

Upcoming Meetings

Operations
Study Team Meeting
April 5, 2006
8:30 a.m.

Research Environmental
Monitoring
Study Team Meeting
April 5, 2006
10:00 a.m.

Management Advisory
Committee Meeting
April 10, 2006
1:30 p.m.

Interagency Meeting
April 13, 2006
9:30 a.m.

Administrative
Study Team Meeting
April 20, 2006
1:00 p.m.

Las Vegas Wash
Coordination
Committee Meeting
April 25, 2006
9:00 a.m.



Young volunteers at work



Volunteers planting at the Spring Green-Up

Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee

E-mail update

April 2006

Green-Up volunteers dig in at the Wash

More than 180 volunteers turned out for the ninth semi-annual Wash Green-Up held on Saturday, March 18. Volunteers grabbed shovels and trowels and dug into the 7.5 acre site - the largest site we have ever planted at one time - with tremendous results. By the end of the

afternoon, they had planted more than 2000 trees and shrubs, including hundreds of 15-gallon mesquite trees, along the site. The event celebrated the five-year anniversary of the first Wash Green-Up, which was held in April 2001, and represented the first planting activities to occur on the 60-acre, S108 site. Volunteers at Wash Green-Ups have now planted nearly half of the 83 acres that have been revegetated along the Wash, covering them with more than 20,000 native trees, shrubs, and emergents. We thank our dedicated volunteers and also the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection for funding the Wash Green-Up through a generous grant.



EPMT spells trouble...

...for tall whitetop that is. The National Park Service's Exotic Plant Management Team (EPMT) is nearing completion of its ninth field season at the Las Vegas Wash, aggressively treating tall whitetop along 14 miles of stream bank. Since the treatments began in fall of 2002, the plant has moved from an unchecked population explosion at the Wash to one that has been contained and is on the decline. The plant may never be fully eradicated from the area, but its presence is far from what it might have been had it not been aggressively treated by the hearty souls on the EPMT. Team members cut through dense tamarisk thickets with chainsaws and blazed trails through the never-ending sea of cattails and reeds in the Duck Creek confluence on an ATV in search of the spry white-flowered plant. Over the past three years, the EPMT has:



- Conducted treatment across 2,800 acres
- Treated 25 acres of tall whitetop
- Retreated an additional 18 acres
- Spent 5,079.5 hours on the project

Additionally, the entire area is mapped each season with GPS technology. The management strategy, once considered an emergency action by the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP), is now one of maintenance. The success of this could not have been possible without support from the Bureau of Reclamation, Clark County Vector Control, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan, the Las Vegas Wash Weed Partnership and of course the dedicated crews on the National Park Service's Exotic Plant Management Team.

Did you know?

The Las Vegas Wash flows through an archeological district

An Archaeological District, according to the National Historic Preservation Act, is a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites important in history or prehistory. In fact, the Wash has 48 sites listed on the National Historic Register, which collectively represent the Las Vegas Wash Archeological District. The marshes and mesquite bosques supported by the Las Vegas Wash over the centuries has long attracted people to the area. Cultural resource investigations from the 1970s and the late 1990s to the present have resulted in a wealth of knowledge about the use of the Las Vegas Wash by Native Americans, early Spanish explorers and ranchers. HRA, Inc. Conservation Archeology has completed several studies that have revealed people have used the Wash's resources over thousands of years. Traces of past use take the form of archeological features such as:

- Prehistoric pithouses
- Storage pits for mesquite seeds
- Ranch house foundations, and irrigation canals

Though most of the reports for the cultural investigations by law are not available for distribution to protect the sites, the Clark County Wetlands Park will develop interpretive materials that will share the exciting cultural resource history with the public.



This sandstone path identified during excavation of a portion of the historic Bishop Ranch leads from a concrete foundation to a timber-lined well. A dime found at the site had a date of 1917. The ranch may have been occupied during this time.