for out-of-town visitor recreation; specifically hiking, cultural resource history, and visitation to the North McCullough Wilderness by providing interpretive tours of the area. Compliance with Departmental/Agency Priorities and Strategic Goals

### **Relationship to previous phases and anticipated future phases:**

This project has no relationship to previous phases of SNPLMA funding. Projects listed as Primary Deliverables are considered to be Phase 2 of the Sloan NCA Visitor Contact Station that was by the BLM Nevada State Director in April 2018. Phase one consisted of the construction of Nawgha Poa Road and a temporary contact station, which was completed in 2016.

### **Deliverables:**

#### Primary Deliverables:

1. Construct a 3,000-sqft Sloan Canyon Visitor Contact Station
2. Employee Office Space to hold 8 BLM employees
3. Installation of 0.75 miles of Municipal Sewer/Water Infrastructure Development
4. 8-15 Rotating/Seasonal Indoor/outdoor exhibit Displays
5. 2 Public Restrooms
6. 1 Staff Restroom
7. An estimated 1500+ sqft Outdoor Plaza
8. 150 visitor Outdoor Amphitheatre
9. 0.50 mile Outdoor Interpretive Loop
10. 1 covered Petroglyph Trail Staging Area
11. 300+ sqft Outdoor Storage Area

#### Anticipated Deliverables:

1. Installation of 3 miles of protective boundary fence
2. Re-Locating 2 NCA access gates 1/2 mile South closer to the project area near the NCA boundary.
3. 20 acres (estimated) of revegetation costs associated with revegetation and landscaping in and around the contact station

**Standard Deliverables:**

- Develop scopes of work for contracts and award contracts for the construction of the Sloan Canyon Visitor Contact Station and amenities.
- Develop scopes of work for contracts and award contracts for the construction of Post and Cable along the North Boundary near the contact Station for three miles.
- Project close out with the SNPLMA Division
- SMART quarterly status updates
- SMART annual and final accomplishment reports
- Preparation of the close out package is a required standard deliverable.

**Project Timeframe:**

The scale and scope of the entire project will take approximately five (5) years to complete. This includes time needed for project inspection, completion of punch-list items, and payment of final invoices. There is an allotted six months prior to the start of project for administration needs and project background planning as well as six months after the project for finalization of the administrative record and submission of the close out package to the SNPLMA Division.

**Level of Project Readiness for Implementation:**

The RRSFO is prepared to initiate the project timely after funding is available. The following steps are with percentages complete are:

**Sloan Canyon Visitor Contact Station Design**

- Facility design is at the 65% level. RRSFO is expected to have finish construction plans in hand by the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2021.
- The project NEPA Analysis is also under contract with an expectation of being completed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2021.

**NCA Limited Boundary Fence**

- NEPA is being completed internally and is at the 35% level.
- Both Biological and Archeological surveys would need to be contracted prior to construction or included in the contract.
- NEPA will be completed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2021.

**Future Operations and Maintenance:**

Operations costs include daily operation of the facility and some print media, active patrol and monitoring of Sloan Canyon NCA, along with providing responses to inquiries and requests for access and information. The Red Rock/Sloan Field Office already conducts those activities on a regular basis. The front office staff provides a high level of support to numerous tourists; including maps, directions, and recommendations for places to go. Additional operations for this project are expected to be negligible. Monitoring use and visitation will require additional time from outdoor recreation and park ranger personnel, as well as other specialists on occasion.

Sloan Canyon's congressionally designated act created a special account that uses funding for operations and maintenance and are anticipated to fund operational expenses related to the contact station for the life expectancy of the facility through 2039. The BLM has already committed to operations and trail maintenance costs that are included in the annual workplan each year. The facilities proposed in this project would not be a substantial new obligation and the BLM has the resources, either in house, through volunteer groups, through local partners, or through programs such as the parks recreation grants program, to ensure a high level of care for the trails.

Trail and facility construction will employ proven sustainable construction techniques that ensure certain visitation areas shed water, self-compact, and do not cause erosion, reducing maintenance requirements. Also, by building permanent utility infrastructure for water and sewer, it allows for a more sustainable long term, lower cost maintenance plan compared to a well for water and a septic system. We have also planned on up to 85 solar panels to become self-sufficient. Since this building is new, we have yet to develop a solid O&M baseline costs, but as stated previously, we have a very conservative plan with funding available for long term costs.

#### **Contributed funds directly applicable to completion of the project:**

Sloan Canyon NCA has a remarkable partnership and volunteer base that has been in place since its inception in 2002. Friends of Sloan Canyon and the Southern Nevada Conservancy has helped with design elements, trail monitoring, and volunteering hundreds of hours to help preserve the NCA.

In the future both partners are planning to develop more Environmental Education opportunities at the Contact Station and continue volunteering to help address and direct the public through the Sloan Canyon NCA. See Addendum G for copies of support letters from our partners.

Relationship to previous phases and anticipated future phases

#### **Funding Requested Budget Detail:**

The BLM is anticipating the construction contract costs to be approximately to \$15 million dollars. An addition of other necessary expenses has been added and described in the Project Deliverables section previously. The total cost of all aspects within this nomination is an estimated \$19,834,600.

As the facility is constructed and placed in operation, it is anticipated other grant funding will become available and more assistance through volunteers and other organizations will occur. Until that time, the use of SNPLMA funding represents the best value option for a viable project for a new permanent visitor contact station in an undeveloped area.

<b>Schedule B</b>			
<b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROPOSAL</b>			
<b>ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS &amp; KEY MILESTONE DATES</b>			
<b>Project Name:</b>	<u>Sloan Canyon NCA Visitor Contact Station</u>	<b>Agency:</b>	<u>BLM</u>
<b>Project &amp; Priority #:</b>	<u>N/A nomination submittal</u>	<b>Phone:</b>	<u>702-515-5354</u>
<b>Prepared by:</b>	<u>Joseph Varner</u>	<b>Date:</b>	
1	<b>Planning, Environmental Compliance &amp; Preconstruction Engineering and Design</b> <i>(Not to exceed 27% of total project costs)</i>	\$400,000	2.02%
	(Pre-design sketches and conceptual drawings; environmental assessment and permitting, specialist surveys/reports for archaeology, wildlife, biology, etc.; architectural and engineering analysis, design survey & field investigations; construction drawings, specifications, cost estimates, and engineering technical reports.)		
2	<b>Construction Contract Costs</b>	\$15,400,000	77.64%
	(Including labor, supplies & materials, construction management, etc.; sampling/testing; site restoration; and government furnished supplies and materials.)		
3	<b>Project Equipment</b>	\$419,200	2.11%
	(Pg. 89 of the Implementation Agreement - SNPLMA funds can only be used for "project related necessary expenses" and SNPLMA can reimburse only for those equipment costs directly associated with completion of the approved project.)		
4	<b>Travel</b>	\$45,000	0.23%
	(Including per diem where official travel status is required to carry out the project, such as to serve as COR, experts to review reports, etc.)		
5	<b>Official Vehicle Use</b>	\$48,000	0.24%
	(Pro rata costs for use of Official Vehicles when required to carry out the project.)		
6	<b>Other Direct and Contracted Labor</b>	\$2,619,400	13.21%
	Agency payroll for the Contracting Officer to do project procurements, COR Project Inspector, Section 106 Consultation, NEPA Lead, Project Manager, Project Supervisor, and subject experts to review contracted surveys, design/drawings, plans, reports, etc.; Also covered is the cost to contract for a Project Manager and/or Project Supervisor if contracted separately from other project costs.		
7	<b>FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act</b>	\$0	0.00%
8	<b>Direct Federal Labor</b>	\$0	0.00%
	(direct agency labor for construction, project inspection, CO and COR)		
9	<b>Other Necessary Expenses</b>	\$903,000	4.55%
	(See SNPLMA IA Part Two – Appendix B-3)		
<b>Total Requested/Estimated Budget</b>		<b>\$19,834,600</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
10	<b>Total Estimated In-kind Agency or Partner Contribution</b>	\$0	
	<b>Total Estimated Project Value</b>	\$19,834,600	

**Performance Measures:**

This is a list of SNPLMA Performance Measures that the Sloan Canyon Visitor Contact Station would accurately report on whether direct or indirect. This project requires quantifiable data on project accomplishments for many of the goals such as:

Outputs: SNPLMA STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 1: Sustain the Quality of the Outdoor Environment by Conserving, Preserving, and Restoring Natural, Cultural, and Historical Resources

- H16 - Miles of Roads or Trails Decommissioned and/or Rehabilitated – 2 miles
- H17 – Miles of Roads or Trails Surveyed, Inventoried, or Monitored – 3 miles
- C1 - Number of Cultural or Historic Sites or Structures Stabilized or Protected – one unit
- C3 - Acres of Cultural / Paleontological Resources Surveyed, Inventoried or Monitored – 80 acres

Outputs: SNPLMA STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL 2: Improve the Quality of Life for all Public in Urban and Rural Communities by Enhancing Recreational Opportunities that Connect People with the Outdoor Environment

- R2 - Acres of New Parks or Natural Areas Constructed or Improved - 30 acres
- R3- Number of New Recreational Facilities / Structures Constructed or Improved - 12 units
- R4- Miles of New Recreational Roads / Trails Constructed or Routes Improved - 2 miles

Additional Outputs: SNPLMA STRATEGIC PLAN OTHER: Other Performance Measures that also Support the Three Values for SNPLMA Implementation of Sustainability, Connectivity, and Community

- O2 – Number of Buildings, Facilities and/or Amenities Constructed or Refurbished - 100 Units
- O5 - Number of Outreach Contacts Made - 3500 units
- O6 - Number of New Interpretive or Education Publications/Signs/  
Kiosks/Displays/etc. Produced - 40 Units
- O7 - Number of Interpretive or Education Presentations Given and/or Community Events Participated In or Hosted - 30 Units
- O10 – Number of Volunteers Used- 30 Units

#### **Executive Committee Strategic Plan Values:**

Addressed in the ranking criteria below.

#### **Compliance with Departmental Priorities, Strategic Goals, Executive Orders, and Secretarial Orders:**

Addressed in the ranking criteria below.

## **Ranking Criteria:**

### **1. SUSTAINABILITY & MODERNIZATION**

The project supports conservation, preservation, restoration, or modernization of natural, cultural, or historic resources (which includes infrastructure) to ensure availability of those resources for future generations. The project will remain relevant and continue to provide benefit to a recreation user over the anticipated life of the project.

#### *Factors:*

- a. A new project or facility designed specifically to engender conservation stewardship and provide new opportunities within the management area that is ecologically, economically, and socially sustainable for present and future generations and restore or preserve natural resources or cultural resources of the area.
  - This project will create new opportunities for both residents of and visitors to the Las Vegas valley through the development of a permanent visitor contact station, outdoor amphitheater, and 1/2 mile interpretive trail. This project will not only help preserve the federally listed Petroglyph Management Area for future generations but also provide environmental education opportunities that explain conservation stewardship within a National Conservation Area.
- b. Modernization or rehabilitation of an existing project, facility and/or amenities to enhance the visitor experience, improve unit operations, and reduce or eliminate user impacts to the natural or cultural resources, or restore natural processes within the immediate project area.
  - This project will modernize the existing NCA designated in 2002. The new facility will enhance the visitor experience by providing multiple opportunities for recreation and education at this specific site and for other sites located within the Sloan Canyon NCA. By completing and modernizing the area, this is will also allow for the development of a controlled entrance into the federally listed district, the Petroglyph Management Area, reducing and eliminating user impacts to cultural resources. This facility will also improve unit operations by housing the staff on site within the NCA and would follow the management strategy outlined in the state director signed, Implementation Strategy.
- c. Conservation and stabilization, restoration, or rehabilitation of significant historic buildings, cultural sites, and other significant historic facilities for the present and future generations to enjoy and appreciate the areas cultural heritage.
  - The Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site is one of the most significant, scenic, and important cultural resources in southern Nevada having more than 300 rock art panels, and nearly 1,700 designs representing native cultures dating from Archaic

to historic era. This project provides for a designated area for visitors to gather prior to taking an interpretive tour. This allows the BLM to manage the number of visitors at a time within the Federally registered site, as outlined within the Resource Management Plan (RMP). By following the RMP limitations, this allows the federally listed site to be visited less, which prevents further damage and allows for proper conservation.

- d. New facilities that enhance or improve management of public lands. These might include visitor centers, contact stations, and campgrounds to improve public access; housing for staff, interns, and volunteers to carry out programs for improved conservation, education; and curation facilities and workspace to improve conservation of natural and cultural resources and opportunity for educational programming.
  - BLM would benefit greatly from having a permanent facility within the boundary of the Sloan Canyon NCA. Having a facility to enhance the environmental education opportunities within the Las Vegas valley and provide an area to expand on the local programming for all ages would be remarkable. This project would also provide on-site workspace for staff which would allow for continuous management of cultural, natural and recreational resources.

## 2. CONNECTIVITY

The project provides recreational opportunities that link population centers, recreation facilities, and the user to the outdoors and natural landscapes. It encourages people to meaningfully connect with their natural environment, thus helping them appreciate and care for the environment. The project will also connect the user to the history and/or cultural of the site and engages the user in appreciation of the site/area.

- a. Provides new, upgraded or modernized access and/or amenities or infrastructure to previously under-developed areas and/or new opportunities to enjoy/appreciate public lands (e.g., trails, kiosks with location maps and site information, roads, parking, way-finding, restrooms, day or overnight camping).
  - This project would provide new and additional recreation opportunities and amenities within CC and the LV Valley. The SVCS will serve as a gateway to Sloan Canyon's natural environment. The project will focus on connecting with communities and encouraging visitors to get outside and promote healthy lands. Visitors of all ages will have the opportunity to learn about the history of Sloan Canyon through kiosks and interpretation signs that will cover everything from the geologic history of Sloan Canyon to wildlife to botany to the cultural history of the area. These will serve as an introduction to what visitors will experience as they hike through the Petro Canyon
- d. Contains an outreach and education component to improve public awareness and engage the public in the conservation and protection of the surrounding natural environment through the use of resource interpretation (e.g., information signage, kiosks, educational programs).

- Promoting education and new recreation opportunities will be accomplished through this project. New and improved amenities to the area will enhance the educational value of this site and promote public appreciation for the services and facilities offered by the BLM. In partnership with various groups, BLM will provide interpretive displays and environmental educational programming concerning natural resources, recreational opportunities, biological data and wildfire prevention, to name a few. Additionally, user groups from the Cities of Las Vegas and Henderson have expressed interest in using the area for programs, hikes, and other uses. This would provide an avenue to expose urban residents to the natural environment. By providing an area to enjoy nature, bike ride and hike, it provides opportunities for the public to interpret and observe the natural surroundings allowing both residents and visitors leave with increased awareness.

### 3. COMMUNITY

The project provides or improves outdoor recreation opportunities to improve the quality of life, especially for underserved communities. It conserves or restores the functionality, resiliency, and integrity of biological communities. The project encourages partnerships, which in turn builds community.

*(Encourages and engages the public in the conservation and protection of the surrounding natural environment through use of volunteer/stewardship resources)*

- a. Outdoor recreation projects that provide economic benefits to local communities and social benefit to the recreationist and are responsive to changing demographics. The project has agreements or partnerships in place for the planning, design, implementation and management.
  - The Sloan Canyon NCA Design Contract for the visitor contact station will be at the 65% level at the end of September 2020. The NEPA contract along with the design contract are both expected to be 100% completed by February 2021. The Sloan Canyon Implementation Strategy was completed in 2018 and guides the management of the Special Legislation funding account through 2039. The Friends of Sloan Canyon Partnership Agreement, along with the Southern Nevada Conservancy Memorandum of Understanding, due to be completed in the first quarter of 2021, will expand the outdoor recreation activities by coordinating clean ups within the NCA, adding the ability to expand interpretive hikes, and advertise the use of the amphitheater for other local events, among of helpful activities at/around the contact station.
- b. Project has identified committed non-SNPLMA sources of funding or in-kind contribution for the planning, design, and development of the project.
  - The Friends of Sloan Canyon have contributed multiple hours of volunteer work through our planning and design process. They have contributed an estimated 1,926 hours which is equivalent to \$48,978. We anticipate more volunteer hours as we move forward with public meetings and finalization of the plans.

- c. Project provides agency or unit support/administrative infrastructure in underserved areas to improve management of and conservation stewardship, educational programming, and access to public lands.
- This permanent contact station design includes various workspaces for Sloan Canyon NCA staff that would be working on-site to promote conservation stewardship. Currently staff is located at the Red Rock NCA 33 miles away. Even though staff does conduct in-class environmental programming, having an on-site building would expand the opportunities and allow classrooms to visit sites outdoors. The building would also improve the management of the Petroglyph Site by helping enforce the limited number of visitors and provide an alternative trail for excess visitation and help educate visitors on other Sloan Canyon NCA trailheads and access points.

#### **4. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE**

The agency has clearly demonstrated that the anticipated operations and maintenance costs for the project and resources necessary to operate the project are within existing appropriations or demonstrated how they will secure the necessary operations and maintenance funds.

*(Agency has detailed estimated annual O&M cost and estimated use/permit fees to be collected.)*

Sloan Canyon NCA manages a special legislation account for the management of the conservation area. As stated, prior, Sloan has developed an Implementation Strategy which outlines the costs of operation and maintenance through the 2039. This strategy also includes this project's projections for operation and maintenance needs for the coming years. SNC and Friends of Sloan Canyon will continue to apply for grants, volunteer and hold special fundraising events to continue helping with operations and offset various costs.

The overall design has been thought through keeping on mind the anticipated savings and how the project would reduce water use (municipal connections) and save energy (potential solar). More information can be found in the Operations and Maintenance section of the nomination.

#### **5. LIFECYCLE REPLACEMENT/RECONSTRUCTION AND DEFERRED MAINTENANCE**

Any existing project or facility that has met or exceeds its usefulness life, design life, or life cycle that requires major restoration or reconstruction to restore the historic fabric of the facility or meet standard new Federal accessibility guidelines.

*(Does not include reconstruction, change, or new amenities for previously approved SNPLMA capital improvement projects. Excludes projects that were identified as phased construction, each phase must be fully operational and serve the intended purpose upon completion.)*

The project is considered a new project and even though a minimal interpretive design has been developed with limited funding, this level of design is not useful to the project. The Interpretive Enhancement project would allow for funding to expand the interpretation and maximize the design life of this new facility. The interpretive design process will be included multiple specialists and specific planning for seasonal exhibits for both interior and exterior interpretation.

This will allow for new moveable kiosk designs to be placed in specific areas seasonally, changed out, or when its needed to be moved to another location along trails or to the patio area.

## **6. ADVANCES THE AGENCY/ENTITY PRIORITIES/GOALS**

The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination/project meets the priorities and strategic goals for their respective agency.

The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination/project meets the priorities and strategic goals for their respective agency.

### **A. Meets one or more of the Department of the Interior priorities:**

*Create a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt:* This project continues the legacy of conversation that was passed by Congress in 2002 when Sloan Canyon NCA was established. This project will be filled with conservation and historic references to explain to the public, the stewardship mission of the BLM and the National Conservation Lands System.

*Restore trust and be a good neighbor:* This project has been developed with the help of the public, the City of Henderson, Clark County, and various Volunteers from the surrounding 15+ neighborhoods that Sloan Canyon NCA borders. This will show the surrounding public, that the BLM is moving towards educating the public of conservation initiatives, resource stewardship and recreation opportunities.

*Ensure the tribal sovereignty means something:* One of the many purposes of this Visitor Contact Station is to help protect the Petroglyph Management Area. With those responsibilities, comes very close coordination and strategic interpretive planning with a multitude of interested tribes. By directly working with the tribes, BLM is showing how important this very specific location is to the world. It will also show that the BLM is working to “tell its story” and explain to the public the significance of the area as a whole.

### **B. Meets one or more of the U.S. Forest Service priorities:**

This proposed project meets the U.S. Forest Service priorities and strategic goals by providing excellent customer service, increasing partnerships and volunteerism, improving the condition of forests and grasslands, and enhancing recreation opportunities, improving access, and sustaining infrastructure.

**7. CONSISTENCY WITH SECRETARIAL ORDERS AND DIRECTIVE:** The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination / project meets the Secretarial Orders (SO) and Directive.

#### **A. EO No. 13855 Promoting Active Management of America’s Forests, Range Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk**

#### **B. SO No. 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation.**

- The Department of the Interior is entrusted with overseeing Federal lands for the benefit of current and future generations. By constructing this Visitor Contact Station, this allows the BLM to directly advance conservation stewardship by responsibly managing various resources and increasing the outdoor recreation opportunities, for all Americans and visiting international travelers. The VCS is the central point for all visitors to gain knowledge of the NCA as a whole and will help guide visitors to its other 6 trailheads expanding the responsible recreation and resource messaging.

**C. SO No. 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes and Territories.**

**D. SO No. 3362: Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors**

**E. SO No. 3366: Increasing Recreational Opportunities on Lands and Waters Managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior**

- The purpose of this Order is to ensure public lands and waters under the management and administration of the U.S. Department of the Interior are open and accessible for recreational pursuits by all Americans and visitors to the United States. This project is modeled off of the Federal Land Management Policy Act by balancing resources values and recreation opportunities. When built, this facility will not only provide a greater experience for the visitor, but will allow BLM to be located on site enhancing the direct management of the area.

**F. SO No. 3370: Conservation Stewardship and Increasing Public Access to Urban National Wildlife Refuges**

**G. SO No. 3372: Reducing Wildfire Risks on Department of the Interior Land Through Active Management**

**H. SO No. 3373 Evaluating Public Access in Bureau of Land Management Public Land Disposals and Exchanges**

**I. SO No. 3374 Implementation of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act**

**J. SO No. 3376 Increasing Recreational Opportunities through the use of Electric Bikes.**

**K. Other Secretarial Order(s) and Directive(s):** Describe any other Secretarial Order(s) and Directive(s) that apply to the nomination and are not listed above.

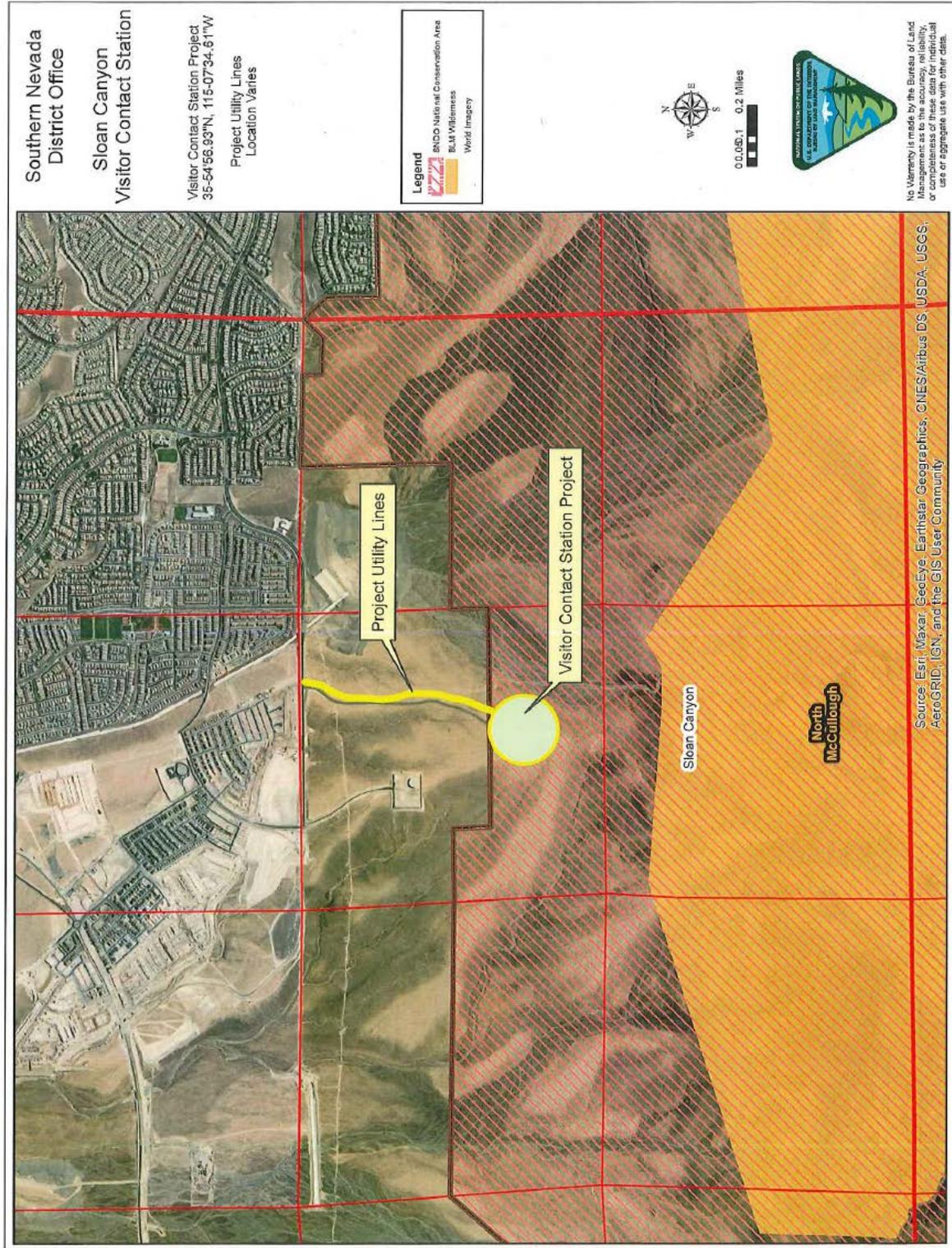
**Project Location:**

Project Location: 35.91604167° / -115.12613056°

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Southern Nevada District, Red Rock/Sloan Field Office (RRSFO) proposes to construct the 3,000 square foot Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area (Sloan NCA) Visitor Contact Station in the Las Vegas Valley.

*The remainder of the page intentionally left blank.*

Maps:



**SNPLMA Strategic Plan Values**

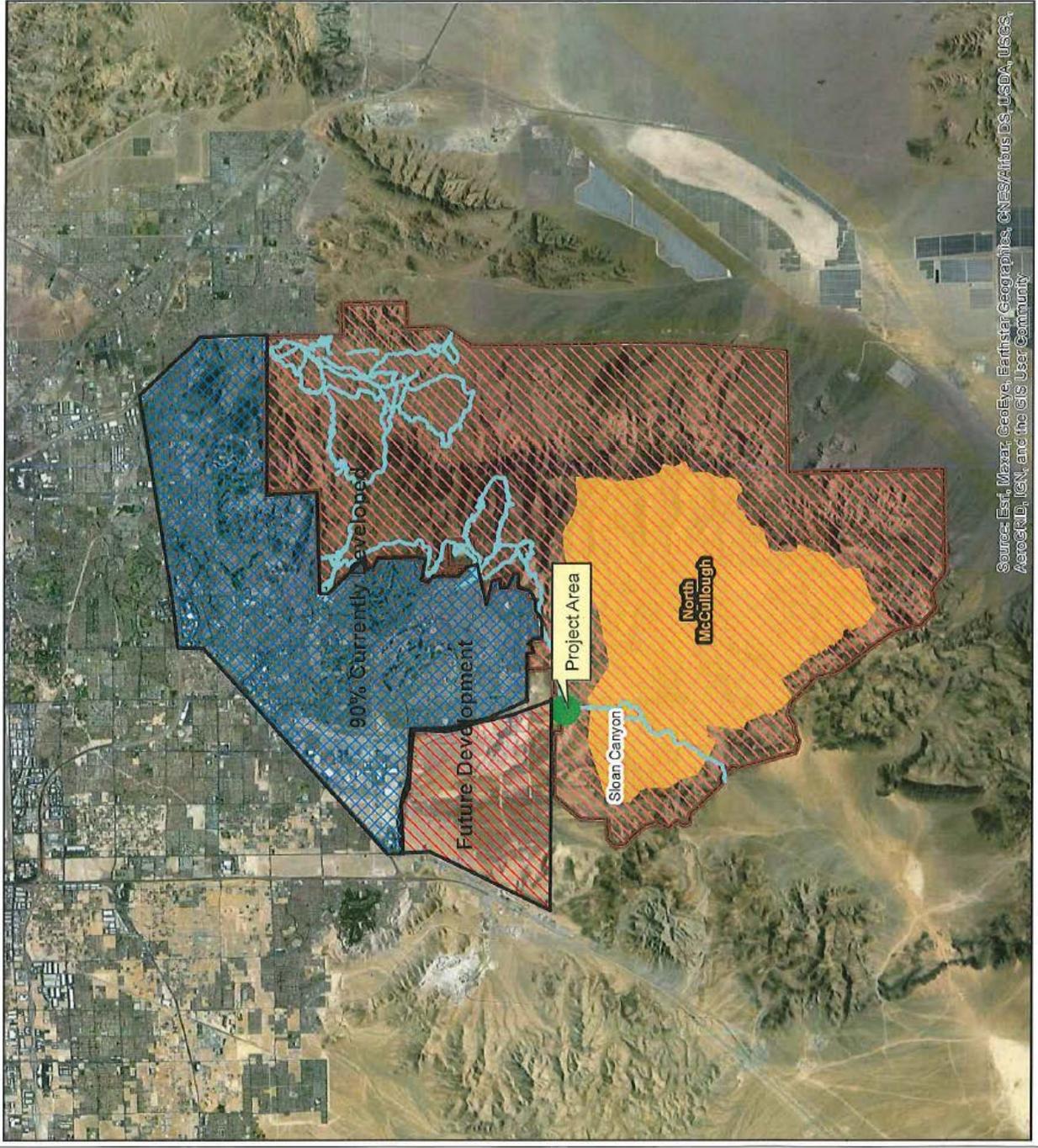
- Local Schools: 18
- 15 Neighborhoods within 15 minutes
- 15+ miles of Connected Trails
- 5,500 Acres Nearby Undeveloped

**Legend**

- Sloan Canyon Trail System
- SNDO National Conservation Area
- BUT Wilderness
- World Imagery



No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.



Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

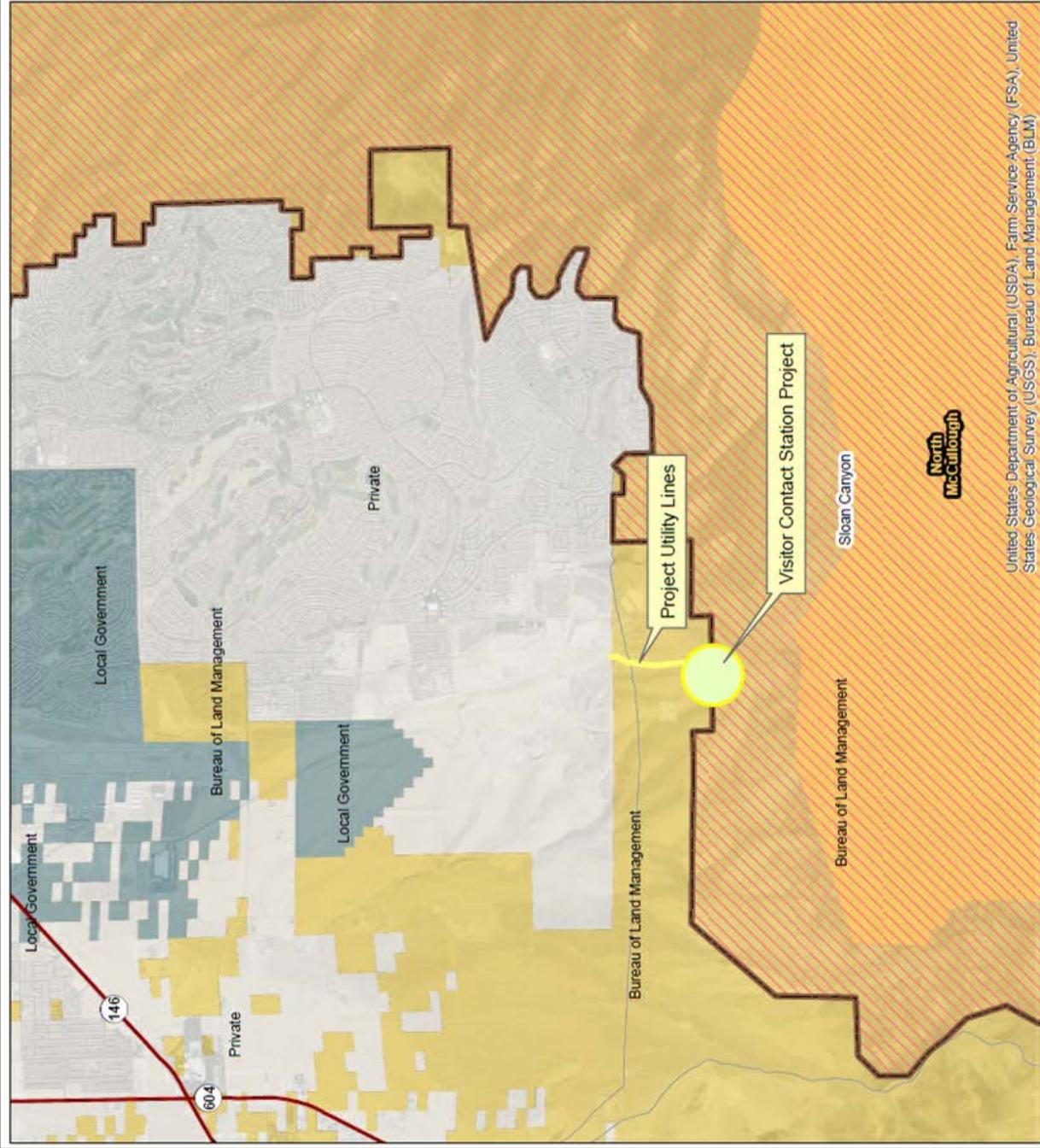
Southern Nevada District Office  
Sloan Canyon NCA Land Status Map

**Legend**

- SINDO National Conservation Area
- BLM Wilderness
- SINDO Land Status
- Bureau of Land Management
- Local Government
- Private



No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of the information or use of aggregate data with other data.



United States Department of Agricultural (USDA), Farm Service Agency (FSA), United States Geological Survey (USGS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

**Photos:**

For the purpose of the rendering below:

This rendering was completed at the 10% level of the building design. A few elements have changed overtime. For example: Metal siding has been replaced with a new brick feature, all shade structures have been expanded, and many other interior/mechanical design elements have been updated.

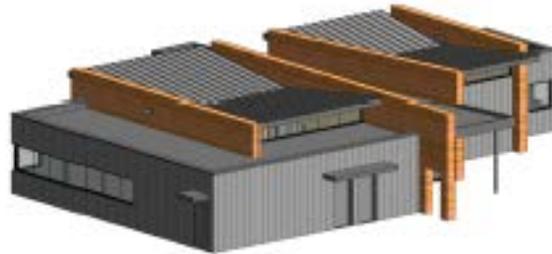
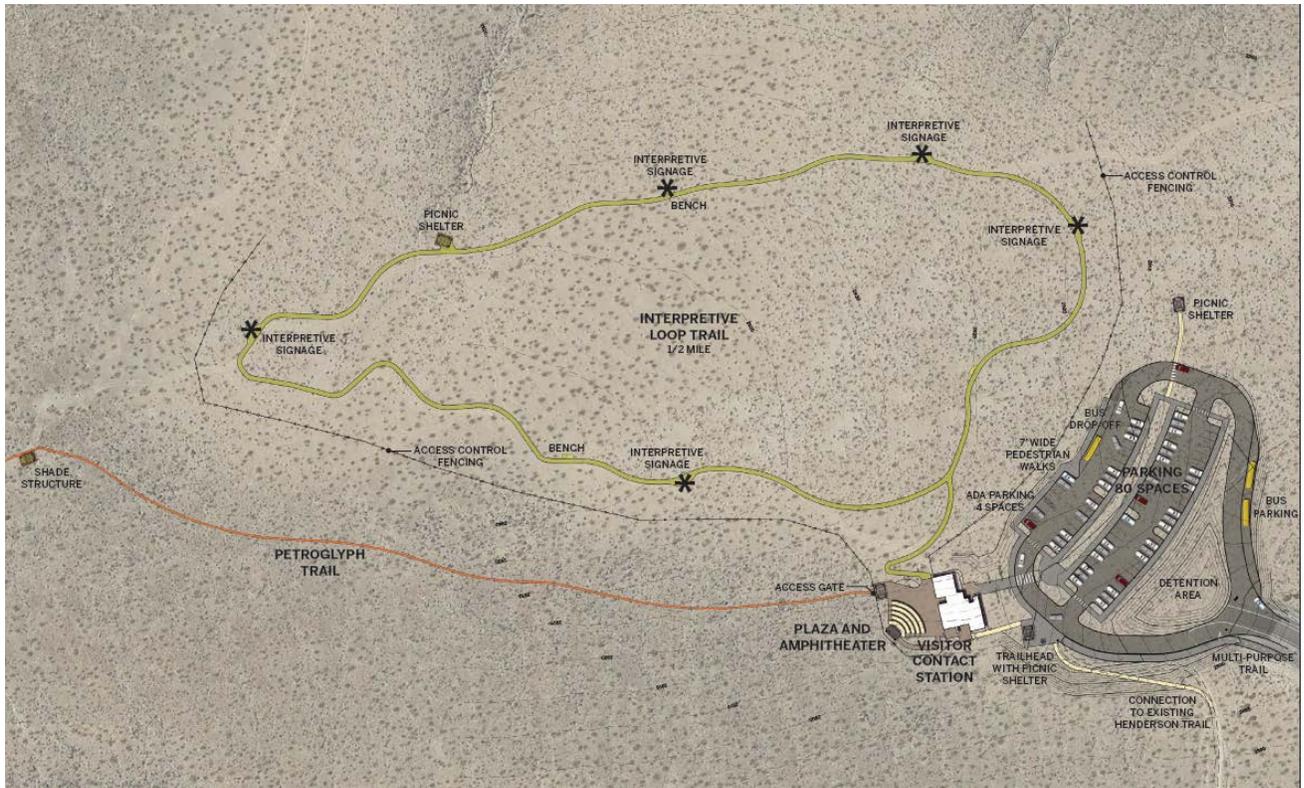
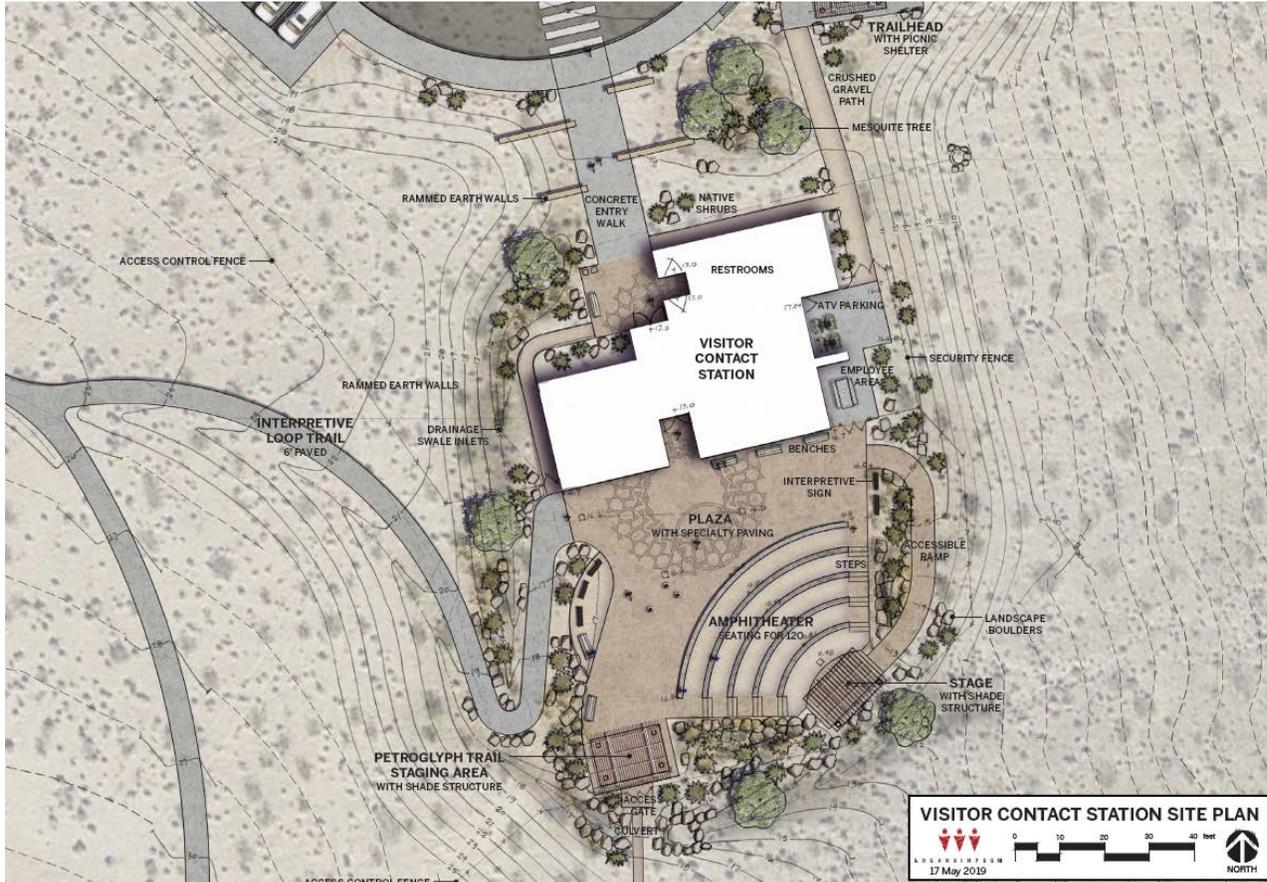


Photo 2 – Overall Project Mapping (35% Planning) - Continued



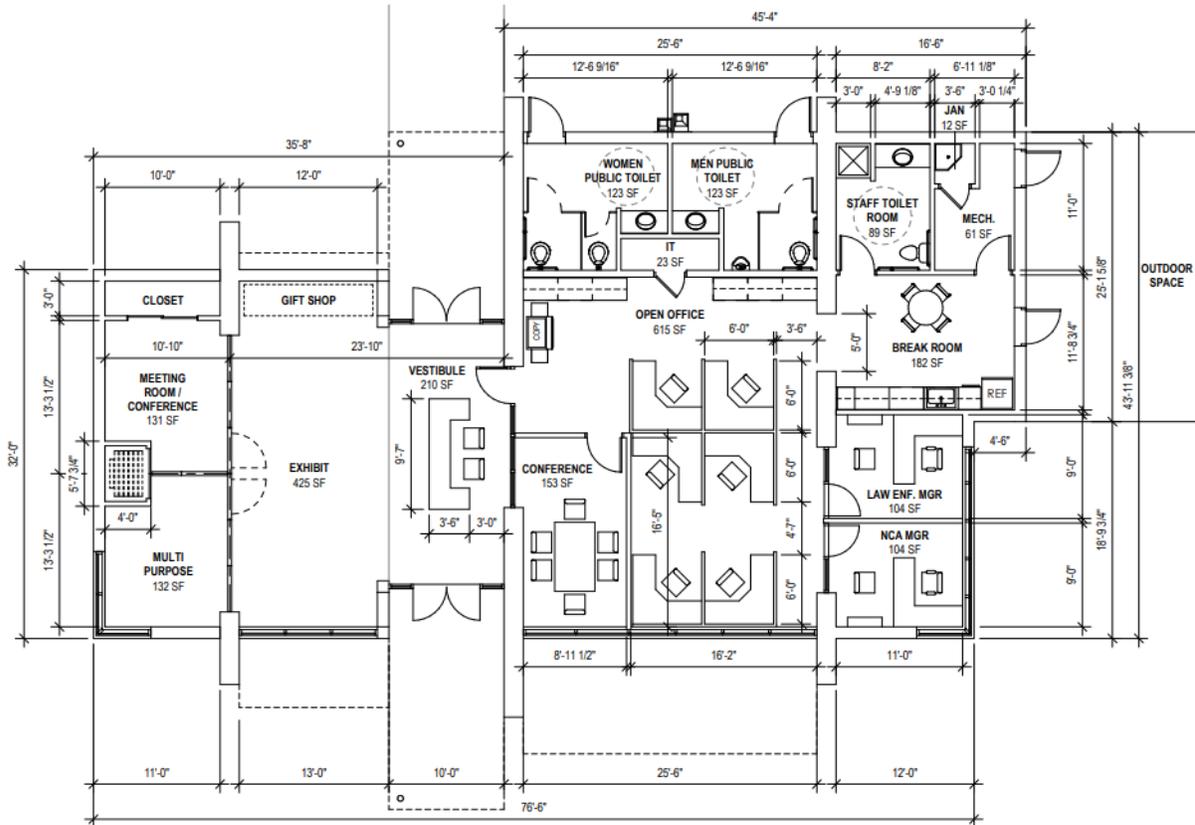
This is the overview of the Sloan Canyon NCA Visitor Contact Station Project at the 35% design phase.

Photo 3 – Overall Project Mapping (35% Planning) - Continued



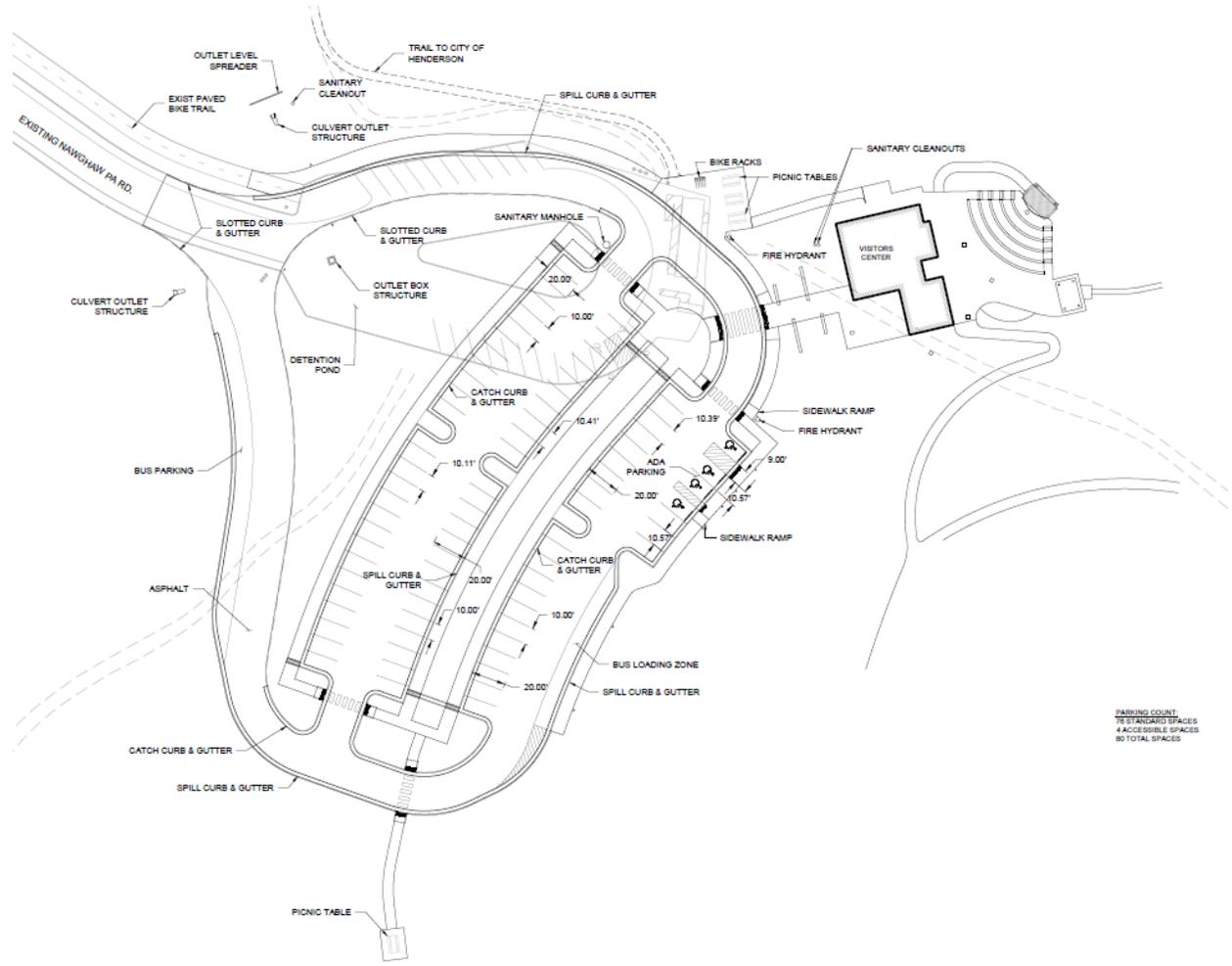
This another overview of the project area with more detail showing various aspects of the project to include the Amphitheatre, Staging Area, Visitor Contact Station, Entry Ways and interpretive locations.

Photo 4 – Overall Project Mapping (35% Planning) - Continued



This is the overview of the 35% floorplan design. There are various offices, a conference room, employee break room, public restrooms, and interior exhibit space with a welcoming desk.

Photo 5 – Overall Project Mapping (35% Planning) - Continued



This Overview is showing the additional 85 parking spaces to accommodate future visitation.

## Letters of Support:



August 21, 2020

Joe Varner  
 Manager, Sloan Canyon NCA  
 BLM Red Rock/Sloan Field Office  
 1000 Scenic Loop Dr  
 Las Vegas, NV 89161

Subject: Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 18 Nomination: Sloan Canyon Visitor Contact Station

Dear Joe:

Thank you for taking the time to share the information about the Sloan Canyon Visitor Contact Station project. Friends of Sloan Canyon is pleased to provide support for this project.

As envisioned, the Visitor Contact Station will create an excellent transition space for visitors between the urban/suburban spaces of Henderson and the sensitive biological and cultural resources in and around the North McCullough Wilderness and Petroglyph Management Areas. With increases in visitation to the wilderness area far exceeding BLM's estimates in Sloan Canyon's RMP Implementation Plan for this time period, the control features this project outlines will help maintain access to the area for the general public while preserving the sensitive cultural and natural resources. The interpretive areas will be a community asset educating visitors about the biology, geology, and cultural history of the area, and the picnic and amphitheater areas will give visitors activities to do onsite unrelated to a trip into the Petroglyph Management Area. This will enhance the quality of life of the local community and connect them to the natural desert landscape. Being a sustainable, connected, and community-focused project, this park certainly meets the values of SNPLMA.

Started by a passionate group of educators and public lands advocates in 2003, Friends of Sloan Canyon works as a proud BLM stewardship partner providing community support and educational resources that enhance the conservation, protection, and public enjoyment of Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (702) 273-0717 or by email at [jstanger@friendsofsloan.org](mailto:jstanger@friendsofsloan.org). We look forward to working with Bureau of Land Management on the Sloan Canyon Visitor Contact Station project.

Sincerely,

Jim Stanger, Board President  
 Friends of Sloan Canyon

August 21st, 2020



Robert Wandel  
Conservation Initiatives Program Manager  
SNPLMA Division  
Bureau of Land Management  
4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr.  
Las Vegas, NV 89130

Re: SNPLMA Round 18 Grant Proposal – Sloan Canyon Visitor Contact Station Site

Southern Nevada Conservancy would like to express our support for the Sloan Canyon Visitor Contact Station Site proposal authored by the Bureau of Land Management.

Sloan Canyon NCA is rich in cultural resources including one of the densest petroglyph areas in southern Nevada in "Petroglyph Canyon". It is also a very sensitive landscape that is being increasingly threatened as the growth of Henderson reaches the NCA's boundaries. The construction of a proper visitor center will provide BLM a very important touchpoint with the visiting public and facilitates the ability to educate them on how to best respect the area, the wildlife, its cultural values and how to recreate responsibly. The additional infrastructure such as the post and cable boundary fence, picnic area and "Kids Canyon" will reinforce the goals of the contact station while taking pressure off the sensitive landscape.

Southern Nevada Conservancy values the goals sought to be achieved through this proposal and applauds the actions by the BLM to enact a plan to protect the natural and cultural values of Sloan Canyon NCA.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or further information.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jose Witt", is placed on a light yellow rectangular background.

Jose Witt  
Executive Director  
Southern Nevada Conservancy  
jwitt@snconservancy.org



**CITY OF HENDERSON**  
 240 Water Street  
 P.O. Box 95050  
 Henderson, NV 89009

September 9, 2020

Mr. Joseph Varner  
 Sloan Canyon NCA Manager  
 Red Rock/Sloan Field Office  
 Bureau of Land Management  
 1000 Scenic Loop Drive  
 Las Vegas, NV 89161

Subject: Letter of Support for the BLM Sloan Canyon Visitor Contact Station

Dear Mr. Varner:

Thank you for taking the time to share the information about the Sloan Canyon Visitor Contact Station that will be located within the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area (NCA). The City of Henderson Parks and Recreation Department is pleased to provide support for this project. The project will satisfy the values which is the focus of SNPLMA for the next five years. The values are sustainability, connectivity, and community.

The addition of the Visitor Contact Station will include; construction of a 3,000 square foot facility that would house multiple Sloan NCA staff and an indoor exhibit space, outdoor amphitheater, a ½-mile interpretive hiking loop, and a control point at the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site which is one of the most significant, scenic, and important cultural/geologic resources in southern Nevada having more than 300 rock art panels, and nearly 1,700 designs representing native cultures dating from archaic to historic era. This would allow interpretive tours to take place and allow the BLM to manage the Petroglyph Trail along with other ancillary facilities such as a booster pump station for City of Henderson water tie-in and the installation of City sewer.

The project will provide recreational opportunities for the communities of Inspirada, Anthem, and other neighborhoods adjacent to the Sloan NCA. It will meet demands for out-of-town visitor recreation; specifically hiking, cultural resource history, and visitation to the North McCullough Wilderness which provides visitors with examples of lava flows, ash falls, and glassy zones are clearly displayed in the Wilderness. Most visitors to the area enjoy hiking and researching both the cultural/geologic resources but all have a similar desire for outdoor access. The project will benefit the City of Henderson as well as the Las Vegas Valley in terms of economic impact.

We look forward to partnering with the BLM on future events that could take place at the Visitor Contact Station and how the events could tie into the park and trail system within the City of Henderson. We are fortunate to have such a unique opportunity on the border of City limits and BLM.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me at 702-267-4023 or by email at [amie.wojtech@cityofhenderson.com](mailto:amie.wojtech@cityofhenderson.com).

Yours truly,

Amie Wojtech  
 Park Project Manager  
 702-267-4023  
[Amie.wojtech@cityofhenderson.com](mailto:Amie.wojtech@cityofhenderson.com)

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act  
Capital Improvements  
Round 18

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



**Upper Lake Dam Modernization and Water  
Management Improvements on Pahrnagat National  
Wildlife Refuge**

Amount Requested: \$4,884,472

Time Frame: 5 Years

Location: N37.286806°, W-115.120787°

Congressional District Number: NV-4

Federal Manager: Kevin DesRoberts, Project Leader  
Interior Regions 8 and 10  
Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
P: (702)515-5451; F: (702)515-5460  
Email: kevin\_desroberts@fws.gov

Project Manager: Rob Vinson, Wildlife Refuge Manager  
Pahrnagat and Moapa Valley NWRs  
P: (775) 725-3417, ext. 102  
Email: james\_vinson@fws.gov

**Purpose Statement:**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will modernize the current, aged, infrastructure at the Upper Lake in the Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge (PNWR) in Lincoln County, Nevada. The infrastructure improvements have direct impacts to management of rare wetland habitats, thereby increasing public outdoor recreational activities, notably hunting, fishing, boating, and photography. The project will improve the overall water management capabilities of the inflows into the PNWR.

**Background info and need for the project:**

Located in the Pahrnagat Valley of southern Nevada, PNWR was established in 1963 to protect important wetlands and wet meadows for wetland dependent migratory birds and endangered species of the Pacific Flyway. Pahrnagat Valley is but one link in a chain of increasingly rare open water and riparian habitats across the arid western United States and especially across Nevada. Perennial water on PNWR sustains a variety of habitat patches, including open lake, marsh, wet meadow, alkali meadow, and riparian woodlands that provide valuable aquatic and wetland habitat for many of Nevada's native species. The refuge provides essential stopover habitat for numerous migratory birds and waterfowl traveling along the Pacific Flyway in the spring and fall. Willow groves on the refuge provide critical nesting habitat for the endangered SWFL; migration habitat for the western yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*). Marshes on PNWR provide migration habitat for the endangered Ridgway rail (*Rallus obsoletus longirostris*), while the springs are home to rare aquatic species such as the Pahrnagat speckled dace (*Rhinichthys osculus velifer*), and northern leopard frog (*Lithobates pipiens*). The PNWR provides a welcome watering hole not only for unique and migratory wildlife species, but also attracts numerous visitors from large cities and rural areas that come to enjoy the outdoors and gain an appreciation of an important Nevada wetland.

Located at the terminus of the pluvial White River system, PNWR receives winter water from Ash and Crystal Springs, located 15 miles north of the refuge. Water quantities historically fluctuated depending on annual precipitation patterns and diversion of water users located on upstream ranches and populated areas. Agricultural development in the Pahrnagat Valley that included diverting water through an extensive network of ditches began as early as the 1800s. Current dikes, culverts, water control structures, and ditches on PNWR are outdated structures that can no longer efficiently convey water. Water conservation is one of the top priorities in Pahrnagat Valley, where water availability is key to cultural and environmental survivability. Due to the scarcity of water shared by upstream ranchers and the refuge, today's PNWR managers face a challenge to maintain wetland habitats with a limited water supply.

As part of its goal for preserving wetland and riparian habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife, the PNWR is currently in the process of refuge-wide wetland restoration planning. In 2012, an assessment was completed for dikes, dams, and other water control structures on the refuge. The assessment found many of the water control and conveyance structures to be outdated and in need of structural repairs or design improvement. Improvements of the Upper Lake Dam and associated water structures, as well as the Upper Supply Ditch will increase water efficiency by reducing water loss and allowing better control over water distribution.

Modernization of PNWR water holding infrastructure will allow for improved management of important wetland areas for migratory birds and species of conservation concern. A significant impact would be building off of the SNPLMA capital improvement “Water in the Desert: Water Conservation Delivery System” (FW39) pipeline project. This project will complement and complete the entire water delivery system that the refuge uses for wetland Management. With the completion of the pipeline, the refuge estimates that total water savings improved by 60-70%. With the completion of this project, water saving estimates are in the 90%-95% range.

In a flood model that was completed and reported by Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) in a Safety Evaluation of Existing Dams (SEED) report, a failure from the Upper Lake Dam would cause water to overtop and wash U.S. Highway 93. U.S. Highway 93 is a major supply route ranging from the Canadian border to Arizona. The loss of this route due to flooding failure from an 83-year-old lake dam would be catastrophic. This project would bring the Upper Lake Dam into Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (NDEP) and Department of Interior (DOI) dam compliance. These improvements would reduce the likelihood of dam infrastructure failure, and protect state and federal public assets for the foreseeable future.

The proposed project will improve the overall water management capabilities of the inflows into PNWR. The refurbishing of the Upper Lake dam will bring the dam into NDEP compliance and ensure the water holding and delivering capabilities are not compromised in order to continue support of wildlife habitats and public recreation on the refuge. Refurbishing the Upper Lake Dam will also provide improved flood protection to the Pahrangat Valley during large storm events, and provide the only flood protection mechanism in place for Highway 93. The nomination will improve direct flows from the Pahrangat Drain to enter critical nesting habitat for southwestern willow flycatchers (SWFL). These improvements will allow the refuge to better manage SWFL nesting Critical Habitat, outline by the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Recovery Plan.

After construction is completed restoration efforts will focus on restoration efforts to replace habitat loss associated with landscape disturbances. Restoration zones will focus on grassland restoration, riparian restoration, and invasive species management on disturbed sites. Invasive species management will be a primary focus on habitat restoration, due to the presence of highly aggressive invasive species, such as Russian knapweed (*Rhaponticum repens*), from quickly invading disturbed sites as a result of construction activities.

### **Relationship to previous phases and anticipated future phases:**

This nomination is for a stand-alone capital improvement project with no previous or anticipated future phases of work.

### **Deliverables:**

#### Primary Deliverables:

The primary deliverables will include all structures and improvements that will need to be installed and updated to modernize PNWR’s water holding capabilities through the Upper Lake.

1. A construction design to determine appropriate improvements, materials, construction sequencing, and best management practices (BMPs).
2. Complete improvements on approximately 640 feet of the Pahrnagat Drain Inlet access and water monitoring system.
3. Rehabilitate approximately 1,200 feet of Upper Lake Dam into NDEP compliance.
4. Improve emergency water conveyance from the Upper Lake Dam into nearby wetland units.
5. Improve and modernize approximately 4,400 feet of water delivery system from Upper Lake Dam to the pipeline inlet structure to decrease water loss through filtration to insignificant levels.
6. Improve water routing system in the Upper Supply Ditch by modernizing approximately 7 water control/culvert structures.
7. Create approximately 100 feet of new SWFL diversion channel into North Marsh, to allow Pahrnagat Drain spring and summer flows to directly enter critical SWFL nesting habitat.
8. Modernize water monitoring stations to improve water budgeting and reporting of water rights.
9. Restoration of approximately 3 acres of grassland habitat on the Upper Lake Dam, approximately 6 acres of Riparian habitat, and approximately 7 acres of invasive species management on disturbed sites within the nomination Area of Interest (AOI).

#### Anticipated Deliverables:

Anticipated deliverables are those that are desirable and beneficial, but not minimally necessary to completion of the proposed project and project purpose. These deliverables include:

- Reduce sediment movement through the use of dirt supply ditches when moving water into the pipeline system. This will improve water quality and decrease siltation in the wetland units.
- Clean minor supply ditch blockages from years of aquatic plant growth and downed tree debris will improve water flow. Improved water flow will increase speed and efficiency of water delivery and improve wetland management effectiveness.
- Refurbishing an 83-year-old lake dam will provide flood control safety to U.S. Highway 93. A NDOT flood model predicted a dam failure would cause water to overtop Hwy 93, and result in significant damage to PNWR building and residences.
- Maintain public outdoor recreational activities around the Upper Lake such as hiking, wildlife viewing, wildlife photography, and environmental interpretation.
- Survey cultural areas associated with Black Canyon west.
- Improve critical nesting habitat for SWFL.
- Improve the Waterway Trail by reducing surrounding dead and downed tree debris, and improving route access with newly installed culvert crossings.

#### Standard Deliverables:

1. Contract management by USFWS agency personnel, including but not limited to, developing scopes of work, writing bid requests, reviewing proposals/bids, and providing technical representation for the Contracting Officer throughout the project's duration.

2. Environmental permitting by USFWS agency personnel when applicable, such as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, etc.
3. Project management by a refuge employee to:
  - a. oversee project activities and deliverables;
  - b. conduct appropriate reviews throughout different stages of deliverables;
  - c. coordinate with other agency personnel or contractors; and
  - d. ensure sufficient progress throughout the duration of the project.

### **Project Timeframe:**

Upper Lake, Upper Supply Ditch, and Pahranaagat Drain Inlet infrastructure improvements proposed in this nomination will be completed within four years, with close out documents completed by the fifth year. NEPA documentation, planning and design for project layout on the refuge will occur in the first year. Construction and installation of structures will take place during the following 2-4 years. The SNPLMA close out package may then be prepared in year five, or earlier if the project progresses ahead of schedule.

1 month	Complete work plan and funding authorization
12 months	Complete planning and design includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FWS Engineering/Government estimates</li> <li>• Drafting Scope of Work (SOW)</li> <li>• Contract design-build</li> <li>• Award Contract</li> <li>• Scoping Meetings</li> <li>• SHPO/Historic Properties consultation</li> <li>• NEPA preparation</li> <li>• Final design and engineering</li> </ul>
36 months	Construction includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobilization</li> <li>• Construction through full build-out</li> <li>• Agency acceptance as complete</li> <li>• Payment of final invoice, close out of contracts</li> <li>• Release of lien</li> </ul>
12 months (minimum)	Project close out with SNPLMA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final site inspection</li> <li>• Final review of project file and expenditures</li> <li>• Request for close out</li> <li>• SNPLMA close out of the funding authorization</li> </ul>
<b><u>60 months</u></b>	<b>Total anticipated period of performance to complete</b>

**Level of Project Readiness for Implementation:**

PNWR is ready to initiate implementation of the nominated project with notification from the SNPLMA Capital Improvements Program Manager. Over past years, USFWS has managed existing projects and completed SNPLMA projects at PNWR well before project deadlines. The refuge continues to make excellent progress on existing SNPLMA projects.

Design work and construction will be contracted out, to insure a timely execution of the project. This will ensure that the infrastructure will be operational by fall/winter of the year construction starts and ensure wetland management goals are achieved. PNWR staff and contractors will complete necessary permitting for this project.

**Description of the implementation process:**

The project implementation process will generally follow the Project Timeframe and Deliverables section noted above. Initial coordination would occur between the Refuge Manager and Contracting Officer to develop scopes of work, write bid requests, and review proposals/bids for selection of a contractor or cooperator to complete the deliverables. The Refuge Manager would then coordinate with the selected contractor or cooperator on final planning, permitting and design. Upon completion of initial stages, implementation will begin through the final inspection. The Contracting Officer and other agency personnel would be engaged as needed throughout the duration of the project. The project will be considered complete once the improvements to the Upper Lake delivery system, and water monitoring stations are operational, and the Upper Lake Dam meets state and federal safety classification criteria. Once the project is completed, final documentation and a closeout package will be prepared and submitted for approval.

**Future Operations and Maintenance:**

The USFWS estimates that the rehabilitation of the Upper Lake Dam will result in a lifecycle of 50 years or more with proper maintenance. Dam improvements would reduce the need for routine maintenance, such as inspections and maintaining soil stabilization vegetation, to a yearly basis. This will allow the refuge staff to focus on other high-priority refuge purpose management actions. Improvements to a self-activating emergency spillway would reduce staff time maintaining an open box/pipe type system, and provide long term protection to the existing dam infrastructure, in the event of flooding. Improvements made to the water delivery system will also greatly reduce staff time spent on operation and maintenance.

Modernization of water monitoring systems will decrease operation costs and staff workloads of the refuge over the next 20 years. The water monitoring systems will use real time flow meters and data loggers. The data from these loggers can be downloaded on an as-needed basis, eliminating the need for refuge staff to expend time constantly monitoring water control structures and delivery systems. Improvements to the Upper Supply Ditch are estimated to improve water efficiency by 90-95%. The Upper Supply Ditch improvements would also increase the water delivery speed and efficiency to the newly installed pipeline. Together, the improvements to the water storage, delivery and monitoring systems promise to reduce resource

consumption, costs, and staff workloads and to greatly augment the range of potential refuge management strategies.

The USFWS will use annual allocated O&M maintenance budgets to conduct post project routine maintenance on the Upper Lake Dam and water delivery improvements identified in this nomination. No partnerships are in place to help offset annual maintenance needs. With the improvements made, annual maintenance and operations expenses should be reduced.

**Table 2. Operation and Maintenance which includes staff salary, equipment use, travel (hydrologist), and materials.**

Location	Current O&M	Estimated O&M Post Project
Pahrnagat Drain	\$ 3,100.00	\$ 236.00
Upper Lake Dam	\$ 8,329.00	\$2,860.00
Upper Supply Ditch	\$12,139.00	\$2,875.00
Water Monitoring	\$ 7,139.00	\$2,125.00

**Contributed funds directly applicable to completion of the project:**

There are no partnerships in place to assist with this scope of the project. The USFWS is estimating that there will be \$178,440 in contributed material and equipment consisting of refuge vehicles and heavy equipment that will be used to conduct site prep before the project begins. Table 3 provides a detailed breakdown of the in-kind materials/equipment that are being used to develop the in-kind figure.

**Table 3. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in-kind materials/equipment breakdown.**

Position/materials	Individual count	Hours/miles	\$ Per hour	Total
Refuge Vehicles	3	18,000	\$0.58	\$10,440
Refuge Equipment	4	2,400	\$70.00	\$168,000
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$178,440</b>

**Funding Requested Budget Detail:**

The overall project budget proposal for the nomination is \$4,884,472.

Attached below is the Budget Cost Estimate Summary. The project budget will consist of contracting a design built to address all phases of the infrastructure improvements and modernization through a design/build bidding process. The contractor will be responsible for conducting the design work to accomplish the primary deliverables and complete the construction process. PNWR will work with USFWS engineering and contracting to develop a Scope of Work and award a bid to the best qualified contractor.

An estimated \$178,440 in contributed funds is projected at this time. To obtain the best quality plants and to ensure the correct genotypes of plant species are being used in the restoration process, local plants and seeds will be collected and contracted to local nurseries to grow for the refuge. Using local genotypes will allow the best chances for a successful habitat restoration

program. To help deliver a complex restoration plan on multiple sites of this project, a contract restoration intern will be used to assist with plant collections, habitat restoration, and invasive species management.

<b>Schedule B</b>			
<b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROPOSAL</b>			
<b>ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS &amp; KEY MILESTONE DATES</b>			
<b>Project Name:</b>	Upper Lake Dam Modernization and Water Improvements	<b>Agency:</b>	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
<b>Project &amp; Priority #:</b>	<i>N/A nomination submittal</i>	<b>Phone:</b>	(775) 725-3417
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Rob Vinson	<b>Date:</b>	9/2/2020
1	<b>Planning, Environmental Compliance &amp; Preconstruction Engineering and Design</b> <i>(Not to exceed 27% of total project costs)</i> Pre-design sketches & conceptual drawings; environmental assessment & permitting, specialist surveys/reports for archaeology, wildlife, biology, etc.; architectural & engineering analysis, design survey & field investigations; construction drawings, specifications, cost estimates, & engineering technical reports.	\$90,000	1.84%
2	<b>Construction Contract Costs</b> Including labor, supplies & materials, construction management, etc.; sampling/testing; site restoration; and government furnished supplies and materials.	\$3,957,996	81.03%
3	<b>Project Equipment</b> Pg. 89 of the Implementation Agreement - SNPLMA funds can only be used for "project related necessary expenses" and SNPLMA can reimburse only for those equipment costs directly associated with completion of the approved project.	\$0	0.00%
4	<b>Travel</b> Including per diem where official travel status is required to carry out the project, such as to serve as COR, experts to review reports, etc.	\$6,000	0.12%
5	<b>Official Vehicle Use</b> Pro rata costs for use of Official Vehicles when required to carry out the project.	\$0	0.00%
6	<b>Other Direct and Contracted Labor</b> Agency payroll for the Contracting Officer to do project procurements, COR Project Inspector, Section 106 Consultation, NEPA Lead, Project Manager, Project Supervisor, and subject experts to review contracted surveys, design/drawings, plans, reports, etc.; Also covered is the cost to contract for a Project Manager and/or Project Supervisor if contracted separately from other project costs.	\$190,736	3.90%
7	<b>FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act</b>	\$5,000	0.10%
8	<b>Direct Federal Labor</b> direct agency labor for construction, project inspection, CO & COR	\$626,740	12.83%
9	<b>Other Necessary Expenses</b> See SNPLMA IA Part Two, Appendix B-3	\$8,000	0.16%
<b>TOTAL SNPLMA Funds Requested/EST Budget</b>		<b>\$4,884,472</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
10	<b>Total Estimated In-kind Agency or Partner Contribution</b>	\$178,440	
<b>Total Estimated Project Value</b>		<b>\$5,062,912</b>	

## Performance Measures:

The vision, mission and goals of the SNPLMA program is associated with connecting people to the outdoors, and conserving public lands while ensuring the project fiscal sustainability. The proposed Pahrnagat Upper Lake Dam Modernization and Water Improvements supports these goals and the anticipated performance measures.

- **Outcome – Goal 1.** Sustain the quality of the Outdoor environment by conserving, preserving, and restoring natural and cultural resources.
  - H2: Miles of shoreline habitat treated, enhanced, or restored – 5 miles
  - H6: Acres of upland habitat treated, enhanced, or restored – 1,850 acres
  - H8: Water development construction or improved for wildlife – 467 acres
  - H14 Threatened and Endangered species recovery actions implemented – 1 SWFL recovery plan
  - H15: Conservation actions implemented for non-listed species – 1 wetland management plan
  - C2: Cultural or paleontological resources surveyed and inventoried - Number of new recreational facilities/structures constructed or improved – 8 acres.
- **Outcome - Goal 2.** Improve the quality of life for all publics in urban and rural communities by enhancing recreation opportunities that connect people with the outdoor environment
  - R3: New recreational facilities or structures constructed or improved – 1 (Upper Lake)
  - R4: New recreation roads or trails constructed or routes improved – 1 (Waterway Trail)
- **Outcome- Other Performance Measures.** Supports the three values of sustainability, connectivity and community.
  - O2: Buildings, facilities and or amenities constructed or refurbished – 1 (Upper Supply Ditch with structures)

## Executive Committee Strategic Plan Values:

Addressed in the ranking criteria.

## Compliance with Departmental Priorities, Strategic Goals, Executive Orders, and Secretarial Orders:

### Department of Interior Priorities

1. Create a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt.
  - a. The project promotes conservation stewardship by actively managing lacustrine and palustrine habitats to benefit migratory birds and other wildlife that is dependent on wetland systems in an arid environment. Improvements made by this nomination will allow PNWR to provide long term use for the public to recreate on the lakes and wetlands of the Refuge.

2. Sustainably develop our energy and natural resources.
  - a. By modernizing the current infrastructure, the project increases the sustainability of the project over the next 50 years, which allows for long term habitat management plans to be implemented and maintained.
3. Restore trust and be a good neighbor.
  - a. Water conservation in the valley is a priority that has been identified by the Lincoln County Conservation District (LCCD). Water conservation measure are taking place throughout the Pahrnatag Valley, and by improving water conservation on the refuge, the USFWS will be part of a valley wide program, and be good neighbors to our private landowners adjacent to the refuge.
4. Protect our people and the boarder.
  - a. Improving the Upper Lake Dam, flood control capabilities will provide the Pahrnatag Valley with flood improved flood protection, in an event of a large precipitation event. The Upper Lake Dam also provides the only flood protection for Highway 93, which is the only major outlet for the towns of Alamo, Hiko, and Ash Springs. The flood protection that the Upper Lake Dam provides protects the citizens of Nevada, as well as provide critical wetland habitats to migratory birds.
5. Modernize our infrastructure.
  - a. The project address several modernization components to bring PNWR up to 21 century standards. Modernization of infrastructure will increases the sustainability of the project over the next 50 years, which allows for long term habitat management plans to be implemented and maintained.
  - b. Modernization of the Upper Lake Dam and the emergency overflow will have direct immediate impact to improved flood control capabilities will provide the Pahrnatag Valley.
  - c. With modernized infrastructure, the refuge staff are will be more efficient at delivering habitat management treatments that are tied to the refuge purpose (“ ...for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds...” ) goals and objectives.
6. Achieve our goals and lead our team forward.
  - a. The project will allow refuge staff to be better equipped with meeting required habitat management goals and objectives. The project goals are aimed at the refuge’s purpose; “ ...for use as an inviolate sanctuary, or for any other management purpose, for migratory birds...”

Secretarial Orders:

- SO 3347: Promote conservation stewardship by actively managing lacustrine and palustrine habitats to benefit migratory birds and other wildlife that is dependent on wetland systems in an arid environment. Improvements made by this nomination will allow PNWR to provide long term use for the public to recreate on the lakes and wetlands of the refuge.

- SO 3356 & SO 3366: The USFWS allows hunting and fishing on PNWR. All major hunting and fishing opportunities occur on the Lakes and wetlands of the refuge. This nomination address infrastructure improvements with would allow for better management of marshes, and sustained fishing opportunity. Over the past four years, habitat improvements have increased waterfowl numbers on the refuge. The result is increased hunting opportunity. The refuge experienced an FY20 increase of 1,000 waterfowl hunters from the FY19 as a result.
- SO 3362: because of the historic water presence on PNWR, the Refuge is part of a major big game migration route for mule deer and desert big horn sheep. Improved wetland management and water conservation and delivery will ensure that water habitats that big game have historically relied on will remain on the landscape.
- SO 3372: Improved dam conditions will allow the refuge to maintain the Upper Lake and support flood control, and provide a large open water system for emergency aircraft to lift water from in order to fight wildfires in and around the Pahrnagat Valley.
- SO 3376: The ascetics of open water habitat and riparian areas of the Refuge is a major draw for visitors to PNWR. As part of the Upper Lake Dam rehabilitation project, a major bike trail will be improved. These improvements will continue to allow the refuge to support biking recreation, and with the recent addition to include electric bikes on the Upper Lake Trail, the nomination will provide visitors with a new and improved trail to utilize.

#### **Ranking Criteria:**

***1. Sustainability & Modernization: The project supports conservation, preservation, restoration, or modernization of natural, cultural, or historic resources (which includes infrastructure) to ensure availability of those resources for future generations. The project will remain relevant and continue to provide benefit to a recreation user over the anticipated life of the project.***

- The project nomination supports conservation of rare wetland habitats through the modernization of the Upper Lake Dam. The dam is 83 years old and in need of refurbishing, including installing a modern self-activating emergency spillway in the system. Improvements will consist of removing dying large trees from the levee, removing animal burrows causing seeps, and providing better slopes and armor to the face of the levee. This Dam supports all major wetland, riparian, open water and meadow habitats that comprise the unique ecosystem of Pahrnagat NWR. Total impacted area is approximately 1,900 acres. Three acres of grassland restoration will be completed, along with invasive species management after construction activities are completed.
- The project nomination supports preservation of critical nesting habitat of the endangered southwestern willow flycatcher (SWFL). The proposed improvements to the Pahrnagat Drain Inlet feature a newly redesigned diversion channel that will directly deliver water from the Pahrnagat Drain into SWFL nesting habitat. Water availability has been identified as one of the most important factors in supporting SWFL continued nest success, population growth and ultimately species recovery and delisting. Having this improved diversion channel, will provide a long-term solution, 25+ years, to provide quality nesting habitat for the endangered SWFL. Riparian

restoration will be completed after construction activities along the Upper Supply Ditch to restore disturbed or lost trees during the construction process. Invasive species management will also be conducted to promote native riparian species establishment.

- The project nomination supports the modernization of PNWR water monitoring infrastructure. The current outdated system uses a series of weir boxes and staff gauges resulting in low-accuracy estimates of water inflows and outflows. Additionally, these outdated monitoring systems stop working when water flow rates drop to summer levels. This nomination proposes to modernize the water monitoring ability of PNWR through the installation of new water monitoring systems with flow meters and data loggers. Two monitoring stations will be installed and new flowmeters and data loggers will replace the former low-accuracy water monitoring system. A modernized system ensures all water flows to be measured and digitally documented, as well as water to be measured prior to entering the SWFL nesting area. The improved accuracy will benefit the refuge when reporting beneficial use water rights data. The development of better refined and accurate water budgets will allow PNWR to conduct wetland management activities to support long term wetland habitat conservation goals.
- This project nomination supports water conservation in the arid desert landscapes of southern Nevada. Proposed improvements and modernizations will address the historic 90% water loss of 7,200 acre-feet reducing water loss 95%-100%. With constantly improving water conservation on PNWR, management can more effectively focus on providing quality wetland habitat for species of conservation priority and migratory birds. The improvements of water delivery from Upper Lake will also be modernized with the improvements to the Upper Supply Ditch and or installation of a secondary pipeline to feed from the lake to the newly installed water delivery pipeline.
- This project nomination supports preservation of historic and cultural resources. With the project nomination area of interest (AOI) overlapping the west side of Black Canyon Archeological District, special attention to the cultural resources within this area is being addressed. Due to the presence of sensitive and culturally significant rock writing, a comprehensive cultural resources survey will be conducted, and newly discovered site will be submitted to the National Register. Tribal involvement will be imperative to complete these surveys and monitor during the construction process of the water delivery improvements. Identifying and protecting these precious nonrenewable resources is of the utmost importance.
- This nomination improves public safety for current and future generations of Nevadans. After completion of a Safety Evaluation of Existing Dams (SEED) Report, the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection and Nevada Department of Transportation identified several areas of the Upper Pahrangat Lake that with deterioration causing seepage and leaks. Modeling assessed potential damage in the event of a dam failure and predicted water from the Upper Lake could flood U.S. Highway 93 at a choke point with Black Canyon. Proposed dam restoration could protect regional transportation, refuge staff and the people of the Pahrangat Valley from the harmful effects of a flooding event.

- 2. *Connectivity: The project provides recreational opportunities that link population centers, recreation facilities, and the user to the outdoors and natural landscapes. It encourages people to meaningfully connect with their natural environment, thus helping them appreciate and care for the environment. The project will also connect the user to the history and/or cultural of the site and engages the user in appreciation of the site/area.***
- Improved infrastructure of the Upper Lake and enhanced water delivery systems to the pipeline inlet will connect all water conservation practices on PNWR. Having better water management allows the refuge to more effectively manage the wetland habitats that PNWR is known for in southern Nevada. Improved wetland habitats traditionally increase biodiversity which is a large draw for the public. The refuge has experienced increased public use from birding groups, hunting and fishing, wildlife photography, and hiking as a result of improved infrastructure. The nomination infrastructure improvements, the impacted habitats will continue to provide that draw to the refuge, and provide outdoor recreation opportunities for the next 50 years.
  - Being positioned approximately 100 miles from Las Vegas, PNWR basically serves as a link to Nevada's largest urban population. The Refuge's visitation is approximately 60,000 visitors per year, and 55%-65% are from the Las Vegas area. This project addresses improvements to infrastructure that provides quality rare, aquatic, outdoor recreation opportunities that are very limited in southern Nevada. This project addresses infrastructure improvements that ensure PNWR will be able to continue to provide these rare habitats for people to enjoy and continue to connect with nature through hunting, fishing, birding, hiking, or viewing wildlife on a weekend trip.
  - Not only does this nomination tie PNWR water conservation practices together, the project also connects the entire refuge with water conservation practices that our Partners Program has been implementing on private property to the north. The Pahrnagat Valley is a largely agricultural community, thus water conservation is a priority focus area. By having improved infrastructure to better facilitate water conveyance, the refuge can better continue to restore the wetland systems on the refuge that has decayed over years of inefficient water management capabilities. Modernized and improved infrastructure will ensure the integrity of the aquatic communities in North Marsh, Upper Lake, WHIN Marsh, Middle Marsh, and Lower Lake for years and future generations to enjoy.
  - This project suggests improvements ensuring that future generations of Nevadans can enjoy the rare beauty of PNWR and partake in outdoor recreation. The nomination will address long term deficiencies of the most vital natural resource of the refuge, which is water. With improvements made to the Upper Lake, along with modernization of the Upper Supply Ditch and Pahrnagat Drain, the wetland management systems will be in place for the next 50+ years. All improvements and rehabilitation projects outlined in this nomination have been evaluated for the long term management of PNWR, with 30-80 year life expectancy.
- 3. *Community: The project provides or improves outdoor recreation opportunities to improve the quality of life, especially for underserved communities. It conserves or restores the functionality, resiliency, and integrity of biological communities. The project***

***encourages partnerships, which in turn builds community.***

- The open water habitat and sensory that draws visitors to PNWR is attributed mostly to the Upper Lake. The outdoor recreation around the Upper Lake includes a diversity of activities. The Upper Lake area provides biking/hiking trails with interpretive panels, campgrounds, day use locations, fishing, wildlife viewing, wildlife photography locations, and areas for environmental education. These sites are designed to connect nature with the public visitors. Average annual visitation is 60,000 visitors, and Upper Lake supports over 80% of the public use that the refuge receives. With the diversity of outdoor recreational opportunities, PNWR receives visitors of all ages, genders, and ethnicities coming to explore the natural world. The proposed improvement and modernization up will bring the Upper Lake Dam up to 21 century standards, and ensure the diversity of recreational opportunities will persist well into the future.
- Water conservation is one of the top priorities of the Pahrnagat Valley and in southern Nevada. Water availability is key to cultural and environmental survival. With continued management for habitat integrity, this same landscape that brought people here thousands of years ago, will continue to be on the map. With the nomination AOI incorporating the west side of Black Canyon Archeological District, intensive cultural resource surveys will be conducted as part of this project nomination. Culture sites in Black Canyon date back 2,500-3,000 years ago. The existing and new sites will be identified for preservation for the public to continue to enjoy.
- An estimated \$178,440 in contributed funds is projected. These funds are from refuge vehicles and heavy equipment to be used to conduct site preparation.

***4. Partnerships: The nomination promotes sustainability, connectivity, and community by linking people to nature and recreational opportunities by uniting communities with important places across the landscape.***

- The project nomination is addressing deficiencies identified in a Safety Evaluation of Existing Dams (SEED) Report, the NDEP and NDOT identified several areas of the Upper Pahrnagat Lake that had deterioration sites causing seepage. Modeling was completed to assess potential damage if a dam failure happened. Modeling shows water from the Upper Lake overtaking U.S. Highway 93 at a choke point of Black Canyon. This will result in transportation impacts, as well as impacts to the local community. This nomination address the public safe concerns and provides flood protection for the Pahrnagat Valley which promotes partnerships with both NDEP and NDOT for flood control for the Pahrnagat Valley and flood protection for U.S. Highway 93.
- PNWR currently partners with Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) on the hunting and fishing opportunities that take place on the refuge. The Upper Lake dam modernization provides longevity for open water habitats and water delivery. The Upper Lake provides all of the available fishing recreation on PNWR. With improved dam conditions and new emergency overflow structures outlined in the nomination, fishing will continue to be an outdoor recreation for the next 80 years.
- The water conservation measures that PNWR has implemented, along with improvements defined under this nomination, ensure that PNWR will continue to

protect the rare wetland habitats which provide hunting opportunity for waterfowl and other small game species. These improvements will allow PNWR to partner with NDOW to provide these opportunities to the public, especially the urban population of Las Vegas.

- PNWR currently participated in community wide resource concerns outlined by the Lincoln County Conservation District (LCCD). As part of the involvement with LCCD, water quantity and water quality was identified as a concern, along with habitat for wildlife species. To help address resource concerns outlined by LCCD, the refuge has been focused on improving water conservation measures, and focused on habitat-based goals and objectives to provide quality habitats that fits refuge purpose to provide habitat for migratory birds, especially waterfowl.
- The wetland habitat of PNWR attracts hundreds of thousands of birds through the Pahrnagat Valley. With the improvements outlined in this nomination, the refuge will continue to be a focal migration point in southern Nevada. Due to understaffing, PNWR depends upon volunteers and private citizens to help with conservation work. The success of the Christmas Bird Survey, and waterfowl banding operations depend completely on citizens and citizen group involvement. The Red Rock Audubon will continue to be a major partner in completing one of the most comprehensive bird surveys.
- The PNWR also partners with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to help identify Cultural Resource Volunteers, or Site Stewards. The AOI of the nomination incorporates a portion of Black Canyon Archeological District and site stewards will assist with the long term monitoring and education of visitors of the importance of the ancient rock writing that has been identified and preserved as a result of the cultural resource surveys covered by this nomination.

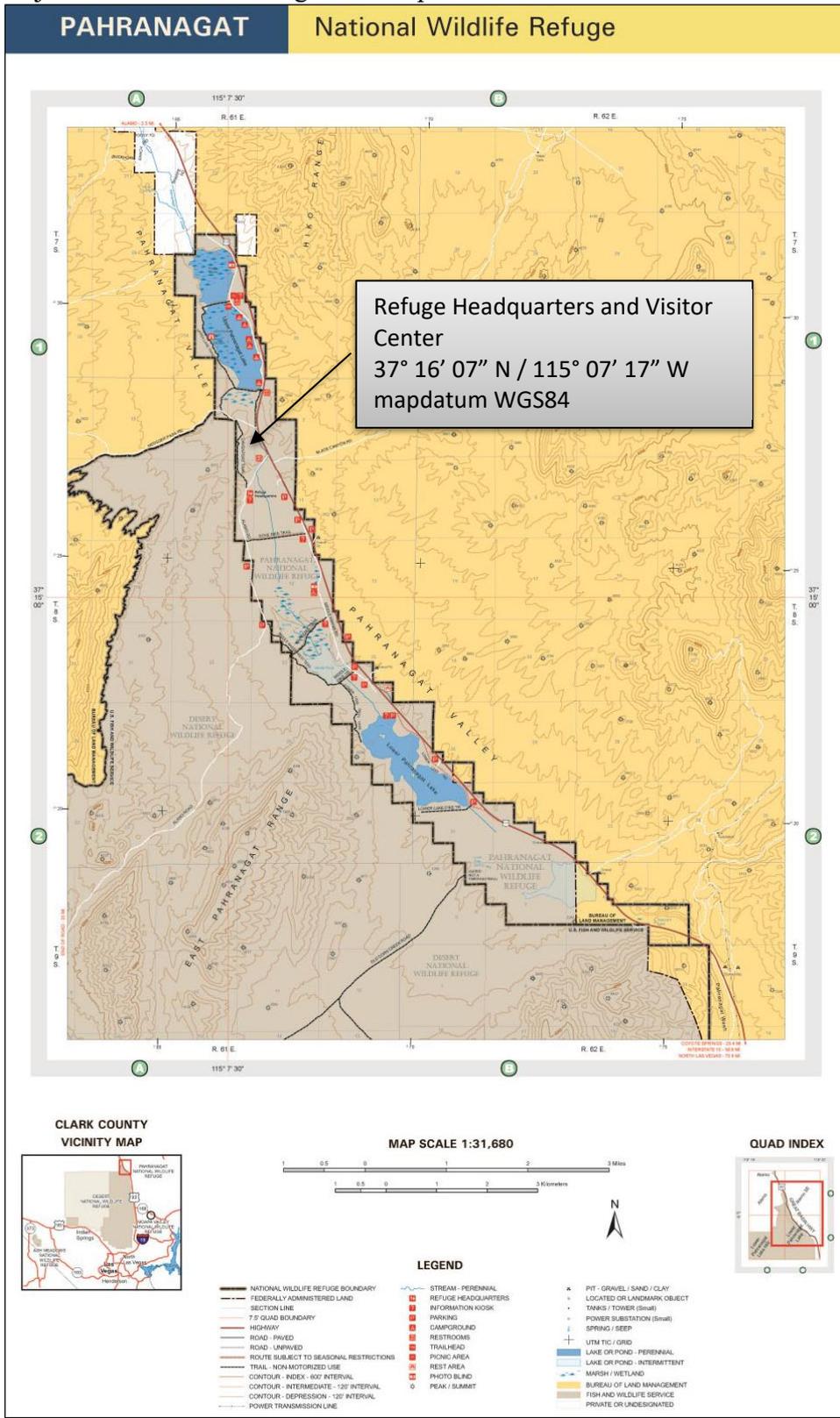
***5. In-Kind Contributions: The nomination has identified committed non-SNPLMA sources of funding or in-kind contributions in the development and/or implementation of the project.***

In-kind contributions from refuge equipment have been identified. An estimated \$178,440 in contributed funds is projected at this time. This will consist of refuge vehicles and heavy equipment that will be used to conduct site preparation before the project begins.

**Maps and Location:**

The entire project area lies on PNWR. The project area of interest starts at the northern boundary of PNWR, where the Pahrnagat Drain enters the refuge boundary. The project area ends where the Upper Supply Ditch connects into the pipeline (CI39) inlet. This inlet lies south of the current location of Refuge Road. The entire area encompasses +/-467 acres but has direct impact on 1,850 acres of wetland habitats. PNWR is located approximately 8 miles south of the small town of Alamo, Lincoln County, Nevada. The Refuge lies within Congressional District 4 (See Figure 1).

Figure 1. Project Location - PNWR general map



Map 2. Pahranaagat NWR General Location Map to Towns and Cities



Map 3. Map of Past Five Years SNPLMA Projects

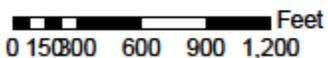
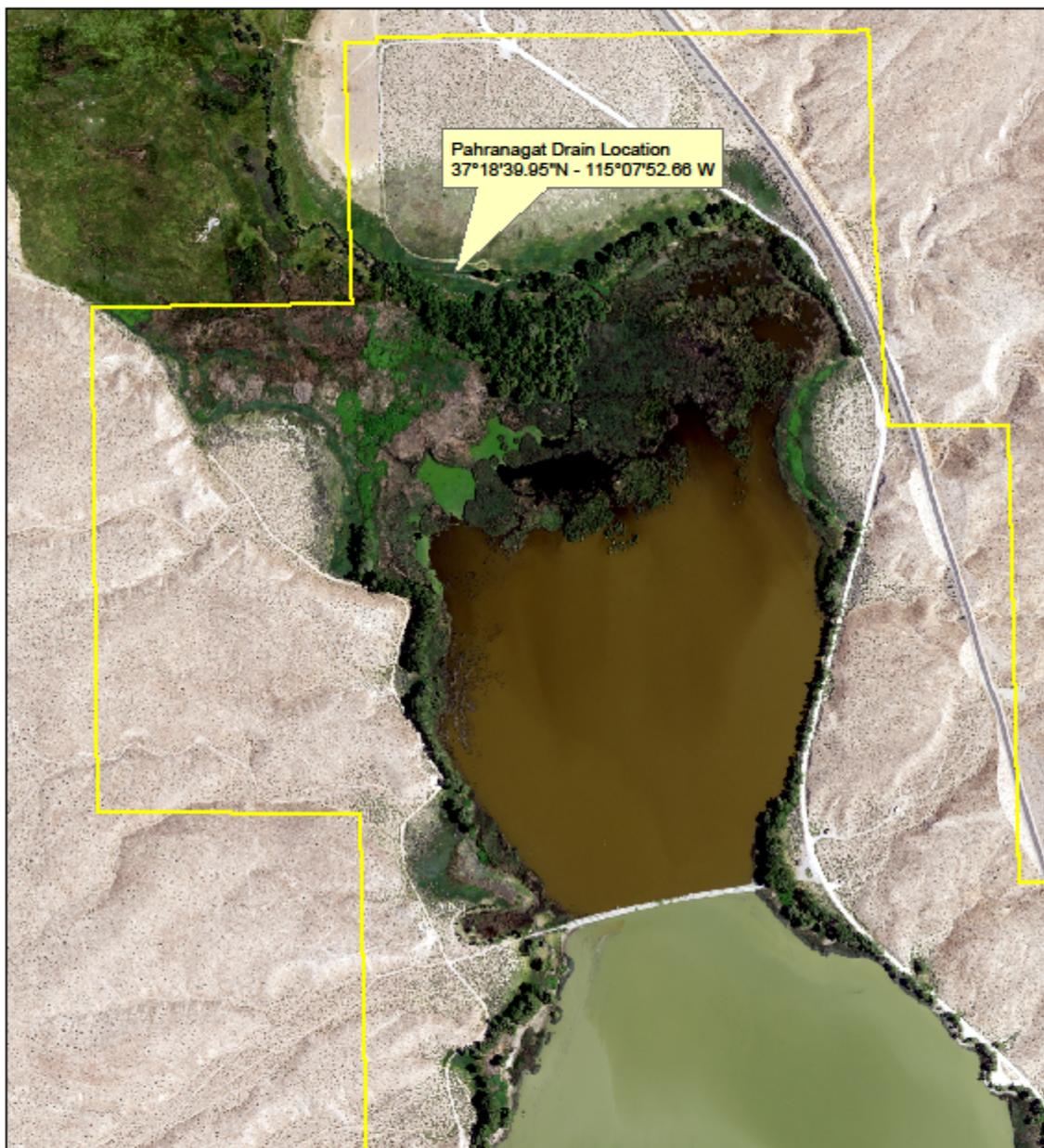


Map 4. Pahrnagat Drain Project location



**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
**Project Location Pahrnagat Drain**

*Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge*  
Lincoln County, Nevada



**Legend**  
PahrnagatNWR\_Boundary

The USFWS shall not be held liable for improper or incorrect use of the data and information described and/or contained herein. The GIS file, map products and the associated coordinates are not the definitive source for the data depicted. These data may be used for review, planning, and land management purposes.

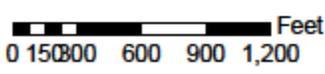
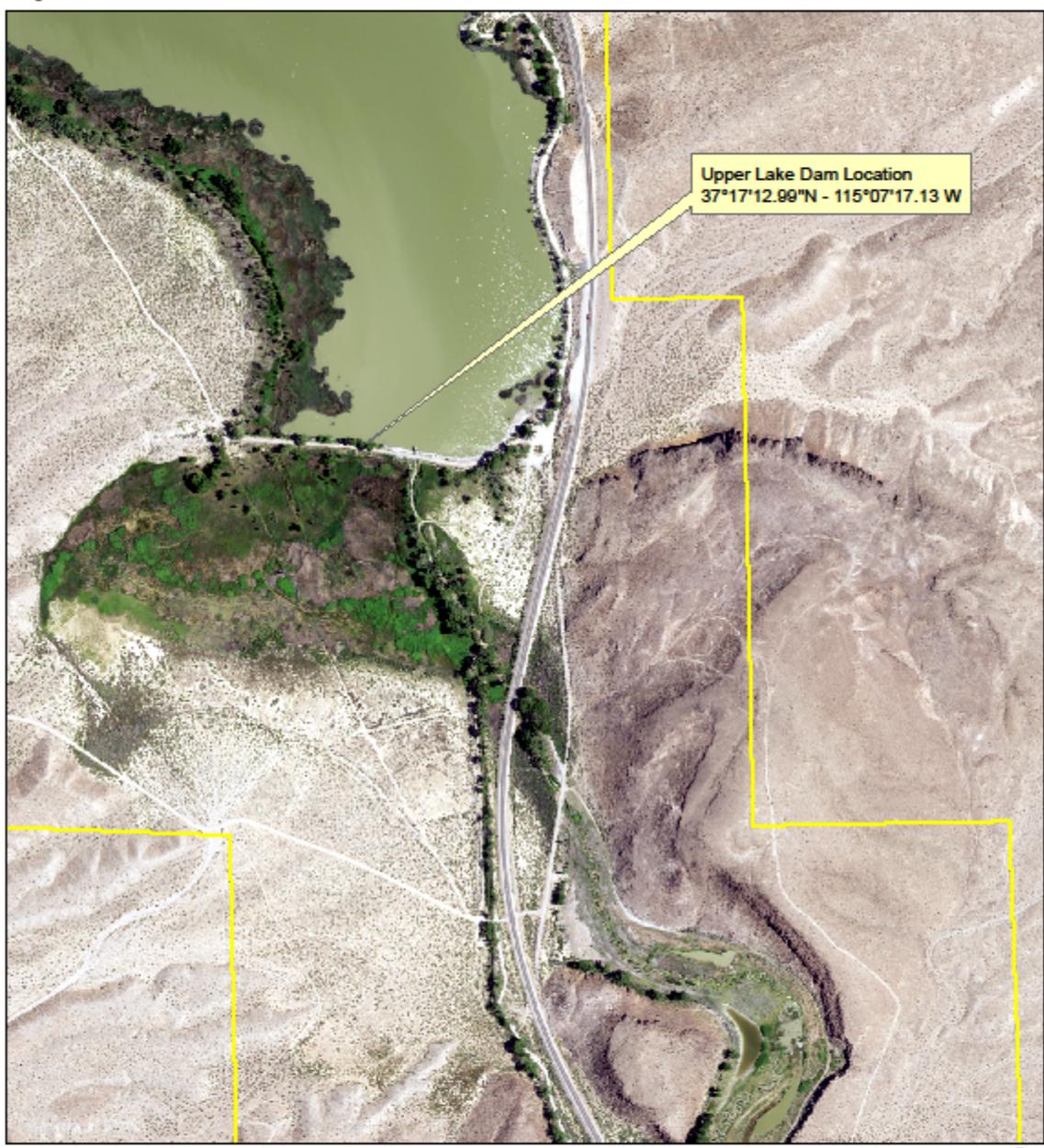


PRODUCED BY JAMES R. VINSON  
PAHRNAGAT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
LAND STATUS CURRENT TO: 01/09/2015  
MAP DATE: 04/03/2020

Map 5. Upper Lake Dam project location



**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
**Project Location Upper Lake Dam**  
*Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge*  
Lincoln County, Nevada



**Legend**  
□ PahrnagatNWR\_Boundary

The USFWS shall not be held liable for improper or incorrect use of the data and information described and/or contained herein. The GIS file, map products and the associated coordinates are not the definitive source for the data depicted. These data may be used for review, planning, and land management purposes.



PRODUCED BY JAMES R. VINSON  
PAHRANAGAT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
LAND STATUS CURRENT TO: 01/09/2015  
MAP DATE: 04/03/2020

Map 6. Upper Supply Ditch project location



**Photos:**

Photo 1. Photos of Pahrnagat Drain project location – Nomination proposed drain improvements and water monitoring station modernization.



Photo 2. Photos of Pahrnagat Drain project Location – Nomination proposed drain improvements.



Photo 3. Photos of Upper Lake Dam – Nomination proposed Upper Lake Dam rehabilitation need. Renovate 83-year-old dam, removed trees and down debris from dam, and repair animal burrows causing seepage.



Photo 4. Photos of water monitoring station – Nomination proposed water monitoring stations modernization with flow meter and data logger.



Photo 5. Photos of Upper Supply Ditch – Nomination proposed ditch improvements to existing earthen ditch to minimize water loss due to filtration.



Photo 6. Photos of Upper Supply Ditch – Nomination proposed water control structure improvement needs. Modernize existing water control structures and size to water flows.



## Letters of Support:

LINCOLN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
 360 Lincoln Street, PO Box 445  
[lincolncountycdnv@gmail.com](mailto:lincolncountycdnv@gmail.com) 775 726-3101

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Protecting our resources for future generations

September 8, 2020

Robert Wandel  
 Assistant District Manager - SNPLMA Division  
 Bureau of Land Management  
 4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr.  
 Las Vegas, NV 89130

Mr. Wandel:

I am writing a letter of support for the Pahranaagat NWR Upper Lake Dam rehabilitation and improved water supply system from the lake proposal. Lincoln County Conservation District (LCCD) understands that the current Upper Lake dam has issues with seepage and holes from animal burrows and trees allowed to grow on the slopes for the past 83 years. Because of the issues and the lack of funds and equipment needed to complete such a task, the Refuge is submitting a SNPLMA nomination to improve the dam integrity and the water delivery system from the lake to a new pipeline. The project focus is to improve and maintain the current level of public recreation on the Upper Lake and ensure wetland management activities continue to be supported throughout the refuge to provide habitat for migrating water birds and public recreation (waterfowl hunting, hiking, and birding, etc).

Public safety is also a major aspect of the nomination focus. The Refuge informed us their dam safety team conducted several dam failure models if the Upper Lake dam continues to degrade. The modeling showed water over topping Hwy 93, causing transportation issues for Lincoln County citizens and all travelers using the major thoroughfare of US 93. Water was also shown to impact existing refuge infrastructure. Even if these are worst case scenarios, the CD is glad the Refuge seeks to address these potential issues.

The mission of the Lincoln County Conservation District (LCCD) is to protect and improve the quality of our soil, water, and natural resources by providing programs and services to the citizens of Lincoln County. We believe that conservation decisions should be made at the local level with a focus on voluntary, incentive-based actions. We believe in partnerships and

**Figure 18. Letter of Support from Lincoln County Conservation District Cont.**

participate and coordinate accordingly between state, private, and federal interests. We are pleased to supports the Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge SNPLMA Round 18 Proposal to correct issues with the Upper Lake Dam and improve the water supply system. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me to discuss.

Sincerely,



Maggie Orr

Vice-Chair, Lincoln County Conservation District

Figure 19. Letter of Support from Ducks Unlimited



Western Regional Office  
 3074 Gold Canal Drive  
 Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
 Ph: 916-852-2000, Fax: 916-852-2200  
 www.ducks.org

September 8, 2020

Michelle Leiber, SNPLMA Program Manager  
 BLM Southern Nevada District Office – SNPLMA Division  
 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive  
 Las Vegas, Nevada 89130

**Re: Support for Pahranaagat National Wildlife Refuge, SNPLMA grant nomination**

Dear Ms. Leiber, Partners Working Group and Executive Committee:

Ducks Unlimited (DU) supports the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) grant application to the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) for infrastructure improvements on Pahranaagat National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).

Pahranaagat NWR is a unique oasis surrounded by the Mojave Desert in southern Nevada and provides rare wetland and riparian habitats in the region. As such, the wetlands on the NWR provide an important stopover location for migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, and waterbirds during both fall and spring migrations. The riparian areas are even more critical as they provide nesting habitat for songbird species such as the endangered Southwestern willow flycatcher.

The proposed project on Pahranaagat NWR will improve infrastructure which is integral in supporting and maintaining these important habitats. In particular, the proposed project will rehabilitate 1,200 feet of the Upper Lake Dam on the NWR. The Upper Lake Dam is critical infrastructure for the entire NWR in that it stores water that can then be used in downstream wetlands units on the refuge, allowing them to be managed properly to provide important habitat for migratory waterfowl. Furthermore, Upper Lake supports a wide variety of public recreation opportunities such as waterfowl hunting, fishing, hiking and birding across the refuge. Not only is Upper Lake Dam a critical component of sustaining the habitat and recreational opportunities on the NWR, but engineer models show that without improvements to the dam, a dam failure could result in damage to refuge infrastructure and may over top Highway 93, which is a public safety concern.

In Nevada, DU has worked in collaboration with private landowners, other non-governmental organizations, and state and federal agencies to help conserve wetlands through land protection, restoration, and enhancement projects. We look forward to continued collaborative efforts with USFWS and urge you to give this project your highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Biddlecomb  
 Director of Operations

Figure 20. Letter of Support from Red Rock Audubon



Red Rock Audubon's mission is to bring people together for the conservation and enjoyment of birds, other wildlife, and the natural world throughout Southern Nevada and neighboring areas.  
P.O. Box 96691 Las Vegas, Nevada 89193

September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Bureau of Land Management  
SNPLMA Division  
4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr.  
Las Vegas, NV 89130

Attention: Michelle Leiber - SNPLMA Program Manager

RE: SNPLMA Round 18 Upper Lake Dam Modernization and Water Improvements  
Pahranagat National Wildlife Refuge

To Whom It May Concern:

The Red Rock Audubon Society (RRAS) supports Pahranagat National Wildlife Refuge's project proposal to improve water monitoring water delivery, and improve infrastructure integrity of the Upper Lake Dam, North Marsh Inlet, and Upper Supply Ditch.

The overall goal is to improve water monitoring and delivery from the Upper Lake to the wetland ecosystems on Pahranagat National Wildlife Refuge (PNWR). Since PNWR inception in 1963, the refuges purpose is to manage rare wetland habitats in southern Nevada. This is accomplished by a series of culverts dikes, ditches, water control structures, and the Upper Lake Dam. Most of the infrastructure in place is 30-80 years old. PNWR has been completing improvement projects through the USFWS deferred maintenance, and SNPLMA. PNWR is in the final stages of completing a SNPLMA round 16 water conservation project, CI39. To build off the completion of CI39, PNWR is proposing to modernize existing aged infrastructure, and improve the water right monitoring system currently implemented by PNWR. The completion of these improvements will complete PNWR water conservation plan, and ensure rare wetland habitats in southern Nevada will persist for the next 50 years.

Figure 21. Letter of Support from Red Rock Audubon Cont.



Red Rock Audubon's mission is to bring people together for the conservation and enjoyment of birds, other wildlife, and the natural world throughout Southern Nevada and neighboring areas.  
P.O. Box 96691 Las Vegas, Nevada 89193

Red Rock Audubon, is a Southern Nevada chapter of the National Audubon Society with over a thousand members. We have a long history and productive relationship with the Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge. Our community outreach and community science programs include the annual Christmas Bird Count and field trips. Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge is a strategic and unique habitat for the protection and survival of migratory water fowls.

The successful achievement of this project goals will support the accomplishment of our chapter's mission.

Please contact me directly at 702-349-7848 or email me at [president@redrockaudubon.com](mailto:president@redrockaudubon.com) if you have further questions about RRAS's support of this project. Thank you for seriously considering Desert National Wildlife Refuges' application for this funding.

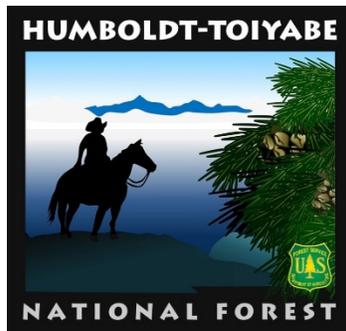
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Rodriguez". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Paul Rodriguez  
President  
Red Rock Audubon Society

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act  
Capital Improvements  
Round 18

U.S.D.A. Forest Service



**Ward Mountain Bike Trail**

Amount Requested: \$2,069,322

Time Frame: 5 Years  
Project location: 39.20°, -114.90°  
Congressional District Number: NV-4

Federal Manager: Jose Noriega, District Ranger

Contact: Erin Rajala, Recreation Staff Officer  
P: (775) 289-5129  
Email: [erin.rajala@usda.gov](mailto:erin.rajala@usda.gov)

**Purpose Statement:**

The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Ely Ranger District will construct mountain bike trails, and trailheads with parking amenities and improve access within the Ward Mountain Trail System based on final planning and design. The project will improve the outdoor recreation experience, improve visitor safety, contribute to the tourism economy, and contribute significantly to the availability of recreational opportunities in White Pine County, Nevada.

**Background info and need for the project:**

The mission of the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, and the Ely Ranger District is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

The Ward Mountain Division of the Ely Ranger District is a high elevation mountain range immediately adjacent to the City of Ely. Ward Mountain is literally outside the back door of the residents of Ely. Ward Mountain provides fast and readily accessible recreational opportunities for residents as well as visitors to White Pine County. One of the more popular activities in the area is mountain biking. A small system of mountain bike trails exists in the area and the Ely Ranger District has been working with the Great Basin Trails Alliance to identify opportunities to improve and expand on this trail system. More recently the City of Ely, White Pine County, the Tourism and Recreation Board and others have come together to push recreational opportunities, and specifically this mountain bike trail system to increase tourism opportunities in the area.

In recent years there has been a steady increase in interest in this trail system from the urban areas in Las Vegas, Reno, and the Wasatch Front. Mountain Bikers are looking for areas to "escape the crowds." This trail system is a key component for the larger tourism and recreation interests in the area. Visitors can come to Ely and ride the historic Ghost Train, visit state parks, hike within up to 15 wilderness areas, and within minutes from their hotel be on their mountain bikes on the Ward Mountain Trail System.

The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Ely Ranger District proposes to implement the Ward Mountain Bike Trail Project to upgrade and expand the mountain bike trail system, establish access to the trailheads, and construct/reconstruct each of those trailheads. The project area is located approximately one air mile southwest of Ely, Nevada.

**Relationship to previous phases and anticipated future phases:**

The project will not be phased or separated into unrelated deliverables. This is a single project and there are no future phases planned. This project compliments other capital improvement projects located on Ward Mountain and in the Schell Creek Range on the Ely Ranger District.

## **Deliverables:**

### Primary Deliverables:

1. Construct/reconstruct approximately 40 miles of mountain bike trail within the Ward Mountain Trail System. The final locations of the trails and mileage will be determined by project planning and design.
2. Construct and/or reconstruct 5-7 trailheads including parking area, kiosk, signage and some shelters.
3. Reconstruct and improve between 5 and 8 miles of access roads.
4. Install road and trail directional signage as determined through final design
5. Reconstruct the access roads to the trailheads to allow for passenger car access.
6. GPS and map all the subject trail system. Once completed a quality recreational trail map/brochure will be produced and be available to the public.
7. Update the Forest Service web and social media sites.

### Anticipated Deliverables:

1. GPS and map the trail system. Once completed a quality recreational trail map/brochure will be produced and be available to the public.
2. Update the Forest Service web and social media sites.

### Standard Deliverables:

- Complete required inventories, site assessment, and cultural assessment within the project area as required.
- Complete site surveys and contract prep activities
- Complete boundary surveys to identify ownership and boundaries.
- Complete the planning and environmental planning process including:
  - NEPA analysis and decision.
  - SHPO consultation, coordination, etc.
- Coordination with the SNPLMA Program Manager
  - Development of the project workplan, site inspection and project initiation
  - SMART quarterly status updates
  - SMART quarterly expenditures/obligations updates
  - SMART annual and final accomplishment updates (including performance measures)
  - Preparation of the close out package is a required standard deliverable

## **Project Timeframe:**

The Project Lead will coordinate the overall implementation of the project, track accomplishments and report out on those accomplishments. The Forest Engineering Shop will provide assistance in planning and design as well as construction activities. The following is an outline of activities and timeframe for completion:

### Year 1

- Issue a contract for trail design/plan.

- Complete archeological, biological, and boundary survey work.
- Prepare news releases notifying the public about plans for the trail system.
- Coordination with the County, Tribal Governments and other interested groups.
- Begin the NEPA process.

#### Year 2

- Complete the NEPA Process
- Preparation of contract(s) and/or agreements.
- Solicitation and award of contract(s) for trail and trailhead construction.
- Begin road reconstruction activities.
- Continue to prepare news releases notifying the public about trail system construction activities.
- Coordination meetings with the County, Tribal Governments and other interested groups throughout the project, as required.

#### Year 3

- Implement trail and trailhead construction contracts including signing.
- Complete access road reconstruction activities.
- Continue to prepare news releases notifying the public about trail system construction activities.
- Coordination meetings with the County, Tribal Governments and other interested groups throughout the project, as required.

#### Year 4

- Complete trail and trailhead construction contracts and work.
- Continue to prepare news releases notifying the public about trail system construction activities.
- Coordination meetings with the County, Tribal Governments and other interested groups throughout the project, as required.
- GPS and map all trails, trailheads and access roads.
- Begin the process to print trail maps.

#### Year 5

- Complete the process to print trail maps.
- Update the Forest web and social media sites with details, maps, photos and descriptions of the Ward Mountain bike trails, trailheads and access roads.
- Final accomplishments/close-out reports completed, and the public news releases prepared.

### **Level of Project Readiness for Implementation:**

- The majority of the project will require NEPA and the associated surveys and documentation.
- Engineering and design will be done using a combination of Forest Service personnel and contracts.

- Trail construction will be completed using contracts.
- Trailhead construction will be completed using contracts.
- Access road reconstruction will be completed using agency personnel.
- Installation signing will be completed using either agency personnel, agreements and/or contracts.
- Website updates, trail GPS work, and maps will be accomplished using a combination of agency personnel, agreements, and contracts.
- The U.S. Forest Service, Ely Ranger District has the necessary resources to initiate the planning and completion of the environmental review for this project. The Forest Service has the necessary skills and resources to complete the project within the standard period of performance for capital improvement projects.

#### **Future Operations and Maintenance:**

- The anticipated lifecycle of the project will be approximately 30-40 years.
- This project will result in an increase in the annual operations and maintenance costs for this trail system, however, it will result in a significant increase in recreational use in the area and contribute to increased tourism opportunities in White Pine County. The majority of operations and maintenance for this trail system is completed using volunteers and partnerships.
- The Forest Service has been working closely with local governments and non-profit groups to develop, maintain and expand this trail system.

#### **Contributed funds directly applicable to completion of the project:**

- Volunteers, partnerships and appropriated funding was used to complete a portion of the planning, design, and site visits for this project.
- A Secure Rural Schools RAC Grant was awarded to the Great Basin Trails Alliance in 2017 to complete some preliminary planning and design for the future trail system on this project.

#### **Funding Requested Budget Detail:**

The project will be completed within five years at an estimated cost of \$2,069,322.

*The remainder of the page intentionally left blank.*

<b>Schedule B</b>			
<b>CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROPOSAL</b>			
<b>ESTIMATED DIRECT COSTS &amp; KEY MILESTONE DATES</b>			
<b>Project Name:</b>	Ward Mountain Bike Trail Project	<b>Agency:</b>	Humboldt-Toiyabe NF, Ely Ranger District
<b>Project &amp; Priority #:</b>	N/A nomination submittal	<b>Phone:</b>	775-293-3785
<b>Prepared by:</b>	Erin Rajala/Jose Noriega	<b>Date:</b>	7/28/2020
1	<b>Planning, Environmental Compliance &amp; Preconstruction Engineering and Design</b> <i>(Not to exceed 27% of total project costs)</i>  (Pre-design sketches and conceptual drawings; environmental assessment and permitting, specialist surveys/reports for archaeology, wildlife, biology, etc.; architectural and engineering analysis, design survey & field investigations; construction drawings, specifications, cost estimates, and engineering technical reports.)	\$99,200	4.79%
2	<b>Construction Contract Costs</b>  (Including labor, supplies & materials, construction management, etc.; sampling/testing; site restoration; and government furnished supplies and materials.)	\$1,540,000	74.42%
3	<b>Project Equipment</b>  (Pg. 89 of the Implementation Agreement - SNPLMA funds can only be used for "project related necessary expenses" and SNPLMA can reimburse only for those equipment costs directly associated with completion of the approved project.)	\$13,000	0.63%
4	<b>Travel</b>  (Including per diem where official travel status is required to carry out the project, such as to serve as COR, experts to review reports, etc.)	\$31,680	1.53%
5	<b>Official Vehicle Use</b>  (Pro rata costs for use of Official Vehicles when required to carry out the project.)	\$29,800	1.44%
6	<b>Other Direct and Contracted Labor</b>  Agency payroll for the Contracting Officer to do project procurements, COR Project Inspector, Section 106 Consultation, NEPA Lead, Project Manager, Project Supervisor, and subject experts to review contracted surveys, design/drawings, plans, reports, etc.; Also covered is the cost to contract for a Project Manager and/or Project Supervisor if contracted separately from other project costs.	\$133,200	6.44%
7	<b>FWS Consultation - Endangered Species Act</b>	\$0	0.00%
8	<b>Direct Federal Labor</b>  (direct agency labor for construction, project inspection, CO and COR)	\$49,800	2.41%
9	<b>Other Necessary Expenses</b>  (See SNPLMA IA Part Two – Appendix B-3)	\$172,642	8.34%
	<b>Total Requested/Estimated Budget</b>	<b>\$2,069,322</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
10	<b>Total Estimated In-kind Agency or Partner Contribution</b>	\$0	
	<b>Total Estimated Project Value</b>	\$2,069,322	

**Performance Measures:**

The mission of the SNPLMA program is to “provide the public with naturally functioning, sustainable landscapes and recreation opportunities for their enjoyment, education, benefit and stewardship.” The proposed Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Ward Mountain Bike Trail Project supports the following SNPLMA Performance Measures:

- Outcome: Complete the surveys and planning for the Ward Mountain Bike Trail System. Achieving the following outputs will accomplish this outcome:
  - Output (Primary or Anticipated Deliverable): Complete required inventories, site assessment, and cultural assessment within the project area as required.
    - The SNPLMA Performance Measures include:
      - C3 - Acres of Cultural / Paleontological Resources Surveyed, Inventoried or Monitored
  
- Outcome: Improve recreational opportunities and access to those opportunities for both residents and visitors to White Pine County. Achieving the following outputs will accomplish this outcome:
  - Output (Primary or Anticipated Deliverable): Complete reconstruction and improvements on between 20 and 40 miles of mountain bike trail on Ward Mountain.
  - Output (Primary or Anticipated Deliverable): Complete construction of between 20 and 40 miles of new mountain bike trail on Ward Mountain.
  - Output (Primary or Anticipated Deliverable): Reconstruct and improve between 5 and 8 miles of access roads.
  - Output (Primary or Anticipated Deliverable): Construct and/or reconstruct 5-7 trailheads including parking area, kiosk, signing and some shelters.
  - Output (Primary or Anticipated Deliverable): Install road and trail directional signing as needed.
  - Output (Primary or Anticipated Deliverable): GPS and map all of the trail system. Once completed a quality recreational trail map/brochure will be produced and be available to the public.
  - Output (Primary or Anticipated Deliverable): Update the Forest Service web and social media sites.
    - The SNPLMA Performance Measures include:
      - R4 Miles of New Recreational Trails Constructed or Improved: Between 20 and 40 miles
      - R4 Miles of New Recreational Roads Constructed or Improved: Between 20 and 40 miles
      - O6 - Number of New Interpretive or Education Publications/Signs/Kiosks/Displays/etc. Produced:
      - O9 – Number of GIS Databases Generated and/or Map Layers Produced:
      - H17 – Miles of Roads or Trails Surveyed, Inventoried, or Monitored

Addressed as part of the ranking criteria below.

### **Compliance with Departmental Priorities, Strategic Goals, Executive Orders, and Secretarial Orders:**

Addressed as part of the ranking criteria below.

### **Ranking Criteria:**

#### **1. SUSTAINABILITY & MODERNIZATION**

The project supports conservation, preservation, restoration, or modernization of natural, cultural, or historic resources (which includes infrastructure) to ensure availability of those resources for future generations. The project will remain relevant and continue to provide benefit to a recreation user over the anticipated life of the project.

##### *Factors:*

- a. Proper recreation management will reduce impacts from dispersed recreation for future generations.
- b. The anticipated design life of this project is approximately 30-40 years and involves the reconstruction of existing trails, trailheads, and access roads.
- c. This project will establish a well-planned mountain bike trail system in a popular area on Ward Mountain.
- d. This project provides a safe and reliable recreational trail system that is in close proximity to the City of Ely, the Ward Mountain Campground and other local attractions.
- e. Information provided at kiosks, on maps and on the Forest Service website and social media sites will educate visitors regarding the recreational opportunities and the natural resources in the area.

#### **2 CONNECTIVITY**

The project provides recreational opportunities that link population centers, recreation facilities, and the user to the outdoors and natural landscapes. It encourages people to meaningfully connect with their natural environment, thus helping them appreciate and care for the environment. The project will also connect the user to the history and/or cultural of the site and engages the user in appreciation of the site/area.

- a. This project will establish a well-planned mountain bike trail system in a popular area on Ward Mountain.
- b. This project will provide a safe and reliable recreational trail system that is in close proximity to the City of Ely, the Ward Mountain Campground and other local attractions.

- c. This trail system will provide residents and visitors the opportunity to ride or hike the trail system right from their neighborhood or hotels in Ely. Additionally, visitors to the Ward Mountain Campground have direct access to the trail system right from their campsites.
- d. This project is a high priority project in the new emphasis on tourism and recreational opportunities within Ely and White Pine County.
- e. The Ward Mountain Trail System is located within the Great Basin Heritage Area, which is committed to maintaining the history and culture of the area.

### **3. COMMUNITY**

The project provides or improves outdoor recreation opportunities to improve the quality of life, especially for underserved communities. It conserves or restores the functionality, resiliency, and integrity of biological communities. The project encourages partnerships, which in turn builds community.

*(Encourages and engages the public in the conservation and protection of the surrounding natural environment through use of volunteer/stewardship resources)*

Factors to be considered include the following:

- a. White Pine County, the City of Ely, White Pine Main Street Project, and Ely Shoshone Tribe are looking to diversify the local economy through tourism by using downtown Ely as a trailhead that would allow users to start and finish rides in the center of the economic activity and allow for businesses to develop around goods and services.
- b. This project will establish a well-planned mountain bike trail system in a popular area on Ward Mountain.
- c. This project will provide a safe and reliable recreational trail system that will be accessible from the City of Ely, the Ward Mountain Campground and other local attractions.
- d. This trail system will provide residents and visitors the opportunity to ride or hike the trail system right from their neighborhood or hotels in Ely. Additionally, visitors to the Ward Mountain Campground have direct access to the trail system right from their campsites.
- e. This project is a high priority project in the new emphasis on tourism and recreational opportunities within Ely and White Pine County.
- f. The Ward Mountain Trail System is located within the Great Basin Heritage Area, which is committed to maintaining the history and culture of the area.

- g. The Ely Ranger District currently is building strong partnerships with groups like the Great Basin Trails Alliance, Great Basin Institute, City of Ely, White Pine County and White Pine County Tourism and Recreation.

#### **4. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE**

The agency has clearly demonstrated that the anticipated operations and maintenance costs for the project and resources necessary to operate the project are within existing appropriations or demonstrated how they will secure the necessary operations and maintenance funds.

*(Agency has detailed estimated annual O&M cost and estimated use /permit fees to be collected)*

- a. Because this trail system will increase in size, we acknowledge that there will be an increase in the annual operations and maintenance costs. After this project is complete, it is anticipated that the Ely Ranger District will be able to address the operations and maintenance with the base budget and partnerships.
- b. The Ely Ranger District has worked hard with organizations like the Great Basin Trails Alliance and Great Basin Institute to maintain trail systems like this one.
- c. The Ely Ranger District will continue to incorporate the use of partnerships and volunteers to complete maintenance over the long term.
- d. The Ely Ranger District will also work with our partners to obtain grant funding such as RAC, RTP, and other sources as well as using appropriated funds as they are available to complete maintenance of this trail system.

#### **5. LIFECYCLE REPLACEMENT/RECONSTRUCTION AND DEFERRED MAINTENANCE**

Any existing project or facility that has met or exceeded its useful life, design life, or life cycle that requires major restoration or reconstruction to restore the historic fabric of the facility or meet standard new Federal accessibility guidelines.

*(Does not include reconstruction, changes, or new amenities for previously approval SNPLMA capital improvements projects. Excludes projects that were identified as phased construction, each phase must be fully operational and serve the intended purpose upon completion.)*

- Field reviews of the existing trail system, trailheads, and roads have indicated a need to reconstruct and/or improve those areas to provide a safe and well-designed trail system.

#### **6. ADVANCES THE AGENCY/ENTITY PRIORITIES/GOALS**

The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination/project meets the priorities and strategic goals for their respective agency.

The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination/project meets the priorities and strategic goals for their respective agency.

**A. Meets one or more of the Department of the Interior priorities:**

- *Sustainably develop our energy and natural resources.* This project will develop and expand the Ward Mountain Bike Trail System. The project utilizes natural resources and incorporates recreational developments by expanding the existing trail system and enhancing the recreational experience for locals and visiting public; which will improve and increase tourism opportunities in White Pine County.
- *Restore trust and be a good neighbor.* The Ely Ranger District has been working closely with Local and State governments, non-profit organizations, other federal agencies, the local tourism board and individuals to plan and develop a comprehensive plan for this high-quality mountain bike trail system.
- *Ensure the tribal sovereignty means something.* The Ely Ranger District has been coordinating this trail project and recreational activities on Ward Mountain for the past several years with representatives from the Ely Shoshone Tribe. As part of that coordination, we have worked with the Tribe to identify opportunities which can benefit tribal interests in the area.
- *Modernize our infrastructure.* This project will upgrade and modernize the Ward Mountain Bike Trail System by increasing and improving trails, access, and public outreach.

**B. Meets one or more of the U.S. Forest Service priorities:**

This proposed project meets the U.S. Forest Service priorities and strategic goals by providing excellent customer service, increasing partnerships and volunteerism, improving the condition of forests and grasslands, and enhancing recreation opportunities, improving access, and sustaining infrastructure.

- *Being good neighbors and providing excellent customer service.* The Ely Ranger District has been working closely with Local and State governments, non-profit organizations, other federal agencies, the local tourism board and individuals to plan and develop a comprehensive plan for this high-quality mountain bike trail system.

This project will significantly improve recreational opportunities and customer service for the public near Ely, Nevada by increasing and improving trails, access, infrastructure and public outreach.

- *Promoting shared stewardship by increasing partnerships and volunteerism.* The Ely Ranger District has been working closely with Local and State governments, non-profit organizations, other federal agencies, the local tourism board and individuals to plan and

develop a comprehensive plan for this high-quality mountain bike trail system.

All of these partners have been working across boundaries to improve recreational opportunities.

- *Improving the condition of forests and grasslands.* This project will reconstruct and upgrade the mountain bike trail system, while protecting and reducing impacts to resources on National Forests.
- *Enhancing recreation opportunities, improving access, and sustain infrastructure.*
  - This project will significantly increase recreational opportunities immediately adjacent to the City of Ely.
  - This project will improve access both on the trail system as well as the associated access roads.
  - This project will upgrade and improve the trail, road and trailhead infrastructure.

**7. CONSISTENCY WITH SECRETARIAL ORDERS AND DIRECTIVE:** The proposed project specifically identifies what and how the nomination / project meets the Secretarial Orders (SO) and Directive.

**A. EO No. 13855 Promoting Active Management of America’s Forests, Range Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk** Not Applicable

**B. SO No. 3347: Conservation Stewardship and Outdoor Recreation.**

- This project will significantly increase recreational opportunities within White Pine County and adjacent to the City of Ely by increasing and improving trails, access, infrastructure and public outreach.
- This project will increase tourism opportunities for the local communities and provides recreational opportunities for both local residents and visitors to the area.

**C. SO No. 3356: Hunting, Fishing, Recreational Shooting, and Wildlife Conservation Opportunities and Coordination with States, Tribes and Territories.**

- This project will significantly increase recreational opportunities within White Pine County and adjacent to the City of Ely.
- This project will increase tourism opportunities for the local communities and provides recreational opportunities for both local residents and visitors to the area.
- Proper recreation management will reduce impacts to wildlife from dispersed recreation.
- The Ely Ranger District has been working closely with Local and State governments, non-profit organizations, other federal agencies, the local tourism board and individuals to plan and develop a comprehensive plan for this high-quality Mountain Bike Trail System.

- All of these partners have been working across boundaries to improve recreational opportunities.

**D. SO No. 3362: Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors** Not Applicable

**E. SO No. 3366: Increasing Recreational Opportunities on Lands and Waters Managed by the U.S. Department of the Interior**

- This project will significantly increase recreational opportunities within White Pine County and adjacent to the City of Ely by increasing and improving trails, access, infrastructure and public outreach.
- This project will increase tourism opportunities for the local communities and provides recreational opportunities for both local residents and visitors to the area.
- The Ely Ranger District has been working closely with Local and State governments, non-profit organizations, other federal agencies, the local tourism board and individuals to plan and develop a comprehensive plan for this high-quality mountain bike trail system.
- All of these partners have been working across boundaries to improve recreational opportunities.

**F. SO No. 3370: Conservation Stewardship and Increasing Public Access to Urban National Wildlife Refuges** Not Applicable

**G. SO No. 3372: Reducing Wildfire Risks on Department of the Interior Land Through Active Management** Not Applicable

**H. SO No. 3373 Evaluating Public Access in Bureau of Land Management Public Land Disposals and Exchanges** Not Applicable

**I. SO No. 3374 Implementation of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act** Not Applicable

**J. SO No. 3376 Increasing Recreational Opportunities through the use of Electric Bikes.**

- The Ely Ranger District has been working closely with Local and State governments, non-profit organizations, other federal agencies, the local tourism board and individuals to plan and develop a comprehensive plan for this high-quality Mountain Bike Trail System.
- Most E-Bikes are currently allowed on this trail system. We are working with all partners to determine future management of E-Bikes in the area to ensure a balance of recreational opportunities.

**K. Other Secretarial Order(s) and Directive(s):** Describe any other Secretarial Order(s) and Directive(s) that apply to the nomination and are not listed above.

- Not Applicable

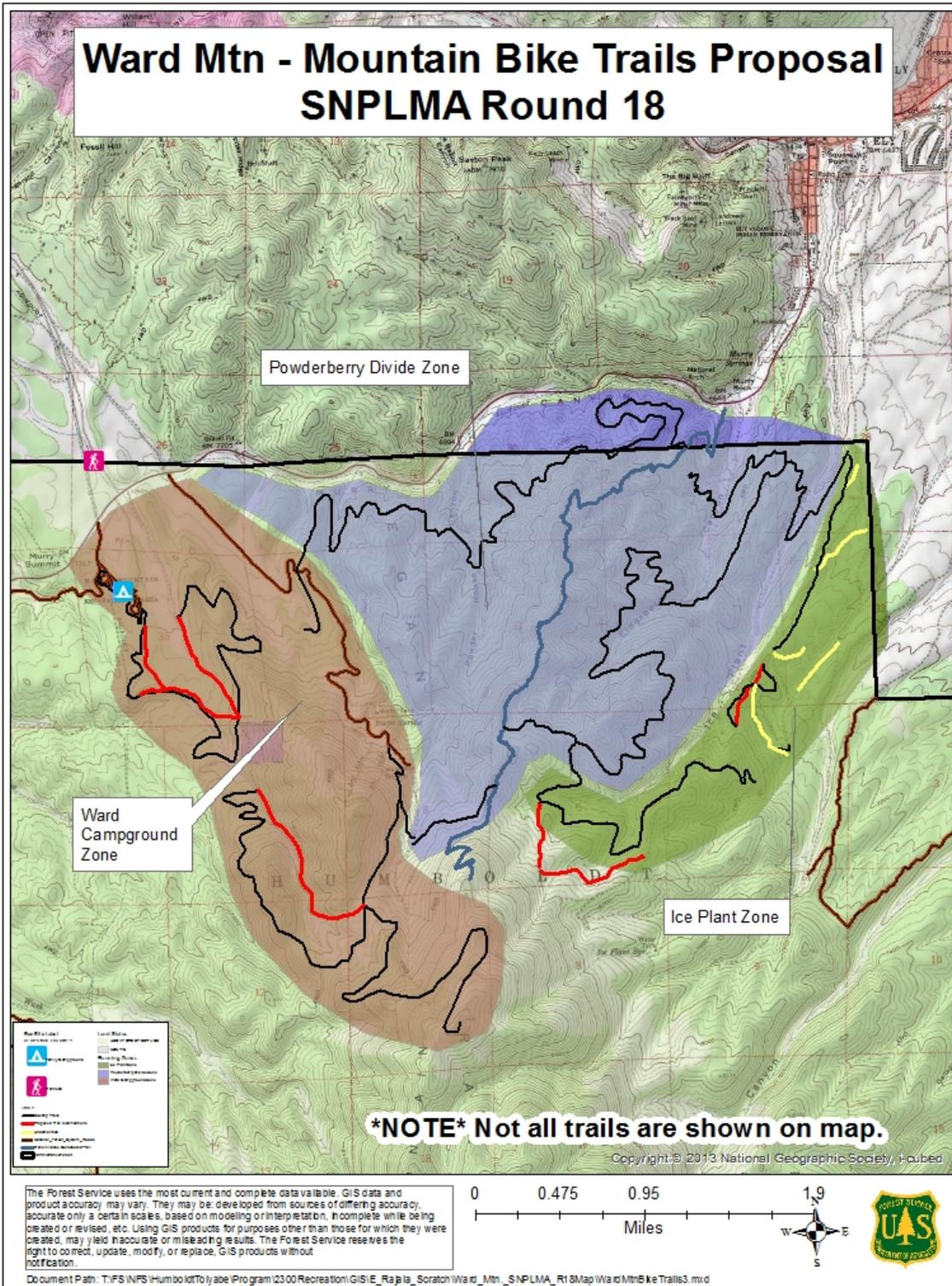
**Project Location:**

Project Location: 39.20° / -114.90°

The Ward Mountain Trail System is approximately one air mile southwest of the town of Ely, Nevada, within the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest. The trail system can be accessed from multiple locations as shown on the enclosed maps.

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Maps and Photos:







**Figure 1** Signing used to mark the existing trail system.



**Figure 2** Existing trail within the



Ward Mountain Recreation Area.  
**Figure 3** Existing trail within the Ward Mountain area trail network.

**Letters of Support:**

Jose Noriega, District Ranger  
US Forest Service Ely District  
825 Avenue E  
Ely, Nevada 89301

August 10, 2020

Dear Mr. Noriega,

The Ely Outdoor Enthusiasts supports the US Forest Service's SNPLMA proposal for new trail construction and maintenance on Ward Mountain. The Ely Outdoor Enthusiasts is a non-profit organization that hosts outdoor running, biking and cross-country skiing events in White Pine County. Our events promote community health and wellness and brings tourism into our county.

We currently host the Ward Mountain Scramble Trail Run where these new trails are being proposed. These trails will provide our organization with multiple options for course routes and distances. The construction of new trails at Ward Mountain greatly benefits our organization by providing a non-motorized, scenic, single-track running experience for our participants.

The Ely Outdoor Enthusiasts looks forward to utilizing the new trail system for future events.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy Herms". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nancy" and last name "Herms" clearly legible.

Nancy Herms, President  
Ely Outdoor Enthusiasts



August 10, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of the joint BLM and Forest Service mountain bike expansion on Ward Mountain trails system in Ely, Nevada. This project will help to draw visitors to the area where tourism is a large part of the local economy and would be an essential part of the revitalization of downtown Ely. After review of their proposal for this grant application we fully endorse their project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bryane Goeringer".

Bryane Goeringer  
General Manager  
Jailhouse Motel & Casino  
211 Fifth St  
Ely, Nevada 89301  
801-889-7256

**White Pine Main Street Association**  
**150 Sixth Street Ely, NV 89301**

Mr. Jose Noriega, District Ranger  
US Forest Service Ely District  
825 Avenue E  
Ely, NV 89301

August 6, 2020

Dear Mr. Noriega,

I am writing in support of The US Forest Service and their SNPLMA proposal for a crew that would provide new trail construction and trail maintenance on Ward Mountain to connect and expand the existing trail networks utilized by non-motorized recreationist.

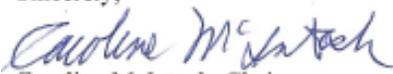
Our local trails user group, Great Basin Trails Alliance, has spent multiple years, volunteer hours and resources working with the USFS Ely District to design and map this sustainable, destination quality trail system on Ward Mountain. GBTA and their volunteers are an asset to our community as they provide the man-power needed to maintain existing and future trails.

In Ely and White Pine County's adopted CEDS document, recreation economy was identified as the top priority for economic growth and prosperity. Ely has a great existing recreation infrastructure and through expansion will position itself as a top destination in the west to live, work, and play. White Pine Main Street Association has a strong commitment in providing resources and services to see our recreation opportunities grow. In the past year, White Pine Main Street has been awarded \$30,000 in grant money for projects that support the downtown being a hub for recreation, like signage, promotional material, trail head kiosks, and outdoor business development.

This trail system not only will provide recreation opportunities but also economic ones as the focus is to utilize downtown Ely as a trail head that would allow users to start and finish their rides in the center of economic activity and allow for businesses to develop around recreation goods and services. The City of Ely, White Pine County, White Pine Tourism and Recreation, and The Ely Shoshone Tribe are additional partners in moving the recreation economy forward. We recognize the future of our community and economy is around trails.

We are extremely appreciative of the work that The US Forest Service Ely District has done in the past and look forward to their continued assistance in maintaining our large and diverse trail system.

Sincerely,



Caroline McIntosh, Chairperson  
White Pine Main Street Association



## WHITE PINE COUNTY TOURISM AND RECREATION BOARD

*Bristlecone Convention Center & Visitors Bureau*

Mr. Jose Noriega, District Ranger  
US Forest Service Ely District  
825 Avenue E  
Ely, NV 89301

Dear Mr. Noriega,

I am writing in support of The US Forest Service and their SNPLMA proposal for a crew that would provide new trail construction and trail maintenance on Ward Mountain to connect and expand the existing trail networks utilized by non-motorized recreationist.

In Ely and White Pine County's adopted CEDS document, recreation economy was identified as the top priority for economic growth and prosperity. Ely has a great existing recreation infrastructure and through expansion will position itself as a top destination in the west to live, work, and play. White Pine County Tourism and Recreation Board has a strong commitment in providing resources to our recreation partners. We support through our grant program which awards local non-profits \$100,000 to recreation projects annually. Those awards come with volunteer time support and in-kind marketing services.

Our local trails user group, Great Basin Trails Alliance, has spent multiple years, volunteer hours and resources working with the USFS Ely District to design and map this sustainable, destination quality trail system on Ward Mountain. GBTA and their volunteers are an asset to our community as they provide the man-power needed to maintain existing and future trails.

This trail system not only will provide recreation opportunities but also economic ones as the focus is to utilize downtown Ely as a trail head that would allow users to start and finish their rides in the center of economic activity and allow for businesses to develop around recreation goods and services. The City of Ely, White Pine County, White Pine Main Street, and The Ely Shoshone Tribe are additional partners in moving the recreation economy forward. We recognize the future of our community and economy is around trails.

We are extremely appreciative of the work that The US Forest Service Ely District has done in the past and look forward to their continued assistance in maintaining our large and diverse trail system.

Sincerely,

Kyle Horvath, Director  
White Pine County Tourism and Recreation

August 14, 2020

United State Forest Service

Jose' Noriega District Ranger- Humbolt National Forest

RE: Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act Grant

The Great Basin Trails Alliance would like to officially voice our whole-hearted support for the Humbolt National Forest Service SNPLMA grant application for building more mountain biking trails on Ward Mountain for White Pine County.

We have been working as a non-profit trails alliance for 15 years to build and promote mountain bike trail useage in the Ely area and through fund raising and smaller|grant applications, and countless hours of volunteer work have created and expanded a nice little network of trails in the hopes of bringing more mountain biker tourists to the area and creating a world class riding destination. With this goal in mind we have also developed in conjunction with the Forest Service and Terra Firma Trails LLC a 5-year plan to expand the trails system in this area with an additional 40-50 miles of new or rerouted trails. This SNPLMA grant would, if awarded, go a long way in funding this dream.

It is our intention to be fully involved in the development of this plan and have the community backing and volunteer organization in place to see it through.

Sincerely,

Kelly Ernest President Great Basin Trails Alliance

Kent Robertson Treasurer Great Basin Trails Alliance

August 20, 2020

Dear Jose,

I am writing to you on behalf of Sportsworld. We feel that the proposed Mountain Bike Trail Expansion project would be a positive thing for our community as we do have a lot of mountain bikers that do come to White Pine County to ride our mountain bike trails. Any improvement is a positive thing and a step forward for our community.

We are very much in favor of the proposal.

Ramona Maestes

Manager

Sportsworld

1500 Aultman Street

Ely, Nevada 89301

775-289-8886



Jose Noriega, District Ranger  
US Forest Service Ely District  
825 Avenue E  
Ely, Nevada 89301

August 10, 2020

Dear Mr. Noriega,

The White Pine Composite Mountain Bike Team fully supports the US Forest Service's SNPLMA proposal for new trail construction and maintenance on Ward Mountain. The team is a non-school affiliated mountain biking team comprised of student-athletes in grades 6-12. The team competes in the Nevada North League, a league of the National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA).

Our team has been exclusively practicing on the Ward Mountain trail system. It is currently the only trail network within 10 minutes of Ely and makes it the ideal location for team practices. Expanding this trail network will provide additional routes and distances for the students to perfect their mountain bike skills. The new trails will encourage White Pine County youth to stay active and healthy with a fun team sport that they can enjoy far beyond high school.

The White Pine Composite Mountain Bike Team looks forward to utilizing the new trail system in the future for team practices.

Sincerely,

Robert (Buzz) Rosevear, Head Coach  
White Pine Composite Mountain Bike Team