



# Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee

E-mail update

December 2007

## Upcoming Meetings

No meetings this month

## Congressional Support Fuels Wash Success

Funding for all of the improvement and research projects conducted by the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee (LVWCC) are provided by several major sources: Money provided directly to the Capital Improvements Plan from voter-approved taxes which help fund the erosion control programs; money appropriated by the Management Advisory Committee (MAC); and grant funding provided through agencies such as the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), Bureau of Land Management, and Nevada Division of Environmental Protection that support various water quality, biological and cultural resource projects.

The BOR grants have been a particularly valuable resource for many years as the LVWCC has conducted a variety of research projects in an effort to better manage the Las Vegas Wash. Every year toward the end of the summer, the LVWCC works closely with the BOR in proposing various projects throughout the Las Vegas Wash to be funded. This money is originally appropriated by the United States Congress and then distributed at the regional level. During the last two years, however, Congress and the President have struggled to approve the budget in a timely fashion, resulting in a "Continuing Resolution" where spending is essentially frozen until the budget gets approved. Fortunately, when this happened last year, projects were prioritized and funds for essential work were obtained through the MAC. Congress is currently working to finalize the budget to allow for several more beneficial projects this upcoming year.



Controlled burns are one of many projects funded by Bureau of Reclamation grants.

None of the many success stories experienced by the LVWCC over the years would have been possible without these critical funding sources, and the hope is that this cooperative effort in stabilizing and restoring the Las Vegas Wash continues long into the future.

## 'Tis the Season

The fall season is well known for its cooler temperatures and the changing colors of leaves, but is there anything exciting about fall in the desert? Actually, there are many exciting things happening, and this is an especially rewarding time to explore the Las Vegas Wash and the Clark County Wetlands Park. Large stands of Fremont cottonwood trees can be found lining the water with leaves that turn a bright yellow and orange this time of year, and most of the wetland plants start to change from a lush green to a dull brown as they go into a dormant stage to get through winter. Wildlife is also easier to observe this time of year, as animals of all varieties are active as they try to stockpile food and fatten up for the approaching winter. As the day light hours continue to get shorter, one doesn't have to travel far to catch a glimpse of a roadrunner chasing down a lizard for lunch or a red-tailed hawk soaring high above. So, grab a jacket and a friend, and get out and see some of the excitement for yourself!



Colorful fallen leaves indicate that fall has arrived at the Las Vegas Wash.

## Agency Spotlight



Jason Eckberg is a new Environmental Biologist for SNWA overseeing revegetation efforts.

Jason Eckberg is a recent addition to the Southern Nevada Water Authority's (SNWA) Resource Management Biology Team as an Environmental Biologist I. He is originally from eastern Montana but has lived in Las Vegas for almost 20 years. He received both his B.S. and M.S. from the Environmental Studies department at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. Prior to this new position, Eckberg worked for the SNWA for more than 7 years in the Conservation Division coordinating activities with golf courses and landscape contractors to encourage new and creative ways to reduce water use throughout the Las Vegas Valley.

This position, unoccupied since Seth Shanahan's promotion, will focus on coordinating the revegetation efforts along the Las Vegas Wash. These activities entail assisting in the design of future revegetation areas, acquiring plant material, overseeing planting activities and conducting research and analysis on revegetation sites.