

Upcoming Meetings

Operations
Study Team Meeting
Jan. 4, 2006
8:30 a.m.

Research and
Environmental
Study Team Meeting
Jan. 4, 2006
10:30 a.m.

Management Advisory
Committee Meeting
Jan. 9, 2006
1:30 p.m.

Interagency Meeting
Jan. 12, 2006
9:30 a.m.

Administrative
Study Team Meeting
Jan. 19, 2006
1:00 p.m.

Las Vegas Wash
Coordination
Committee Meeting
Jan. 24, 2006
9:00 a.m.

Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee

E-mail update for the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee

January 2006

The Las Vegas Wash, making an international name for itself

The Las Vegas Wash stabilization and enhancement project is becoming recognized on an international scale. This project exemplifies how dozens of community groups and governmental agencies can work together on complex problems to find the right solutions to restore a critical ecosystem. Over the past five years, the project has attracted more than 100 Chinese officials, scientists, and engineers who have visited the Wash and met with project experts. These officials came from several governmental agencies and research institutes, including China's Yellow River Administration Commission, Geological Survey of China, and China's Environmental Protection Agency. The scientists greatly appreciated the wealth of first-hand information provided to them about how planners, scientists, and engineers are working intelligently to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and enhance the ecosystem in the Las Vegas Wash. They were very impressed by the accomplishments we have achieved since the project began in 1998. China's rapid economic growth and the large population have created many environmental problems. The experience learned and methods used for the Las Vegas Wash project provide an excellent model for some of the issues facing China.



The revegetation program nearly doubles in scope

In October, the Wash Team began work on a 60-acre revegetation site thanks to funding from the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act, the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. A Bureau of Reclamation crew cleared the area of invasive weeds such as tamarisk and bassia in October. The Wash Team will plant the site with a native mesquite bosque in early Spring 2006. To date, this will be the largest single tract of land revegetated along the Wash, almost doubling the total acres planted. Over the previous 5 years, we have typically planted sites less than 5 acres each. This site, located southwest of Pabco Road Weir, will be planted with approximately 19,000 plants and irrigated with a network of nearly 13 miles of aboveground pipe. The revegetation activities will cost nearly \$1,000,000 and will include extensive invasive plant removal, installation of an irrigation system, native plant revegetation, maintenance, and extensive monitoring, and reporting. The remaining \$12,000,000 budgeted from the grants listed above will be used to help build erosion control structures along the Wash and provide educational and outreach opportunities for the public.





Young scientists' backpack and notebook

Young scientists get new equipment for their backpacks



New equipment is helping students taking part in the Wash educational program get more hands-on experience in the field. Thanks to the 319-grant from the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection, students can use a backpack filled with research equipment on their field trip. Each backpack contains a new and improved field notebook, a GPS unit, binoculars, scissors, pH strips, tape, and gloves. Use of this equipment gives the students an even better idea of how scientific data is collected as well as exposing them to the exciting career opportunities available in environmental sciences. The Las Vegas Wash Coordination Team has partnered with Mabel Hoggard Math & Science Magnet Elementary School as part of a program that provides 5th graders opportunities to conduct actual fieldwork alongside scientists. This educational outreach program, now in its sixth year, continues to evolve.

Did you know?

Now appearing in print

The Las Vegas Wash is making a splash in the print scene. The Las Vegas Wash is everywhere, journal articles, trade magazines and even a home and garden magazine. The Las Vegas Wash Project Team is spotlighted for a wide variety of projects. Some of the publications include:



Wash articles spotlighted

- Sources and Concentration of Mercury and Selenium in Compartments within the Las Vegas Wash During a Period of Rapid Change, Environmental Monitoring and Assessment 2005 107:81-99
- Contaminant in urban runoff: looking at southern Nevada, Lakeline, Spring 2005;
- Water Quality Monitoring in the Las Vegas Wash, Southwest Hydrology, September/October 2003;
- Paradise Saved, 10 newly preserved Western treasures, waiting for you to enjoy them, Sunset Magazine, February 2005;
- Las Vegas Wash Project Doesn't Gamble on Future, Worldwide Projects, Spring 2002.

For a copy of one of these articles, contact the Project Team staff at 822-3385.

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