



Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee

E-mail update

May 2007

Upcoming Meetings

No Scheduled Meetings

Boy Scout Efforts Benefit Las Vegas Wash

The official slogan of the Boy Scouts of America is to “Do a good turn daily.” With the number of Scouts performing acts of service throughout the Las Vegas Wash during two major Scouting events last month, it appears that they’re good at keeping their word.

The first event was an Eagle Scout project to replace the temporary fencing around the Bostick kiosk with a permanent split-rail wood fence to match those found at the Clark County Nature Preserve and the Duck Creek trailhead.



A birds-eye view of the new fence around the Bostick kiosk.

The Eagle Scout is the highest rank achieved in the organization and requires the Scout to organize a large service project. Tanner Sullivan of Henderson approached Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) about collaborating on the project and SNWA agreed to provide the bulk of the materials with Tanner and Troop 6612 overseeing and performing the installation. The materials were paid for by Nevada Division of Environmental Protection grant funds associated with the informational kiosk.



Troop 6612 stands in front of the newly installed fence.

The second event involved the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee (LVWCC) teaming up with local Scouts to mark this year’s Earth Day celebration with a planting activity at the Las Vegas Wash.

Approximately 250 Scouts from the Las Vegas Area Council came together on Saturday, April 21 at Clark County’s newly constructed Sunrise Mountain Trailhead to participate in the conservation event. Using the trailhead as a staging area, volunteers were then shuttled to the planting site. The Scouts dug in to the site with enthusiasm, planting almost 2,400 native shrubs and trees along the northern banks of the Las Vegas Wash near the Pabco Road Weir.



Local Cub Scouts struggle with a desert saltbush.

In February, this planting site was infested with tamarisk, an invasive weed species affecting waterways throughout the western United States. However, by working with various agencies such as the Bureau of Reclamation and the Nevada Division of Forestry, the LVWCC has successfully removed more than 100 acres of tamarisk from this and other sites along the Las Vegas Wash, clearing the way for native plant communities to flourish.

“This planting effort is another vital step in enhancing the Las Vegas Wash,” said Debbie Van Dooremolen, environmental biologist for the Las Vegas Wash Project Coordination Team. “The vegetation that was planted by these local Scouts will provide needed habitat for birds and animals living in the Wash, thus helping preserve the area’s unique and delicate biodiversity.”

Anderson Dairy was also on hand to provide the Scouts with ice cream sandwiches, a tasty reward in recognition of their community service.

Did You Know?

Salvaging Native Plants from Pahranaagat Valley

SNWA has been issued Special Use Permits from the Pahranaagat National Wildlife Refuge (PNWR) for the past three years to collect native hardstem bulrush (*Schoenoplectus acutus*), also known as tules, in five-gallon containers and transplant them into wetland areas of the Las Vegas Wash. These transplants have been a great success and provide valuable habitat for wildlife along the Las Vegas Wash. Plants are harvested by the Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) conservation camp from Jean, NV, who have also been invaluable conducting site maintenance, invasive weed management, controlled burns and special projects such as this one along the Las Vegas Wash. Salvaging these plants from the PNWR contributes to the LVWCC’s long-term goals of bank stabilization and wetland enhancement and has saved thousands of dollars in nursery costs. The LVWCC appreciates the cooperation of the PNWR manager and NDF for enabling this project to be such a success and looks forward to working with them in the future.



NDF crews harvest bullrush from PNWR.