

Southern Nevada District Office

Drivers asked to closely watch for wild horses, burros during low visibility - The BLM Southern Nevada District Office asked motorists to be careful of wild horses and burros along our roadways, at the end of Daylight Saving Time because it brings earlier darkness and lower visibility to Southern Nevada. In the past, several wild horses and burros have been hit and killed, or sustained injuries leading to euthanization. The animals can wander onto the road creating a safety hazard to themselves and for motorists. These areas include State Route 159, State Route 160, and Lee, Kyle, and Cold Creek roads. Feeding and interacting with the wild horses and burros makes them lose aspects of their wild character and they begin to associate vehicles with food. It is illegal to feed, pet or otherwise harass a wild horse or burro. Individuals will be cited for those activities and the citations carry a fine. Numbers of animals hit by cars varies by year; however, two burros were struck and killed in the past month south of Pahrump on State Route 160.

Southern Nevada Fire Restrictions Lifted September 30 - 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 30.

BLM Attends State of Addresses – Southern Nevada District Office's annual attendance at "State of" addresses provides a fantastic opportunity to meet and greet community leaders and hear first-hand how public lands intersect with local community goals. This year, BLM attended addresses for the cities of Henderson, Las Vegas, North Las Vegas and Mesquite as well as the Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance.

Moapa Prescribed Fire - After rescheduling twice to ensure safe conditions for the prescribed fire, Southern Nevada District Office firefighters were able to begin the Muddy River Prescribed Fire on January 30. In 2013, the Bureau of Land Management began restoration efforts on 204 acres along the Muddy River, formally the Perkins Ranch which is located about 5.5 miles northwest of Moapa. During the restoration process, invasive tamarisk was cut down and stumps treated with herbicide to prevent the regrowth of tamarisk in the project area. Most of the cut vegetation was either chipped or hauled away. The remaining tamarisk that was not accessible by roads was piled so that it could be removed by prescribed fire. The prescribed fire was used to remove 250 piles of tamarisk in a 20-acre area. Twenty firefighters assisting with the prescribed fire, including two who worked overnight to ensure the prescribed fire was safely confined.

Get Outdoors Day - On October 15, more than 3,000 people gathered at one of Las Vegas' oldest city parks to celebrate Southern Nevada's great outdoors. The third annual Get Outdoors Nevada Day promoted Southern Nevada's recreation opportunities, from park and picnic fun to adrenaline filled activities. The Las Vegas Field Office staffed a where staff distributed information, answered questions and stamped booth passports. Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area also staffed the Friends of Sloan Canyon booth.

During a ceremony hosted by Outside Las Vegas, George Reyling, longtime steward of Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area was named Volunteer of the Year. Friends of Nevada Wilderness was named the Nonprofit Group of the Year. This is the third year BLM attended Get Outdoors Nevada Day and it was a special treat to have it at Lorenzi Park this year as SNPLMA provided approximately \$29 million to completely renovate the 60-acre park, one of the oldest and most heavily used city parks in the Las Vegas Valley. SNPLMA provides funding from the sale of public land within the Las Vegas Valley to construct and renovate public parks, trails and natural areas within the State of Nevada.

Boomtown 1905 Grand Opening – On February 2, BLM joined partners at the grand opening event for the Boomtown 1905 exhibit at the Las Vegas Springs Preserve. The Secretary of the Interior approved \$12.1 million funding contribution to Boomtown 1905 (a re-created historic streetscape that tells the story of Las Vegas from 1905 to 1920) under the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA). Funding was approved for walking trails, landscaping, interpretive materials, plant restoration and restoration of the historic structures. So far, SNPLMA has funded \$47.2 million in funding. A unique piece of legislation, the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act was enacted in 1998 and authorizes the sale of public lands within a designated boundary in the Las Vegas Valley. Land sales within this designated boundary require 85 percent of the proceeds from the sale of public lands to be deposited into the SNPLMA Special Account for use on projects to fund Federal, state, and local projects and conservation efforts, including the preservation of Lake Tahoe.

BLM Director Announces \$79 Million for Conservation and Recreation Projects - In December, former BLM Director Neil Kornze today announced a package of 30 conservation and recreation projects totaling nearly \$80 million in a ceremony at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. Funding for the projects was generated through the sale of public lands under the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA). The announcement of \$79 million in projects, in conjunction with \$30 million previously announced, brings the total SNPLMA funding this year to nearly \$109 million.

The 30 projects announced included \$1.5 million for the acquisition of land adjoining the Kiel Ranch Historic Park, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is one of the first settlement sites in the Las Vegas Valley. Funding will allow the City of North Las Vegas to more than double the existing park. The funding will also allow the restoration of Wheeler Peak Campground in Great Basin National Park. The 37-unit campground is one of the highest elevation developed campgrounds in the United States and was a point of national pride when it was originally constructed in the 1950s. The campsites will be fully restored, strengthening recreation opportunities in White Pine County. The funding also includes \$1.1 million for the continued development of the Caliente Mountain Bike System in Lincoln County. This project is a partnership between the BLM, the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners, the City of Caliente, Nevada Division of State Parks, the International Mountain Bicycling Association, and local partners. Funding will provide for the design and construction of 24 to 37 miles of new bike trails, a trailhead, and parking facilities.

Earlier this year at the 20th Annual Lake Tahoe Summit, Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management Janice Schneider announced nearly \$30 million in SNPLMA project funding. Those funds will be used for hazardous fuels and wildfire prevention projects for the Lake Tahoe region, to include the Carson Valley, to make Nevada's landscapes more resilient in the face of longer wildfire seasons and restore and enhance unique ecosystems across the state.

Las Vegas Field Office

Gold Butte National Monument and Public Information Forum- Gold Butte National Monument was designated through a Presidential Proclamation on December 28, 2016. The monument comprises approximately 300,000 acres and includes outstanding biological, cultural, and geological resources. BLM will develop a Gold Butte National Monument plan with assistance from the public and a diverse Advisory Committee. The Southern Nevada District hosted a public information forum, which was co-sponsored with Clark County, Virgin Valley Water District, and the City of Mesquite. After BLM delivered a short presentation to over 100 attendees, the meeting was opened up to questions from the public. Many questions related to the public's desire to access the routes that were designated in the travel management plan in 2008. BLM reassured the public that designated routes would continue to be open to the public.

Las Vegas Biologist Participate in Bat Blitz – In Fall 2016 wildlife biologists from the BLM Las Vegas Field Office, assisted the Nevada Division of Wildlife (NDOW) with their yearly Bat Blitz event. The Bat Blitz is a week-long project focused on increasing our understanding of local bat populations. This year's event was held in the High Rock region of the BLM Winnemucca District.

This year's effort included more than 20 participants from multiple agencies including BLM, NDOW, National Park Service, Nevada Natural Heritage Program and others. Trapping for bats was conducted via mist net stations established around water sources close to potential bat roosts. Trapping was conducted for four nights, Monday-Thursday, for four hours following sunset each evening. Hundreds of individual bats from nine different species were captured. Each animal was identified to species and measurements such as arm bone length and weight were recorded for each capture. This was the first time the Bat Blitz visited the High Rock district, providing invaluable insight into the bat species living in the area. The wildlife program in LVFO hopes to be able to perform bat surveys in our district in the future. This event will be acting as training for performing bat population surveys.

Customer Service Workshop Wows - On December 7, the Las Vegas Field Office held its seventh Customer Service Workshop. The workshop is an exceptional outreach to BLM customers and stakeholders that provides an overview of BLM's lands program to increase knowledge and provide updates on regulations, policies, directives, and processes. This year's workshop theme "Together We Achieve More" centered on customer values, satisfaction and trust, responsiveness, and effective project management.

More than 140 attendees that included representatives from state and local governments, utility companies and other interested parties enjoyed topics including Land Records Interpretation; Using LR2000 database research prior to filing; Rights-of-way (ROW) processing; ROW issuance; Recreation & Public Purpose (R&PP) leases; National Environmental Policy Act; Endangered Species, Tortoise, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Biological Assessments and Biological Opinions; Archeology, Native American Consultation, State Historic Preservation Office; Vegetation; Weeds; Restoration; and Mining and Mineral Material Uses.

Attendees were given helpful tools and tips to assist in a general understanding of BLM's administration of public lands, and to continue the good-working relationships with stakeholders and interested parties. BLM received many favorable comments from attendees for providing another successful and informative customer service workshop.

Las Vegas Valley Environmental Assessment to assist in speeding review times - The Las Vegas Field Office invited review and comment on the Las Vegas In-Valley Area Multi-Action Analysis Environmental Assessment (EA) late last year.

The Las Vegas Field Office manages federal public land parcels interspersed among private land in the Las Vegas metropolitan area. The BLM processes multiple land actions within these areas each year, including disposal of public lands out of federal ownership and land-use authorizations such as rights-of-way, Recreation and Public Purpose Act leases, mineral material disposal actions, various permits and licenses within the Las Vegas In-Valley area.

Because many of the actions occurring within the geographic boundaries of the Las Vegas In-Valley are similar in scope and intensity, it is redundant and inefficient to create individual National Environmental Policy Act documents for each individual action. Therefore, the Las Vegas In-Valley Area Multi-Action Analysis EA will provide for an expedited review process which will allow for decisions to be made on most rights-of-way, Recreation and Public Purpose Act leases, mineral material disposal actions, and various permits and licenses within the Las Vegas In-Valley area in the most efficient manner.

BLM Proposes to Sell 3.75 Acres in Clark County - The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Las Vegas Field Office, sought public comments on a proposal to sell one parcel, totaling 3.75 acres of public land in Clark County, Nevada. The non-competitive direct sale would be in accordance with the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA). A Notice of Realty Action published in today's *Federal Register* opens a 45-day comment period that will close February 10, 2017. The Tabernacle of Praise Church, Inc., a non-profit community church has requested to purchase the sale parcel at the fair market value of \$280,000 as determined by an appraisal. The sale parcel is located on the corner of Buffalo Drive and Constantinople Avenue between Alexander Avenue and Cheyenne Avenue in Clark County.

Partners team up to bring crucial upgrade to southern Nevada off-highway recreation area -
On January 26, a groundbreaking celebration for the new facilities at the Logandale Trails Main Trailhead was held.

Nestled just west of the rural communities of Overton and Logandale, the Logandale Trail System winds through some of southern Nevada's most stunning terrain. Since its development in the late 1980s, the trail system, located on BLM managed public lands, has grown in popularity with more than 200,000 visitors a year, and so too has the demand on its infrastructure.

The original main trailhead restrooms, funded through the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) in the early 1990s, have surpassed their 25-year life cycle and, with heavy use, are due for replacement. To fill this need, the rural non-profit group Partners in Conservation was awarded a grant from the Nevada Off-Highway Vehicle Commission's recently created grant program. This program, funded by off-highway registration fees, supports projects that improve recreational facilities.

A second set of restrooms will be replaced through a grant from the RTP, administered through the Nevada Division of State Parks. The RTP is a 25-year-old program that allocates a percentage of federal gas taxes to each state to use for motorized and non-motorized trails projects.

Partners that contribute to the success of the Logandale Trail System include the Nevada Off-Highway Vehicle Commission, Nevada Division of State Parks, the Bureau of Land Management, Partners In Conservation (PIC), Valley of Fire State Park, as well as volunteers from a number of local and regional organizations: Vegas Valley Four Wheelers, Moapa Valley Chamber of Commerce, Moapa Valley Rotary Club, Moapa Valley Revitalization Project, Dunes and Trails ATV Club, Mesquite Kokopelli ATV Club, Rjeeps, and many other organizations and businesses, especially local businesses.

Land Sale Success - On November 30, Southern Nevada District Office sold 135 acres in 12 parcels for \$24,903,000 during a competitive public land sale.

BLM offered 182.93 acres, in 16 parcels, under the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA). Parcels offered for sale varied in size from 1.25 to 37.5 acres and were located in the Las Vegas Valley.

Sales are a team effort; representatives from Las Vegas Field Office Lands Division, Southern Nevada District Office Support Services, Law Enforcement and Public Affairs, NOC IT and a professional auctioneer are on-site to ensure the process runs smoothly. Pre-sale appraisals are conducted by the Office of Valuation Services.

Pahrump Field Office

Best in the Desert Pahrump Nugget 250 - The Best in the Desert Racing Association held their annual vehicle race in southern Nye County in December 1-4, 2016. The Best in the Desert Pahrump Nugget 250, a 250-mile route between Pahrump and Beatty, occurred mostly on public lands managed by the Pahrump Field Office. The racing organization applied to the BLM in 2016 for a special recreation permit to hold an annual December vehicle race in southern Nye County for 5 years. BLM performed an environmental assessment and analyzed the impacts of one race annually over the next five years prior to approving the multi-year Special Recreation Permit. The annual race is expected to be held during the first Saturday in December and will include a guided 45 mph pre-run of the course in the week prior to the event each year. Additionally, there will usually be a time trials event on the Wednesday or Thursday of the event week each year. The time trials course will utilize a 3 – 5 mile loop on routes analyzed in the environmental assessment.

Right-of-Ways Processed and Granted - BLM processed, assessed, and granted several right-of-ways in Nye County including Nevada Bell Renewal, Nye County Roads: Cassada Way, Powerline Road, Anvil Road and Mecca Road.

Cold Creek Filly Adoption Success - The summer of 2015 was a rough season for the Cold Creek horses in the Wheeler Pass Herd Management Area and the Spring Mountains Wild Horse and Burro Territory. Extended drought conditions and herd numbers nearly six times the Acceptable Management Levels had taken its toll on the range. An emergency gather was conducted in late August/early September and one foal left behind by her band caught the eye of a local wild horse photographer. Volunteers then rushed her to Desert Pines Equine Medical and Surgical Center for emergency treatment. Now, 16 months after the gather and a year after her adoption, Aspen is almost unrecognizable. A sassy young lady, she is a perfect example of what cooperation can achieve between the BLM, volunteers, and adopters.

Wild Horse and Burro Stars at Red Rock - For the last few years, during October-May, there are two local celebrities that visit the Red Rock Canyon visitor center. On the third Saturday of these months, Jackson the Red Rock Burro and Carson the Mustang make an appearance along with several volunteers and their adopters to present themselves to the public. These appearances are utilized so that guests may have a hands on experience with their “living legends” in a safe and controlled environment and also so that they can be educated about the Wild Horse and Burro Program.

Red Rock/Sloan Field Office

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Fee Free for National Public Lands Day -

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), in conjunction with other agencies within the Department of the Interior, will waive amenity-related fees for Saturday, September 24. Red Rock Canyon features a LEED Gold visitor center, a scenic drive, miles of hiking and mountain biking trails, rock climbing, horseback riding, road biking, picnic areas and nature observing opportunities. Other fees, such as overnight camping and group day use, will remain in effect.

Sloan Canyon Visitor Contact Station Opens Daily Starting October 1 - The Sloan Canyon Visitor Contact Station will be open daily from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. starting October 1. The station has been open Fridays-Sundays since May. The Sloan Visitor Contact Station is located at the end of Nawghaw Poa Road near Henderson, Nevada. Sloan Canyon was designated as a National Conservation Area in 2002 and its 48,438 acres provide peace and solitude for those who visit the unique scenic and geologic features and extraordinary cultural resources. Surroundings can vary from lowland dry lake beds to volcanic rock peaks reaching more than 5,000 feet. The centerpiece of the area is the Sloan Canyon Petroglyph Site, one of the most significant cultural resources in Southern Nevada. Archaeologists believe the more than 300 rock art panels with 1,700 individual design elements were created by native cultures from the Archaic to historic era.

Heavy traffic expected at Red Rock Canyon Thanksgiving Weekend - During the Thanksgiving weekend, visitation at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area increases with the most congested time anticipated between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. Traffic may also be slowed by construction near the Calico I parking lot. To ensure a high-quality visitor experience and to allow access for emergency vehicles (if needed), the 13-Mile Scenic Drive may be temporarily closed during periods of high visitation. Road signs will be posted along State Route 159 if/when the Scenic Drive is closed. Visitors may call 702-515-5350 to check if the Scenic Drive is open. The Calico I parking area is closed and the travel lane is narrow in that area. Please use caution as the road is used by cars, bicycles and pedestrians.