



# *BLM News*

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CONTACT: Public Affairs, (775) 861-6586

## Additional Lands In Clark County Nominated Under The SNPLMA

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability for public comment of a list of properties within Clark County nominated under the Round 3 extension for land acquisition with funds raised under the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (SNPLMA). The comment period ends January 20, 2003.

The properties were nominated in response to a public call for additional Clark County nominations issued November 13. The nominations include two properties along the Muddy River and 11 in the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area. Information about the nominated properties is available at the Internet website [www.nv.blm.gov/SNPLMA](http://www.nv.blm.gov/SNPLMA), at the BLM Las Vegas Field Office at 4701 North Torrey Pines, or by calling 702-515-5114.

The comments received from interested parties on the newly nominated lands are important. They will help the federal agencies evaluate these additional proposals to develop a final recommendation for approval by Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton. Comments should be sent in writing to the BLM SNPLMA Office at 4701 North Torrey Pines, Las Vegas, NV 89130. Following the comment period, the nominated properties will be ranked according to their natural resource values and public benefits, in preparation for making a final recommendation to the Secretary. The lands recommended for approval under Round 3 will be selected from these additional Clark County nominations and others recommended, but not yet approved, by the Secretary under the initial Round 3 process.

In her initial Round 3 approval, Norton approved all the recommended lands in Clark County and two properties in Washoe and Storey Counties. She requested an additional opportunity for nominations of lands in Clark County, and set aside almost \$9 million for further Round 3 acquisitions. Norton makes the final decision on which properties will be purchased in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture. Emphasis is given to Clark County lands as the Act requires.

The SNPLMA provides for the sale of public land in the Las Vegas Valley. The proceeds may be used to purchase environmentally sensitive lands in Nevada, with priority given to lands located in Clark County. As a minimum, nominated lands recommended to the Secretary must have a willing seller; be included in a federal land use plan; and have no health, safety, or other liability issues which cannot be reasonably mitigated. The Act requires the federal government to consult with state and local governments where the lands are located, as well as other interested parties, before acquisition efforts are undertaken.