

Southern Nevada District Office
District Manager's Report
September 2016

National Public Lands Day: The Southern Nevada District Office will have several National Public Lands Day events taking place.

On September 17, Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area will host an event at the Sloan Contact Station. A group of up to 30 volunteers will participate in restoring unauthorized routes in Sloan Canyon. Activities will be held in partnership with the City of Henderson and Friends of Sloan Canyon.

On September 24, Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, along with their partners, Friends of Red Rock Canyon and the Red Rock Canyon Interpretative Association will host a service project event and lunch for a group of up to 75 volunteers. The project and activities will take place along the 13-Mile Scenic Drive in Red Rock Canyon. The volunteers will assist with installation of hiking trail sign posts, hiking trail maintenance and restoration along the 13-Mile Scenic Drive and other light maintenance projects.

On September 24, Las Vegas Field Office will host an event at Logandale Trails System with partners Nevada State Parks, Clark County Fire, The Moapa Valley Eco Squad, Partners in Conservation, Vegas Valley Four Wheelers, R JEEPS, Moapa Valley Rotary Club and Moapa Valley Chamber of Commerce. About 150-200 volunteers are expected and projects include restoration (planting, seeding, raking, rock staining, placement of boulders and vertical mulch to deter off route travel in key locations) of areas outside of the fence around the shade structures; cleaning, repairing and repainting the shade structures; cleaning and repainting the trash cans; re-securing the picnic tables to the pads; fixing the ADA parking area to meet ADA standards; removing weeds and invasive species from parking areas and main trailhead; installing safety carsonites (app. 8 places); installing 15 (25 mph) signs for main trailhead and through canyon where camping occurs; cleaning and rebuilding existing fire rings in previously disturbed primitive camping sites and defining edges of some previously disturbed existing campsites and parking areas to protect vegetation with natural items such as rocks.

BLM Announces \$30 Million in Projects to Reduce Wildfires In Reno-Tahoe Area: On August 31, BLM awarded almost \$30 million in wildfire prevention projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin, Carson Range, and Carson City.

Janice Schneider, U.S. Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, approved the funding, which was generated through the sale of public lands around Las Vegas under authority of the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA), and awarded to BLM partners based on thorough project proposals.

The eight projects are funded under the authority of SNPLMA that directs the BLM to use a portion of funding generated from the sale of public lands in southern Nevada for comprehensive hazardous fuels reduction and wildfire prevention projects in the Lake Tahoe Basin and surrounding areas.

The funding announced today includes approximately \$29.5 million for hazardous fuels reduction and wildfire prevention including:

- Nevada Regional Fuels Reduction, \$973,250;
- Completion of wildland urban interface treatments in Carnelian, Incline and South Shore around Lake Tahoe, \$10,358,300;
- Community outreach and assistance with wildfire preparedness, \$5,826,125;
- Carson City Hazardous Fuels Reduction, \$1,999,900, and Collection, \$102,389;
- Hazardous fuels treatments on private property, \$6,814,500;
- Hazardous fuels reduction planning for the Mount Rose corridor, \$1,640,635; and
- Completion of the Programmatic Timberland Environmental Improvement Report for all private, local government, and California Tahoe Conservancy fuel reduction projects, \$1,784,843.

Additional nominations for other categories in Round 16 are currently being reviewed and decisions will be announced in the coming months. More information on Round 16 is available online at www.blm.gov/snplma.

Gold Butte Re-engagement: BLM continues to re-engage with the Northeast Clark County communities to build trust and be transparent with actions. Since June, BLM has attended meetings with Town Advisory Boards in Bunkerville, Moapa, and Moapa Valley, the City of Mesquite, the Moapa Band of Paiutes, Clark County Metro, Clark County, Partners in Conservation and the Friends of Gold Butte. In addition, BLM is planning an Open House/Roundtable discussion with leaders of the Northeast portion of Clark County for a to be determined time in September. Specific on the ground work in the areas has included repair of the Virgin Peak repeater; Virgin Valley Water District projects, partnering with Clark County on Gold Butte Road repair and maintenance, a telecom fiber optic ROW, and land use authorizations.

National Test and Training Range: The Air Force has applied to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to continue to use the site of its Nevada Test and Training Range (NTTR) and to expand it by about 300,000 acres of additional public land. As a result of the withdrawal application, the BLM has segregated approximately 300,000 acres from appropriation under the public land laws. The two-year segregation is obligatory while the Air Force prepares an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on its expansion and extension proposals for the area northeast of Las Vegas.

The Air Force published a Federal Register notice on August 25 stating that it would conduct the EIS on both renewing the existing public land withdrawal, which covers approximately 2.9 million acres, and the withdrawal and reservation for military use of another 301,507 acres of public land to expand the existing range. The existing land withdrawal expires in 2021. Based on the environmental analysis, the Secretary of the Interior will make a recommendation to Congress on the proposed withdrawals. However, Congress, not the Secretary, will make the final decision on both the requested extension and proposed expansion.

As a first step in the EIS process, the Air Force will hold five public meetings on the proposed extension and expansion of the NTTR. The BLM, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service (USFWS), the Department of Energy, and the Nevada Department of Wildlife will participate as cooperating agencies in the preparation of the EIS.

During the EIS, the Air Force will consider existing uses of the expansion area. For instance, of the 301,507 additional acres the Air Force is seeking, approximately 266,000 acres are managed for desert bighorn sheep by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge. The Nevada Test and Training Range already includes much of this refuge's land. More than 35,000 acres of the expansion area are managed by the BLM. The Air Force expansion would also overlap a designated energy transmission corridor (known as the 368 Energy Corridor) in two locations (Beatty and near Tule Springs National Monument), the current Vegas to Reno Off-Highway race course, and proposed mountain bike and hiking trails in the Beatty area.

The two-year segregation removes the expansion lands from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the mining laws, the mineral leasing laws, and the geothermal leasing laws. Valid existing rights at the time of the segregation will be honored. The existing Nevada Test and Training Range is already withdrawn from these laws. The action is required under section 204(b)(1) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

The entire Federal Register Notice for the Notice of Application for Withdrawal Extension and Withdrawal Expansion is available [here](#).

While the Air Force will accept comments on its EIS, the BLM will accept comments on the requested withdrawal actions through the following methods:

- E-mail: BLM_NV_SNDO_NTTR_Withdrawal@blm.gov
- Fax: (702) 515-5023
- Mail: BLM Southern Nevada District Office, Attn: NTTR Withdrawal, 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, NV, 89130-2301.

The following is a schedule of the Air Force public meetings on the proposed withdrawals:

- Beatty Community Center, Beatty, 5-9 p.m. October 12;
- Tonopah Convention Center, Tonopah, 5-9 p.m. October 13;
- Caliente Elementary School, Caliente, 5-9 p.m. October 18;
- Pahrangat Valley High School, Alamo, 5-9 p.m. October 19; and
- Aliante Hotel, North Las Vegas, 5-9 p.m. October 20.

BLM Concluded Gather of Burros from Spring Mountain Ranch State Park: BLM has concluded the burro gather in Spring Mountain Ranch State Park as 42 burros have been gathered utilizing a bait and water trap method. The gather started on August 8 and was conducted because burros posed safety hazards on the park's roadways and are damaging the park's restoration efforts. Burros were gathered utilizing the temporary bait traps consisting of a series of corral panels stocked with hay and water. No helicopters were used. Burros have been transported to Ridgecrest, California and will be available for adoption. Individuals interested in adopting these burros must complete an adoption application and meet the BLM requirements to adopt.

BLM Proposes to Sell 182.93 Acres in Clark County: The BLM Las Vegas Field Office sought public comments on a proposal to sell 16 parcels, totaling 182.93 acres of public land in Clark County, Nevada. The proposed competitive sale would be by sealed and oral bidding in accordance with the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA). The comment period closed September 12, 2016.

The sale parcels are located throughout the Las Vegas Valley. Fourteen of the parcels are located in the southwest part of the valley, south of Beltway 215 and west of Interstate 15. All 14 parcels are within Clark County jurisdiction. A separate parcel east of Interstate 15 and south of St. Rose near Las Vegas Boulevard and Roban Avenue is also located in Clark County jurisdiction. The last parcel is located northeast of Cheyenne Avenue and Hualapai Way, located within City of Las Vegas jurisdiction.

The parcels would be offered at not less than the fair market value as determined by an appraisal. The sale by sealed bid and oral public auction will be held on November 30, 2016, at Clark County Government Center, Clark County Commission Chambers, 500 South Grand Central Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada, NV 89155 at 10 a.m.

In accordance with the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act, the funds generated by this sale will be used throughout Nevada for projects such as the development of parks, trails, and natural areas, capital improvements on Federal lands, acquisition of environmentally sensitive land, and landscape restoration projects. Additionally, 5 percent of the revenue goes to the State of Nevada General Education Fund and 10 percent to the Southern Nevada Water Authority.

Phase 2 of 13-Mile Scenic Drive Improvements at Red Rock: Phase I of the Red Rock Canyon transportation improvements, were completed in February of 2016. The following Phase II planning and design has been complete, and the construction is slated to start within the next couple months. The Phase II improvements will be done by Las Vegas Paving, and will include re-paving of the 13-mile Scenic Drive, along with parking expansions, and other improvements. The work is funded by the Federal Highway Administration. Phase II Public meetings were held in 2014 and 2015, and received public support. Additional Public meetings will be planned, to present the traffic and construction plan.

BLM - Red Rock Canyon and Las Vegas Metro Search and Rescue Collaboration: The BLM Law Enforcement and Las Vegas Metro Police Department (LVMPD) are finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding that pertains to Law Enforcement and Search and Rescue activities occurring within Clark County, including the Red Rock Canyon NCA. It will also address the planning and coordination between both parties regarding Red Rock Canyon public search and rescues, crew and pilot training, and use of the Helo Pads located at the Red Rock Fire Station. This MOU will enhance the partnership between both parties, and will improve the protection, safety and enjoyment for the public who visit and recreate on our public lands.

Grand Opening for the City of North Las Vegas - Kiel Ranch Historic Park:

The City of North Las Vegas recently debuted its newest park: Kiel Ranch Historic Park, which features historic structures, a family plaza, rolling lawns, a trail, interpretation nodes and a rich and storied past.

The seven-acre site was among the earliest settlement sites in the Las Vegas Valley. It was part of a 240-acre homestead ranch established in the late 1800s. The first white settlers, Mormon missionaries, established the land as a farm for Native Americans. Historic artifacts excavated on the site suggest the presence of indigenous Paiutes long before new world settlers arrived. During the 1940s and 1950s, the property was used as a divorce ranch by out-of-state residents looking to take advantage of Nevada's liberal divorce laws. The site includes an adobe structure that's one of the oldest buildings in Nevada, an active artesian pond and a small orchard featuring fruit trees of an homestead era.

Funding for Kiel Ranch Historic Park was provided by the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA), the Land & Water Conservation Fund and the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office. SNPLMA has approved four development projects for the park at a cost of \$2.9 million. Currently SNPLMA is reviewing a funding request by the City of North Las Vegas to acquire a parcel adjacent to the park which would double the size of the existing park.

Sloan Contact Station to Open Seven Days a week on October 1: On October 1, the visitor contact station will be open daily 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through summer. The contact station will be staffed by BLM and Friends of Sloan Canyon volunteers.

Red Rock Canyon Campground Reopens: Red Rock Campground reopened September 2 after being seasonally closed since May 31. 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.

Camping is allowed on BLM managed public land outside of the Las Vegas on public land for 14 days within a 28 day period without charge. Popular primitive (no facilities) sites include Bitter Spring Back Country Byway, Gold Butte Back Country Byway, Knob Hill, Virgin Mountains, Christmas Tree Pass and Logandale Trails System.

BLM Approves Lease to the State of Nevada for a Department of Motor Vehicles Facility in Las Vegas: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Las Vegas Field Office is seeking public comment on a proposal to lease and subsequently convey approximately 20 acres of public land to the State of Nevada to build a Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) facility near the corner of West Silverado Ranch Boulevard and South Valley View Boulevard in Las Vegas, Nevada. Lease has been offered.

The DMV facility will consist of a full service DMV building with related facilities. Related facilities include a drive test parking lot, motorcycle test course, Commercial Drivers' License

test course, employee and visitor parking lots, landscaping, lighting, walkways, drainage, irrigation, restrooms, concessions, utilities, and ancillary improvements.

The Notice of Realty Action for a Recreation and Public Purposes Act (R&PP) Classification was published in the May 2, 2016, *Federal Register*. Interested parties may submit written comments regarding the proposed decision for the R&PP application and the plan of development, whether the BLM followed proper administrative procedures in reaching the decision to lease and convey under the Act, or any other factor not directly related to the suitability of the land for R&PP use.