

Round 19 Preliminary Recommendation

Expenditure of the Special Account for the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act

May 16, 2022

INTRODUCTION

The Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998, (SNPLMA, Public Law 105-263, as amended) authorizes specific uses for revenues from the sale of public lands identified for disposal in the Las Vegas Valley. SNPLMA created an account with the United States Department of the Treasury (SNPLMA Special Account) into which 85 percent of the revenue generated by eligible land sales are deposited. SNPLMA authorizes the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) to expend the revenue in the SNPLMA Special Account for projects that fall into expenditure categories, which are the subject of this recommendation. Under SNPLMA, the remaining 15 percent of revenue is distributed to the State of Nevada's general education program (5 percent) and to the Southern Nevada Water Authority (10 percent) for water treatment and transmission facility infrastructure in Clark County, Nevada.

SNPLMA and subsequent amendments authorize the Secretary to expend without further appropriation, amounts deposited in the SNPLMA Special Account for the following purposes:

- Acquisition of environmentally sensitive lands and interests in land in Nevada, with priority given to lands within Clark County;
- Capital Improvements at the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, the Great Basin National Park, and other areas administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the United States Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) in Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties, and the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area;
- Development and implementation of a multi-species habitat conservation plan (MSHCP) in Clark County, Nevada;
- Development of parks, trails, and natural areas (PTNA) in Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties in Nevada, and Carson City, Nevada (subject to a limitation that PTNA projects must be adjacent to the Carson River or within 100-year floodplain of the Carson River), pursuant to a cooperative agreement with units of local government or regional governmental entities;
- Conservation Initiatives on federal land in Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine Counties, Nevada, and Carson City, Nevada (subject to the limitation that the land must be adjacent to the Carson River or within the 100-year floodplain of the Carson River) administered by the Department of the Interior or the Department of Agriculture;
- Environmental Improvement Program projects pursuant to the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act (LTRA, Public Law 106-506) which authorized funding up to \$300 million for environmental improvement program projects;
- Development and implementation of multi-jurisdictional hazardous fuels reduction and wildfire prevention plans (Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention) for the Lake Tahoe Basin, the Carson Range in Douglas and Washoe Counties and Carson City, and the Spring Mountains in Nevada;

- Implementation of the Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project (ENLRP) in White Pine and Lincoln Counties; and
- Reimbursement of certain implementation costs.

The Secretary has charged the BLM with implementation of SNPLMA. The BLM, in collaboration with the National Park Service (NPS), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), FS, the State of Nevada, and affected local governments throughout the states of Nevada and California, has developed a funding recommendation process that identifies projects in eight expenditure categories. The *SNPLMA Implementation Agreement* (November 20, 2018) documents this process.

BACKGROUND

The Preliminary Recommendation is an interim product in the process of identifying and selecting projects for funding in seven of the eight categories: Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisitions; Capital Improvements; MSHCP; PTNA; Conservation Initiatives; ENLRP; and Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention.¹ The list of projects was generated from a call for nominations that was open from September 7, through November 5, 2021. Fifty-five (55) projects across seven categories were received for a total requested amount of \$414,105,906.

The Subgroup for each expenditure category, except the MSHCP category, reviewed, scored, and ranked the nominations according to criteria approved by the SNPLMA Executive Committee (EC) for use during the round between February 2 and February 11, 2022. Subgroups consist of representatives from the eligible entities for each category.

Clark County is the official nominating entity for SNPLMA funds in the MSHCP category. Clark County reviews MSHCP nominations under a separate evaluation and consultation process. The process includes working collaboratively with the FWS and its Permittees of the “Multiple Species Incidental Take Permit.” Following a public comment period, MSHCP nominations are prioritized and forwarded by the Clark County Board of County Commissioners for submittal to the SNPLMA Division for funding consideration.

Subgroup and Clark County MSHCP recommendations were forwarded to the Partners Working Group (PWG) for consideration in developing this Preliminary Recommendation. The PWG includes representatives from BLM, NPS, FWS, BOR, FS, State of Nevada, local governments, and the Nevada Association of Counties. The Preliminary Recommendation includes a proposed budget and a list of projects for each of the seven expenditure categories in the appendix. The projects outlined within the appendix table are listed in the priority order ranked by the Subgroups. The appendix table also indicates which projects the PWG is recommending or not recommending for funding as indicated in the appendix table.

¹ The funding commitment of \$300 million (P.L. 106-506 and P.L. 108-108) for the eighth category, restoration projects at Lake Tahoe, was met in full in Round 12 of approved Lake Tahoe Restoration Projects. Funds authorized for primary projects, which are not needed to complete the project, may fund any project on a list of secondary projects approved for funding.

Round 19 SNPLMA Executive Committee Direction

The EC provided direction that was incorporated into the Round 19 call for nominations. This direction included:

- Nominations for SNPLMA Round 19 funding were limited to three per eligible agency/entity per category (except in the Hazardous Fuels category, where entities were limited to three per eligible agency/entity per legislative area (Lake Tahoe Basin, Carson Range in Douglas and Washoe Counties and Carson City, and the Spring Mountains in Nevada). Other direction includes nominations being limited to the best value option for a viable project and a desire to see projects that leave a legacy on the landscape.
- The EC emphasized that the SNPLMA Strategic Plan² is the guiding document for all nominations in Round 19. The EC has identified three values on which to focus SNPLMA implementation: sustainability, connectivity, and community.
 - The above three values are addressed through two Goals in the Strategic Plan:
 - Goal 1: Sustain the quality of the outdoor environment by conserving, preserving, and restoring natural, cultural, and historical resources.
 - 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.
- Past performance is another factor considered in the decision for funding recommendations. To be qualified to have projects recommended for Round 19 funding in a category, an entity may only have 1 project with a red level of concern³ on the *Focus Projects for Closeout* list (“Focus List”) or have less than or equal to 10 percent of active⁴ projects in such status (with the exception of those in litigation or those experiencing a recent natural disaster).

PWG RECOMMENDATIONS

The PWG recommends expenditures of \$326,682,875 across the seven eligible funding categories, plus \$15 million for a Special Account Reserve (SAR), for a total Round 19 Preliminary Recommendation of \$341,682,875. In developing its recommendation, the PWG considered the Subgroups’ recommendations as well as the previously mentioned EC direction and the following specific PWG direction from the EC.

² The *SNPLMA Strategic Plan* was signed by EC members on November 19, 2019, and is available on the SNPLMA website at <https://www.blm.gov/snplma>.

³ The Focus List is a subset of the *Projects of Concern* (POC) list that identifies projects with a color designation of green, yellow, orange, or red to indicate increasing levels of concern regarding the ability to complete the project as nominated, on time, and/or within budget.

⁴ Active projects are those that have not yet been completed and closed out financially or terminated.

- The EC believes it is important to fund the best projects. This means that the PWG may recommend categories receive little or no funding and may not recommend projects for all eligible entities within a category. This includes taking advantage of high value, time-sensitive land acquisition opportunities when they arise. The PWG may consider high value land acquisition opportunities even if it means limiting funding for other projects in a round. Land is considered to be high value when its acquisition will accomplish the preservation of natural, scientific, aesthetic, historical, cultural, watershed, wildlife and other values contributing to the public enjoyment and biological diversity; enhance recreational opportunities and public access and when those values are at risk of being lost to development. High value acquisition of land or interest in land can be submitted under three categories: Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisitions, PTNA, and MSHCP.
- The EC asked the PWG to consider a funding recommendation for the round that would allow for reliable and predicable funding levels based on out-year revenue projections for future rounds through 2032.

ROUND 19 PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATION

The following table shows the Preliminary Recommendation by category. In addition, detailed tables of nominated projects for each category can be found in the appendix. Projects not approved and /or fully funded as part of Round 19 may be nominated again, in full or in part, in a subsequent round at the discretion of the nominating entity.

ROUND 19 PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATION BUDGET

EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATION
Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisition	\$4,930,923
Capital Improvements	\$63,396,740
Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan	\$3,501,521
Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas	\$219,774,535
Conservation Initiatives	\$5,557,046
Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project	\$12,066,350
Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention	\$17,455,760
All Categories Total	\$326,682,875
Special Account Reserve	\$15,000,000
Total Round 19 Budget Recommendation	\$341,682,875

Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisitions

Two project nominations were received in the Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisition expenditure category totaling \$4,930,923. Both nominations are for a fee acquisition. The Subgroup recommended funding both projects. Between the Subgroup meeting and the PWG Preliminary Recommendation, the BLM nomination *Smoke Creek Ranch Acquisition* received funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for the acquisition. The BLM subsequently reduced the amount of their SNPLMA Round 19 request to cover only unexpected costs for processing and higher than expected value from a federally approved appraisal. The PWG considered this additional information and request, however, they decided to recommend the full amount for the *Smoke Creek Ranch Acquisition* should the LWCF funding fall through or to cover unexpected costs. If the funding from SNPLMA Round 19 is not needed the project will be terminated and funding returned to the SNPLMA Special Account.

The PWG preliminary recommendation for the Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisition category is to fund two projects for a total of \$4,930,923. A detailed table of all projects nominated in this category can be found in the appendix.

Capital Improvements

Fourteen (14) project nominations were received in the Capital Improvements expenditure category totaling \$129,577,399. The Capital Improvements Subgroup reviewed, scored, and ranked all projects and forwarded them to the PWG for consideration. The Subgroup recommended funding the first through third, and the fifth through eighth ranked projects, for a total of seven nominations.

The BLM agreed to suspend funding the fourth ranked project (*Red Rock Campground Construction*) because a water study for the campground expansion, which is critical for informing options for the expansion, is not complete.

The PWG preliminary recommendation for the Capital Improvement category is to fund the Subgroup recommended funding amount of \$63,396,740. A detailed table of all projects nominated in this category, sorted by recommended and not recommended for funding, can be found in the appendix.

Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP)

Three project nominations were received from Clark County for the MSHCP expenditure category totaling \$3,501,521. The MSHCP category ranking process is managed by Clark County. The process Clark County follows was briefly described above, in the background section of this document, and is outlined in detail in the *SNPLMA Implementation Agreement*.

The PWG preliminary recommendation is to fund all three of the Clark County projects for a total of \$3,501,521. A detailed table of all projects nominated in this category can be found in the appendix.

Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas (PTNA)

Twenty (20) project nominations were received in the PTNA expenditure category for a total of \$238,730,054. The PTNA Subgroup reviewed, scored, and ranked all projects and forwarded

them to the PWG for consideration. The Subgroup's recommendation used the ranking results balanced with the nominating entities "best of the best" project proposals and needs of the different communities (both rural and urban) throughout the state. This resulted in the Subgroup recommending funding for the top 13 ranked projects. The Subgroup also recommended that the PWG consider two additional projects if sufficient funding was available to include them in this round. The two additional projects included the fifteenth-ranked, *Warm Springs Acquisition and Improvements*, which will provide funding to acquire environmentally sensitive land and protect critical habitat for threatened and endangered species; and the sixteenth-ranked, *Alamo Sports Complex*, which will provide recreation opportunities and amenities to an underserved rural area in Nevada.

The PWG preliminary recommendation for the PTNA category is to fund nominations ranked one through thirteen. Additionally, the PWG recommends funding the fifteenth ranked nomination for a category total of \$219,774,535. A detailed table of all projects nominated in this category, sorted by recommended and not recommended for funding, can be found in the appendix.

Conservation Initiatives

Six (6) project nominations were received in the Conservation Initiatives expenditure category totaling \$7,870,899. The Conservation Initiatives Subgroup reviewed, scored, and ranked all projects and forwarded them to the PWG for consideration. The Subgroup recommended the top three ranked projects for funding.

The PWG preliminary recommendation for the Conservation Initiatives category is to fund the top four Subgroup ranked projects for a total of \$5,557,046. The PWG acknowledges that the fourth ranked project, *Youth Engagement in Natural Resource Management*, is a priority initiative for the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture and will help cultivate youth interest in land management careers. A detailed table of all projects nominated in this category, sorted by recommended and not recommended for funding, can be found in the appendix.

Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project (ENLRP)

Four (4) project nominations were received in the ENLRP expenditure category totaling \$12,066,350. The ENLRP Subgroup reviewed, scored, and ranked all projects and forwarded them to the PWG for consideration. The Subgroup recommended funding all four projects.

The PWG preliminary recommendation for the ENLRP category is to fund all four Subgroup recommended projects for a total of \$12,066,350. In addition to restoring native vegetation communities across the Great Basin landscape, the PWG recognizes that this category also accomplishes hazardous fuels reduction through the proposed restoration projects. A detailed table of all projects nominated in this category can be found in the appendix.

Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention

Six (6) project nominations were received in the Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention expenditure category totaling \$17,455,760. The Subgroup reviewed, scored, and ranked all six projects and forwarded them to the PWG for consideration. The Subgroup recommended funding all six projects.

The PWG preliminary recommendation for the Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention category is to fund all six Subgroup recommended projects for \$17,455,760. A detailed table of all projects nominated in this category can be found in the appendix.

ROUND 19 PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATION BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Environmentally Sensitive Lands:** The “anticipated cost” for land acquisitions reflects the owner’s asking price, which has been determined to be reasonable based on market evidence, plus estimated costs for other allowable expenses such as appraisals and case management but does not reflect the actual value of any property or the actual price to be paid for any property. The actual purchase price will be based on the appraised fair market value determined by a federally obtained and/or reviewed and approved appraisal.
- **Capital Improvements:** There is a statutory expenditure limitation for Capital Improvements of 25 percent of the amounts available to the Secretary from the fiscal year (determined without taking into account amounts deposited as a result of lands that are sold, leased, or otherwise conveyed per Airport Environs Overlay District Land Transfer). The Round 19 recommended projects are projected to be less than the fiscal year spending cap (currently approximately \$89 million) before the Secretary issues a decision. Up-to-date figures will be provided to the Secretary before a decision is made to ensure compliance with the limitation on this category.
- **Conservation Initiatives:** There is a statutory expenditure limitation for Conservation Initiatives of 10 percent of available funds since inception of the SNPLMA. The cost of already approved projects plus the Round 19 recommended projects are less than this spending cap.
- **Special Account Reserve (SAR):** The PWG recommends that the overall budget request for Round 19 include a provision for a \$15 million SAR to cover higher than expected costs for approved projects. This is consistent with the recommendation in previous rounds to allow a reserve fund to be spent at the discretion of the EC as described in the *SNPLMA Implementation Agreement*.

APPENDIX

**PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATION TABLE
FOR:
ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LAND ACQUISITIONS
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS
MULTI-SPECIES HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN
PARKS, TRAILS, AND NATURAL AREAS
CONSERVATION INITIATIVES
EASTERN NEVADA LANDSCAPE RESTORATION PROJECT
HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION AND WILDFIRE
PREVENTION**

**Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (SNPLMA, Public Law 105-263)
Round 19 Preliminary Recommendation - Projects Recommended for Funding**

The following is a prioritized list of project nominations that have been received and reviewed for possible funding under Round 19 of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act. The purpose of releasing this list is to obtain input from interested parties on recommended and not recommended project nominations. Beginning May 16, 2022, the BLM is accepting written comments on any nomination until close of business (4:30 PM Pacific Time) on June 29, 2022. Comments should be emailed to snplma@blm.gov or mailed to:

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

The SNPLMA Executive Committee will meet following the comment period to review comments received and 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 at (702) 515-5116.

Priority Ranking	Project Title	Requesting Entity	Amount Recommended	Amount NOT Recommended
Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisition Nominations				
1	Genoa Peak Land Acquisition	USDA FS	\$2,776,013	
2	Smoke Creek Ranch Acquisition	BLM	\$2,154,910	
Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisition Nominations Total:			\$4,930,923	
Capital Improvements Nominations				
1	Crystal Springs Outflow	FWS	\$12,353,195	
2	Red Rock Canyon Legacy Trail Phase II	BLM	\$35,108,605	
3	Lehman Caves Electrical System Phase II	NPS	\$5,846,630	
4	Red Rock Canyon Campground Expansion	BLM		\$15,393,085
5	Mount Moriah Trails Reconstruction	USDA FS	\$1,978,180	
6	Kalamazoo Campground Reconstruction	USDA FS	\$1,158,980	
7	Hoover Dam Visitor Center Theaters Renovation	BOR	\$5,934,420	
8	Ranger OHV Trails Reconstruction	USDA FS	\$1,016,730	
9	Improve and Modernize Recreational Opportunities at Callville Bay	NPS		\$17,021,300
10	Colorado River Heritage Trail at Davis Dam	BOR		\$8,101,000
11	Strawberry Creek Recreation Site Improvements	NPS		\$3,421,350
12	Nevada Zone Fire Complex	FWS		\$8,596,499
13	Hoover Dam Water System Alternatives Analysis and Design	BOR		\$10,564,000
14	Red Rock Canyon Fiber Optic Line	BLM		\$3,083,425
Capital Improvements Nominations Total:			\$63,396,740	\$66,180,659

Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Program Nominations				
1	Fine-scale Vegetation Map of Clark County	Clark County	\$1,000,000	
2	Mark Recapture Surveys on Demography Plots	Clark County	\$888,000	
3	Muddy River Restoration Phase II	Clark County	\$1,613,521	
Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Program Nominations Total:			\$3,501,521	
Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Nominations				
1	Sloan Canyon Gateway Park	City of Henderson	\$4,468,859	
2	Carson River Trail System Phase IV - Riverview Trailhead	Carson City	\$2,310,000	
3	Bird Viewing Preserve Visitor Center	City of Henderson	\$9,293,492	
4	Russell Road Recreation Complex	City of Henderson	\$8,393,432	
5	Northern Beltway Trail - Phase II	City of North Las Vegas	\$2,072,495	
6	Craig Ranch Regional Park 20 Acre Expansion	City of North Las Vegas	\$24,624,985	
7	James Regional Park Softball Complex	Clark County	\$39,771,004	
8	Marich Fields Upgrade	White Pine County	\$9,584,890	
9	Broadbent Park Multi-Use Redesign	White Pine County	\$6,195,290	
10	Heritage Park Phase II - Recreation Center	White Pine County	\$27,215,940	
11	Hollywood Regional Park Multi-Use Fields	Clark County	\$28,289,900	
12	Children's Science and Nature Park	City of North Las Vegas	\$31,779,248	
13	Northwest Regional Park	City of Las Vegas	\$24,375,000	
14	Clark County Shooting Complex Improvements Phase IV	Clark County		\$7,435,471
15	Warm Springs Acquisition and Improvements	Southern Nevada Water Authority	\$1,400,000	
16	Alamo Sports Complex	Lincoln County		\$1,844,800
17	Lincoln County Fairgrounds Phase IV	Lincoln County		\$1,852,700
18	Lorenzi Park Tennis Addition	City of Las Vegas		\$3,248,968
19	Cragin Park Rehabilitation	City of Las Vegas		\$3,697,580
20	Alamo Annex Courtyard	Lincoln County		\$849,000
Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Nominations Total:			\$219,774,535	\$18,928,519

Conservation Initiatives Nominations				
1	Wildlife Water Development for Desert Bighorn Sheep Conservation	FWS	\$781,221	
2	Modernization of Groundwater Wells for Wildlife Refuge Habitat Conservation	FWS	\$1,441,426	
3	Improving Mountain Lion Management with Outreach, Inclusiveness, and Community Science	NPS	\$2,210,324	
4	Youth Engagement in Natural Resource Management	USDA FS	\$1,124,075	
5	Condor Canyon Habitat Restoration and Evaluation	BLM		\$934,253
6	Wild Horse and Burro Herd Monitoring and Enhancement	USDA FS		\$1,379,600
Conservation Initiatives Nominations Total:			\$5,557,046	\$2,313,853
Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project Nominations				
1	South Spring Valley and Hamlin Valley Watershed Restoration Implementation	BLM	\$3,072,000	
2	Illipah Watershed Restoration	USDA FS	\$3,396,395	
3	South Schells Restoration	USDA FS	\$4,867,255	
4	Ely District Noxious and Invasive Weeds Phase II	USDA FS	\$730,700	
Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project Nominations Total:			\$12,066,350	
Hazardous Fuels and Wildfire Prevention Nominations				
1	National Forest Resilience Corridors	USDA FS	\$7,715,630	
2	SMNRA Wildland Urban Interface Prescribed Fire and Noxious Weeds	USDA FS	\$1,548,250	
3	Tri County Fuels Reduction	USDA FS	\$1,028,790	
4	Mt Rose Fuels Reduction	USDA FS	\$2,011,740	
5	Lake Tahoe West Forest Restoration and Fuels Reduction	USDA FS	\$3,769,350	
6	Marlette Hazardous Fuels Reduction	State of Nevada	\$1,382,000	
Hazardous Fuels and Wildfire Prevention Nominations Total:			\$17,455,760	
All Categories Total:			\$326,682,875	\$87,423,031
Special Account Reserve:			\$15,000,000	
Round 19 Total Budget:			\$341,682,875	