



Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee

E-mail update

December 2006

Upcoming Meetings

Operations Study Team
December 6, 2006
8:30a.m.

Las Vegas Wash
Weed Partnership
December 7, 2006
8:30a.m.



Powerline Crossing Bridge

LVWCC 2006 Annual Tour

On the morning of November 7, 38 attendees representing 14 member agencies boarded a bus under blue skies and embarked upon the LVWCC annual tour. The tour followed the flow of the Las Vegas watershed, beginning in an urban tributary and ending at Las Vegas Bay, while featuring several new stops. Along the way, Wash Team and other SNWA staff updated attendees on the stabilization, revegetation, biological resource monitoring, water quality monitoring, and outreach accomplishments of 2006.

The first stop was the Pittman Pilot Wetlands Project, where staff described the challenges and potential benefits of constructing wetlands in an urban flood control channel. Extending the cement curbs to four feet high and sand-bagging the south corner of the site has increased resiliency and been more successful at deflecting storm flows. Committee members were able to see this for themselves from the minimal damage caused by a significant October storm that would have previously destroyed the wetlands.

Our next stop took us to the newly completed S108, 60-acre revegetation site. The site was funded by grants from the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act land sales program, the Nevada Division of State Parks, and the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, and is the largest planting area completed to date. S108 was once covered with invasive salt cedar and bassia, but with the help of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Native Resources of Nevada, and hundreds of volunteers over two Green-Ups, S108 is now a native plant paradise. Thousands of mesquite trees, globemallow, baccharis, fourwing saltbush, and alkali sacaton cover the 60-acre expanse. With the completion of S108, the Wash revegetation effort currently stands at more than 135 acre—nearly double the acreage of just a year ago.

Another new tour stop was the Bostick kiosk interpretive area adjacent to the Bostick Weir. The kiosk incorporates six informative panels that discuss area wildlife, hydrology, and non-point source pollution. The surrounding area includes shaded benches, a small outdoor classroom, and a trail system that navigates through three native plant gardens. Since its completion in May 2006, the site has served as a gathering place and overlook for outreach events. In the last several weeks alone, the site has been used to meet with African delegates, Whitman College students, and local elementary students.



Seth Shanahan (photo left) & Gerry Hester (photo right) brief Committee members on Wash projects



Our final introduction was to the newly completed Powerline Crossing Weir, the second most downstream weir or gradient control structure in the Wash above Lake Las Vegas. This rock riprap gradient control structure became operational in October. The facility has a span of 320 feet across the Wash, extends 350 feet from downstream to upstream and is 7 feet high. The Powerline Crossing Weir also includes an expansive 350-foot long bridge, the first bridge connecting the north and south banks for future Wetlands Park trail users.

The tour ended at Las Vegas Bay looking down on the outflow of the Wash into Lake Mead.

Did You Know?

Biota Database

The Wash Team began biological resource monitoring in 2000 to create an inventory of the species that utilize the Wash. Surveys have been conducted on amphibians, bats, birds, fish, reptiles, small mammals, and plants. Recently, these survey data were compiled into a biota database. This new database also includes incidental (non-survey) species detections and data collected by researchers in the 1970s, and therefore serves as a complete species list for animals and plants in the Wash. The searchable database will soon be available on lvwash.org.

For comments or to contact Project Team staff, call **702-822-3385**.