



Get Geared Up for the Fall Las Vegas Wash Green-Up

The fall season is typically a time when areas turn brown as plants prepare for winter. But with the upcoming fall Green-Up event, a large area of the Las Vegas Wash will be turning from brown to green. The event, scheduled for **Sept. 27**, will take place at the recently completed Upper Diversion Weir across from the Clark County Nature Preserve.



The Upper Diversion Weir project required a copious amount of construction for the associated bypass channel and as a result, this Green-Up event will be one of the biggest to date. The goal will be to revegetate 12-and-a-half acres with 4,750 trees and shrubs. The majority of the planting activities will occur on the east side of the diversion channel; however, a two-acre area on an island located between the diversion channel and the main channel will also be revegetated.

The Wash Green-Up events help to encourage public involvement and exposes participants to the unique resource of the Las Vegas Wash, as well as the recreational opportunities available at the Clark County Wetlands Park. For Wash Green-Up events, the public has responded with eagerness and turned out in record numbers. Registration for this event has already closed, with 600 volunteers responding to the initial announcement. If you are interested in being notified about future volunteer opportunities, please register at www.lvwash.org.

Upcoming Meetings

Las Vegas Valley Watershed Advisory Committee
Sept. 9, 2008 • 3 p.m.
Clark County Regional Flood Control District

Ducks Unlimited Wetlands No. 2 Weir Moves Forward

With the recent completion of the Upper Diversion Weir, the engineering group is quickly moving on to the next big project in the overall plan to stabilize the Las Vegas Wash. The Ducks Unlimited Wetlands No. 2 Weir will be located between the Upper Diversion Weir and the Duck Creek confluence, just north of Sam Boyd Stadium. It was given the name Ducks Unlimited because of its geographic association with the Ducks Unlimited wetland ponds that Clark County Parks and Recreation is currently installing just south of the Nature Preserve. The weir will measure 70 feet wide and 260 feet long and include more than 3,800 linear feet of rock riprap stream bank protection upstream and downstream of the structure.

The contract for the construction of this project was awarded to Wiser Construction, which submitted the lowest bid – lower than the engineer's cost estimate. The response from bidding contractors for this project was incredibly strong with 10 submitted bids. This competition among contractors is important as it helps to keep project bids low.

Ducks Unlimited Wetlands No. 2 will be the 12th weir constructed out of an expected 22 weirs. Ducks Unlimited Wetlands No. 1 Weir is currently being designed and is scheduled for construction in 2009. Construction on Ducks Unlimited Wetlands No. 2 is scheduled to begin in October.

New Fish Species Discovered in Las Vegas Wash

A fisherman recently delivered an unusual-looking fish that he caught in the Las Vegas Wash to the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW). After examining the specimen, NDOW identified the fish as a red-bellied Pacu (*Piaractus brachypomus*), which means this fish was a long way from its home south of the equator. Native to the Amazon basin of South America, red-bellied Pacus have become a popular aquarium fish. Although related to piranhas, red-bellied Pacus are much less dangerous than their cousins as they only eat insects and vegetation. This new species was likely introduced to the Las Vegas Wash from someone's aquarium.



Photo courtesy U.S. Geological Society

The Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee reminds Southern Nevada to never dispose or release unwanted aquarium animals into any natural or man-made streams, rivers, lakes or washes. The introduction of non-native species is not only extremely dangerous to the eco-system, but it is also illegal. Contact the [NDOW](http://www.ndow.nv.gov) for more information.