

Spring 2006 Green-Up



Don't forget the Green-Up on Saturday, Mar. 11. Call Debbie Van Dooremolen at 822-3370 if you would like to participate in the event as a site supervisor.

Upcoming Meetings

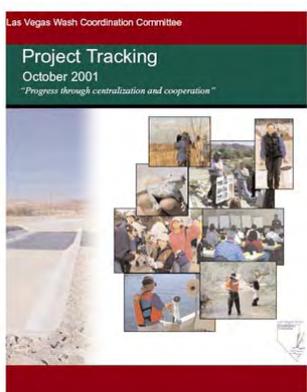
Operations
Study Team Meeting
Mar. 1, 2006
8:30 a.m.

Interagency Meeting
Mar. 16, 2006
9:30 a.m.

Weed Partnership
Meeting
Mar. 16, 2006
8:30 a.m.



Bonapart's gulls



2001 Project Tracking

Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee

E-mail update

March 2006

Harvesting bulrush

The Las Vegas Wash Project Coordination Team recently collected 1,300 one-gallon size containers of hard-stemmed bulrush (*Schoenoplectus acutus*) from the Pahrnatag National Wildlife Refuge. This project benefits both the Refuge and the Wash. Selectively clearing the bulrush from the Refuge's middle marsh area effectively thins out the plants to keep the population healthy and provides native plants for the Wash that are already adapted to the area while maintaining the local gene pool. The bulrush was replanted at sites along the Wash channel including the recently completed Calico Ridge Weir. This project could not have been accomplished without the issuance of Special Use Permits from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Plant harvesting contributes to our long-term goals of stabilizing the Las Vegas Wash and enhancing a valuable resource for Southern Nevada. We look forward to working with the US Fish and Wildlife Service again in 2006.



Nevada Division of Forestry crews collecting bulrush



Bulrush were harvested from Pahrnatag and planted at Calico Ridge Weir

Coming soon

Year-end report

With the close of 2005, the Wash Team has been compiling our accomplishments for the year. A new format is in the works to compliment our work completed, and the document will be submitted to the MAC for comment in March. Look for your final copy of the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee 2005 Year End Report at the April 25 LVWCC meeting.

Bioassessment Study

The data has been collected, analyzed and a report is being drafted for the bioassessment study that was initiated in 2003. As a joint project between the LVWCC and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, bird eggs, fish tissue, sediments and water quality was collected and analyzed for a variety of heavy metals and organic contaminants. The Research Environmental Monitoring Study Team and Management Advisory Committee will review a draft report in March and the results will be printed and ready for distribution at the April 25 LVWCC meeting.

Long-Term Management Plan for the biological resources at the Wash

Over the past five years, the LVWCC has conducted a variety of biological resource studies along the Las Vegas Wash to catalogue the wildlife species that occur there. The baseline data collected from the surveys for small mammals, birds, bats, reptiles, frogs and fish will serve as the basis for the development of the long-term management plan for wildlife. The Research Environmental Monitoring Study Team is currently developing the long-term management plan, and the report is due this summer.

Looking for your projects

It has been five years since the first edition of the Project Tracking document was printed and it is time for an update. With so much going on and so many eager participants actively working on the Wash, a central database was created in the Project Tracking section of the members Web site for members to log activities and associated data related to the Las Vegas Wash, Clark County Wetlands Park and associated tributaries. The Web site has proven to be a dynamic resource tool for members, and the printed document represents a consolidation of the all the activities underway in and around the Las Vegas Wash that you can view at a glance. The Wash Team requests that you provide staff an update of your existing projects, any new activities underway and if you know of projects that are of interest but have not been included, please let us know. You can view the project tracking section of the members Web site here: www.lvwash.org/members/project. For assistance with your projects or if you have questions, call **Beverly White at 862-3731** for water quality or **Nick Rice at 822-3385** for biological, stabilization, outreach and all other activities.

Did you know?

The Wash is delisted

Section 303 (d) of the Clean Water Act requires that each state develop a list of waterbodies that need additional controls to achieve or maintain water quality standards. In Nevada, this list is developed by the Nevada Department of Environmental Protection (NDEP) every two years and submitted to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for their approval. The Las Vegas Wash is a designated waterbody and NDEP has established water quality standards for the Wash based on the Wash's beneficial uses. In 2002, the Wash was placed on the 303 (d) list for Total Suspended Solids (TSS) because the Wash exceeded the beneficial use standard for TSS. Water quality improvements, due to the stabilization efforts in the Wash, have resulted in a 50 percent reduction in TSS. That means the weirs and plants in the Wash channel are filtering out more sediment and 50 percent less is making it downstream to Lake Mead. NDEP has removed the Wash from Nevada's 2004 303(d) List of Impaired Waterbodies and placed it on Nevada's 2004 303(d) List of Waterbodies warranting Further Investigation.



Weirs and vegetation help slow flows allowing sediment to drop out of the water column

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