



Upcoming Meetings

Research & Environmental
Monitoring Study Team
February 6, 2008
10:30 a.m.

Las Vegas Valley
Watershed Advisory
Committee
February 12, 2008
3:30 p.m.



Spring Green-Up
March 8, 2008
12:00-4:00 p.m.

Volunteers sought for Las Vegas Wash Green-Up planting

Get your hands dirty for a good cause. The Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee (LVWCC) is seeking volunteers to help plant nearly 2,000 trees and shrubs at this spring's Wash Green-Up. The community event is scheduled for **Saturday, March 8 from noon to 4 p.m.** at the Las Vegas Wash. All tools will be provided.



Volunteers at the 2007 Spring Green-Up.

The LVWCC was created to manage and protect the Las Vegas Wash, the critical final link in our watershed. Its members include local, state and federal agencies, environmental groups and the business community. During the past 11 Wash Green-Up events, volunteers working with the LVWCC have added more than 30,000 native plants to the channel's banks, creating nearly 65 acres of enhanced habitat. The predecessor to these events was the Wash Clean-Up, during which volunteers removed about 500,000 pounds of trash from the environmentally sensitive area.

If you want to help the LVWCC protect and enhance the Las Vegas Wash at this spring's Wash Green-Up, call **822-8400**. Participation is limited to only 250 volunteers, so please register as soon as possible if you are interested.

Selenium Tributary Sampling Event Completed

The Project Team finished up the second round of selenium source identification sampling along the major tributaries of the Las Vegas Wash. Sampling was completed as part of the ongoing bioassessment study. Selenium samples were taken along eight tributaries—Pittman Wash, Whitney Drainage, Duck Creek, Monson Channel, Flamingo Wash, Tropicana Wash, Sloan Channel and Las Vegas Creek—every half-mile beginning above the confluence to the Las Vegas Wash and continuing upstream to the furthest extent possible. Additional samples were taken at major dewatering sources entering the tributaries. Sampling events were conducted twice, once in the summer months and an additional sampling event during the winter. In addition to the selenium samples, field readings for pH, temperature, conductivity and dissolved oxygen were measured. The samples have been sent to South Dakota State University for analysis.



Water quality samples were taken every half-mile and at each dewatering source testing for selenium.

These data will be used in conjunction with data collected from bird eggs and fish tissue, along with data from soil samples to help assess the impacts selenium concentrations have on wildlife. Data received from this project will aid in identifying sources of selenium concentrations in the Las Vegas Valley. Identifying the sources of selenium will help further focus our attention and resources on areas where high selenium concentrations are found and therefore where management actions are needed to reduce selenium concentrations.

Agency Spotlight

Clark County Gets on the O-FENCE-ive

Clark County Parks and Recreation has begun installing a post and cable fence along the north side of the Las Vegas Wash along the 170 Pipeline Road. Once completed, this new fence will extend from the Sunrise Mountain Trailhead all the way down to the Rainbow Gardens Weir for a total length of 27,000 feet! The fence is one of many improvements in the county's Master Plan for the Wetlands Park.

It is important to note that the fence is not considered a boundary fence but is being installed for habitat protection and enhancement. The north side of the Las Vegas Wash includes suitable habitat for federally threatened desert tortoise as well as the Las Vegas bearpoppy, a plant that is considered critically endangered by the state of Nevada. These habitats are especially vulnerable to damage caused by off-highway vehicle use which is considered illegal within the Wetlands Park.



Once completed, the fence will help protect and allow the fragile landscape to rehabilitate.