

Spring 2006 Green-Up



Don't forget the spring Green-Up, March 11, 2006. Call **822-3370** for more information.

Upcoming Meetings

Interagency Meeting
Feb. 16, 2006
9:30 a.m.



BOR crews installing bank protection at the Rainbow Gardens Weir in 2005

Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee

E-mail update

February 2006

Site supervisors wanted

It's Green-Up time again and we are looking for Site Supervisors! On Saturday, March 11, approximately 300 volunteers will plant 2,250 trees and shrubs, predominantly mesquites, alkali sacaton, and saltbush species, over a 7.5-acre site. The site is a portion of the PLMA funded 60-acre restoration site described in prior updates, and the spring Green-Up constitutes the first planting activities we will be conducting on the site. This Green-Up meets our obligation for our NDEP 319 grant. Please call Debbie Van Dooremolen at 822-3370 if you would like to participate in the event as a site supervisor.

Powerline Weir provides a bridge across the Wash

The Powerline Weir near Lake Las Vegas is now under construction after a lengthy design and construction permitting process. The Powerline Weir is a rock riprap structure that includes a steel and concrete bridge crossing the Las Vegas Wash. This important bridge will tie Clark County's Rainbow Gardens trail system to the lower Las Vegas Wash. Contri Construction broke ground in early January 2006 on this important \$5.68 million weir. Currently, flow diversion and dewatering facilities are being installed in order to dry the foundation area of the weir.



Site of the future Powerline Weir

Sales tax revenue proceeds and grant funds from the Nevada Public Lands Management Act are funding the project. Weir construction is expected to be completed by December 2006.

BOR crews return to the Wash

Once again the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has teamed up with SNWA to install erosion protection in the Las Vegas Wash. The Bureau of Reclamation's Provo Utah construction group will work for four months beginning in February. The project includes:

- ◆ Reinforcing bank stabilization at Pabco Road Weir
- ◆ Clearing tamarisk at DU #1 and #2, Sunrise Mountain, and Lower Narrows weir sites
- ◆ Installing bank protection at the future Sunrise Mountain and Tropicana Weir sites
- ◆ Providing minor maintenance activities at the Demonstration Weir and Upper Narrows Weir site

The project is funded by a combination of proceeds from local sales tax revenues and through federal grants. This year's activities mark the sixth year that the Bureau of Reclamation has worked with SNWA to stabilize the Las Vegas Wash.

Did you know?

Beaver deceivers, the trick to learning to live with beavers at the Wetlands Park

When people think about beavers, different thoughts come to mind. Some people think about cute, hard working creatures. Others, who may have closer contact with them, like the maintenance workers at the Wetlands Park, may say things like "Man, are they ever a nuisance." The latter statement is why Clark County decided to build the Clemson Beaver Pond Leveler at the Nature Preserve. This humane "beaver deceiver" should help alleviate the desire of these fuzzy engineers to build dams on the ponds, cut down the time maintenance crews spend tearing the dams out and save a few trees in the process.

At the Nature Preserve, the beavers have built dams in between the ponds. The pond leveler should discourage the beavers' dam building activity by the unique design of the intake and outflow devices that move water between the ponds. Here is how it works; the intake and outflow devices are installed and maintained below the water surface, even when the pond level is at a minimum. This reduces the beavers' natural urge to build a dam because they are unable to detect a submerged intake device as the source for pond water loss. If they did, they may plug the pipe with material to stop the water movement. Secondly, the pond leveler masks the sound of trickling water by placing the outflow below water on the down-stream side, once again curbing their urge to stop the moving water.

This will be our first experience with the beaver pond leveler so we'll keep you posted on the outcome. If you have any questions, call Fred McElhaney at 455-8289.

