

Southern Nevada District Office

Revised Draft Resource Management Plan: The BLM has determined that a Revised Draft RMP/EIS should be developed and an opportunity for public input is needed to gather additional information on the areas of renewable energy, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, lands with wilderness characteristics, land tenure adjustments (land disposals), and socio-economics. Public comment for a Revised Draft Southern Nevada District Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement runs to February 2, 2018. During this period, the BLM will conduct public meetings to present information and provide for the opportunity for public input. The Revised Draft RMP/EIS will incorporate substantive comments received from the initial Draft RMP/EIS and information received from the public input period and meetings.

Public meetings are scheduled as follows:

- January 9, 2018 – Old Overton Gym, 179 S Andersen St, Overton, Nevada 89040
- January 10, 2018 – Mesquite City Council Chambers, 10 E Mesquite Blvd, Mesquite, Nevada 89027
- January 11, 2018 – Santa Fe Station Hotel & Casino, 4949 N Rancho Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89130
- January 16, 2018 – Pahrump Nugget Hotel and Casino, 681 S Hwy 160, Pahrump, Nevada 89048
- January 17, 2018 – Heritage Park Senior Facility, 300 S. Racetrack Road, Henderson, Nevada 89015
- January 18, 2018 – Searchlight Community Center, 200 Michael Wendell Way, Searchlight, Nevada 89046

In addition to the public meetings, public comments will be accepted through one of the methods listed below:

- E-mail: sndo_rmp_revision@blm.gov
- Fax: (702) 515-5023
- Mail: BLM Southern Nevada District Office, Southern Nevada District RMP Revision, 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130

January 24 SNPLMA Land Sale: 40 parcels totaling 754.88 acres of public land in Clark County, Nevada will be offered for sale January 24 at City of Henderson Council Chambers, 240 Water Street, Henderson, Nevada 89009 at 10 a.m. The competitive sale would be by sealed and oral bidding in accordance with the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA).

Twenty-eight of the parcels are located in the northwest part of the valley near Highway 95 and Interstate 215. Nine are in the southwest part of the valley south of I-215 and west of I-15. Two are in the northeast part of the valley west of I-15 and south of I-215. One is on the north side of I-215 and east of I-15.

Herbicide treatment began in on public lands burned in 2005/2006: – On October 2, the next step in one of the largest efforts to restore burned areas in the Mojave Desert commenced as herbicide treatments began on four areas of public lands burned in 2005/2006 that have recovered poorly. About 100 acres in each of the following burned areas were treated with Imazapic: Goodsprings Fire (three miles NW of Goodsprings); Loop Fire (Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area), Halfway Fire (14 miles NW of Mesquite, in Lincoln County) and Tramp Fire (in the southern part of Gold Butte National Monument). Application was done by fixed-wing aircraft except in Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, which will be treated by hand.

Hundreds of small (2.5 acre) islands of vegetation are being established to help recolonize large burned areas from the 2005/2006 wildfire seasons. Half of these vegetation islands were pre-treated with herbicide to help reduce the competition from invasive grasses and to reduce the risk of wildfire. The other half of the vegetation islands were not receive herbicide in order to assess whether herbicide treatments are effective enough to warrant use in future treatments of this nature.

A combination of established and new restoration techniques are being used to restore vegetation islands including sowing native seeds, growing seedlings in a greenhouse and planting seedlings and growing seedlings under different conditions to test their ability to survive. The U.S. Geological Survey is providing scientific expertise for this effort.

Southern Nevada Fire Restrictions Lifted September 22: Wildland fire officials lifted seasonal fire restrictions on public lands in Southern Nevada managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, Nevada Division of Forestry and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on September 22, 2017.

Spring Mountains National Recreation Area (SMNRA) fire officials have lifted summer fire restrictions, so the area has returned to year-round fire restrictions. While the SMNRA is in year-round fire restrictions, no campfires are allowed within one mile of homes in Kyle Canyon, Lee Canyons, Cold Creek, Mountain Springs, Trout Canyon, Lovell Canyon, and Coal Springs. Signs are posted in these areas to remind the public of this restriction.

Wildland Firefighters Hosting Recruitment Session: On December 6, firefighters from Bureau of Land Management, Mt. Charleston Fire Protection District, National Park Service, Nevada Division of Forestry, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Forest Service are hosted an open house on December 6 to spur interest in wildland firefighting and help potential job candidates navigate the hiring process. The application period for seasonal fire hiring began November 28, 2017 and continues until March 28, 2018. However, applications must be submitted by January 9, 2018 for early consideration.

September 18 SNPLMA Land Sale: The Bureau of Land Management sold 63.75 acres in 13 parcels for \$15,397,200 during a competitive public land sale August 3, 2017. The agency offered 81.25 acres, in 17 parcels, under the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act. Parcels offered for sale varied in size from 1.25 to 17.5 acres and were located in the Las Vegas Valley.

DOI Snapchat Takeover: In late September, SNDO took over the Department of Interior's Snapchat to showcase National Public Lands Day at Logandale Trails System. Snapchat is viewed mostly by 18-24 year-olds, is very informal in nature and only stays online 24 hours. Some of the 19 snaps that made up the day were viewed by 2,000 people.

Vegas Valley Veteran Crew Day: The City Council of Las Vegas proclaimed November 15, 2017, as Vegas Valley Veteran Fire Crew Day during a ceremony at the city council meeting. The proclamation was in recognition of the hard work performed by the members of the Bureau of Land Management's Vegas Valley Hand Crew.

The Vegas Valley Hand Crew was formed in in 2012 and is based at the Red Rock Fire Station. The 20-person crew is comprised of almost all military veterans and is available to respond to wildfire and all-risk incidents throughout the country from May-October every year. The crew was involved in the fighting of 16 different wildland fires in several Western states this past fire season.

Hafen Fire Restoration: In November, 23 volunteers lent a hand to help restore public land that was burned by an arson-caused wildland fire in Mesquite in July. The Hafen Fire burned 13.4 acres.

Volunteers from Partners in Conservation, Future Farmers of America and other students from Mesquite high school, Kokopelli ATV club joined staffers from BLM's Southern Nevada District and Arizona Strip District Office and National Park Service and Great Basin Institute planted 300 alkali sacaton (a native perennial bunchgrass) on the burned area.

The Hafen Fire required a Burned Area Emergency Response to prevent further damage as the site is listed as critical habitat for Southwestern willow fly catcher and yellow-billed cuckoo. Two endangered fish species (Virgin River chub and woundfin) occur in the Virgin River just downstream from the fire location. In the future, we will be planting willows, mesquite, cottonwood and ash on this site.

Las Vegas Field Office

Logandale Trails Ribbon Cutting: On October 24, BLM joined Partners and State of Nevada to celebrate the ribbon cutting for two trailhead restrooms at Logandale Trails. Partners in Conservation was awarded the very first grant from the Nevada OHV Commission to improve recreational facilities for replacement of the main trailhead restroom. Partners in Conservation also secured funding to replace the second restroom through a grant from the RecTrails Program, administered through Nevada State Parks.

Hump-N-Pump Special Recreation Permit: On November 3, participants at the 36th annual Hump-N-Bump event at Logandale Trails had an amazing time. About 200 riders were registered to enjoy 12 trails within Logandale Trail's 45,000 acres managed by BLM, Bureau of Reclamation and the State of Nevada. This two-day event offers trails for drivers of all skill levels and vehicles from stock SUVs to extreme rock crawlers.

Triple Dare Running Special Recreation Permit: On November 18 at Logandale Trails, Triple Dare Running hosted six races. Almost 180 people registered for race distances that included a 5K, 10K, half marathon, full marathon and ultra-marathon.

Rage at the River Special Recreation Permit: On December 9 and 10 near Laughlin, 390 vehicles participated at SNORE's Rage at the River OHV race. Between 5,000 and 10,000 spectators enjoyed watching seven heats of races along the 14 mile course located on BLM and Bureau of Reclamation managed public land.

SWITCH ribbon cutting: On December 11, a spectacular event was held at Switch Station solar project in the Apex area about 10 miles north of the Las Vegas Valley. This dedication event celebrated the great example of the Federal government and private industry collaborating on improving our nation's energy independence. Speakers highlighted key information including that the project contains two million panels which is enough glass to cover 275 football fields, that SWITCH wants to power its data centers with 100 percent renewable, that the State of Nevada is glad to see public lands for used for responsible development and that Clark County cites the project as a great use of public land with long terms benefits for all of us.

Fun facts: these are the first operational renewable energy plants constructed within a Solar Energy Zone on BLM managed public land and at peak construction there were approximately 1,400 people employed.

Trunk or Treat: Southern Nevada District Supervisory Law Enforcement Officers Brad Sones and David Stolts, and K-9 Vico, participated in a "Trunk or Treat" event at Rex Bell Elementary School in Las Vegas. The Halloween season event on October 26 involved children from the school meeting local police officers and first responders.

Pahrump Field Office

Johnnie Burro Gather: The Bureau of Land Management concluded a wild burro bait and water gather northwest of the town Pahrump on December, 28, 2017. The BLM gathered 117 wild burros. The gather took place on private land near the Johnnie Herd Management Area in response to concerns of public safety. The burros were crossing Nevada State Route 160 and travelling into the northwest portion of Pahrump, where they had entered private properties and caused damage to fencing, water lines, and vegetation. Several burros had also been hit by vehicles along the highway. The wild burros gathered were transported to the Ridgecrest Regional Wild Horse and Burro Corrals in Ridgecrest, Calif., where they will be checked by a veterinarian and readied for the BLM's wild horse and burro adoption program.

Pahrump Nugget 250 Special Recreation Permit: In early December, perfect fall weather was in store for about 5,000 spectators and support crew as they watched the Best in the Desert Pahrump Nugget 250 OHV race. Almost 120 racers participated in the 250 mile truck and buggy race that took place on both public and private land. The Pahrump Nugget 250 started in Johnnie, went around Beatty and finished at the Pahrump Nugget. Fun fact: from the late 1990s to the mid 2000s, this race was called the Terrible Town 250. Last year Best in the Desert brought it back and renamed it the Pahrump Nugget 250.

Red Rock/Sloan Field Office

Amenity fees increase at Red Rock Canyon on February 20: On February 20, 2018, amenity fees for the 13-mile scenic drive and the campground at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area will increase to support a growing number of visitors to the area, and to improve service to the public. A large section of the National Conservation Area will still be accessible for hiking, and other recreational activities, free of charge. The BLM is committed to keeping public landscapes healthy and productive. The core basis of an amenity fees adjustment is to ensure the Bureau of Land Management meets its preservation, recreation, public enjoyment and visitor experience management goals identified in the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision. The fee increase will put prices at \$15 for cars, \$10 for motorcycles, \$5 for bicycles and pedestrians, \$20 for individual campsites, \$10 for walk-in campsites and \$60 for group campsites. The fee for a Red Rock Canyon Annual Support Pass will not increase and remain at \$30 per year. The standard amenity fee charged at the 13-Mile Scenic Drive has not increased since 2011. Since that time, BLM has added numerous amenities, activities and services to improve visitor experiences. The BLM held public meetings on a proposed fee increase in September, and solicited public input for 30 days starting the end of August.

BLM hosts ribbon cutting at Red Rock Canyon Scenic Drive: On October 11, the Bureau of Land Management Southern Nevada District hosted a ribbon cutting marking the completion of construction and improvements to the 13-mile Scenic Drive and parking areas at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. The two-phase improvement project included construction of two award-winning bridges over low water crossings, a flood warning system, pulverization and paving of the 13-mile Scenic Drive, and expansion and improvements to parking lots -- increasing parking spaces by more than 200 and replacing/adding restrooms. The \$12.4 million project was made possible by a grant from the Federal Highway Administration.

Wildland Fire Restoration: In November, an interagency team started a project to restore patches of native vegetation where recovery has been slow from the 2005/2006 wildfires in the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. The team consists of about 30 people from agencies including the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Geological Survey, National Park Service, Great Basin Institute and Nevada Conservation Corps.

This phase of the project entails planting approximately 5,000 Joshua tree, creosote bush and white bursage seedlings in the Scenic Fire restoration area. The seedlings were grown at *Lake Mead National Recreation Area's Song Dog Nursery* from locally collected seeds. Four Nevada Conservation Corps crews will work in conjunction with BLM Restoration staff, Great Basin Institute research associates, BLM Fire personnel, and USGS researchers to plant the seedlings.

USGS research staff will also measure plant survival and compare two types of plantings (potted seedlings and bare root seedlings) to two different types of seeding methods and herbicide/non-herbicide use. This is part of the largest desert tortoise habitat restoration project attempted so far in the Mojave Desert, so there is careful assessment of each of the methods used to see which will be most effective and affordable for future efforts.

Make a Difference Day: Nearly 70 people participated in a Make a Difference Day event at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area October 29. Volunteers from Friends of Red Rock Canyon, National Outdoor Leadership School and Wynn Resorts joined with employees from the Southern Nevada District on improvement projects at the Red Rock Canyon Campground. Projects included replacing campsite markers, restoration of vegetation, group campsite improvements and campsite pad repairs.