



BLM News

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Proposed expenditures of \$296 million available for public comment

LAS VEGAS --- The federal land management agencies in Nevada are seeking public comment on the proposed expenditure of \$296 million garnered from Las Vegas land sales. The sales are authorized under the 1998 Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act, which directs the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to sell public land in the greater Las Vegas Valley to the highest bidder at public auction. The public comment period, which begins today, runs through May 19.

A synopsis of the recommendations under Round 4 expenditures from the Special Account established by the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act follows:

Expenditure Category	Nominations Recommended	Cost Estimate
Land Acquisitions	30	\$ 41,110,228
Capital Improvements	37	\$114,079,648
Parks, Trails, & Natural Areas	28	\$ 90,813,640
Conservation Initiatives	10	\$ 36,238,000
Development of MSHCP	48	\$14,392,935
TOTAL	153	\$296,634,451

More information about the proposed expenditures is available at www.nv.blm.gov/SNPLMA and at the BLM Las Vegas Field Office. In Northern Nevada, a notebook on the proposal is available at the BLM Nevada State Office, 1340 Financial Blvd., Reno.

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Providing this list of expenditures for public comment is one of several steps in the process for developing recommendations for the Secretary of the Interior, who is the approving official in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture.

An initial call for nominations for land acquisition for Round 4 was issued last December. Fifty-one nominations were received and they were made available for public comment in February. Following that comment period, the nominations were scored based on their natural resource values and public benefits. The list provided today represents the results of that scoring process. For the first time since this process began, the nominations for land acquisition are identified as recommended and not recommended.

At the completion of this public comment period, the regional directors of the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service California-Nevada Operations Manager, and the BLM Nevada State Director will meet to consider the comments and agree on a final proposal to present to the Secretary of the Interior.

“We are interested in hearing from all who have an interest in the proposed expenditures,” said BLM Nevada State Director Bob Abbey. “We will consider the comments when we meet to develop the final proposal.”

The lands act allows expenditures in the following areas:

- Purchase of environmentally sensitive land in Nevada, with an emphasis on Clark County
- Capital improvements at the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, Desert National Wildlife Refuge, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, and the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area
- 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 a unit of local government.
- Additionally, the Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002, amended the SNPLMA to allow funding of conservation initiatives. This is the first round of expenditures to include this category.

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The fund also pays 10 percent of the proceeds received to the Southern Nevada Water Authority for infrastructure development and five percent to the State of Nevada’s Permanent School Trust Fund. Thus far the BLM has transferred \$20.6 million to the water authority and \$12.3 million to the Nevada school fund. BLM Las Vegas land sales have likewise funded \$33 million for the purchase of land at Lake Tahoe under the provisions of the Santini-Burton legislation.

The BLM will present the proposed expenditures to the Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Council 1 p.m., April 4 at the Las Vegas Field Office, 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive. The meeting is open to the public, and includes a public comment period at 2 p.m. The public may likewise comment by fax at 702-515-5023 or mail to the Las Vegas Field Office at the above address.

The BLM’s next scheduled auction is June 5 at the Clark County Commission Chambers.