

Decision Document

Expenditure of the Southern Nevada
Public Land Management Act Special Account

June 26, 2001

INTRODUCTION

The Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (“SNPLMA,” approved October, 1998) provides for the disposal of Public Land within a specific area in the Las Vegas Valley and creates a Special Account into which 85% of the revenue generated by land sales or exchanges in the Las Vegas Valley are deposited. The remaining 15% goes to state and local government.

The Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to expend the revenue in the Special Account for specified purposes. These include:

- *Acquisition of environmentally sensitive land in Nevada, with priority given to lands within Clark County;*
- *Capital improvements at the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Desert National Wildlife Refuge, Spring Mountain National Recreation Area, Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, and other areas administered by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Clark County;*
- *Development of a multi-species habitat conservation plan in Clark County;*
- *Development of parks, trails, and natural areas in Clark County pursuant to a cooperative agreement with unit of local government; and,*
- *Reimbursement of certain implementation costs*

The Act grants the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to rule on whether land proposed for acquisition is “environmentally sensitive”. This is defined in the Act as:

...land that would promote the preservation of natural, scientific, aesthetic, historical, cultural, watershed, wildlife and other values contributing to the public enjoyment and biological diversity; enhance recreational opportunities and public access; provide the opportunity to achieve better management of public land through consolidation of Federal ownership; or otherwise serve the public interests.

The BLM Nevada State Director is responsible for the implementation of the Act and approves all implementation plans and budgets as a part of the BLM Annual Workplan Process. The BLM, in collaboration with the Forest Service, the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the State of Nevada, affected local governments in Clark County, and other interested parties, developed a process for generating a recommendation for expenditure of the special account on an annual basis. Special care was taken to insure that the process satisfies the requirements in the Act for consultation and coordination with the State of Nevada, local governments, and interested parties. This process is documented in the *SNPLMA Implementation Agreement*. The *Implementation Agreement* also establishes management controls over the special account to ensure accountability and results.

This process was first executed in the year 2000 to identify the first round of expenditures under the Act (referred to as Round 1). The Secretary of the Interior approved the Round 1 expenditures on July 28, 2000. A refined process was initiated for Round 2 in July, 2000.

The Round 2 process began with a public call for nominations. The nominations received for land acquisitions were screened against the minimum criteria (included on page 8). The list of proposed acquisitions that met the minimum criteria was then made public for a two-month comment period. Following the comment period, a working group composed of Federal, State, and local government representatives ranked the proposed acquisitions using criteria and a point voting system (included on page 8) fashioned after the Land and Water Conservation Fund ranking system. This system is designed to quantify the natural resource and public benefits associated with each parcel. The public comments were used to score the criteria related to local government and public support (criteria #9). Other intergovernmental working groups ranked the nominations for capital improvements, parks, trails and natural areas, and activities associated with the development of the Clark County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP). The ranked lists were assembled into a preliminary recommendation by the intergovernmental working group. The preliminary recommendation included the amount of funding that might be allocated for each of the four expenditure categories. The preliminary recommendation was made public and was sent to every County and City Manager in Nevada, under a cover letter inviting their comment. The preliminary recommendation was also presented to each Resource Advisory Council in Nevada and their comments were invited. After a two-month public comment period, the "Executive Committee", composed of the State and Regional Directors of the BLM, the Forest Service, the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, met and, in consideration of the comments received, prepared the final recommendation and transmitted it to the Director of the Bureau of Land Management for approval (transmittal letter attached).

Contained in this document are lists of: land acquisitions; capital improvement projects; park, trail and natural area development projects; and tasks associated with the development of a Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) for Clark County, Nevada. These lists are in priority order and an estimated cost is provided for each acquisition and project.

Also contained herein are budget amounts for each of the four categories of expenditure and a reserve amount. The reserve amount is to be used at the direction of the SNPLMA Executive Committee to cover differences between estimated and actual costs and to be responsive where special opportunities present themselves.

APPROVAL

The signature below approves the following:

- 1) The expenditure of \$27.6 million for land acquisition; \$5.256 million for capital improvements; \$8 million for the development of parks, trails and natural areas in collaboration with local governments in Southern Nevada; and \$4.6 million for development of a MSHCP for Clark County. These amounts are in addition to the amounts approved for each category in Round 1 (\$24,053,000 for land acquisitions; \$5,040,000 for capital improvements; and \$4.2 million for development of parks, trails and natural areas). Any amount not required to complete the acquisitions and projects approved in Round 1 will be available in the same expenditure category for Round 2. Any land acquisition or project not completed in Round 2 because of lack of funding will automatically carry over to Round 3.
- 2) Expenditure of the special account for each land acquisition and project in the amount of the estimated value plus 10%. Task orders for acquisitions and projects will issued by the Southern Nevada project Office of the BLM in the order presented in the attached tables, based upon the availability of funds, and in accordance with the *SNPLMA Implementation Agreement*.
- 3) The establishment of a reserve account in the amount of \$5 million to the expended at the direction of the SNPLMA Executive Committee for the purposes stated above. The reserve amount may be used for Round 1 and Round 2 land acquisitions and projects.

Signed by:
Gail A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior

Authenticated by:
Michelle A Yapp
Staff Assistant, Southern Nevada Project Office

Summary of the Recommended Expenditures (Final)

	Round 1	Round 2 Proposed
Expenditure Category	Funded (millions)	Recommended Budget May 2001-May 2002 (in millions)
Land Acquisition	\$24,053,000	\$27.6
Capital Improvements	\$5,040,000	\$5.256
Parks, Trails & Natural Areas	\$4.2	\$8
Development of a MSHCP	\$0	\$4.6*
TOTAL	\$33.293,000	\$45.5

*2-year budget – May 2001 - May 2003

SNPLMA Round 2 Approved Land Acquisitions

Priority	Parcel Name	Size (acres)	Approx. value	County	General Location	Owner	Mgmt. resp. once acquired	Natural Resource Values
1	Torino Ranch	165	\$9.5M	Clark	Lovell Canyon, Spring Mountains NRA	Lovell Canyon Residential LLC	FS	Riparian values, wildlife habitat, recreation values, access to Spring Mountains National Recreation Area (NRA)
2	102 Ranch	212	\$1.2M	Washoe	Truckee River near Tracy	Grant Hoss	BLM	Riparian and recreation values
3	Perkins Ranch	391	\$2M	Clark	Muddy River near Moapa	NV Power (TNC has purchase agreement)	BLM	Riparian values, Threatened and Endangered (T&E) species habitat (Southwestern Willow flycatcher) and habitat for other special status species
4	Casey Property	374 (3 parcels)	\$1.5M	Washoe	Washoe Valley	Falcon Capital	FS	Visual resources, wildlife habitat, riparian values
5	Virgin River 2	138 (17 parcels)	\$2M	Clark	Virgin River	multiple	BLM	T&E species habitat (Southwestern Willow flycatcher)
6	Schneider Property	Approx 1,600	\$5.2M	Douglas	Jack's Valley Special Wildlife Management Area	Clear Creek Ranch LLC	FS	Critical wildlife habitat. Recreation values
7	Church and Associates Properties	80 (2 parcels)	\$153K	Clark	Overton Arm near confluence of Virgin River and Lake Mead	Church and Associates	NPS	In-holdings within and adjacent to Lake Mead National Recreation Area. Special status species habitat
8	Sunrise Mtn UNLV	529 (2 parcels)	\$2.75M	Clark	Frenchman-Sunrise Mountain Area. East of Las Vegas	UNLV	BLM	Recreation & scenic values. Special status plant habitat (Las Vegas Bear Poppy present)
9	Carson River Properties	173 (8 parcels)	\$1.3M	Carson City	Carson River	multiple	BLM	Recreation and open space. Riparian values and wildlife habitat
10	Tran Property	80	\$160K	Clark	Virgin River	Tran	BLM	T&E species habitat (Southwestern Willow flycatcher, woundfin minnow, Virgin River chub)
11	Hughes Property	40	\$400K	Clark	Virgin River	Hughes	BLM	T&E species habitat (Southwestern Willow flycatcher)
12	Bunker Property	15	\$45K	Clark	Virgin River	Bunker	BLM	T&E species habitat (Southwestern Willow flycatcher). In-holding in Virgin River ACEC

Priority	Parcel Name	Size (acres)	Approx. value	County	General Location	Owner	Mgmt. resp. once acquired	Natural Resource Values
13	Kusler Property	20	\$120K	Clark	Virgin River Valley	John Kusler	BLM	In-holding in Virgin River ACEC. Habitat for special status species
14	Eagle Mining Claims	120	\$136K	Clark	Eldorado Canyon	Wesley Chadburn	NPS	In-holding in Lake Mead NRA. Recreation values and access.
15	Rockefeller Mining Claims	110	\$149K	Clark	Cottonwood Cove	Stanley Pierce	NPS	In-holding in Lake Mead NRA. Recreation values and access.
16	Horseshutem Springs	80	\$800K	Nye	Spring Mountains. NRA	Wes Adams	FS	Recreation, improved access to Spring Mtn. NRA
17	Pinchot Springs	400 (8 parcels)	\$200K	Mineral & Esmeralda	Inyo National Forest	Michaels Family	FS	Wildlife habitat, wild horses, riparian values
18	White Beauty Mine	205	\$9M	Clark	Kyle Canyon Road in Red Rock NCA	E.L. Kay Investments	BLM	Private in-holding in Red Rock Canyon NCA. Prevents mining or development in the NCA
19	Knott Creek Reservoir	393	\$12.6M	Humboldt	not provided	RDD	BLM	Riparian values, recreation values, access to public lands
20	Delavan Properties	865 (3 parcels)	\$865K	Clark	S. Virgin Mountains	Linda Delavan	BLM	In-holding in Gold Butte ACEC. Desert tortoise and bighorn sheep habitat.
21	Idlewild Creek/Boy Scout Parcel	143		Nye	8 miles North of Ione	NV Area Council, Boy Scouts	FS	Riparian values, manageability, limited recreation

†Minimum Requirements for Acquisition:

- 1) The property nominated for acquisition is identified for protection or acquisition in an approved Federal land management plan.
- 2) The property nominated for acquisition presents no health, safety or liability concerns that cannot be mitigated
- 3) There is a willing seller

Ranking Criteria:

- 1) Contributes toward preservation of a specially designated species and /or promotes biological diversity. (20 points)
- 2) Preserves a significant natural, aesthetic or scientific feature or preserves a significant historic or cultural site eligible for State or Federal designation. (20 points)
- 3) Contains a watershed, wetland or riparian value that provides substantial public benefit. (10 points)
- 4) Enhances recreational opportunities or provides or improves access to recreational opportunities. (15 points)
- 5) Improves manageability and efficiency of a Federal management unit and/or prevents imminent or planned property development that is determined by the Regional or State Director to be incompatible with the affected unit's authorized purpose(s). (10 points)
- 6) Involves significant funding partnership in land acquisition, development or management. (10)
- 7) Meets multi-agency goals and renders multi-agency support. (5 points)
- 8) Proposed Federal acquisition is in Clark County, Nevada. (5 points)
- 9) The acquisition has the support of State and local government and/or other interested parties. (10 points)

Acronyms used:

ACEC - Area of Critical Environmental Concern

BLM - Bureau of Land Management

BOR - Bureau of Reclamation

FS - Forest Service

FWS - Fish and Wildlife Service

LLC - Limited Liability Corporation

MSHCP - Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

NCA - National Conservation Area

NPS - National Park Service

NRA - National Recreation Area

NV - Nevada

NWR - National Wildlife Reserve

SNPLMA - Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998

SW - Southwestern

T&E - Threatened and Endangered

TNC - The Nature Conservancy

WSA - Wilderness Study Area

SNPLMA Round 2 Approved Capital Improvements

Priority	Nominated by:	Location	Description	Funding Requested	Cumulative Total
Round 1	NPS	Lake Mead NRA	Water Safety Center*	\$400,000	
1	FS	Spr. Mtn. NRA	Kyle Canyon Visitor Center Lead Paint Remediation	\$350,000	\$350,000
2	BLM	Red Rock NCA	Red Rock Visitor Center exhibit upgrades (phase 2)	\$500,000	\$850,000
3	NPS	Lake Mead NRA	Universal accessibility for physically challenged visitors and employees*	\$240,000	\$1,090,000
4	FWS	Ash Meadows	Restore Longstreet Cabin (historical structure)	\$90,000	\$1,180,000
5	BLM	Red Rock NCA	Red Spring Restoration and Interpretation	\$150,000	\$1,330,000
6	FWS	Desert NWR	Replace obsolete phone line at Corn Creek	\$100,000	\$1,430,000
7	NPS	Lake Mead NRA	Rehabilitate public restrooms at Alan Bible Visitor Center	\$58,000	\$1,488,000
8	NPS	Lake Mead NRA	Extension of the Historical Railroad Trail to Hoover Dam	\$495,000	\$1,983,000
9	BLM	Red Rock NCA	Red Rock Wild Horse and Burro Herd Management Area water wells & fencing	\$190,000	\$2,173,000
10	FWS	Desert NWR & Ash Meadows	Volunteer Housing	\$306,000	\$2,479,000
11	NPS	Lake Mead NRA	Construct Hemenway Group Campground - Phase 1*	\$365,000	\$2,844,000
12	NPS	Lake Mead NRA	Enhance Shoreline access/protect habitat at Stewart Point*	\$250,000	\$3,094,000
13	FWS	Desert NWR	Equipment shelters	\$400,000	\$3,494,000
14	BLM	Gold Butte	Construct Gold Butte Field Station	\$300,000	\$3,794,000
15	NPS	Lake Mead NRA	Prepare sites for installation of wayside exhibits*	\$198,000	\$3,992,000
16	FWS	Desert NWR	Replace boundary and interpretive signs	\$226,000	\$4,218,000
17	BLM	Indian Springs	Cactus Springs and Bitter springs restoration	\$12,000	\$4,230,000
18	NPS	Lake Mead NRA	Replace boat ramp*	\$317,000	\$4,547,000
19	NPS	Lake Mead NRA	Improve trail head to the Wetlands Trail, River Mtn. Loop Trail and Bluffs Trail*	\$289,000	\$4,836,000
20	BLM	Sunrise SRMA	Fence bear poppy restoration areas	\$100,000	\$4,936,000

Priority	Nominated by:	Location	Description	Funding Requested	Cumulative Total
21	FWS	Desert NWR	Rehabilitate Mormon Wells Picnic Area	\$320,000	\$5,256,000
22	NPS	Lake Mead NRA	Replace deteriorated floating restrooms with sanitation stations*	\$385,000	\$5,641,000
23	NPS	Lake Mead NRA	Rehabilitate picnic shelters at Callville Bay, Boulder Beech, Las Vegas Bay and Cottonwood Cove*	\$378,000	\$6,019,000
24	NPS	Lake Mead NRA	Protection of Natural and Cultural Resources from illegal off-road vehicles	\$200,000	\$6,219,000
25	NPS	Lake Mead NRA	Construct Hemenway Group Campground - Phase 2*	\$485,000	\$6,704,000
26	NPS	Lake Mead NRA	Plan, design and produce orientation and trail head kiosks waysides - Phase 2*	\$190,000	\$6,894,000
27	NPS	Lake Mead NRA	Replace deteriorated back-country vault toilets*	\$405,000	\$7,299,000
28	NPS	Lake Mead NRA	Pave Boulder Beach shoreline road - Phase 1*	\$487,000	\$7,786,000
29	NPS	Lake Mead NRA	Construct parking lot for echo bay launch ramp - Phase 1*	\$487,000	\$8,273,000
30	NPS	Lake Mead NRA	Replace asphalt roads & campsite pads. Install campsite water and power at Cottonwood Cove campgrounds*	\$630,000	\$8,903,000
31	NPS	Lake Mead NRA	Rehabilitate picnic facilities at Rogers Springs, Redstone and Blue Point Springs*	\$398,000	\$9,301,000
32	NPS	Lake Mead NRA	Replace tables & grills in picnic areas and campgrounds*	\$482,000	\$9,783,000
33	NPS	Lake Mead NRA	Pave Boulder Beach Shoreline Road - Phase 2	\$461,000	\$10,244,000
34	NPS	Lake Mead NRA	Construct Hemenway Group Campground - Phase 3*	\$455,000	\$10,699,000
35	NPS	Lake Mead NRA	Construct parking lot for echo bay launch ramp - Phase 2*	\$425,000	\$11,124,000
36	NPS	Lake Mead NRA	Replace inner section of Government Dock*	\$461,000	\$11,585,000
37	NPS	Lake Mead NRA	Provide solar lighting at launch ramps/courtesy docks/marine search and rescue caches*	\$60,000	\$11,645,000
38	NPS	Lake Mead NRA	Construct Government Boating Repair/Aids to navigation complex	\$825,000	\$12,470,000
39	NPS	Lake Mead NRA	Construct parking lot for echo bay launch ramp - Phase 3*	\$480,000	\$12,950,000
40	NPS	Lake Mead NRA	Protection of Museum Collections/Stabilization of historical structure	\$336,950	\$13,286,950
41	NPS	Lake Mead NRA	Construct parking lot for echo bay launch ramp - Phase 4*	\$483,000	\$13,769,950
			TOTAL	\$13,769,950	

*Nominated for Round 1, but not selected

SNPLMA Round 2 Approved Parks, Trails and Natural Area Projects

Priority	Nominated by:	Description	Funding Requested	Cumulative Total
1	Boulder City	Regional Trail link between Bootleg Canyon and River Mtns. Loop Trail	\$48,000	\$48,000
2	Las Vegas	Las Vegas Springs Preserve cienega/wetlands	\$2,000,000	\$2,048,000
3	Henderson	River Mtn. Loop Trail	\$1,500,000	\$3,548,000
4	North Las Vegas	Multi-use pedestrian pathway at the Las Vegas Wash	\$1,700,000	\$5,248,000
5	Clark County	Phase II land acquisition for Clark County Wetlands Park	\$2,700,000	\$7,948,000
6	Henderson	Wetlands Trail Connection	\$300,000	\$8,248,000
7	Henderson	Union Pacific Railroad Trail	\$2,700,000	\$10,948,000
8	Las Vegas	90 miles of multi-use trails and trail heads throughout Las Vegas	\$4,300,000	\$15,248,000
9	Henderson	McCullough Hills Trail Connection	\$2,100,000	\$17,348,000
10	Clark County	Trail head and staging area at Vegas Valley Drive and Hollywood Blvd.	\$500,000	\$17,848,000
11	Las Vegas	Bonanza/U.S. 95 Trail	\$12,100,000	\$29,948,000
		TOTAL	\$29,948,000	

SNPLMA Round 2 Approved

Development of a Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan for Clark County

Description	Entity	Funding Requested
Upper Muddy River Restoration and Land Management Plan	FWS	\$76,616
Ecological Site Inventory and Soil Survey for Wild Horse and Burro Herd Management Areas	BLM	\$325,000
Field Monitoring and Plant Inventory	BLM	\$90,000
Monitoring and analysis (GIS)	BLM	\$250,000
Bat Inventory	BLM	\$90,000
Rare Plant Inventory and monitoring, alien plant inventory	NPS	\$161,000
Wildlife surveys and monitoring	NPS	\$287,180
Data collection and analysis for MSHCP development	NPS	\$115,048
Proactive interpretation/environmental education program*	FS	\$50,000
Inventory and monitoring - Species of concern	FS	\$90,000
Inventory and monitoring - Recreation use	FS	\$162,670
Muddy River watershed assessment	FWS	\$260,820
Desert NWR – Law enforcement and public outreach plan	FWS	\$50,000
MSHCP Adaptive Management Plan	UNR	\$2,640,000
	TOTAL	\$4,648,334

*Pending clarification of how the project contributes to the development of a MSHCP

Conditional approval of all MSHCP projects pending approval of each individual project’s statement of work