

**SNPLMA Executive Committee
Summary of Decisions and Actions
September 2 – 3, 2015**

The Executive Committee (EC) held the subject meeting to primarily focus on addressing a Final Recommendation to the Secretary of the Interior for Round 15 of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA). In making its recommendation, the EC received an update on the SNPLMA program that included general program funding trends; status of project completion for SNPLMA Rounds 1 through 14; future financial projections; Round 15 guidelines and public comment; the Partners Working Group's (PWG) Round 15 Preliminary Recommendation; and, a review of Round 15 project nominations by SNPLMA category.

In addition to the SNPLMA Round 15 Final Recommendation, the EC addressed:

- Status of Special Legislation-related packages in BLM's Washington Office;
- Secondary List of Projects associated with Lake Tahoe Restoration Act SNPLMA funding;
- PWG Recommendations on:
 - Biennial versus Annual SNPLMA Rounds;
 - BLM's Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 and 2015 Annual Reports;
 - Projects of Concern (POC) Focus List;
 - Bradford Springs and Spring Channel Restoration Decision Memorandum; and,
 - Basin and Range National Monument Special Account Reserve (SAR) Request.
- Lincoln County Archaeological Initiative (LCAI) Round 8

Decisions Made:

- The EC unanimously agreed the Lake Tahoe Restoration Act revised Secondary List of Projects should be included as part of the SNPLMA Round 15 Final Recommendation package as presented.
- The EC concurred with the PWG's recommendation to move forward with biennial rounds for SNPLMA Round 16 but requested a review of the status of the program under biennial rounds be completed prior to initiating Round 17 to ensure the process is working as expected.
- The EC concurred with the SNPLMA Division's recommendation that the FY14 and FY15 Annual Reports be combined into a joint package that should be submitted to BLM's Washington Office "as soon as possible" but no later than the end of the second quarter of FY16 (March 31, 2016.)
- The EC concurred with the PWG's recommendation to (1) continue use of the POC Focus List and (2) the inclusion of all Round 7, 8, and 9 active projects.

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Decisions Made (continued):

- The EC concurred with the PWG's recommendation for the Bradford Springs Channel Restoration Decision Memorandum in part as outlined below:
 - The PWG and EC recommend to the Secretary a retroactive change in project scope and purpose relative to an unauthorized change in project location.
 - The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) will not be reimbursed for additional expenditures or obligations incurred after March 19, 2015, (the date the project completion package was submitted to the SNPLMA Division.)
 - The FWS is not eligible for funding at the Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge in SNPLMA Round 15.
 - To ensure such an issue does not occur in the future, the SNPLMA Program Managers will take the following actions for all projects:
 - Visit the site with the project manager to verify the exact location(s) of the proposed project or project area before allowing work to commence;
 - Meet with project managers at least twice a year, to review progress and ensure that the project is completed on schedule.
 - In the future all project managers will be required to complete SNPLMA training when it is offered live, or with the approval of the SNPLMA Assistant District Manager, self-certify that they have taken the training online.

- The EC concurred with the PWG's recommendation for the Basin and Range National Monument SAR request for a new Conservation Initiatives project to:
 - Include the SAR request for \$408,000 over a three-year period in the Round 15 Final Recommendation package;
 - Have the SNPLMA Division work with the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Ely District to enhance the quality of the submission before it is forwarded to Washington, in particular, addressing how outreach, cooperation, and engagement with the counties and other partners will be accomplished; and,
 - BLM will identify other funding for planning efforts occurring within the Nye County portion of the monument.

- The EC agreed to recommend a Round 15 budget to the Secretary of \$39,102,583 for projects across all categories and \$3,000,000 in SAR for a total Round 15 recommendation for expenditure of SNPLMA funds of \$42,102,583.

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Decisions Made (continued):

- The EC unanimously approved a motion made to approve the LCAI PWG Subcommittee's Round 8 Preliminary Recommendation to fund the top five ranked projects for a total of \$930,152.85 with the understanding that if a letter of support is not received from the Lincoln County School District for the fourth ranked project (*Great Basin Land and Food: Development of Social Studies Curriculum for Lincoln County (Tab 4)*) by September 30, 2015, the fourth ranked project would be removed from the recommendation and the sixth ranked project (*Lincoln Lanes: A Driving Tour of Lincoln County's Historic Sites (Tab 6)*) would be included for \$104,239.00.
- The EC agreed to accept the Round 9 priorities as recommended by the Archaeological Resources Team (ART) and LCAI PWG Subcommittee.

Action Items:

- The Nevada State Office (NSO) Special Legislation staff and the SNPLMA Division will clearly define the term "deferred maintenance" to ensure it is applied consistently throughout the program.
- The NSO Special Legislation staff will ensure a glossary of acronyms is included in packages submitted to the PWG and EC. A glossary of acronyms will also be provided to new people involved with review of special legislation packages in BLM's Washington office.
- The SNPLMA Division will place the photo montage of projects completed in FY14 on the SNPLMA website.
- The Ely District will provide the EC with a map appropriate to the subject of discussion when addressing future special legislation issues in the Ely District.
- The Ely District will initiate discussions with Lincoln County to identify barriers associated with achieving LCAI Round 8 Priority, Museum Interpretation of the Prehistory and History of Lincoln County.
- Prior to when the Archaeological Resources Team (ART) is tasked with developing Round 10 priorities, the ART and LCAI PWG will discuss and identify alternative models that (1) address development of future round priorities, (2) provide project proponents with opportunity to strategically plan and submit project nominations, and (3) provide flexibility in selecting the highest and best value projects. A recommendation should be presented to the EC prior to the ART initiating identification of Round 10 priorities.

Direction:

The EC provided the following direction.

- Polly Wheeler (Assistant Regional Director – Pacific Southwest Region for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service) indicated that she would like to see graffiti issues including public outreach and education raised as a priority in future LCAI rounds.