Record Success at 15th Wash Green-Up

The Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee (LVWCC) held its 15th Wash Green-Up event on Saturday, Oct. 17 at the Las Vegas Wash. The event was organized in cooperation with the Clark County Water Reclamation District (CCWRD) to revegetate 28 acres on their property just northwest of the Clark County Nature Preserve.

Because the largest Wash Green-Up to date covered only 14 acres, the LVWCC spent months reaching out to the public seeking a record number of volunteers for this ambitious acreage attempt. As always, the public responded enthusiastically and registration was closed at 1,200 volunteers including groups from local corporations, schools, churches, boy and girl scouts as well as individuals. Since it was impossible to accommodate such a large number of volunteers on the site at the same time, this event was broken into three two-hour shifts in an attempt to balance the day’s effort.

Volunteers were so motivated that by late morning, the first two groups completed all of their sections and had moved into the last section. Site supervisors actually had to guard the final two plots just to ensure that there was something left for the afternoon group to plant.

These volunteer efforts are an important aspect of the LVWCC and all of the involved agencies want to send a warm thank you to everyone who donated their time and energy to this event. Most of the expenses from these events are paid for by funding through grants provided by the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act and Nevada Department of Environmental Protection. Please keep your eyes out for information on the Spring Wash Green-Up event!

October Means it’s Time for the Annual LVWCC Tour

The Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee (LVWCC) meets quarterly to discuss the accomplishments and upcoming activities of the program. The October meeting includes a tour of the Las Vegas Wash to provide the committee members an opportunity to see firsthand the accomplishments and successes of the previous year. After a brief introduction at the SNWA offices on Oct. 27, committee members braved the cold wind and loaded up the bus and began the tour on the north side of the Las Vegas Wash at the Upper Diversion Weir and footbridge and the site commemorating the 10-year anniversary of the LVWCC that was dedicated last fall.

Tour participants were shown the successful revegetation efforts conducted during the past 12 months at the site. The tour traveled back to the south side of the Wash, passing the 28-acre area that was revegetated at the Fall Wash Green-Up event and stopping at the Clark County Mitigation Ponds which were dedicated in August. Elsie Sellars gave an update on the completion of the six ponds and recent revegetation efforts. Gerry Hester spoke on the neighboring DU Wetlands No. 2 Weir, completed last summer, and the location for the 2010 Spring Green-Up. After lunch at the Las Vegas Bay overlook of Lake Mead, a stop was made above Lake Las Vegas at the Fire Station Weir, the site of a bank protection project scheduled to begin in the next couple of months. Elsie Sellars talked about the trailhead nearing design completion at the Powerline Crossing Weir, and on the way to the Bostick kiosk, Gerry Hester pointed out the area of the future Homestead and Lower Narrows weirs that will begin construction in early 2010. While at the Bostick kiosk, committee members were given an update on several of the educational outreach efforts, wildlife and vegetation monitoring programs.