



Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee

E-mail update

April 2008

Green-Up Event Continues to Grow

Volunteers came out in large numbers on the morning of March 8, 2008 for the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee's (LVWCC) 12th Green-Up planting event. More than 450 volunteers planted nearly 2,000 native plants, including creosote bush, honey mesquite, catclaw acacia, saltbush and brittle bush. This latest volunteer event took place on the southern banks of the Las Vegas Wash near the City of Henderson C-1 channel and the Historic Lateral Weir.

The 5.5-acre project area was smaller than other recent Green-Up events and required project staff to limit the number of registrants, despite the growing popularity of the event. Volunteers were so eager to sign up that the registration cap was reached within the first week, leaving many hopefuls having to look forward to the next planting event in the fall. With the completion of the Upper Diversion Weir and other upcoming construction projects at the Las Vegas Wash, the LVWCC will be able to better accommodate larger volunteer numbers in the future. The LVWCC sponsors the Green-Up events in an effort to stabilize and enhance the Las Vegas Wash using native vegetation while also increasing the public's involvement and awareness of the local environment. Volunteers have played an integral role in revegetation efforts at the Las Vegas Wash, helping plant approximately 33,000 native plants across 70 acres.



Participants spread across the Green-Up event last month at the Demonstration Wetland.

Upcoming Meetings

Research and Environmental
Monitoring Study Team
April 2, 2008
10:00 a.m.

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

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

Survey Reminder

This is a notice that a survey will be sent out shortly via email to all study team members. Your response and feedback concerning the current meeting schedule and format is appreciated.

Changes to the Water Quality Program



The new floating platform allows for continuous data collection.

The Real-Time Water Quality Program recently added a new station to its collection. To provide viewable data as it is collected, the Duck Creek water quality station was upgraded to a real-time water quality station in December 2007. The multi-probe water quality instrument records pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen and electrical conductance data at Duck Creek every 20 minutes. Data is now automatically transmitted to the database via cellular modem where it becomes available to view online. Collected data can be viewed at www.lvwash.org.

Another upgrade has been made with a continuous water quality monitoring platform installed on the Demonstration Wetland at the City of Henderson Water Reclamation Facility. The platform houses a water quality instrument that measures the same parameters as the Duck Creek site but lacks real-time capabilities. The data must, therefore, be collected and downloaded manually once a week. This station, located near the outlet of the wetland pond, was set up to enhance the sampling events previously recorded once a month. Data collected at the new platform allows for analysis of the overall function of the wetland system throughout the course of the day in 20-minute intervals and tracks water quality in the pond as it responds to changes in temperature and photosynthesis rates throughout the year.

Did You Know?

Spring Cleaning at the Demonstration Wetland

Crews have been working hard at the Demonstration Wetland at the City of Henderson Water Reclamation Facility to clear out some of the dead and cluttered vegetation on several hummocks. The vegetation was planted to enhance both water quality and habitat for birds, but the high plant productivity has begun to make the hummocks difficult to access for some bird species, as well as for biologists. Removing the dead material will stimulate plant productivity and therefore increase the system's ability to uptake nutrients and improve water quality. Four of the 11 vegetated hummocks were cut down to approximately 12 inches and the dead material was removed from the site. Clearing will be stratified over the next three years in an effort to balance the wetland efficiency improvements while retaining existing vegetation for bird habitat.



A biologist works through overgrown vegetation during a past monitoring event.