



2011 Year-End Review

There's an old adage that the busier we are, the faster time seems to pass us by. With that consideration, the last 12 months seem to have passed by surprisingly quickly. Moving forward into a new year provides us the opportunity to look back and highlight some of the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee's (LVWCC) accomplishments of 2011.

Construction

The stabilization-based construction projects involving the Las Vegas Wash are the largest and most visible activities involving the LVWCC. The completion of the Lower Narrows and Homestead weirs in the fall was one of the major accomplishments of 2011. The projects comprised the largest construction footprint of all the stabilization efforts to date, which saved the LVWCC millions of dollars. With the completion of these two weirs, the LVWCC has installed 14 of the proposed 22 weirs throughout the Clark County Wetlands Park.

With the completion of one huge project, the engineers decided to take what they had learned and apply it to an even bigger project. By the end of November, the first pieces of equipment were on site to begin the construction of the Duck Creek Confluence, Upper Narrows, and DU Wetlands No. 1 weirs.



Construction of the Lower Narrows and Homestead weirs was completed in summer 2011.

The Bureau of Reclamation construction crews made their annual trip to Las Vegas in spring 2011 to work on a number of maintenance and repair projects along the Las Vegas Wash. Most of the repair work was a response to several flooding events over the winter. The crews also removed several areas of overgrown vegetation and sediment that could impede future flood flows.

Biology and Water Quality

The final reports of several biological monitoring projects were completed in 2011, including studies on bats, migratory birds, insects, small mammals and large mammals. These reports can be found at lwash.org.

The required and ongoing threatened and endangered bird monitoring activities provided some strong numbers earlier this year. The willow flycatcher monitoring program produced 16 detections this year, which is the second highest number in the history of the survey.

Water quality continues to be collected and analyzed regularly along the Las Vegas Wash and its tributaries. A new water quality plan was completed which has increased coordination and efficiency among the several agencies involved in collecting water data, reducing water data collection costs. The LVWCC also celebrated the return of the Real-Time Water Quality Monitoring Program, which has been reduced to three sites, after several upgrades and modifications were made to the system. For more information, visit lwash.org.

Revegetation and Outreach

The LVWCC held its 18th and 19th Las Vegas Wash Green-Up events this spring and fall, revegetating approximately 16 acres with the help of more than 650 volunteers. To date, approximately 330 acres have been revegetated. Restored areas continue to have high survivorship rates, increasing canopy cover of native plants and reducing occurrence of noxious weed species. The LVWCC also was involved in many outreach events throughout the year to further connect with the public on a local, as well as global, level.



The Wash Green-Up events continue to attract hundreds of volunteers to the Las Vegas Wash.

One of these events was the celebration of the 40-year anniversary of World Wetlands Day in February 2011, which included several activities highlighting the importance of wetlands. The LVWCC is currently planning another World Wetlands Day event in spring 2012. For more information on how to get involved, visit lwash.org.

Upcoming Meetings

Administrative Study Team

Jan. 4, 2012
8:30 a.m.

Research and Environmental Monitoring Study Team

Jan. 4, 2012
1:30 p.m.

Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee

Jan. 24, 2012
8:30 a.m.