



Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee

E-mail update

July 2006

Students learn about water quality and insects on the Forever Earth

Mabel Hoggard Math and Science Magnet School students were treated to an educational excursion on Lake Mead on the Forever Earth boat in early May. The Project Team recently teamed up with this floating environmental learning lab to take the macroinvertebrate and water quality portions of the outreach program onto the water. To study macroinvertebrates, the budding young scientists collected zooplankton from the lake with a net and then put them under a digital microscope. The microscope was connected to a laptop that presented larger than life images of Daphnia (water fleas) and copepods. On the water quality side, students monitored the pH, temperature, electrical conductivity and dissolved oxygen of samples collected from the lake, Wash and tap water with a Hydrolab and compared the measurements. Then, they learned how to measure the clarity of the water in the lake using a Secchi disk. All in all, the learning cruise was a big hit!

Upcoming Meetings

Operations
Study Team Meeting
July 5, 2006
8:30 a.m.

Research and Environmental
Monitoring Study Team
July 5, 2006
10:30 a.m.

Management Advisory
Committee Meeting
July 10, 2006
1:30 p.m.

Administrative
Study Team Meeting
July 20, 2006
1:00 p.m.

Las Vegas Wash
Coordination
Committee Meeting
July 25, 2006
9:00 a.m.



This was the Project Team's first partnership with the Forever Earth. The Forever Earth program provides hands-on science education and can be scheduled by anyone seeking to use it for:

- Environmental education
- Research and environmental studies
- Water quality monitoring
- Command post

Best of all, it's practically free. The only costs to groups using the boat are fuel and oil. The program is a component of a comprehensive conservation education strategy funded by the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act. The UNLV Public Lands Institute manages the program on behalf of the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service. Forever Resorts generously donated the use of the boat. For more information about this great opportunity, please contact Daphne Sewing, Project Manager 895-5098.



Mountain States Nursery

Did you know?

Growing native plants from seed

As part of the native plant harvesting program, Project Team biologists are collecting native seeds from throughout the Las Vegas Valley. The seeds will be grown into shrubs that will one day be planted at the Las Vegas Wash. Three of the most common species collected are fourwing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*), creosote bush (*Larrea tridentata*), and Emory waterweed (*Baccharis emoryi*). All of the seeds are collected from relict native stands found in the Las Vegas Valley, mainly along the Wash. Creosote bush and fourwing saltbush seeds are relatively easy to collect because of their large size, however, Emory waterweed seeds are much more difficult to collect because their seeds are very small.

After the seeds are collected, they are taken to one of three nurseries:

- Nevada Division of Forestry at Floyd Lamb State Park
- National Park Service at Lake Mead National Recreation Area
- Mountain States Wholesale Nursery in Arizona

The nurseries in turn germinate the seeds and tend the plants until they are mature enough to be planted at the Wash revegetation sites. The Bureau of Reclamation and the Wash Capital Improvements Plan provide funding for the nurseries.

As different species produce seeds at different times, seed collection activities occur throughout the year. Since the harvesting program began, several thousand seeds have been collected. Harvesting native seed is just one more facet of the Wash revegetation program, through which the Project Team has planted more than 80 acres since 2001.



Mountain States Nursery



Creosote Bush Seeds