

DECISION DOCUMENT

ROUND 7 - Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act

The Secretary of the Interior hereby approves the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Final Recommendation for Round 7 submitted by the SNPLMA Executive Committee for all expenditure categories submitted under the current round and available under the SNPLMA, as amended. This decision covers the expenditures and other authorizations outlined below, with the provisos as stated.

1. The total expenditure from the SNPLMA Special Account for Round 7 is \$67,591,162, including estimated expenditures of:

- \$37,469,300 for parks, trails, and natural areas in cooperation with local and regional governments (see item 1.e.);
- \$19,612,908 for capital improvements;
- \$8,435,618 for conservation initiatives; and
- \$2,073,336 for acquisition of environmentally sensitive land (See item 1.b.).

a. The budget figures include the sum of the estimated costs for projects and an additional 10 percent in all expenditure categories, except for the environmentally sensitive land acquisition category, explained below. The additional 10 percent contingency for each project may be expended to cover the difference between projected and actual costs (if otherwise valid and allowable under the SNPLMA) without further approval of the Executive Committee.

b. The total estimated expenditure for the five approved land acquisitions is \$45,074,700, which is here authorized. Authorized, as well, is an additional 10 percent over the total estimated cost per acquisition, authorized to cover the difference between projected and actual costs (if otherwise valid and allowable under the SNPLMA) without further approval of the Executive Committee. This total estimated expenditure will be funded by combining the \$2,073,336 authorized in this round with funds that become available in the land acquisition category from funds not needed to complete prior approved acquisitions.

c. The amounts approved in this Decision Document are in addition to the amounts approved for each category in previous rounds and will remain available in the same category until expended. After all current projects in a category are fully funded, excess amounts available in the category may be used to help fund short-falls in other projects within the category by budget reallocation approved by the Executive Committee.

d. Authorization for expenditures for projects submitted in Round 7 as set forth in this decision shall not be construed as a final approval for any particular expenditure. The amounts authorized herein are not approved for expenditure unless and until all requisite procedures are followed as outlined in this document and in the *SNPLMA Implementation Agreement*.

e. For parks, trails and natural areas, no amount authorized herein shall be considered to be an amount approved for expenditure until all of the following have been met:

- 1) A notice of availability of funding has been issued;
- 2) A cooperative agreement between the recipient entity and BLM has been fully executed;
- 3) A work plan has been submitted by the proponent, and accepted by the BLM. The work plan shall set forth a schedule of periodic expenditures reflecting logical phases of the project; and
- 4) The start point for an identified phase and its associated funding start date has been reached.

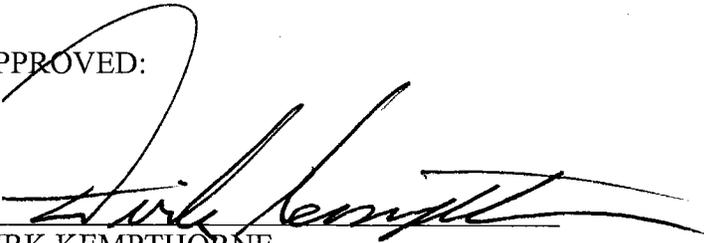
2. The establishment of a reserve within the Special Account in the amount of \$14,900,000 is approved for expenditure at the discretion of the Executive Committee toward allowable expenditures authorized by the SNPLMA and in accordance with the *SNPLMA Implementation Agreement*, where special circumstances warrant. All expenditures from the Special Account Reserve (SAR) shall be undertaken in compliance with established procedures and internal controls, as well as all applicable laws, regulations, and policies. This SAR authorized by this decision shall be available during Round 7 only.

3. The establishment of a Pre-Proposal Planning (PPP) reserve within the Special Account in the amount of \$5,000,000 is approved for expenditure at the discretion of the Executive Committee for the purpose of developing more accurate information regarding: 1) project scope; 2) detailed cost projections and estimates; and 3) preliminary schedules for projects which will be nominated in future rounds. All expenditures from the PPP reserve shall be undertaken in compliance with established procedures and internal controls, as well as all applicable laws, regulations, and policies.

4. The Executive Committee is authorized to reallocate funds between the SAR and the PPP reserve in order to provide for maximum flexibility to implement approved projects and acquisitions, address emergency or urgent needs, and undertake pre-proposal planning to ensure detailed, complete, feasible, and accurate project nominations. In all cases, expenditures will be in accordance with SNPLMA and the *SNPLMA Implementation Agreement*.

5. Due to the nature of the projects, full funding shall be provided first to Conservation Initiative projects. Thereafter, revenues shall be distributed as they become available in the Special Account among the other expenditure categories in proportion to their share of the total budget, in compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and policies, based upon availability of funds, and in accordance with the *SNPLMA Implementation Agreement*.

APPROVED:


DIRK KEMPTHORNE
Secretary of the Interior

8-17-07
Date