

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998, as Amended

Capital Improvements - Project Summary

Round 15

Project Name: Lincoln County Partners Non-Motorized Multipurpose Trail System

Round: 15 **Tab #:** 6 **Priority #:** 1

County: Lincoln

Location: The project is located approximately three and one-half miles east of Caliente, Nevada in Barnes Canyon.

Nominating Agency/Entity: BLM

Funding Requested: \$1,980,976

Recommended Funding: \$1,000,000

Project Description:

The BLM Caliente Field Office in the Ely District will construct approximately 25 to 40 miles of sustainable non-motorized multi-purpose trails and signage on BLM-managed public lands and develop a trailhead. The BLM has already secured \$90,000 in contributions for the planning and design of the trailhead and trails. All construction will include compliance with Federal Disability Act requirements and employ "green" and sustainable design where practical. The trailhead will include one-vault toilet, four shade structures, four grills, and four picnic tables. In the future, the multi-purpose trails will connect to the City of Caliente and Nevada Division of State Parks in eastern Lincoln County, Nevada. This project only addresses trail construction on the public lands managed by the BLM.

This network of trails will broaden the range of available user experiences, reduce environmental impacts and sustain natural and cultural resources through interpretation and education or avoidance. The addition of new single-track loops of various lengths and technical challenge will allow the user to more fully explore the varied landscapes within the areas of Lincoln County.

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Round 15

Project Name: Improvements to Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

Round: 15 **Tab #:** 4 **Priority #:** 2

County: Lincoln

Location: Pahrangat National Wildlife Refuge, near the town of Alamo in Lincoln County, Nevada.

Nominating Agency/Entity: FWS

Funding Requested: \$349,508

Recommended Funding: \$349,508

Project Description:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will improve outdoor recreation opportunities for visitors at Pahrangat National Wildlife Refuge in Lincoln County, Nevada (a part of Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex). The goal of the project is to enrich the visitor experience at Pahrangat National Wildlife Refuge and improve the public's connection with natural, cultural and recreational resources on public lands. This will be accomplished by increasing and enhancing wildlife dependent recreational opportunities for the local community and other visitors by adding interpretive facilities along existing trails, and constructing new trails with interpretive elements. The project emphasizes improvements to facilities connected to or near the new Visitor Center, which opened in January 2015. The project will provide opportunities for trails solely designated for non-motorized use, as the majority of existing Refuge trails occur on public and administrative roads access by motorized vehicles and equipment. The deliverables for this nomination would comprise two new trails, as well as over 50 recreation facilities and interpretive elements along the two new trails and existing trails to improve the recreation opportunities at the Refuge. Recreation facilities or interpretive elements would include interpretive panels, trailhead kiosks, shade structures, benches, directional signs/trail markers, small pedestrian bridges for stream crossings, and other interpretive elements (e.g., viewing scopes).

This project will connect the newly constructed visitor center to other portions of the wildlife refuge and utilize interpretive conceptual design developed as part of the project to construct the visitor center. The project will expand upon the opportunity to engage visitors in understanding and appreciating the unique ecosystems of the Pahrangat Valley.

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Round 15

Project Name: Lehman Caves Visitor Center Exhibit Refurbishment

Round: 15 **Tab #:** 5 **Priority #:** 3

County: White Pine

Location: The project is located in the Lehman Caves Visitor Center, within Great Basin National Park

Nominating Agency/Entity: NPS

Funding Requested: \$490,446

Recommended Funding: \$490,446

Project Description:

The project will provide updated, modernized displays and provide better orientation to the cave tour ticket sales counter. It will enhance the Park's community outreach by facilitating and expanding the educational interpretative opportunities for the visitors by modernizing, rejuvenating, and adding multi-lingual elements to the displays. Windows will be replaced with new energy efficient windows to improve use of natural light. As the visitor center interior is reconfigured and modernized, it will also be brought up to NPS and ADA accessibility standards. Interior finishes will be replaced and upgraded with durable finishes and fixtures to reduce long-term maintenance costs.

New wayside exhibits will be designed, constructed and installed along the loop trail and a new interactive diorama will be developed to inform and engage visitors in cave resources.

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Round 15

Project Name: Spring Restoration and Trail System Creation

Round: 15 **Tab #:** 10 **Priority #:** 4

County: Nye

Location: The project is approximately 70 miles north-northwest of Las Vegas Nevada and within the Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, in Nye County, Nevada.

Nominating Agency/Entity: FWS

Funding Requested: \$813,000

Recommended Funding: \$813,000

Project Description:

The purpose of the project is to restore Cold Spring which feeds into the Upper Carson Slough and develop a backcountry trail system through the Upper Carson Slough to improve listed species habitat and enhance visitor experiences at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (part of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex). The project will restore Cold Spring from its current, anthropogenically-impacted and unsafe state to historic conditions for the improvement of habitat for two endangered fish species and threatened plant species, environmental quality and aesthetics, and public safety. The project will also increase recreational opportunities as well as visitor and staff safety and showcase restoration success by creating a backcountry trail system through the Upper Carson Slough, which makes up approximately one-third of the more than 24,000-acre Refuge, is the Refuge's primary drainage system, and includes a large variety of habitat types (e.g. wet meadows, emergent marshes, ash groves, etc.).

Deliverables of the Cold Spring restoration include the restoration of two spring pools, reconstruction of a naturalized channel, and the removal of man-made irrigation ditches and berms. Deliverables associated with the Upper Carson Slough backcountry trail system include approximately 9.24 miles of earthen trails, three scenic overlooks, one parking area, six spring crossings, the installation of way-finding and interpretive panels and signs, and one vault toilet.

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Round 15

Project Name: Stargazing Theater, Science Camp, and Day Use Area Refurbishment

Round: 15 **Tab #:** 11 **Priority #:** 5

County: White Pine

Location: Southeast of Ely Nevada, within the Great Basin National Park

Nominating Agency/Entity: NPS

Funding Requested: \$1,057,660

Recommended Funding: \$1,057,660

Project Description:

The Great Basin National Park will enhance existing facilities by modifying the day-use picnic area to include an outdoor amphitheater dedicated to astronomy viewing and as a gathering area for a science camp, to centralize and augment outreach programs involving youth and academic research endeavors. The aging, day-use picnic area will be demolished and reconstructed with durable site amenities, to meet agency accessibility standards, and reduce maintenance costs. In addition, multimodal trails will be developed to connect the existing camping areas to the Lehman Caves Visitor Center, the functions and programs of which are currently only accessible by car.

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Round 15

Project Name: Hoover Dam - Memorial Bridge Plaza Upgrades and Safety Enhancements

Round: 15 **Tab #:** 2 **Priority #:** 6

County: Clark

Location: Hoover Dam - Memorial Bridge Plaza within Lake Mead National Recreation Area

Nominating Agency/Entity: BOR

Funding Requested: \$1,118,630

Recommended Funding: \$598,021

Project Description:

The Memorial Bridge Plaza and its switchback trail provide the only portal to the spectacular view of Hoover Dam and the Colorado River available from the Bridge Walkway along the Mike O'Callaghan – Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge. Since the site opened in early 2011, the volume of tourists that stop at the site is overwhelming, approaching 1,500,000 visitors annually. Typically there is a steady flow of cars entering and exiting the parking lot or even a backup of 20 cars on the access road or obstructing traffic flow on the highway. The project will address issues resulting from high usage such as severe trail degradation due to trail cutting, lack of water and shade, inadequate restroom facilities, poor information availability, and unsafe access from parking lots and the popular Historic Railroad Trail.

Project deliverables will include installation of safety railing on the switchback trail; improvements to pedestrian access in areas where visitors are creating resource damage and new social trails; shade structures to provide relief from the harsh summer sun; potable water will be brought to the site; existing restrooms will be upgraded from pit toilets to flush toilets to better accommodate the number of users; and new benches and interpretive features will be designed and installed in areas for safety reasons.

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Round 15

Project Name: Bird Creek Campground Renovation Project

Round: 15 **Tab #:** 1 **Priority #:** 7

County: White Pine

Location: In the Duck Creek Basin within the Ely Ranger District, approximately 25 miles northeast of Ely, Nevada

Nominating Agency/Entity: USDA FS

Funding Requested: \$1,228,100

Recommended Funding: \$900,000

Project Description:

The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Ely Ranger District will redesign, renovate, and reconstruct the Bird Creek Campground in the Duck Creek Basin of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in east-central Nevada. The project will enhance the visitor experience, bring the campground up to Federal accessibility standards, improve wetland habitat, reduce long-term deferred maintenance costs, provide users with information on the adjacent public lands, and educate users on the values of the natural resources and their role in maintaining the unique values of the area. The following are the primary project deliverables/objectives:

- Complete the campground renovation plan and design
- Reconstruct the campground to bring the site up to accessibility standards.
- Upgrade existing and add additional restroom facilities to accommodate increased visitor use
- Relocate one group use site out of a wetland area
- Remove and reconstruct campground boundary fence
- Reconstruct and upgrade the potable water system
- Remove and/or limb existing vegetation
- Restore native vegetation to a healthy and viable condition
- Install information boards and kiosks
- Treat noxious weeds and prevent further noxious weeds in the campground area

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Round 15

Project Name: Rehabilitate and Upgrade the Boulder Beach Amphitheater

Round: 15 **Tab #:** 7 **Priority #:** 8

County: Clark

Location: Lake Mead National Recreation Area adjacent to the Boulder Beach Campground, approximately 2 miles north of the Alan Bible Visitor Center

Nominating Agency/Entity: NPS

Funding Requested: \$473,470

Recommended Funding: \$0

Project Description:

This project will rehabilitate, preserve and upgrade the Boulder Beach amphitheater which seats 500 and serves both community and park functions. Rehabilitation will preserve the historical features and character of the amphitheater. The upgrades will make the area accessible to visitors, volunteers and employees who have disabilities. The primary deliverables will be:

- Rehabilitate the audio/visual building to support modern multi-media presentations
- Upgrade the stage, seating area, and building to Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) accessibility standards
- Recycle and replace approximately 15,000 square feet of asphalt surfaces with a low maintenance, accessible surface
- Reclaim and replace 1,500 linear feet of wood plank seating
- Recycle and replace electrical site lighting (especially pathways)
- Create interpretive exhibits

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Round 15

Project Name: Restoration and Repair of the Kyle Canyon Historic CCC Administrative District

Round: 15 **Tab #:** 8 **Priority #:** 9

County: Clark

Location: Approximately 28 miles west of Las Vegas, Nevada, in the upper portion of Kyle Canyon within the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area

Nominating Agency/Entity: USDA FS

Funding Requested: \$746,000

Recommended Funding: \$352,000

Project Description:

The USDA Forest Service will repaint and repair six historic structures at the historic US Forest Service Civilian Conservation Corps Administrative Facility in order to physically and visually restore the historic character to the National Register eligible buildings and make them more energy efficient. The project will repaint and restore exterior siding; repair, restore, or replace windows and doors; replace a previously removed porch on a two-story structure; perform mold abatement on one housing structure; upgrade one small structure for future rental to help offset O&M costs for the facility; and complete application to the National Register of Historic Places.

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Round 15

Project Name: Spring Mountains Visitor Gateway - RV Campground Phase I

Round: 15 **Tab #:** 9 **Priority #:** 10

County: Clark

Location: The project site is contiguous to the new Spring Mountain Gateway Visitor Center in the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area 28 miles west of Las Vegas, NV

Nominating Agency/Entity: USDA FS

Funding Requested: \$2,218,604

Recommended Funding: \$0

Project Description:

The Spring Mountains Visitor Gateway Complex is a keystone facility that will inform and orient visitors to the natural resource assets and recreational venues in the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area (SMNRA). The RV campground is specifically pivotal to the future financial success of the overall complex and generally to Forest Service operations on the mountain site according to business projection models. The design for this project, if implemented, will broaden the potential revenue base upon which the SMNRA will draw to maintain both this project as well as the new visitor gateway and all other recently completed SNPLMA-funded projects. This project must include the full-build design even though this Phase 1 would not construct all components. The primary components of Phase 1 are:

- Design of required NDOT turning lanes into-out of the new camp site.
- Design of all phases of the RV campground (40 single and 10 double full-service with entry station, host sites, power, water, sewer, flush-toilet buildings, common spaces, trail-heads, tent sites)
- Extension of utilities from the north side of HWY 157 to the south side
- Construction of access control (gates and entry station)
- Construction of native surface RV loops and spurs
- Construct one pit-type toilet
- Construct RV dump-station
- 50 native surface RV pads (all RV site amenities--power/picnic-pad-table/grill/fire-pit and associated concrete pads-would be constructed in Phase 3)
- One septic system (of three total)
- Water service (partial)

Full build-out will be completed in four additional phases, with SNPLMA funding from future rounds anticipated, and an estimated cost for full build-out of \$9,872,010.

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Round 15

Project Name: Hoover Dam - Entry Inspection and Welcome Station

Round: 15 **Tab #:** 3 **Priority #:** 11

County: Clark

Location: Hoover Dam Security Zone within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area

Nominating Agency/Entity: BOR

Funding Requested: \$1,208,574

Recommended Funding: \$0

Project Description:

The project will provide a modernized Entry Inspection and Welcome Station on Nevada State Highway 172 to the east of the Hoover Dam Warehouse. The Entry Station was established shortly after September 11, 2001, with the intent to eventually upgrade the equipment to provide for effective vehicular inspection and screening services. The scope of the project will include rehabilitating some of the existing Entry Station and infrastructure as well as new construction and improvements to ensure safe accessibility and protection. A study and design for an effective and safe traffic control operation will be conducted. Then modernized traffic lanes as well as infrastructure will be installed to support the entry station(s) and supply associated buildings.