



Wetlands Park News & Views

LVWCC Year-End Report

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The Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee recently published a year-end report for the years 2003-2007.

The 79 page report reviews in detail the past five years of coordination, commitment, and progress in the Wash. The document is now available online. You can find it at: <http://www.lvwash.org/resources/docs/pdf/2003-2007YER.pdf>.

When the LVWCC was first formed in 1998, the Las Vegas Wash was suffering from severe erosion caused by the increased water flow from the waste treatment plants and large storm events, virtually eliminating the wetlands that existed there through the history of the valley.

In addressing these and other issues critical to the management of the Wash, there has been a remarkable transformation of this vital component of our valley's watershed. The wetlands are flourishing, trails and Park facilities have been developed, and bank erosion has been significantly decreased. The results are a demonstration of the power of cooperative coordination of 29 private, City, County, State and Federal organizations and agencies.

The report is organized into 9 functional topics:

- Stabilization
- Bioassessment Monitoring
- Water Quality
- Wetlands Demonstration Projects
- Wildlife
- Vegetation Enhancement & Mgmt
- Archaeological Resources
- Education & Outreach
- Data Resources

Each functional topic includes a Project Overview, Progress Since Inception, 2003-2007 Major Accomplishments, and 2008 Operational Objectives.

Throughout, the text is enhanced with color photographs, maps, charts and data tables. The final section of the report is a Progress Summary of the past 5 years for each of the functional topics.

This is definitely a worthwhile document to download and peruse to get a good feeling for the great strides and accomplishments that have been made. It will also whet your interest to make a trip down to the Wash and see for yourself what has been happening.

The structure of the report evolves around the Las Vegas Comprehensive Adaptive Management Plan (CAMP) and references CAMP action items.



Annual Meeting

The Friends of the Desert Wetlands Park will have their Annual meeting on September 20, 2008, at 10:00am to noon, to be held at the Water Street Gallery, 155 S. Water Street, Henderson, NV.

We will elect a new board of trustees and conduct other business as necessary. Hope to see you there.

Friends of the
Desert Wetlands Park

The mission of the FDWP is to cooperate with public and private entities to increase public awareness and contribute to the quality of life in the Las Vegas valley by: Supporting the Desert Wetlands Park; Preserving and enhancing the wetlands environs, and Promoting stewardship of the valley watershed.

Bat Monitoring in the Las Vegas Wash

By: Marissa Foster of the Southern Nevada Water Authority

The Southern Nevada Water Authority has been conducting a bat survey on the Las Vegas Wash (Wash) since January 2004 as part of the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee's (LVWCC) efforts to monitor the ecological functions of this important riparian area. The purpose of this study is to investigate bat species diversity and activity along the Wash. This survey is filling the void of information regarding these nocturnal creatures and their use of the Wash and expanding the body of knowledge regarding bats in Southern Nevada, of which not much had previously been known. Prior studies conducted more than a decade ago, involved collections at discrete fixed points using standard capture methods and rarely entailed repeated sampling over time. The data collected by the current study will help with the long-term management and conservation of identified species along the Wash.

Acoustic monitoring is a type of surveying in which echolocation calls (high-pitched ultrasonic sounds made by the bats' vocal chords) are recorded and then used to distinguish between different species. This type of monitoring is the most efficient way to determine the bat species diversity of an area. There are three permanent acoustic monitoring stations in the Wash that collect data every night all year long, which helps determine not only what species are using the Wash, but also during what seasons and times of the night the animals are present. The three units are placed in different habitats ranging from a narrow channel with high cliff walls to an open channel lined with vegetation. Sampling multiple habitats can show whether the animals favor certain environments. The acoustic survey has led to the identification of seventeen bat species to date. Five of these species had never been identified in the Las Vegas Valley before (western small-footed myotis, fringed myotis, Yuma myotis, western red bat, and the Allen's big-eared bat). There are also six species that are year round residents of the Wash (California myotis, Yuma myotis, western yellow bat, western pipistrelle, pallid bat (Figure 1), and Brazilian free-tailed bat).

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Figure 1: Pallid bat

Although the acoustic method has been a very effective way of determining the different types of bat species utilizing the Wash for resources, there is still important information missing. Consequently, biologists are incorporating a live capture portion to the survey, to enable them to determine the age, sex, and reproductive status of these animals. This extra information will help determine if the bats are traveling long distances to use Wash resources, or if they are actually living at the Wash. Live capture surveys began in June 2008 and will be conducted one week each month through November. One round of the survey consists of a four night block (continued on page 3)

Bat Monitoring

Continued from page 2

at four different sites along the Wash. Both mist nets and harp traps are used to catch the bats. Mist nets are large panels that look like hair nets, consisting of many small squares made out of fine thread. Harp traps look like the musical instrument of the same name. They are not as large as mist nets but they have multiple panels allowing the bats to identify the first set of strands but not the second set. Bats are able to “see” detailed images of their surroundings with the assistance of their echolocation and can easily avoid objects as fine as fishing line. When the animal identifies obstacles it will usually find another flight path.

For this reason, biologists place the nets and traps in vegetation corridors and over water in order to catch them off-guard. The first round of the surveys was conducted in June and was very successful (Table 1). The field crew captured three of the species that the acoustic survey has shown to be year round residents of the Wash. Capturing these species and proving that they are in reproductive status supports the acoustic findings that they are residents and not migrants. When the western yellow bats were captured the biologists used special techniques to prove that these bats are at least using the Wash for a night roost. After just one round of live capture surveys, biologists have learned that there are breeding males and females in the Wash, showing the value of adding these surveys to the overall bat monitoring program. For more information about this work or other LVWCC efforts, please log on to www.lvwash.org.

Site	Bat Species	# collected
Pabco	Pallid bat	13
Pabco	Western yellow bat	1
Nature Preserve	Western yellow bat	1
Nature Preserve	Western pipistrelle	3

Table 1: Live capture results for June 2008

Wetlands Park Update

By Elsie Sellers, Wetlands Park Project Manager

There are 3 projects expected to be completed this fall or early winter; the Nature Preserve Expansion Phase II, the Wetlands Neighborhood Park, and the Duck Creek Trail and Habitat Enhancements. The Nature Preserve Expansion will add new trails linked to the existing Nature Preserve with 3 more ponds connected by streams. The small Neighborhood Park, accessible from Hollywood Lane, will have a picnic area and a wetlands themed play area for children. The existing Duck Creek Trails, accessible from the Duck Creek Trail head will be hardened with resin coating and some sections will have boardwalks and bridges. Portions of the trail system will be closed during construction.

Share Our Vision!! Membership Application

Name:

Preferred Mailing Address:

City: State: Zip:

Phone: Fax:

E-Mail:

May we show your name on our membership list?

Yes No

Check here if you wish to be contacted for volunteer projects

Membership Options:

Individual Member:	\$15
Senior/Student:	\$10
Family Member	\$25
Non-Profit Org.	\$50
Corporate Member	\$100

Trustees Circle

Bronze Circle Patron	\$150-249
Silver Circle Benefactor	\$250-499
Golden Circle Assoc.	\$500-999
Platinum 100	\$1000 +

Please mail to FDWP,
PO Box 28017, Las Vegas, NV 89126
For Membership information, call:
457-8867

Our Thanks To...

New and Renewing Members: Frances Zorn, Jack and Betty Coogan, Sue and Richard Brand, John Trabert, Robert Means,

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

PLEASE CHECK THE EXPIRATION DATE ON YOUR MAILING LABEL TO SEE IF IT IS TIME TO RENEW! If you have not yet taken the plunge to join, please do so now. You will demonstrate that you want to help in the development of new features in the Park for our community!

Wash Exhibit

FDWP joins the Water Street Gallery in presenting "Bottomlands: Artists in the Las Vegas Wash" by Fred Sigman. The exhibit opening is Thursday, September 18, 2008 from 5 p.m. – 9 p.m. at the Water Street Gallery, 155 S Water Street, Henderson, Nevada 89015 (phone: 702-253-0800). The exhibit will run from September 18th through October, 2008.

Sigman states in the Foreword to the "Bottomlands" portfolio, "The Las Vegas Wash should be protected as a wetland, not because it is wilderness or nature, but because it is cultural, urban and man-made. It is a landscape where we can learn about our relationships with the desert, it is an expression of a social order as well as a natural occurrence."

Action Item for the Annual Meeting

FDWP has been working intensely on Strategic Planning Issues, the details will be discussed in the next newsletter. In reference to that planning, The trustees are proposing to change the name of the organization from Friends of the Desert Wetlands Park to the *Desert Wetlands Conservancy*. During the planning process significant discussion occurred around the issues of the entire Las Vegas Valley watershed. The expanded mission and goals reflects the desire of the trustees that FDWP encompass the entire watershed including the Clark County Wetlands Park. Therefore, the trustees determined that the name of the organization must reflect this expanded mission. The name change requires approval from the membership at the September 20th annual meeting.

Greenup

The next Green-up is scheduled for Saturday, September 27, from noon to 4pm. All volunteers are welcome to enjoy a free barbecue lunch before helping to improve our watershed area. To register, **Please call 822-8400**, call early, we're limited to 450 volunteers.

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**Friends of the Desert Wetlands
Park Newsletter**

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