



# Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee

## E-mail update

May 2006

### New Clark County Wetlands Park Coordinator

Clark County is proud to announce Elsie Sellars began her new job as the county's Wetlands Park Coordinator on April 10, 2006. Sellars coordinates all aspects of the project in fulfillment of the county's goals for the Wetlands Park:

- To develop recreation and tourism opportunities compatible with conservation and restoration of the Wash
- Create social benefits for residents to foster community pride and a sense of ownership
- Create educational opportunities
- Conserve and restore natural resources of the Las Vegas Wash



Elsie Sellars

Sellars comes highly recommended to Clark County from a successful tenure with the State of Nevada Department of Wildlife as the Southern Region Wildlife Education Coordinator. In addition to her experience developing, coordinating and overseeing interpretive education programs for Southern Nevada, Sellars has extensive experience with the Bureau of Land Management as the Natural Resource Education Coordinator, developing interpretive programs for visitors to Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. Sellars holds a Bachelor's of Science in Natural Resource Planning and Interpretation from Humboldt State University, California.

### Upcoming Meetings

Operations  
Study Team Meeting  
May 3, 2006  
8:30 a.m.

Las Vegas Wash Weed  
Partnership Meeting  
May 18, 2006  
8:30 a.m.

Interagency Cooperative  
Sampling Meeting  
May 19, 2006  
9:30 a.m.

Lake Mead  
Water Quality Forum  
May 24, 2006  
10:00 a.m.

### Surveying for endangered and threatened species along the Wash

The Las Vegas Wash currently provides important habitat for several hundred species of wildlife. Some of these species are abundant and common while others are rare and uncommon. When the original plans were developed for stabilizing the Wash, there wasn't any information regarding the presence of threatened or endangered species. Since 1998, however, Clark County Parks and Recreation and the Southern Nevada Water Authority have conducted annual surveys along the Wash to determine if the federally protected southwestern willow flycatcher or Yuma clapper rail (Photo courtesy of the US Bureau of Reclamation) is present. Qualified biologists who have permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can only conduct these surveys. This is important since the survey itself is a form of "harassment," which is unlawful according to the Endangered Species Act. During the past eight years that surveys have been conducted, no southwestern willow flycatchers have been detected. A total of three transient Yuma clapper rails, however, were detected, with one of those detections reported in May 2005.



Yuma clapper rail

### Agency Spotlight

#### Southern Nevada Health District on the hunt for mosquitoes

With warm weather upon, us it is time for outdoor play, backyard barbecues, picnics and perhaps a weekend of fishing but it is also the start of mosquito season and the need to protect ourselves against the diseases they carry. In the United States, it is well established that West Nile Virus is here to stay. The Southern Nevada Health District is preparing for its third active season of finding, controlling and analyzing Nevada mosquitoes for the presence of West Nile Virus. This year the Health District is well armed to fight this annoying and potentially life threatening pest. A new Mosquito Control group will be in effect along with a web page containing on-line complaint forms for green stagnant swimming pools, standing water and biting mosquitoes.



*Southern Nevada Health District Environmental Health Specialists Tim Ripp, (left) and Jonathan Gore (right) are performing early season mosquito larvae surveillance using a "dipper". Mosquito larvae are counted and samples are collected for identification at the laboratory to identify various mosquito species as they emerge throughout Clark County. Their findings will be used to optimize control measures.*

Known breeding areas throughout the Las Vegas Valley will be surveyed and treated to rid them of these pests. Several of the routine mosquito treatment sites are within the Las Vegas Wash as well as other flood channels and flood control basins. If you happen to encounter a spot with breeding mosquitoes or are being bothered by adult mosquitoes you can notify the Health District via the Mosquito Control Hotline at 759-1220 or visit the website at [http://www.cchd.org/mosquito\\_control/index.htm](http://www.cchd.org/mosquito_control/index.htm)