

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998, as Amended

Conservation Initiatives - Project Summary

Round 8

Project Name: Evaluation of Basin-Fill Aquifers in Southern Spring and Snake Valleys and their Connection with Surface-Water Resources and with the Regional Carbonate -Rock Aquifer

Round: 8 **Tab #:** 12 **Priority #:** 1

County: White Pine County

Location: Great Basin National Park, White Pine County

Nominating Agency/Entity: BLM, FWS, NPS, & USFS

Funding Requested: \$2,131,000

Project Description:

The Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and USDA Forest Service are requesting Round 8 SNPLMA funds to determine the distribution and hydraulic properties of the basin-fill aquifers beneath the Spring and Snake Valleys and the carbonate-rock aquifer, and streambed properties that control the flow of water between streams and aquifers. Results from the study will aid in evaluating how pumping could affect surface-water resources important to ecosystems on Federal lands in White Pine County.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998, as Amended

Conservation Initiatives - Project Summary

Round 8

Project Name: Restore Natural Processes and Cave Floor in Lehman Cave

Round: 8 **Tab #:** 9 **Priority #:** 2

County: White Pine County

Location: Lehman Cave - Great Basin National Park, White Pine County

Nominating Agency/Entity: NPS

Funding Requested: \$233,850

Project Description:

The National Park Service is requesting SNPLMA Round 8 funds to restore 4700 square feet of cave floor in Lehman Cave by removing an abandoned trail and its associated lighting. The physical deterioration and chemical decomposition of the trail and lighting system significantly threatens cave natural resources.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998, as Amended

Conservation Initiatives - Project Summary

Round 8

Project Name: Environmentally Responsible Closure of Abandoned Mine Safety Hazards in White Pine County

Round: 8 **Tab #:** 1 **Priority #:** 3

County: White Pine County

Location: White Pine County

Nominating Agency/Entity: BLM - Ely

Funding Requested: \$1,988,967

Project Description:

The Bureau of Land Management is requesting SNPLMA Round 8 funds to secure approximately 120 abandoned mine land (AML) features, which pose significant threats to public and wildlife safety in White Pine County, Nevada. These sites will be inventoried by contracted qualified biologists and historical archaeologists, who will develop recommendations for permanent closure to ensure public safety while preserving associated biological and cultural resources. Hazards will be permanently remediated by installing wildlife compatible human enclosures (metal gates or cupolas), foam closures, or backfilling with associated waste rock. All sites will be monitored for one year following closure to ensure wildlife use has not been compromised and structures are intact.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998, as Amended

Conservation Initiatives - Project Summary

Round 8

Project Name: Fire History, Fire Effects, and Postfire Seeding in Southern Nevada: Compilation of Fire Histories and Evaluation of Past and Future Fires and Seeding Treatments

Round: 8 **Tab #:** 10 **Priority #:** 4

County: Clark and Lincoln Counties

Location: Clark and Lincoln Counties

Nominating Agency/Entity: BLM-Ely, FWS, NPS,

Funding Requested: \$1,414,008

Project Description:

The Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service are requesting SNPLMA Round 8 funds to compile fire histories and conduct surveys to evaluate current vegetation conditions on past fires and postfire seeding treatments in Clark and Lincoln counties of southern Nevada. Personnel that will be collecting these data will also be available for redirection to collect time-sensitive data associated with the effects of new fires that may occur, and evaluating in detail the effectiveness of seeding treatments that may be applied on these new fires. These capabilities extend well beyond the current monitoring capacity of Federal land managers, and get into the realm of scientific inquiry, which is why researchers from the USGS will be largely responsible for implementing this project. Collectively this research plan will provide much of the critical information needed by land managers to effectively and efficiently manage fire in southern Nevada.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998, as Amended

Conservation Initiatives - Project Summary

Round 8

Project Name: Growth and Survival of Moapa Dace in the Muddy River System: Response to Variable Temperatures, Flows, and Habitat Changes

Round: 8 **Tab #:** 3 **Priority #:** 5

County: Clark County

Location: Muddy River, Clark County

Nominating Agency/Entity: FWS

Funding Requested: \$595,480

Project Description:

The US Fish and Wildlife Service is requesting SNPLMA Round 8 funds to study the effects of a changing thermal and hydrologic environment on several members of the aquatic community in the Warm Springs area of the Muddy River system, including the endangered Moapa dace. The project will provide insight into whether these endangered fish, and other members of the aquatic community, can tolerate a thermally unstable environment. Partners will be utilizing and developing cutting-edge and scientifically-driven technology and tools that will assist Federal land managers in making decisions about population maintenance and recovery of species in the Muddy River system. Year 1 of this project was funded in Round 5 of SNPLMA. Round 8 funding will continue the project through Years 2 and 3.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998, as Amended

Conservation Initiatives - Project Summary

Round 8

Project Name: Re-Commission Historic Fort Ruby

Round: 8 **Tab #:** 14 **Priority #:** 6

County: White Pine County

Location: Ruby Lake NWR, White Pine County

Nominating Agency/Entity: FWS & USFS

Funding Requested: \$314,600

Project Description:

The US Fish and Wildlife Service and USDA Forest Service are requesting SNPLMA Round 8 funds to collaborate on a project to "re-commission" historic Fort Ruby, which was built as a small US military outpost in northeast Nevada. The "re-commissioning" of Fort Ruby will include surveying the site, carefully piecing together the forts appearance by archaeological and archival methods, protecting two buildings from further deterioration, creating an accessible foot trail through the fort, and providing interpretive text, photographs, and maps that inform the visiting public about this period of time in the history of Nevada.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998, as Amended

Conservation Initiatives - Project Summary

Round 8

Project Name: Ely Ranger District Wilderness Implementation Phase I

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

County: White Pine County

Location: High Schell Wilderness Area, White Pine County

Nominating Agency/Entity: USFS

Funding Requested: \$764,500

Project Description:

The USDA Forest Service is requesting SNPLMA Round 8 funds to implement wilderness plans for the five new Wilderness Areas designated in the White Pine County Conservation, Recreation, and Development Act of 2006. Funding will be used to complete baseline inventories and monitor recreation impact areas, define wilderness boundaries and trailheads, and provide adequate information to the public about the new status of lands.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998, as Amended

Conservation Initiatives - Project Summary

Round 8

Project Name: Relict Dace Habitat Restoration Project

Round: 8 **Tab #:** 4 **Priority #:** 8

County: White Pine County

Location: Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Nominating Agency/Entity: FWS

Funding Requested: \$363,061

Project Description:

The US Fish and Wildlife Service is requesting SNPLMA Round 8 funds to provide a refugium for relict dace, a "species of special concern" in Nevada, with adequate habitat and protection from non-native fishes by restoring the natural flow and habitat of Station and Landing Strip Ponds on Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge, White Pine County, NV. Implementation will include the restoration of natural hydrology of the spring channels, removal of any non-native fish species, reintroduction of relict dace, and the treatment of invasive weed infestations.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998, as Amended

Conservation Initiatives - Project Summary

Round 8

Project Name: Resource Protection (Law Enforcement), White Pine County

Round: 8 **Tab #:** 13 **Priority #:** 9

County: White Pine County

Location: White Pine County

Nominating Agency/Entity: BLM-Ely & NPS

Funding Requested: \$1,506,303

Project Description:

The Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service are requesting Round 8 SNPLMA funds to increase resource protection and responsible use of public lands in White Pine County by funding one White Pine County Deputy Sheriff and two Great Basin National Park Law Enforcement Rangers. Funding will include a patrol vehicle and all equipment needed to perform law enforcement duties.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998, as Amended

Conservation Initiatives - Project Summary

Round 8

Project Name: Spring Mountain Butterfly Life History and Autecology Studies

Round: 8 **Tab #:** 11 **Priority #:** 10

County: Clark County

Location: Spring Mountains NRA, Clark County

Nominating Agency/Entity: FWS & USFS

Funding Requested: \$799,000

Project Description:

The USDA Forest Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service are requesting Round 8 SNPLMA funds to conduct autecology studies to understand the life histories and habitat requirements of four species of butterflies (Mt. Charleston blue butterfly, Morand's checkerspot, Spring Mountains acastus checkerspot and the Spring Mountains dark blue butterfly), which are endemic to the Spring Mountains and have been identified as priorities for conservation. Understanding the basic biology of these butterfly species is imperative for sound management decision making on the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998, as Amended

Conservation Initiatives - Project Summary

Round 8

Project Name: Biolocal and Cultural Surveys of Selected Abandoned Mine Sites in the Schell Creek Range, White Pine County, NV

Round: 8 **Tab #:** 7 **Priority #:** 11

County: White Pine County

Location: Schell Creek Range, White Pine County

Nominating Agency/Entity: USFS

Funding Requested: \$634,000

Project Description:

The USDA Forest Service is requesting SNPLMA Round 8 funds to complete a comprehensive inventory of abandoned mine features, including biological and cultural surveys and supporting NEPA documentation, to secure abandoned mine features in the Schell Creek Range in White Pine County, NV.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998, as Amended

Conservation Initiatives - Project Summary

Round 8

Project Name: Terrestrial Ecological Unit Inventory of the Schell Creek Range, White Pine County

Round: 8 **Tab #:** 8 **Priority #:** 12

County: White Pine County

Location: Schell Creek Range, White Pine County

Nominating Agency/Entity: USFS

Funding Requested: \$233,000

Project Description:

The USDA Forest Service is requesting SNPLMA Round 8 funds to complete a Terrestrial Ecological Unit Inventory (TEUI) on 60,000 acres in the Schell Creek Range. This information is used to manage, protect and conserve public lands in southern Nevada by enabling more efficient and effective restoration treatments.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998, as Amended

Conservation Initiatives - Project Summary

Round 8

Project Name: Spring Mountains NRA Boundary Enhancement Project

Round: 8 **Tab #:** 6 **Priority #:** 13

County: Clark County

Location: Spring Mountains NRA, Clark County

Nominating Agency/Entity: USFS

Funding Requested: \$131,250

Project Description:

The USDA Forest Service is requesting SNPLMA Round 8 funds to resolve trespasses of illegal structures on National Forest Systems lands within the Rainbow Subdivision and Cold Creek area of the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area. These trespasses restrict public access to one of the few perennial streams easily accessed within the Spring Mountains NRA and appear to be impacting the hydrologic function of the creek. Funds will be utilized to survey and post property lines where they don't currently exist and where trespass is occurring. Land specialists will work with private owners to resolve trespasses.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998, as Amended

Conservation Initiatives - Project Summary

Round 8

Project Name: Desert Tortoise (*Gopherus agassazii*) Monitoring

Round: 8 **Tab #:** 2 **Priority #:** 14

County: Clark County

Location: Clark County

Nominating Agency/Entity: FWS

Funding Requested: \$2,708,133

Project Description:

The US Fish and Wildlife Service is requesting SNPLMA Round 8 funds to implement desert tortoise monitoring using line distance sampling in Clark and Lincoln Counties, NV. This project addresses delisting requirements for the Mojave population of the desert tortoise, which was listed as threatened in 1989.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998, as Amended

Conservation Initiatives - Project Summary

Round 8

Project Name: Southern Nevada Interagency Communication Site Designation Plan, Implementation and Monitoring Project

Round: 8 **Tab #:** 5 **Priority #:** 15

County: Clark County

Location: Las Vegas, NV, Clark County

Nominating Agency/Entity: USFS

Funding Requested: \$387,600

Project Description:

The USDA Forest Service is requesting SNPLMA Round 8 funds to update communication site plans to provide consistent management direction in regard to communication sites and are required by policy and regulations.