

**Clark County Off-Cycle Land Acquisition  
Request  
Preliminary Recommendation**

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

**May 4, 2026**

## 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 Treasury 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 are eligible for nomination under a specific expenditure category identified in the act, which is 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 purpose:

- 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; including the purchase of lands
- Development of parks, trails, and natural areas (PTNA) in Clark, Lincoln, White Pine, and Churchill 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 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), USDA Forest Service (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 for the MSHCP category includes a single nomination, requesting a total of \$3,058,550. This nomination was submitted without a formal call for nominations, highlighting the flexibility Clark County has in administering MSHCP projects and enabling the county to address urgent land acquisition needs outside the regular SNPLMA funding cycle.

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

This request represents an off-cycle nomination for an MSHCP project, differing from the standard SNPLMA funding cycle. The unique process for the MSHCP category allows Clark County to undertake a distinct evaluation and consultation approach, ensuring conservation needs can be addressed as they arise.

### **SNPLMA Off-Cycle Land Acquisition Executive Committee Direction**

The Executive Committee (EC) has established the importance of flexibility in the nomination process for high-value land acquisitions under SNPLMA. In addition to the regular nomination cycles, the EC supports the opportunity to bring forward time-sensitive or uniquely impactful land acquisition proposals through an “off-cycle” process, ensuring urgent conservation needs are not missed due to schedule constraints.

Off-cycle nominations provide eligible agencies and entities, in this case Clark County, the ability to submit proposals for high-value land acquisitions whenever circumstances require swift intervention. These proposals should adhere to all general and category-specific requirements as outlined in the SNPLMA nomination process for Round 20, though a condensed process established specifically for off-cycle requests.

Also, the EC emphasized that the SNPLMA Strategic Plan<sup>1</sup> is the guiding document for assessing this nomination. 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.

### **Partners Working Group PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Partners Working Group (PWG) recommends an expenditure of \$3,058,550 for a one-time, off-cycle land acquisition in the MSHCP category by Clark County. This recommendation reflects the urgent need to secure high-value land, as identified by Clark County through the off-cycle nomination process, and aligns with the EC’s strategic direction for flexibility and impact. In forming this recommendation, the PWG considered input from Clark County, guidance from the EC, and the overarching priorities outlined in the SNPLMA Strategic Plan.

For the off-cycle land acquisition process, the PWG recommends focused expenditures targeting high-value, time-sensitive land acquisition opportunities as permitted under the SNPLMA off-cycle nomination framework. In developing its off-cycle recommendation, the PWG considered Clark County’s input, the EC’s strategic direction, and specific guidance regarding the urgent need for the acquisition. The EC emphasizes that the off-cycle process is intended to fund the most impactful land acquisitions—those that may not fit within regular funding cycles but present urgent opportunities to preserve land with significant natural, scientific, aesthetic, historical, cultural, watershed, and wildlife values. Such acquisitions should contribute to public enjoyment, biological diversity, recreational opportunities, and public access, especially when these values are threatened by imminent development.

The following table shows the Preliminary Recommendation.

#### **OFF-CYCLE PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATION FUNDING**

<b>EXPENDITURE CATEGORY</b>	<b>PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATION</b>
Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan	\$3,058,550

<sup>1</sup> 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>.