



Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee

E-mail update

January 2008

The Wash Experiencing Growing Pains

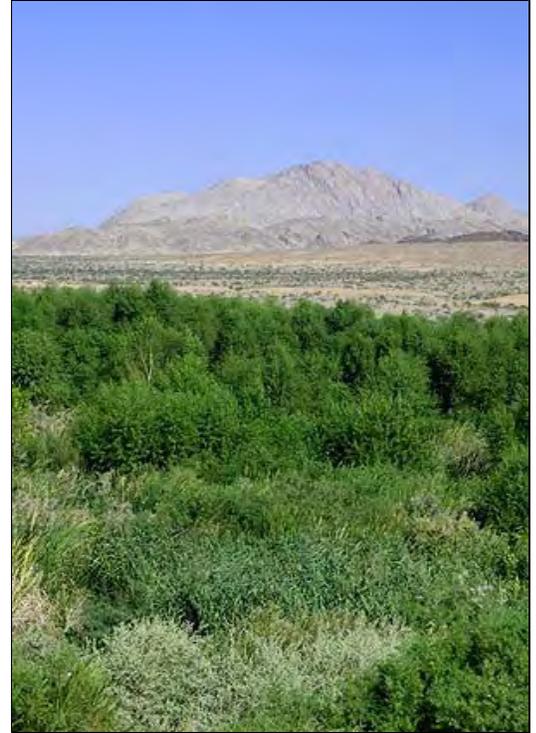
Upcoming Meetings

Management Advisory Committee
(Las Vegas Valley Watershed Advisory Committee)
T.B.A.

Administrative Study Team
January 17, 2008
1:00 p.m.

Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee
January 22, 2008
9:00 a.m.

The majority of the weirs constructed throughout the Las Vegas Wash are a confined rock riprap design, which has more aesthetic value than a rigid concrete structure like the Rainbow Gardens Weir. Riprap blends into the natural environment and allows vegetation to grow, camouflaging the structure while providing habitat and cover for wildlife. Recently, the proliferation of willows has been so extensive on a few weirs that if not addressed, the conditions could actually have a negative effect on the structures ability to function properly, especially during flood conditions.



The Bostick Weir can no longer be seen due to being inundated by willows.

To address this growing problem, the Southern Nevada Water Authority will welcome a maintenance crew from the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) later this month to assist in thinning out these trees. This is the fifth consecutive year in which this highly skilled maintenance crew will conduct work on the Las Vegas Wash. This partnership is another example of the positive collaborations that have resulted from the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee.

Other projects that the maintenance crew will be working on include installing more rock riprap as bank protection along several sections of the Las Vegas Wash and grading the slope of some unstable cliff sections near the Rainbow Gardens Weir.



BOR crews clearing non-native tamarisk in 2007.

Adaptive Management Process Takes Next Step to Protect Las Vegas Valley Watershed

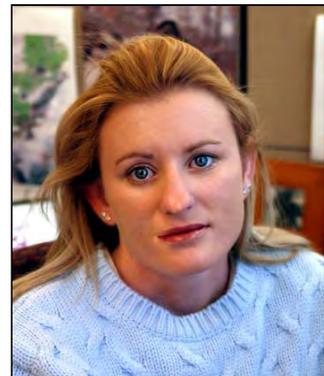
Since 2000, the Management Advisory Committee (MAC) has focused on providing local oversight and funding for the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee's stabilization and enhancement efforts along the Las Vegas Wash. Wanting to apply this garnered success and experience to water-related issues throughout the Las Vegas Valley, the MAC has decided to broaden its focus and will now be known as the Las Vegas Valley Watershed Advisory Committee (LVVWAC). Once fully transitioned, the LVVWAC will assume the functions of the MAC as well as the additional responsibilities of creating and managing the development of a regional water quality plan and other watershed management plans.

The general objective of the LVVWAC will be to protect the quality and quantity of local water resources by developing regional water quality goals for the Las Vegas Valley watershed and Lake Mead. The LVVWAC will also recommend procedures to help ensure that the identified goals are met. Additionally, the LVVWAC will develop a cohesive and integrated approach to address treatment issues relating to wastewater, drinking water and stormwater.

Agency Spotlight

The Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee would like to welcome Roslyn Ryan in her new position with the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA). Roslyn was hired as a Hydrologist II for the Resource Monitoring Water Quality Team to fill in the spot left by Xiaoping Zhou's promotion to team supervisor. Roslyn will oversee the water quality issues related to the tributary flows of the Las Vegas Wash.

Roslyn attended the University of Nevada, Las Vegas where she received an undergraduate degree in Environmental Science followed by a graduate degree in Water Resource Management. She brings six years of experience working for the U.S. Geological Survey and spent one year working for the SNWA on several groundwater resource projects.



Roslyn Ryan is a new Hydrologist for SNWA.