

**Mojave Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council**  
***Southern Nevada District Manager's Report***  
**Mary Jo Rugwell, District Manager**  
**September 22, 2011**

***National BLM/DOI:***

**2011 Fee-Free Days Set for BLM-Administered Public Lands**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), in conjunction with other agencies within the Department of the Interior, will waive recreation-related fees for visitors to the National System of Public Lands on National Public Lands Day, which is scheduled for September 24; and the Veterans Day holiday weekend, November 11-13. These fee-free days also apply to areas managed within the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS).

***Nevada State Office BLM:***

In response to numerous requests, BLM Nevada will extend the public comment period 30 days on the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) Groundwater Development and Conveyance Project, to provide the public additional opportunity to review the document.

Public comments on the DEIS, and Draft Programmatic Agreement, will be accepted through Oct. 11, 2011. The original 90-day comment period was scheduled to end Sept. 9, 2011. Comments received or postmarked after Oct. 11 will be considered to the extent practicable.

The public may submit comments regarding to the DEIS or Draft Programmatic Agreement for the SNWA Project by any of the following methods:

- E-mail: [nvgwprojects@blm.gov](mailto:nvgwprojects@blm.gov)
- Fax: 775-861-6689
- Mail: SNWA Project, Bureau of Land Management, Attn: Penny Woods, 1340 Financial Blvd., Reno NV 89502

**Southern Nevada District Office (SNDO):**

***SNPLMA Division:***

The BLM has opened the nomination period for Round 13 project proposals funded under the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA). The nomination period opened on Sept. 12 and closes Thursday, Nov. 10.

In portions of Carson City and, Clark, Lincoln, and White Pine counties local governmental entities may seek SNPLMA funds for parks, trails, and natural areas, while Federal agencies may seek funds for capital improvements, conservation initiatives, and other restoration work specific to eastern Nevada. Federal, State, and other agencies may seek SNPLMA funds for hazardous fuels reduction in the Lake Tahoe Basin, the Carson Range, and the Spring Mountain Range. Federal agencies may seek funding for acquisition of environmentally sensitive land statewide.

Specific requirements for nominating projects in all categories, including entities eligible within the different categories, are available at [www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/snplma.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/snplma.html). Nominations must be submitted directly to the **BLM Southern Nevada District Office, SNPLMA Division, 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130**. For more information, please call (702) 515-5063. All Round 13 nominations must be submitted by 4:30 pm PST on November 10, 2011. Land acquisition nominations require early submittal of a two-to-three page nomination summary and a preliminary title report by 4:30 pm PST on Tuesday, October 11. The summary form for this submittal is available on the SNPLMA website at the link listed above. Late nominations will not be accepted.

**Local Residents Applaud SNPLMA-Funded Neighborhood Park** - During a recent inspection tour of three interconnected Parks Trails and Natural Areas projects (Sandhill/Owens Park), City of Las Vegas engineer Connie Diso and members of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management (SNPLMA) division were treated to an encouraging and unsolicited testimonial from one of the area's longtime residents. At the end of the tour, the group was approached by a young father named Raul who has lived in the neighborhood for 25 years. According to Raul, buzz about the park has been building steadily - a far cry from the days when the lot on which the park now sits was a haven for littering, violence, drug use and gunplay. He praised the City of Las Vegas and SNPLMA for funding, designing and building such a high-end recreational project in the economically-challenged area and feels that the park will be a point of community pride. The fact that people from outside the neighborhood were helping to improve the quality of life for his family and neighbors was not lost on him, and he believes the basketball courts and soccer field featured in the project offer local youth alternatives to crime and violence.

As Raul lauded SNPLMA and the City of Las Vegas, his wife and two young children took advantage of the park's water play area on a scorching Las Vegas summer day. Hearing their laughter was the ideal way to end the tour.

Raul's eloquent, heartfelt praise of the SNPLMA projects emphasizes one of the key missions of the program: improving and enhancing the quality of life for current and future generations of Nevadans.

***Division of Fire and Aviation:***

**Firefighters Triumph at Tivoli Truckin' Tuesday** - On August 9, Southern Nevada District Office firefighters wowed the crowd at Tivoli Truckin' Tuesday, an event that features a variety of vehicles ranging from police cars and ambulances to fire engines. About 100 participants were greeted by Smokey Bear and explored the wildland fire engine.

**Field Offices:**

***Red Rock/Sloan Field Office:***

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area's developed campground reopened Friday, September 2 in time for the beginning of the busiest camping season. Cooler temperatures, during the fall and winter months, make Red Rock a destination for rock climbers from around the world.

Red Rock Campground is located within Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area approximately two miles east of the visitor center on State Route 159 (West Charleston Boulevard) and is the only developed campground within the conservation area. The campground features 71 individual campsites and seven group campsites. Individual sites are \$15 per site/night and group campsites are \$40 per site/night. Reservations for the group campsites are required and can be made by calling (702) 515-5371 or [rrc\\_reservations@blm.gov](mailto:rrc_reservations@blm.gov).

***Las Vegas Field Office:***

**LVFO National Public Lands Day** - The BLM will celebrate National Public Lands Day on September 24 in the Las Vegas Valley, as volunteers focus their efforts on restoration and recreation in the Sloan National Conservation Area.

Volunteers are needed to help restore unnecessary trails, clean up trash, plant native saplings, install signs and make and distribute seed balls.

Water and snacks will be provided by the Public Lands Foundation. The BLM is also partnering with the UNLV Public Lands Institute for the event. Visit [www.getoutdoorsnevada.org](http://www.getoutdoorsnevada.org) for more information and to register.

National Public Lands Day is an annual event that brings volunteers together to improve the country's largest natural resource - our public lands. It is expected that there will be more than 170,000 volunteers on approximately 2,000 sites throughout all 50 states. As the nation's largest one-day volunteer event in support of public lands, National Public Lands Day volunteers' efforts will equal more than \$15 million in improvements.

**Sign of the Times** - In July, the Las Vegas Field Office and Great Basin Institute (GBI) completed installation of eight educational kiosks to inform the public about Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and route designations in those areas.

The signs are part of a joint road monitoring effort with the Clark County Desert Conservation Program to reduce impacts on desert tortoises and other sensitive species from inappropriate recreational activities within the ACECs. This work was funded by the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act to further implement the Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan. Within the 740,000 acres of ACECs, road and illegal incursion within are monitored. So far, more than 44,000 miles of roads have been monitored by volunteers, BLM and GBI in the ACECs.

**Division of Lands Customer Service Workshop** - The Las Vegas Field Office Division of Lands will be holding their annual Customer Service Workshop on November 9, at Texas Station from 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Topics will include right-of-way application processing, LR2000 entry, recreation and public purpose actions, sales and reversionary interest, and the NEPA process. Applicants and customers are the target audience and are invited and encouraged to attend.

***Pahrump Field Office/Renewable Energy Coordination Office:***

**National Public Lands Day in Amargosa Valley** – The Pahrump Field Office is inviting volunteers to participate in National Public Lands Day at Big Dune in the Amargosa Valley September 17, from 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at the main east entrance off Valley View Road. Volunteers will be able to put up signs, add an informational kiosk, improve their fitness, and enjoy our treasured outdoor space.

Big Dune is a nationally known public recreation and special habitat area popular for off-road vehicle use and camping. It is the habitat of the Big Dune beetle and a designated Area of Critical Environmental Concern. Big Dune volunteers will be a part of a coast-to-coast effort to donate their time and effort to improving the public lands they enjoy every day.

**BLM Seeking Comments on First Solar South Project** - The Las Vegas Field Office is initiating a 60-day scoping period to solicit public comments, to identify issues and concerns that should be analyzed in the development of a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS), for a proposed solar energy project east of Primm, Nev. The proposal includes 13,043 acres of Federal land managed by the BLM. The scoping period will close October 31.

In addition to the SEIS, the Las Vegas Field Office will prepare a proposed amendment to the Las Vegas Resource Management Plan (LVRMP). Publication of the notice in the September 1 *Federal Register* initiates the scoping process to identify issues. Scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media and on the BLM website at [www.blm.gov/nv](http://www.blm.gov/nv).

On publication of the notice, the lands identified for the proposal are temporarily closed to location under the Mining Law, but not the Mineral Leasing Act or the Materials Act, subject to valid existing rights for up to two years.

The public is being asked to identify issues associated with the First Solar proposal to construct photovoltaic panels, and related right-of-way appurtenances, including a substation and switchyard facilities. The proposed project would produce approximately 400 megawatts of electricity. The scoping comments will be used to develop a draft environmental impact statement and draft proposed plan amendment.

Only written comments will be accepted and may be mailed to the BLM, Southern Nevada District, Renewable Energy Project Manager, 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89130, or emailed to [SilverStateSouthEIS@blm.gov](mailto:SilverStateSouthEIS@blm.gov). Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

For more information, please call Greg Helseth at 702-515-5173.