



Dig in for a cause at Las Vegas Wash

The Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee (LVWCC) is looking for 300 volunteers to plant trees and shrubs at the Las Vegas Wash Green-Up on Saturday, March 5, from noon to 2 p.m. Call **822-8584** to volunteer.

Volunteers will plant 1,700 seedlings on about 5 acres downstream from the Bostick Weir. The seedlings help stabilize the wash's banks and prevent erosion.

During the past five years, volunteers working with the LVWCC have added more than 15,000 plants and removed approximately 500,000 pounds of trash from the environmentally sensitive area.

Log on to lvwash.org to learn more.



Erosion structures in wash weather storms

Despite one of the wettest spells in Southern Nevada's history, the network of erosion defenses built by the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee (LVWCC) to stabilize and protect the Las Vegas Wash held fast this winter.


"The erosion control structures did exactly what they were designed to do," said Gerry Hester, the Southern Nevada Water Authority project manager who has overseen construction of many of the wash's fortifications. "During a major rain event, their job is to keep the channel in place and minimize erosion; they accomplished both of those objectives."

Hester's engineering team estimated that, during the two-week period ending in early January, local storms sent an extra 5 billion gallons or more down the 12-mile channel that funnels the valley's excess water to Lake Mead. While that torrent wasn't enough to boost water levels—it added a few feet to the lake's elevation—prior to the construction of the erosion defenses, Hester speculated such heavy flows would have devastated the environmentally sensitive area.

Erosion control activities began more than five years ago when the LVWCC, a broad-based coalition of public and



private organizations with interests in the Las Vegas Wash, formed to develop and implement a long-term management plan for the waterway. Since then, member agencies have installed nine weirs—small dams to control channel-bed erosion—and lined more than 10 miles of the wash's bankline with boulders.

The Las Vegas Wash Project Team, administered by the SNWA, also has initiated a "bioarmor" program adjacent to the weirs that involves strategically placed large-scale plantings. By revegetating disturbed areas, the team can capitalize on the ability of the plants' root systems to hold the sandy soil in place. Native plants also provide valuable habitat for the area's abundant wildlife. To learn more, visit lvwash.org. 

SNWA committed to environment

Environmental work isn't just a matter of compliance to the Southern Nevada Water Authority: Protecting sensitive natural resources is part of its core mission. These are just a few of the local and regional environmental efforts in which the SNWA plays a key role:

- Las Vegas Valley Groundwater Management Program;
- Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee;
- Development of Clark County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan and contributions to Southeastern Lincoln County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and Virgin River Habitat Conservation Program;
- Support for fish recovery teams on the Pahrangat River, White River, Railroad Valley, Muddy River and Virgin River;
- Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program;
- Issues related to the Colorado River Delta in Mexico and the Salton Sea;
- Research funding related to federally listed or candidate avian species such as the southwestern willow flycatcher, razorback sucker, Moapa dace, Devil's Hole pupfish, Yuma clapper rail and yellow-billed cuckoo. 