



A Look Back at 2010



The Lower Narrows Weir, half of the largest construction project to date at the Las Vegas Wash.

As we move toward 2011, it seems appropriate to highlight some of the many accomplishments of the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee (LVWCC) over the last year.

Construction

It was a busy year for large, yellow pieces of construction equipment along the Las Vegas Wash. The biggest weir project thus far on the Las Vegas Wash began last year when the Lower Narrows and Homestead Weirs construction was finally initiated. In an effort to reduce costs, these two weirs were put out to bid and are being constructed simultaneously, and should be completed by late 2011. The Bureau of Reclamation construction crews made their annual arrival in February and had plenty to keep themselves busy for a full four months. The highly skilled crew out of Provo, Utah did everything from repairing several areas that had been damaged by winter storms to preparing areas for future weir projects, saving the LVWCC plenty of time and money in the process. The third major construction project last year included the completion of a few hundred feet of bank protection between the Fire Station Weir and Lake Las Vegas.

Biology and Water Quality

There continue to be several required and ongoing monitoring projects on both biology and water quality. Yuma clapper rail surveys were conducted in the spring and followed by southwestern willow flycatcher surveys in early summer. Neither of these endangered species were identified this year, despite a southwestern willow flycatcher being identified in 2009 near the Pabco Road Weir. The third round of the bioassessment study began this summer with the collection of bird eggs and the addition of monthly zooplankton collections from Lake Mead. A round of fish collections took place in the late fall and all collected samples will be analyzed and tested for any contaminants of potential concern. Water quality samples were taken regularly from several locations within the Las Vegas Wash as well as several of its tributaries, with some sites uploading their results to www.lvwash.org in real time. Several other biological studies took place during the past year including monitoring for bats, small mammals, migratory birds, insects, and large mammals. Look for reports on several of these studies in the upcoming months.

Revegetation and Outreach

The 16th and 17th Las Vegas Wash Green-Up events were held this spring and fall respectively with more than 750 volunteers helping to revegetate 18.5 acres of the Las Vegas Wash with a variety of native trees and shrubs. These two events brought the total amount of revegetation at the Las Vegas Wash to approximately 280 acres. The Mabel Hoggard Elementary School 5th grade outreach program continues to be a major success and has grown from a one-day event into two days. Many other tours and outreach events were conducted throughout the year informing students, teachers, the local public, as well as professionals from around the world on the work of the LVWCC and the importance of the Las Vegas Wash.



The Wash Green-Up volunteer planting events play a major role in public outreach.

Awards

The Partners in Conservation Award from the U.S. Department of the Interior was another major highlight of 2010. The national award recognized the many accomplishments of the LVWCC and identified the Las Vegas Wash as one of the most unique wetlands parks in the country.

Upcoming Meetings

Administrative Study Team

Jan. 5, 2011
8:30 a.m.

Research and Environmental Monitoring Study Team

Jan. 5, 2011
1:30 p.m.

Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee

Jan. 25, 2011
8:30 a.m.