



Warm Springs Natural Area Greenhouse Helps Revegetation Efforts



Trays of desert willows sit in a greenhouse, waiting to be used at the 2013 Fall Wash Green-Up. To help curb material costs and better control plant production, the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) and the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee (LVWCC) have teamed up to provide plants for future revegetation efforts. Plants will be grown in unused portions of a greenhouse and shade structures at the Warm Springs Natural Area. While some of the seeds for the plants came from the Warm Springs Natural Area, the majority were collected along the Las Vegas Wash.

As a trial run, the partnership will supply all of the plants for the 2013 Fall Wash Green-Up volunteer event. Because of the short turn-around time for the Green-Up, the plants will be limited to one-gallon sizes. If successful, the SNWA and LVWCC may provide plants for all Las Vegas Wash revegetation efforts, including Wash Green-Up planting events.

In addition to some cost savings, producing plants themselves enables the LVWCC and SNWA to increase the plant quality as well as customize them for life at the Las Vegas Wash.

Plants grown in the Warm Springs Natural Area use local soils, as opposed to the bark-based mulch typically used by nurseries. They also are watered more sporadically to help them adjust to the watering patterns common in the Mojave Desert, likely resulting in a higher degree of survivorship in future LVWCC revegetation efforts.

Upcoming Meetings

Administrative Study Team

Oct. 2, 2013
8:30 a.m.

Operations Study Team

Oct. 2, 2013
10:30 a.m.

Research and Environmental Study Team

Oct. 2, 2013
1:30 p.m.

Las Vegas Valley Watershed Advisory Committee

Oct. 8, 2013
2 p.m.

Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee

Oct. 22, 2013
8:30 a.m.

The LVWCC Turns 15

Pull out the candles and the party hats; the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee (LVWCC) recognizes its 15th anniversary this month. Formed in 1998 as a recommendation by the Water Quality Citizens Advisory Committee, the LVWCC was tasked with addressing and erosion issues — among others — at the Las Vegas Wash.

The original 28-member LVWCC identified nine areas of concentration and associated recommendations. This evolved into the Las Vegas Wash Comprehensive Adaptive Management Plan, which now serves as the guide for the current 29-member LVWCC and its three study teams.

In a relatively short amount of time, the LVWCC has achieved much success and received several awards for accomplishments at the Las Vegas Wash. Some of these include:

- Construction of 16 weirs to slow flows and reduce erosion, substantially decreasing the amount of total suspended solids in the Las Vegas Wash.
- Removal of approximately 600 acres of non-native tamarisk.
- Organization of nearly 10,000 volunteers in efforts to Green-Up almost 200 acres and clean up more than 500,000 pounds of trash.
- 2002 Wendell McCurry Excellence in Water Quality Award.
- 2004 North American Lake Management Society Technical Excellence Award.
- 2010 Partners in Conservation Award.
- 2011 American Public Works Association Environmental Project of the Year for the Upper Diversion Weir project.
- 2013 American Public Works Association Environmental Project of the Year for the Lower Narrows and Homestead weirs project.

Connect With Us 

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