



Laughlin Town Advisory Board

December 10, 2019

MINUTES

Revised-2

Board Members:	Gina Mackey – Chair Kathy Ochs – Vice Chair James Maniaci	Nile Smith Vacant
Secretary:	Tammy Harris, (702) 298-0828 tammy.harris@clarkcountynv.gov	
Town Liaison:	Dr. Brian Paulson, (702) 298-0828 bkp@clarkcountynv.gov	

I. Call to Order by Gina Mackey, Invocation by Father Charles Urnick, Pledge of Allegiance led by Gina Mackey.

II. Public Comment:

Jackie Mazzeo representing the Laughlin Chamber of Commerce and the Tourism Commission, commented in regards to section V, No. 12 on the agenda. She expressed concerns that the report failed to address the full details once the land is deemed a national monument. The author uses a broad stroke approach that impacts the vast areas. She is requesting additional information for the land use and possible restrictions.

III. Approval of Minutes for November 12, 2019 (For possible action)

James Maniaci pointed out two errors missed by the Town Manager's Office on the November minutes. The errors were noted and corrected.

Moved by: James Maniaci with the amended corrections

Action: Approved with the corrections

Vote: 4-0

IV. Approval of agenda for December 10, 2019, and hold, combine or delete any items (For possible action)

Moved by: James Maniaci

Action: Approved as written

Vote: 4-0

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MARILYN KIRKPATRICK, CHAIR - LAWRENCE WEEKLY, Vice-Chair
LARRY BROWN - JAMES GIBSON - JUSTIN JONES - MICHAEL NAFT - TICK SEGERBLOM
YOLANDA KING, County Manager

V. Informational Items

1. Receive a report from Lt. Jeff Hewes with Metro Police regarding activity and statistics during the past month and other area crime concerns. (For discussion only)

Sgt. Gino Briscoe provided the November report.

November 2019 Statistics:

Calls for Service: 354, up 10.63 percent from this time last year

Traffic Citations: 604

DUIs: 3

Battery Domestic Violence Arrests: 12

Bookings: 65 with one juvenile booking.

Juvenile Citations: 4 non-resident

Property crimes are down by 6.62 percent and violent crimes are down by 50 percent. There were no significant events this month.

2. Receive a report from Nevada Highway Patrol regarding activity and statistics during the last month and other public safety concerns. (For discussion only)

No report

3. Receive a report from Clark County Fire Department regarding calls for service during the past month and other fire prevention issues. (For discussion only)

Deputy Fire Chief Thomas Touchstone provided the 2019 November report.

Station 76:

Calls for Service: 54, 11 of which were fire calls and 35 were EMS.

Rescue: 88 calls, one technical rescue.

Station 85:

EMS calls: 75

Total November calls: 219

Assistant Fire Chief Larry Haydu was present to talk about the wildland fire response from November 5th. A map was presented to the town board. He said the area of origin is in the gold color which was 4.44 acres.

The fire started on BLM lands and transitioned into Clark County private lands encompassing a total area of 5.17 acres. Engines 76 and 85 were mobilized together with a response from the Nevada Division of Forestry who happened to be in the area doing re-hab work at Big Bend State Park impacted fire areas. BLM also provided assistance with a couple of engines to.

The County was on scene for about 12 hours from start to finish. Assistant Chief Haydu asked if the board any further questions regarding the fire.

James Maniaci asked if the Fire Department will present a report on what the department needs in

order to be a self-sustaining department. He said the report was requested last month.

Deputy Chief Touchstone addressed the question and said he is unaware of a specific or direct request made through the town board to the County Manager down to the Fire Chief. “I am here to address an email received November 6th with specific questions relating to just not that fire, but fires we had recently,” he said.

One of the concerns raised in the email that was forwarded to the County Manager from one member of the board, related to “inadequate” mutual operating agreements with Henderson and Bullhead City. Deputy Chief Touchstone said when he was here in August, “we talked about mutual and automatic aid agreements we have locally here in Laughlin and also in Las Vegas. We discussed that all fire departments in the United States rely on mutual and automatic aid agreements.

“In the case of the wetland fire, we relied on our partners with BLM and NDF (Nevada Division of Forestry) just as we would in Las Vegas, which is a standard practice. Clark County firefighters receive basic training and wildland training, but they are not equipped with PPE (*personal protective equipment*) to fight wildland fire’s to the degree that a California wildland firefighter would, which is simply we don’t get that many brush fires and we would spend a lot of money preparing for just a few brush fires. We could simply have an agreement with a partnering agency that could come in and do that work, since that is actually what they do.

“The statement was made that they were inadequate and I would ask what measure are they inadequate? The Fire Department feels that the mutual and automatic aid agreements with other partnering agencies are exactly what they are intended and supposed to be. The cost saving measure and they keep professional wildland firefighters doing wildland fire fighting and structural firefighters doing structural fires. We do assist each other across both boundaries when necessary. Mutual and automatic aid agreements are standard throughout the country including Clark County.

“Another claim made regarding Laughlin staffing being inadequate. We have 30 paid firefighters in Laughlin. You will not find another community in the United States that serves 10,131 residents as we do here in Laughlin with 30 paid firefighters. Most of the time they have volunteers. In Las Vegas, the County maintains a .65 per 1,000 residents, so for every 1,000 residents, there is .65 firefighters. With 30 staff positions with 10,131 residents the ratio of fire fighters is 2.96 per 1,000 residents. According to NFPA (National Fire Protection Service) standards across the country, you will find information that will show you that 2.96 firefighters per 1000 is well and far above any fire department in the country. You won’t even find information relating to a population of 10,000. The lowest figure is 25,000 to 50,000 and that ratio for a 56-hour work week is typically .99 firefighters per 1,000. So here in Laughlin, we are operating with 2.96 fire fighters per 1,000. So to suggest that the staffing here is inadequate, again I ask by what standard?

“There was also an issue raised by call volume rise. In November of 2018 there were 220 calls for service and in 2019 there were 219 calls for service. The calls are comparable. Year-to-date, there has been 2,734 calls for service in Laughlin, and that’s with two engine companies and one rescue. In comparison to Las Vegas, it is unfair to say that Laughlin was unequipped or not prepared to serve the community based on the calls for service. We believe we are doing a pretty good job of putting out fires when they occur and also serving the community with our ALS resources.

”Lastly, I would like to make a request. The Fire Chief has asked that any future request go through proper channels through the town manager up to the county manager and given to the chief and given a three week notice so he has time to answer the questions in an appropriate format,” said Deputy Chief Touchstone.

Nile Smith thanked Deputy Chief Touchstone for being here today and said that it was most likely his e-mail that was being referred to and thanked him for standing here and defending himself today.

“This is what I was trying to do, was get you more firefighters down here. It’s ok for you and me to differ in opinion. I’m trying to get you more but I can’t,” Mr. Smith said.

Mr. Smith continued, “I first needed to know where the County stood on it and what their opinion on this was. I never got a response from them. They obviously forwarded my e-mail back to you.

“This is what prompted this and it is no means an attack on you or our local fire department. You guys do a really good job. I’m just trying to get you more. When you were here last time, it had to do with the house fire. You had eight men from the Laughlin units that responded to that fire and that house was fully engulfed and it was a dangerous situation. Two guys got hurt immediately on that fire, which left only six men on that fire, and this is what prompted my thinking. With the mutual aid which you explained and I fully understand, but the challenge in my mind was, what if Bullhead had a major fire you would be depending on Henderson to come down here an hour away, which they attempted to do on the house fire and broke down on the way down here. Which is another thing that concerned me that essentially no response through no one’s fault with the mechanical breakdown. But you only had six men on a fully engulfed house. That’s what concerned me, just so you understand. That was not a failure, you guys did a great job.

“What I come to find out later that was during that fire, there was also ambulances on standby at that fire. Down the road an elderly gentleman had a blood clot or something in his leg burst and he passed out. They called for an ambulance and the ambulance was occupied at the fire and was told it would be 20 minutes before they could arrive. Because in the lapse of time this old retired veteran ending up losing his leg. That was the complaint I got. That’s not the firefighters fault, but that’s what prompted me to look into to see what the County’s position on this. I already had your position. It’s great that you can stand here and defend yourself. I was not challenging you or your fire department.

“We have 10,000 residents but we have to take into account the unknown number of people that are in the hotels and casinos here at any one time. This would include medical emergencies which would occupy the Fire Department as well. We have no idea what those numbers are on a daily basis. Because of this we have to depend on the mutual operating agreement, but I still think you could use extra firefighters. What we can’t defend here today is what the future is going to bring.

“The County is really slow to respond to these matters. If Laughlin grows the Fire Department is going to fall behind. I’m defending you in the future by reaching out today to see what we can do to advance your cause. That’s why I wrote the County but I never got an answer from them. They simply passed it back to you. I’m here to help you and the Laughlin community. I don’t want the Fire Department to fall behind in development. So thank you for doing a good job for us, alright,” Mr. Smith said.

Deputy Chief Touchstone responded and said he should “apologize for making assumptions, but your e-mail clearly stated, (which he read in part):

“Recent events has exposed a need for a standalone fire department in Laughlin” so I didn’t take that as you were going to get more firefighters for Clark County. To address your concerns about Clark County, Clark County sent me as the Operations Chief for Clark County. Any future request should be addressed through the town manager and the fire chief would be happy to reply and bring those answers here to the board.

“I certainly would like to get more information on the gentleman with the blood clot that lost his leg as a result of the fire, or the incident occurring at the same time as the fire. I was not aware of that but I would certainly do some research and bring that information back to this board. To my knowledge there was no patient that suffered waiting for an ambulance to arrive, but I certainly will bring that information back to you,” said Deputy Chief Touchstone.

Mr. Smith said he could get that name but it will take some time. Deputy Chief Touchstone said he does not need a name and said if it occurred in Clark County he has access to the records.

4. Receive a report from Greg Turner with Clark County Water Reclamation District regarding the status of the wastewater system. (For discussion only)

Greg Turner was unable to attend but provided a written report.

Laughlin Water Reclamation Facility (LWRF) had an average of 1.88 million gallons per day producing clean water returned to the Colorado River. Flow saw an increase of 160,000 gallons per day from this time last year.

November 2019:
Sewer Service Complaints: None
Odor Complaints: None
Call Before You Dig: 23 tickets

5. Receive a report from Jason Bailey with Big Bend Water District regarding the status of the water system. (For discussion only)

Jason Bailey provided November report.

Diversions:

November 2019: 272 acre feet

2019 YTD total diversions: 3,393 acre feet

2018 YTD total diversions: 3,632 acre feet

Mr. Bailey said the Water District will be replacing the lobby Bill Pay kiosk over the next few days. This will improve the processes and user experience.

James Maniaci referenced a legal notice in the newspaper regarding a tank re-coding. Mr. Bailey said he can research that and get back with the information.

Kathy Ochs inquired about the well and the buoy being gone and how that was going. Mr. Bailey said the well is in, but not sure if it's in full service yet.

6. Receive a report from Will Douglas with University of Nevada Cooperative Extension regarding the status of programs and upcoming activities. (For discussion only)

Will Douglas announced he has several new 4-H members which has brought membership to between 95 and 100 total kids in Laughlin and as high as 21 in Searchlight.

Mr. Douglas said he received an email from Carrie Stark in Reno who informed him that an article by the *Laughlin Times* reached her desk. The 4-H magazine wants to run an article based on the Laughlin/Searchlight article. Mr. Douglas said it was really neat that they are getting some exposure. He said he is not sure when the article will run.

Mr. Douglas introduced Joe and Judy Wood and Bill Waite who are special to the 4-H program and had them stand and be recognized. “Mr. Waite has been a resident in Laughlin for about seven years and has fostered about 80 kids over the years. So he has a lot of experience with kids.

“Joe and Judy are stepping up to help fund raise for camp. Not only have they contributed their time and money they want to do more in the future,” he said.

Mr. Douglas said he wanted to personally thank Mr. Waite and Joe and Judy Wood for their contributions and said the 4-H program would not be what it is without volunteers.

Summer camp dates have been set for July 20-24th, 2020. It will be a STEM camp (science, technology, engineering and math) focused heavy on robotics science. He said he is looking to take ten kids this year and donations will be accepted.

7. Receive a report from Jackie Mazzeo with Laughlin Chamber of Commerce regarding current and upcoming business activities in Laughlin. (For discussion only)

Events:

Connie Davis 5K Walk and Roll for Cancer

March 7, 2020

Two legs, four paws, kids and wheels, everyone is welcome.

Laughlin Chamber Christmas Mixer Event

Thursday, December 12th at 5:00 p.m.

Tickets are a \$10 donation to the Feed a Family Program which prepares meal boxes for tri-state families during Christmas. The donation includes a buffet dinner, raffle items, gift from Santa, and holiday selfie station.

Annual Membership Meeting and Board Vote will be held at the Laughlin Outlet Mall on Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Invitations and ballots will be mailed no later than January 10th.

The Laughlin Chamber will host a “Stop the Bleed and CPR Training” at the Laughlin Outlet Mall in the suite at the top of the escalator on Monday, February 3, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. there is a 50 maximum attendance with a \$10 donation for Stop the Bleed packages for the CCSD.

Mixers:

Networking and Educational Breakfast to be held on Friday, December 27th at 8:30 a.m. at the Laughlin Chamber of Commerce. Tickets are free of charge but space is limited. Harassment prevention for tri-state workers will be the featured discussion.

Members (Fourth Quarter, Month two)

Active Members: 284
New Members: 12 for Q4
Twenty seven percent are Laughlin members, Ms. Mazzeo said.

8. Receive a report from Jackie Mazzeo with the Laughlin Tourism Commission regarding current and upcoming events and activities. (For discussion only)

Events:

Spartan Games
Successful event for competitors Elite, Para and Kids.
<http://www.spartan.com/en/race/detail/5208/overview>

Run Laughlin 5K, 12K and Half Marathon “Two States, Two Time Zones and One Dam Great Race” was held on Saturday, December 7th and was sold out. Close to 1,000 racers participated in this year’s event. Volunteers and local for profit businesses and not for profit organizations assisted with the event or participated in the expo and registration.

S.N.O.R.E. “McKenzie’s Rage at the River” racing event will be held December 12-15 at the Laughlin Event Site/Park. Approximately 7,245 participants are expected.

The KISS Concert will be held on February 29, 2020 at the Laughlin Event Center.

9. Receive a report from Richard deClercq with Parks & Recreation regarding the status of programs and upcoming activities. (For discussion only)

Richard deClercq provided the November report.

Statistics: November 2019

43 programs
2 special events
Patrons served: 487

Senior Center Thanksgiving Potluck: 40 participants
Southwest Medical screening: 61 participants

Upcoming Special Events:

Holiday Tree Lighting will be held on Friday, December 13th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. and include: performance from the Laughlin High School Band, cookie decorating (donated by the Aquarius), holiday craft, hot chocolate and cookies (donated by the Laughlin Community Church). 2019 Citizen of the Year James Maniaci will light the tree in the tree lighting ceremony.

A Senior Center White Elephant will be held on Thursday, December 19th from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. The event has sold out with 36 participants.

Updates:

Parks and Recreation will make a presentation on behalf of the Laughlin multigenerational addition at Spirit Mountain to the Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) at the January meeting.

Richard deClercq, Supervisor
Laughlin office (702) 298-3413

10. Receive a report from Laughlin school system regarding the status of programs and upcoming activities. (For discussion only)

No report

11. Receive a report from Tanya Brown-Wirth with Laughlin Library regarding current and upcoming activities. (For discussion only)

Tanya Brown-Wirth provided information on upcoming events.

- Graham cracker cottages program on Thursday, December 12th at 4:00 p.m. All supplies provided by the Library.
- Trivia Buff program hosted by John from the Library on Monday, December 16th at 5:00 p.m. program is similar to Jeopardy for adults and seniors. Prizes will be awarded.
- Kids Crafts on Tuesday, December 17th at 4:00 p.m. The activity will be learning to make salt dough.
- Open Casting Call for the next Piano Woman program on Saturday, December 28th from 11:00 am until 2:00 p.m. Looking for actors, vocalists, dancers, and celebrity impersonators.

Hot spots are available at the Library. There are five from T-Mobile and five from Sprint. You can keep the Hot Spot for three weeks but must be a Laughlin resident and over the age of 18.

Chair Mackey called a 10 minute recess.

12. Receive a report from Alan O'Neill, adviser for National Parks Conservation Association, regarding proposal for Avi Kwa Ame (Spirit Mountain) National Monument near Laughlin. (For discussion only)

Mr. O'Neill provided a PowerPoint presentation addressing ecological and geologic resources in support of the new national monument in Southern Clark County, which include in part:

- Joshua Tree Forest
- Plants and unique grasslands
- Desert tortoise
- Bighorn sheep
- Birds
- Water sources
- Geologic resources
- Cultural resources

Mr. O'Neill spoke about how the boundaries were developed along with the Native American community.

He spoke about the goals to be achieved by the proposed national monument, which would include:

- Protecting existing recreational uses
- Protect the critical migratory corridors for bighorn sheep
- Protect sacred Native American cultural sites and values
- Protect the views, socioeconomics and rural character
- Protect the health of residents

Robert Bilbray, representing the LEDC, and board members James Maniaci, Kathy Ochs, Nile Smith, and Gina Mackey expressed their concerns regarding future development and its impacts. It was stated the map needs to be better defined and boundaries established that does not include Laughlin and surrounding area. An additional concern was the lack of communication between Laughlin and the National Parks Conservation Association.

Chair Mackey asked what is the time line regarding the project and why Laughlin is just now hearing about it. Mr. O'Neill said Nevada has a series of public land bills and the Conservation Association added this as a proposal to be considered. There was not any public process on the public land bills and there never has been. "It's not the standard land process that people are used to" he said.

Mr. Maniaci asked which tribes the Conservation Association consulted with. Mr. O'Neill said they were consulting with the Mohave Tribe on behalf of the other tribes and are the stewards. "Whatever coordination we have with them, they reach out to the other tribes. In addition there is the Colorado River Tribes which they have been extensively involved with the wind projects and opposing them" he said.

Mr. Maniaci expressed his concern that the land south of SR 163 would remain as federal lands and not be part of the proposed conservation land monument.

To see full PowerPoint presentation, contact the Laughlin Town Manager's office for a copy.

13. Announcements of upcoming neighborhood meetings and County or community meetings and events. (For discussion only)

Chair Mackey read the following announcements.

- a) Laughlin Town Advisory Board will begin accepting nominations for the 2020 Laughlin Citizen of the Year on **November 12, 2019**, and nominations will close on **December 31, 2019**.

Nomination forms are available at the Laughlin Library, Community Resource Center, Spirit Mountain Activity Center, the Laughlin Town Manager's Office, or on the Clark County website at

<http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/administrative-services/laughlin/Pages/default.aspx>.

Nomination forms must be turned into the Laughlin Town Manager's Office, Laughlin Regional Government Center, 101 Civic Way, Laughlin, NV 89029, by **December 31, 2019**, 5:00 p.m. Only nominations utilizing the nomination form will be accepted.

The Laughlin Citizen of the Year Award is given annually in honor of the late Jim Edwards and is intended to recognize and thank the outstanding citizen of Laughlin who has given his/her private time and effort to help local government make Laughlin a better place to live.

It is expected that the 2020 Citizen of the Year recipient will be announced and honored at the Tuesday, **February 11, 2020**, meeting of the Laughlin Town Advisory Board, at 1:30 p.m.

VI. Planning & Zoning: None

VII. General Business:

1. Nominate and appoint eight (8) members for Citizen of the Year Review Committee. (For possible action)

Chair Mackey provided two names, and James Maniaci provided one confirmed person. Kathy Ochs has two she needs to confirm and Nile Smith said he had nothing. The names and contact information will be forthcoming.

2. Provide and clarify town board's support of two CDBG applications for Community Development Advisory Committee members. (For possible action)

Chair Mackey said there was only one CDBG application going forward for Laughlin. Nile Smith said he put this on the agenda to "clarify issues related to this and it's the end of the year and he would like to clean up some messes and tighten some loose ends and with the chair's permission to hear from the town's CDAC representative Bob Bilbray who can give us an update on this issue. After speaking with Mr. Bilbray, the board needs to hear what he has to say. He will also be willing to take questions from the board."

Mr. Bilbray spoke about the multigenerational building and how they were hoping to get two applications, one for American Legion Post 60 and one for Mountain View Park by Parks and Recreation. The County confirmed there is only one application that was submitted, which was the Laughlin multigenerational project, he said.

Countywide, Mr. Bilbray said there are 26 applications that have been filed with \$82 million being requested. The Parks and Recreation application is for \$7.56 million. He read the description on the proposed project.

Mr. Bilbray requested to be on the agenda for the next three months to provide updates relating to the CDAC.

Mr. Smith asked to continue the discussion, "now to clean up some messy business by the end of this year and related to this agenda item. The senior center started out struggling. It was originally going next to the community swimming pool, and that's what this board approved originally. That site proved to be too small, I suggested that we get the seniors a big beautiful facility with everything they desired by putting it on our new forty acre lagoon beach park. It would have a ten-acre parking lot and

the whole outdoors to enjoy and they could have a beach party at half time.

“Everyone thought that was a great plan until the County said ‘you do not get a park. ‘Well people, that pissed me off and that should piss you off as well. Now we need to review that history for a moment.

“Last year at a special meeting approved the use of the Fort Mohave Development Fund to complete the lagoon dredging project based on the fact that the state would be willing to deed that forty acres to the County from my understanding of a park.”

According to Mr. Smith the lagoon dredging and a lagoon park were for the community’s benefit and the justification for the use of the Fort Mohave Development Fund. The County then demanded more money from the original amount which Mr. Smith said he believed was \$1.4 million. The County demanded \$1.7 million from the Fort Mohave Development Fund. That project was completed nearly a year ago. We made significant efforts to the advancements of the park, which was to include soccer fields for Laughlin’s children.

“Now the County says no park. If that’s the case then I demand that every penny of the Fort Mohave Development Fund be returned. The County is in breach of the intent and purpose of the use of those funds. They deceived and frauded the Laughlin community. They took the money and gave the community nothing in return. That’s not legalized looting, people, that is theft and they are thieves for doing that. Should they want to repent and do the right thing and give us the park, we still demand the account expenses and a return of the overage that is paid. That is close to a million dollars.” He said this matter should be placed on the January agenda.

Dr. Brian Paulson interrupted at this time to inform Mr. Smith he was off topic.

Mr. Smith said this was related to the CDAC item and saying, “the Fort Mohave Development Fund are held in trust, and it’s not County funds. If they are going to continue with this kind of activity then I suggest we need a new trustee to handle those funds. The County has demonstrated too many self-serving interests to the detriment of Laughlin citizens.” He said he was tired of the scandalous actions of the County.

Mr. Smith continued, “Without straying too far I want to clean up some old messes, one of which seriously needs to be addressed. Every member of this board has been labeled as an extortionist by the clandestine actions of Clark County. It was printed in the paper and to this day nearly eight months later this has not been dealt with, other than an e-mail to every board member telling us to shut up and don’t talk about it until further information arrives. So let’s talk about that.”

Again Dr. Paulson interrupted and advised to keep to the CDAC item. Mr. Smith threatened that interrupting him would be a bad plan today. “Don’t do it!”

Dr. Paulson said we have to stay with the script (on the agenda). Mr. Smith said this is related.

Mr. Smith continued, “We have Kathy Ochs on this board, a longtime public servant and member of this board, a former police officer, and a business owner in Laughlin. Gina Mackey, the chairman of our board, who also has to make a living in this community, and we have Jim Maniaci who is our Citizen of the Year. Now tell me, who labels our Citizen of the Year an extortionist and then does nothing about it?

“The jerk of the year, that’s who does that. And to Commissioner Naft I say this, you don’t give us a

park, you label us as extortionist, I say to you Commissioner you come to an LTAB meeting and you stand at this podium and you lift that label off of us once and for all, it's been long enough. And until you do I have a label for you, if you like labels, you'll love this one. You're a gutless coward leaving us as scapegoats for your clandestine nefarious activities.

"Dr. Paulson, let's put that on the January agenda. This board will hear gutless coward Commissioner Naft take the extortionist label off every member of this board. And also put on the agenda this board will approve one dollar from the Fort Mohave Development Fund to procure a jerk of the year award for our gutless coward Commissioner, and put that on for action. Mr. Commissioner, while you are at this podium you can explain why our children can't have a soccer field. Tell them why they are not good enough. Tell their parents why they have to go to Las Vegas to find a soccer field for their kids to play on. And then tell them why they can't get a crosswalk to get to the library or school, but Las Vegas kids get new crosswalks and you personally show up to hand out bike helmets. Then you print out this fancy four page glossy with pictures and smile and you brag about it. It said you have an all-around "A" in Las Vegas, but you got an "F" in Laughlin. Our kids give you an "F". Where's our crosswalk for our kids? Where's our park, where's our money back?"

"And why hasn't Thomas Edison Drive been fixed?"

Dr. Paulson again advised Mr. Smith that he is straying away from the topic.

Mr. Smith told Dr. Paulson to put this on the agenda for January that this board directs Public Works to change the road signs on Thomas Edison Drive in Laughlin the "Denis Cederburg Cowpath Way, until such time the road is repaired to our satisfaction. And put that on for action.

"The County has taken this CDAC application and made it into a formula for failure. They changed what we originally approved. This is designed to waste our representative time. They changed it to a multigenerational addition. This is supposed to have specific parameters for seniors, veterans, migrant workers blah blah blah, disabled, not multigenerational. This will never fly. You have 26 people trying to get \$28 million and they think our representative is going to get \$7 million of it with a project that's doomed to fail, they changed the project into a formula for complete failure, and we are wasting our representative's time.

"Madam Chair, when the discussion is over, I will be happy to make some kind of motion that we can agree on to deal with this," he said.

Mr. Maniaci referenced the extortionist label, which originated from Councilman Mark Clark of the Bullhead City Council. It was picked up in the paper and was distributed all over the place.

Mr. Smith said, "that was due to the actions of Clark County, which we had no knowledge of including the town manager being not informed. We had no participation and we have no say in this. Somebody needs to stand at this podium and lift that label once and for all. We are not starting a new year with that label on us. We represent Laughlin, we don't work for the County, and we are not going to stand for that."

Ms. Kathy Ochs responded:

"The first thing I want to say is Nile you are a politician. Part of being a politician is finding effective ways to communicate things and to get things accomplished. I understand you are upset and with no disrespect, I don't know who is in your head, I don't know who is talking to you, but some of your information is not correct. The things you are saying are volatile. This board did authorize the Fort Mohave Development Fund for a short fall from the RPM for the dredging of the lagoon. The property

owners spoke and said they wanted the project to go forward, and we were pulling the Fort Mohave Development Fund to complete the project and the ensuing SID so the dredging of the lagoon could happen.”

Dr. Paulson reminded Ms. Ochs she was straying from the topic, Mr. Smith said she is doing fine and to let her speak.

Ms. Ochs continued, “the sand that was being dredged instead of hauling it away was going to be put on this land, but we had to get this land from State Division of Land. I don’t believe that ever happened. The money that was taken out of the Fort Mohave Development Fund was for the dredging of the lagoon which was authorized by this board. It had nothing to do about the park,” she said. She spoke of wanting effective communication and to see Mr. Smith be successful.

Mr. Smith said Ms. Ochs was out of the country when they were labeled extortionists, adding, “I take exception to being called an extortionist and I’m not going to stand for it now.” He asked Ms. Ochs what they got for the \$1.7 million and Ms. Ochs said the completion of the dredging.

Mr. Maniaci said this discussion has been relevant because Mr. Smith proposed moving the location of the project.

Mr. Smith said they also need to recognize that American Legion Post 60, “through no fault of this board but through their own fault, is no longer viable for their project as they didn’t meet the deadline.”

Ms. Ochs said she will make a motion to clarify their support for the only single CDBG application for the Community Development Advisory Committee in support of the multigenerational facility/senior center. Nile Smith seconded the motion with the understanding that it is highly unlikely that this will be successful. Upon a voice vote, motion carried, 4-0.

VIII. Public Comment: None

IX. Next Meeting Date: January 14, 2020

X. Adjournment: 4:11 p.m.

These minutes are in draft form and will be formally approved at the January 14, 2020 meeting. Any corrections to these minutes will be reflected in the meeting minutes of the February 11, 2020 meeting.

To listen to the audio recording of the Laughlin Town Advisory Board go to:

<http://www.clarkcountynv.gov/administrative-services/laughlin/Pages/LaughlinTownAdvisoryBoard.aspx>

**LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
MEMORANDUM**

**LS20-012
12/04/19**

TO: LAUGHLIN OFFICERS

SUBJECT: CALLS FOR SERVICE - November

This is the Laughlin Substation Calls for Service Report for the month of November 2019

Calls for Service - Laughlin

- November- 2019: 354
- November - 2018: 320
 - Change from Last Year: 10.63%
- October - 2019: 317

Calls for Service - Searchlight

- November - 2019: 24
- November - 2018: 15
 - Change from Last Year: 60.00%
- October - 2019: 12

Traffic Citations

- Laughlin Citations: 604
- Searchlight Citations: 158
- Other Citations: 7

DUI's

- Laughlin: 3
- Searchlight: 0

Battery Domestic Violence Arrests

- Laughlin:
 - Adults: 12
 - Juveniles: 0
- Searchlight
 - Adults: 1
 - Juveniles: 0

Bookings:

- Laughlin: 65
- Searchlight: 7
- Juvenile Arrests:
 - Laughlin: 1 (1 Resident)
 - Searchlight: 0

Juvenile Citations:

- Laughlin: 4 (4 non-Residents)
- Searchlight: 1 (1 Resident)

Below is a breakdown of calls for service by location and the % of the total:

Casino Drive Area	October CFS	November CFS	November % of calls
Riverside	33	40	11.30%
Harrah's	6	17	4.80%
Tropicana	12	15	4.24%
Edgewater	4	11	3.11%
Aquarius	9	10	2.82%
Laughlin Outlet Mall	10	10	2.82%
Pioneer	6	10	2.82%
Golden Nugget	7	7	1.98%
Colorado Belle	13	6	1.69%
Laughlin River Lodge	6	5	1.41%
Nevada Made Marijuana	1	3	0.85%
Marks Plaza	0	4	1.13%
Regency	0	0	0.00%

Residential Area	October CFS	November CFS	November % of calls
Riverwood	19	24	6.78%
Vista Creek	9	24	6.78%
Crown Point	9	16	4.52%
Vistas	11	3	0.85%
Laughlin Jr/Sr High	2	3	0.85%
Vintage	3	0	0.00%



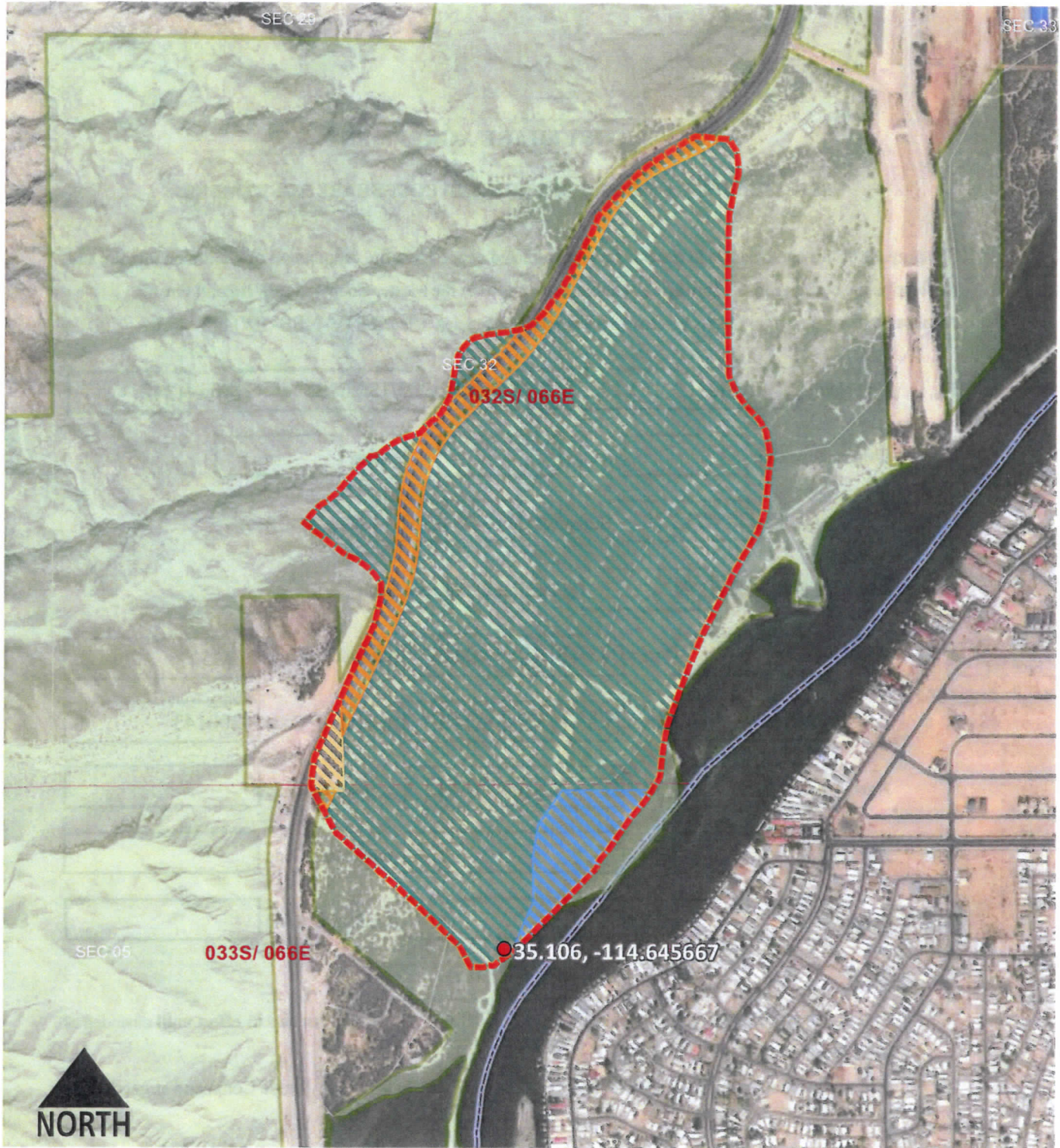
**JEFFREY HEWES, LIEUTENANT
LAUGHLIN SUBSTATION
LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

JH:kcf

cc: Deputy Chief Andrew Walsh (email)
Captain Jack Owen (email)
Brian Paulson, Town Manager & Laughlin Town Advisory Board (8 copies)
Searchlight Town Advisory Board (8 copies)
Jeff Tomassetti, Assistant Manager, Juvenile Justice Services
Lt. Jeffrey Hewes
2 copies for Swing Shift Sgt.

CLARK COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT
RESPONSES FOR LAUGHLIN FIRE STATIONS

	November		YTD Responses January 1 - November 30 2019
	2018 Responses	2019 Responses	
Station 76			
EMS	20	35	422
Fire	1	11	64
Other	14	8	85
E76 Totals	35	54	571
EMS	103	80	1,102
Fire	1	1	21
Other	14	7	68
R76 Totals	118	88	1,191
EMS	0	0	0
Fire	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
R976 Totals	0	0	0
EMS	1	1	3
Other	0	0	2
Fire	0	0	0
TR76 Totals	1	1	5
EMS	0	0	1
Fire	0	0	0
Other	0	1	3
WC76 Totals	0	1	4
STATION 76 TOTALS			
	154	144	1,771
Station 85			
EMS	60	60	784
Fire	5	10	86
Other	3	5	90
WC85	0	0	2
TR85	0	0	1
E85 Totals	68	75	963
TOTALS	222	219	2,734



**BIG BEND OF THE COLORADO SP
CLARK COUNTY, NV**

-  BIG BEND SRA
-  FIRE IGNITION LOCATION
-  FIRE PERIMETER
- OWNER**
-  BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
-  DIVISION OF STATE LANDS, MANAGED BY STATE PARKS
-  HIGHWAY ROW, MANAGED BY CLARK COUNTY
-  STATE SOVEREIGN LANDS, MANAGED BY STATE PARKS



REVISED: 8/21/2019

This map has been prepared for the use of the Nevada Division of State Lands for illustrative purposes only. It does not represent a survey of the premises. No liability is assumed as to the sufficiency or accuracy of the data delineated hereon.

15. Fire Suppression COSTS will be divided between Agencies as described:

Cost Centers:	Agency: BLM	Agency: NDF	Agency: CLRX
Support Costs	10%	90%	
All Resources	Agency who ordered is responsible for payment	Agency who ordered is responsible for payment	Agency who ordered is responsible for payment

16. Other conditions relative to this agreement (Notifications, incident information, etc.):

Cooperator does does not have a WFPP agreement in place with NDF. If a WFPP is in place, NDF will be the payment agency on behalf of the cooperator.

<p>BLM</p> <p>Agency</p> <p></p> <p>Signature</p> <p>Southern NV District</p> <p>Mgs. 9/30/19</p> <p>_____ Title/Date</p>	<p>NDF</p> <p>Agency</p> <p>Aaron Boyce</p> <p><small>Digitally signed by Aaron Boyce Date: 2019.09.24 12:01:09 -0700</small></p> <p>Signature</p> <p>Southern Region Area Supervisor / 09-24-2019</p> <p>_____ Title/Date</p>	<p>CLRX</p> <p>Agency</p> <p>_____ Signature</p> <p>_____ Title/Date</p>	<p>NDF (WFPP Concurrence)</p> <p>_____ Signature</p> <p>_____ Title/Date</p>
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List of Attachments (if any):

State Lands Map, A list of resources that each agency ordered, Acreage breakdown.



CLARK COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

575 E. Flamingo Road
Las Vegas Nevada 89119

FS Agreement Number: 15-F-1-11041705-008

BLM Agreement Number NV-CFFPA-NV/S0054-2016-001

Incident Name: Big Bend State Park Fire

Incident #:

CCFD Incident #: 9307660

NFIRS Incident #:

Incident Date(s): 18-Aug-19

Reporting Date:

ROSS REQ #	CAD UNIT ID	RESOURCE REQUESTED	RESOURCE ASSIGNED	DISPATCHED Date & Time	END Date & Time	TOTAL TIME	TRVL TIME	PERSONNEL RATE	EQUIPMENT HOURS/Days	EQUIPMENT RATE	AMOUNT
	E85	Type 1 Engine	Engine 85	8/18/2019 13:19	8/18/2019 20:52	7.30	n/a	\$126.47	7.30	182.50	2,255.48
	E76	Type 1 Engine	Engine 76	8/18/2019 13:59	8/18/2019 21:57	8.00	n/a	\$126.47	8.00	182.50	2,471.76
	E29	Type 1 Engine	Engine 29	8/18/2019 14:16	8/18/2019 21:45	7.30	1.0	\$126.47	8.30	182.50	2,564.45
	E17	Type 1 Engine	Engine 17	8/18/2019 14:16	8/18/2019 21:13	7.00	1.0	\$126.47	8.00	182.50	2,473.92
	E38	Type 1 Engine	Engine 38	8/18/2019 15:13	8/18/2019 21:32	6.20	1.0	\$126.47	7.20	182.50	2,224.58
	E25	Type 1 Engine	Engine 25	8/18/2019 15:13	8/18/2019 21:32	6.20	1.0	\$126.47	7.20	182.50	2,224.58
	WT65	Type S3 Tender	Water Tender 65	8/18/2019 14:21	8/18/2019 21:54	7.30	1.0	\$58.34	8.30	113.00	1,422.12
	WT75	Type S3 Tender	Water Tender 75	8/18/2019 14:36	8/18/2019 21:58	7.20	0.5	\$18.03	7.25	113.00	949.97
	WT84	Type S2 Tender	Water Tender 84	8/18/2019 14:36	8/18/2019 21:58	7.20	0.5	\$18.03	7.25	90.00	783.22

Payment Due Date:

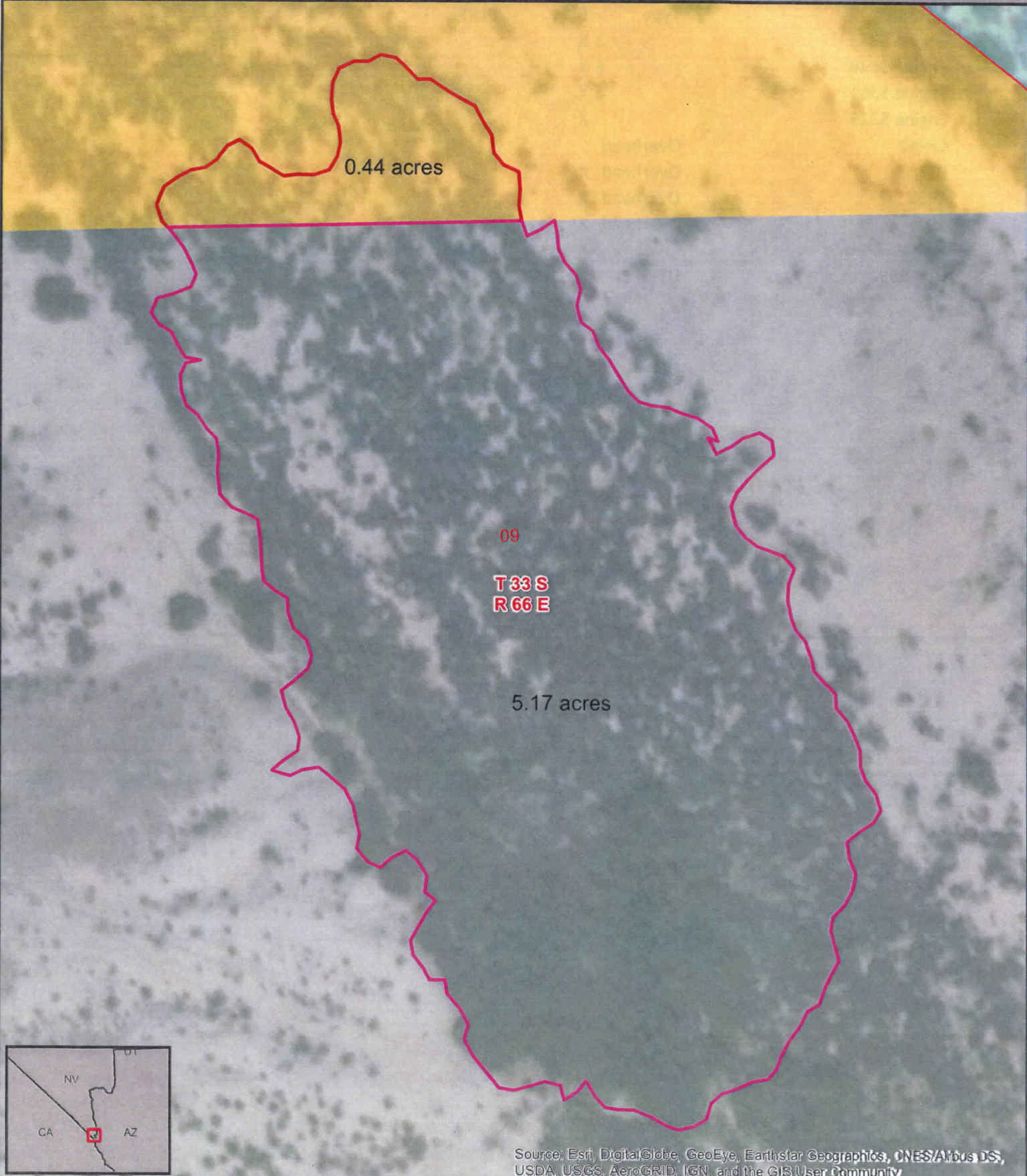
Sub-Total: \$ 17,370.08

15% Administrative Rate:

Total \$ 17,370.08

Wet Fire (MXM0) - 5.61 acres
Estimated Acres Burned by Land Status

Nevada Fire & Aviation
 Bureau of Land Management
 U.S. Department of the Interior



0.44 acres

09

T33S
 R66E

5.17 acres



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Date: 11/12/2019

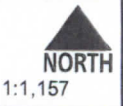
No Warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data.

Wet Fire by Land Status

- Bureau of Land Management
- Local Government

- Township Line
- Section Line
- States

- Bureau of Land Management
- Nevada State
- Local Government



15. Fire Suppression COSTS will be divided between Agencies as described:

Cost Centers:	Agency: BLM	Agency: CLRX	Agency:
Hand Crews	50%	50%	
Other Initial Attack Resources	Agency who ordered is responsible for payment	Agency who ordered is responsible for payment	

16. Other conditions relative to this agreement (Notifications, incident information, etc.):

Cooperator does does not have a WFPP agreement in place with NDF. If a WFPP is in place, NDF will be the payment agency on behalf of the cooperator.

BLM	CLRX		
Agency	Agency	Agency	NDF (WFPP Concurrence)
_____	_____	_____	_____
Signature	Signature	Signature	Signature
_____	_____	_____	_____
Title/Date	Title/Date	Title/Date	Title/Date

List of Attachments (if any):

Jurisdictional fire map and list of resources that each agency ordered
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CLARK COUNTY WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT

Laughlin Town Advisory Board Meeting

December 10, 2019

Statistics: November 2019 – LWRC treated an average of **1.88** MGD, producing clean water returned to the Colorado River.

November 2018 – LWRC had an average of 1.72 MGD.

Difference of 2018/2019

- Flow increased 160,000 gallons per day from last year at this time.

Sewer Service Complaints: None

Odor Complaints: None

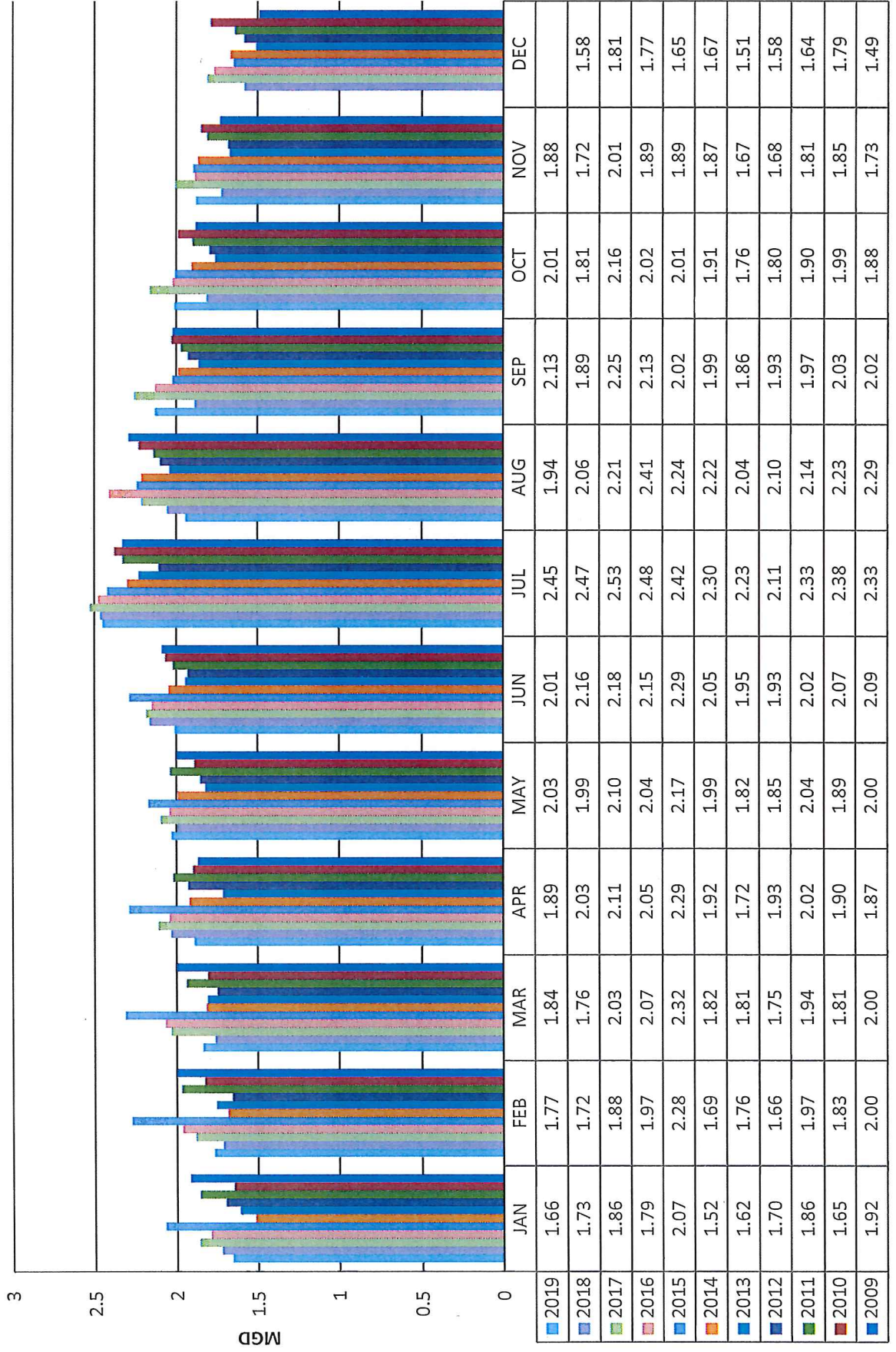
Call Before You Dig: 23 C.B.Y.D. Laughlin tickets received for November 2019.

Influent Monthly Flow Comparison:

- See attached chart – Influent Flow Comparison Chart

Other:

Laughlin Water Reclamation Facility Influent Flow Comparison - Average MGD



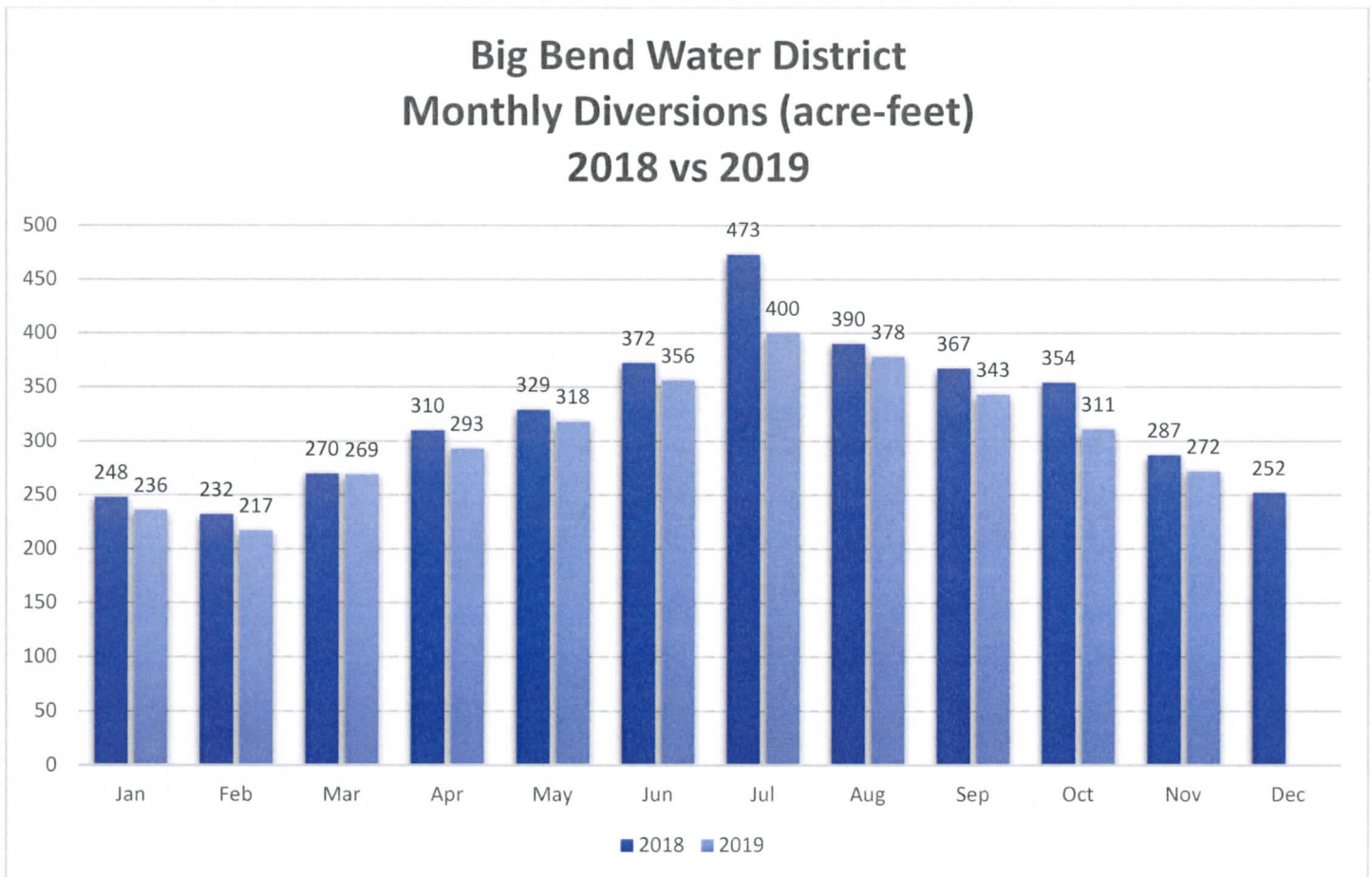
Big Bend Water District
Monthly Report for the
Laughlin Town Advisory Board
December 10, 2019

DIVERSIONS

November 2019: 272 acre-feet

2019 YTD total diversions: 3,393 acre-feet

2018 YTD total diversions: 3,632 acre-feet





Our mission is to support our members and community by identifying and addressing the changing needs of our region – focusing on building a vibrant and prosperous resort town, increasing tourism, promoting recreation, educating our youth and business owners, and giving back to those in need.

Laughlin Chamber of Commerce report to Laughlin Town Advisory Board

Report: Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Events:

The Connie Davis 5K Walk and Roll for Cancer

The March 7th event attended by over 500 people benefits the River Fund Cancer Connection

Two legs, four paws, kids and wheels – everyone is welcome.

Cinnabons for Breakfast and picnic Lunch after the walk, Rock Painting with BHC Rocks for “The TREE” in Pyramid Canyon Day Use Area of Heritage Trails, Entertainment by Billy Kay and Professional Photographer Firaflly – Leslie, Chester, Interactive stops, human cancer ribbon drone shot, raffles and more.

Laughlin Chamber Christmas Mixer Event

Thursday, December 12th, 2019 5pm

Aquarius Casino Resort – Windows by the River Buffet

Attendance is expected over 350 and a \$10 donation to the Feed a Family Program preparing family meal boxes for Christmas gets you a Buffet Dinner, Raffle Items, Gift from Santa, and Holiday Selfie Station.

Annual Membership Meeting and Board Vote

Thursday, January 23, 2020 5pm

Laughlin Mall – Suite at the top of the escalator

Invitations and Ballots will be mailed no later than 10th of January

Laughlin Chamber Hosts “Stop the Bleed and CPR Training” at the mall.

Monday, February 3, 2020 at 5pm. 50 max attendance with a \$10 donation for stop the bleed packages for CCSD

Laughlin Mall – Suite at the top of the escalator

Mixers:

Networking and Educating Breakfast –Friday, December 27, 2019 830am-930am

Harassment Prevention for Tri-State Workers – Rick Johnson

Laughlin Chamber of Commerce -Tickets FREE

Enjoy complimentary Food and Beverage, meet new people share information about you and your business, products or services. Space is limited – RSVP 702-298-2214

Membership:

Quarter 4 Month two

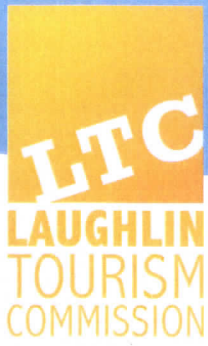
284active Members

12 New members for Q4

27% are Laughlin Members

Respectfully Submitted, Jackie Mazzeo President/CEO Laughlin Chamber of Commerce

1585 S Casino Dr ~ Laughlin, NV 89029 ~ (702) 298-2214 F (702)298-5708



Laughlin Tourism Commission report to Laughlin Town Advisory Board

Report: Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Events:

SPARTAN GAMES

November 16-17, 2019

Successful event for competitors Elite, Para and kids

<https://www.spartan.com/en/race/detail/5208/overview>

Run Laughlin 5K, 12K and Half Marathon "Two States, Two Time Zones and ONE DAM GREAT RACE" SOLD OUT Saturday, December 7, 2019

Close to 1000 racers participated in the event

Volunteers and local for-profit businesses and not-for-profit organizations assisted with event or participated in the expo and registration.

www.mercuryevent.com

SNORE – McKenzie's Rage at the River

December 12-15, 2019

Laughlin Event Site/Park

Spectator estimate 6250

Participant estimate 7245

UTV, Car, and Truck

<https://www.snoreracing.net/>

KISS Concert

February 29, 2020

Laughlin Event Center

Spectator estimate 12K

<https://www.snoreracing.net/>

Respectfully Submitted, Jackie Mazzeo, Operations Manager, Laughlin Tourism Commission



Laughlin December 2019 Report – Clark County Parks and Recreation

Statistics: November 2019- 43 programs, 2 special events, monthly visits 3487

Senior Center Thanksgiving Pot Luck: 40 participants

Southwest Medical screenings: 61 participants for screenings

Upcoming Special Events:

- **Holiday Tree Lighting:** Friday, December 13th 5pm-7pm
Will include; performance from Laughlin HS Band, cookie decorating (Donated by Aquarius), holiday craft, hot chocolate and cookies (Laughlin Community Church)
- **Senior Center White Elephant:** Thursday, December 19th 12p-2p (sold out at 36)

Updates:

Laughlin multigenerational addition to Spirit Mountain will be presented to the CDAC committee at the January presentation meeting.

Contact Info: Richard deClercq, Supervisor

Laughlin Office – 702-298-3413

PROTECT SOUTHERN CLARK COUNTY LANDS & RECREATION

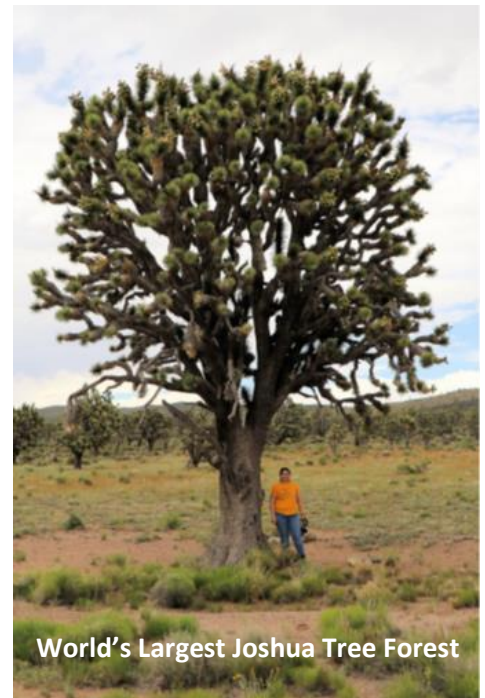
Recent Irresponsible, Large Wind Projects Proposals Have Threatened Public Lands, Wildlife, Recreation, and the Rural Character of Searchlight.

The Problem and Opportunity:

- Recently proposed large-scale development projects (e.g. Searchlight Wind and Crescent Peak Wind) on our public lands would have threatened our scenery, wildlife, recreation, public access, Native American sacred lands, and rural character of the region. Thanks to the hard work of Searchlight residents, conservation groups, hunters and others, these proposals were defeated.
- Clark County is asking the Nevada Congressional delegation to introduce legislation (called “Southern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act”) to allow it to increase development on public lands and balance that with increased protection for wildlife, recreation and other public land uses that could be harmed by large-scale development.
- In order to stop harmful large-scale development on the very special public lands in southern Clark County, a coalition of tribes, conservation groups and Searchlight residents are asking the Congressional delegation to consider establishing a new National Monument in the legislation.
- As seen in the attached briefing document, much of the area within the proposed boundary is already part of the Piute/Eldorado Valley ACEC and has some level of protection. However, the ACEC was set up primarily to protect the Desert Tortoise and doesn’t reflect the need to also protect other key elements of this important ecological and cultural landscape.

Important Goals to be Achieved by a National Monument:

- **Protect existing recreation uses** such as hunting, hiking, OHV use and backcountry driving on existing roads and trails, and camping;
- **Protect the critical migratory corridors** for bighorn sheep that sustain a healthy population of wildlife necessary for hunting and recreation;
- **Protect native plants and wildlife**, including federal, state and county protected species, **and sacred Native American cultural sites and values**;
- **Honor existing mining claims** in the boundary;
- **Protect the spectacular viewscapes, socioeconomics and rural character of the Searchlight area** from large-scale development (e.g. industrial energy development such as wind projects) on public lands,
- **Protect the health of residents** by stopping major disturbance of soils in the region that have high levels of naturally occurring asbestos and *Coccidioides immitis* fungi (source of Valley Fever).



World's Largest Joshua Tree Forest

Features of the Proposed National Monument:

- **World's largest Joshua Tree forest:** this region is the eastern portion of the world's largest Joshua Tree forest, an incredible scenic and biological value.
- **Desert Tortoise, Bighorn Sheep and Golden Eagles:** this region has extensive protections for the desert tortoise and those would continue. Nevada Dept of Wildlife identified essential bighorn sheep migration routes and some of the highest density of Golden Eagle nests in Nevada.
- **Hunting and backcountry driving:** this region provides backcountry access and recreation, on both foot and vehicle, through spectacular Joshua Tree forests, rare Sonoran grasslands, and mountainous regions. Roads provide access across state lines to public lands in California.
- **Cultural landscape:** This entire area is considered sacred by the nine Yuman speaking tribes as well as the Hopi and Chemehuevi Paiute. For the Yuman tribes, the area is empirically tied to their creation, cosmology, and well-being.
- **Established Importance:** Roughly 81% of the proposed monument is protected from large-scale development through ACEC and wilderness areas.

What is a National Monument?

A National Monument is a permanent designation for public land established by Congress to protect important values and develop a management plan with local input. They receive additional funding from Congress to support management including recreation, resource protection and maintenance.

Local Input

National Monuments ensure public lands are appropriately managed with local input to facilitate careful, responsible enjoyment of public lands. The management of these areas takes into consideration local priorities which may include assessing opportunities to improve recreational access to promoting cooperative conservation and management opportunities to preserving wildlife migration corridors. They respect private property rights by only affecting federal lands, not private land.

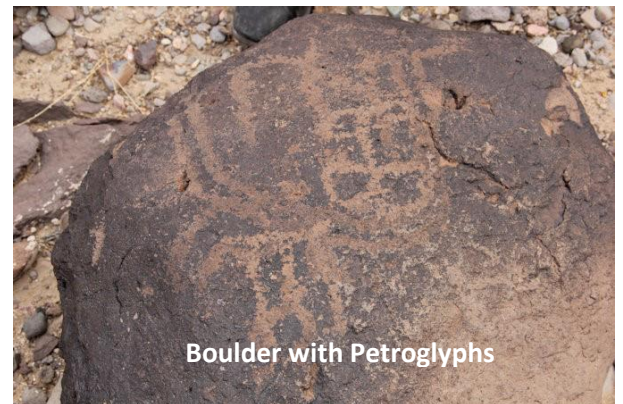
National Monuments maintain public access, continue existing uses and assure conservation while preventing inappropriate, large-scale development of public lands.



Backcountry Roads



Desert Bighorn Sheep



Boulder with Petroglyphs



Golden Eagle

Proposed Avi Kwa Ame (Spirit Mountain) National Monument Briefing Document



Proposed Avi Kwa Ame (Spirit Mountain) National Monument

Briefing Document

Overview

The proposed Avi Kwa Ame (Mojave name for Spirit Mountain) National Monument contains some of the most visually stunning, biologically diverse and culturally significant lands in the entire Mojave Desert. In travelling through the area, you are struck by the lush desert vegetation and rich biodiversity and the unbroken nature of the natural landscapes.

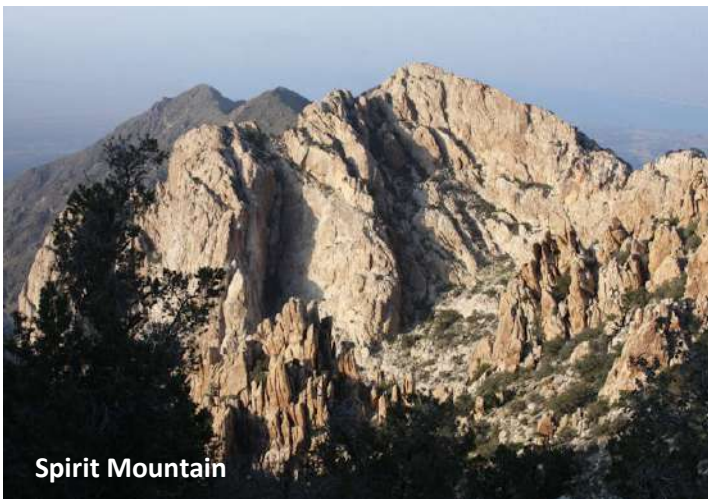


Castle Mountains

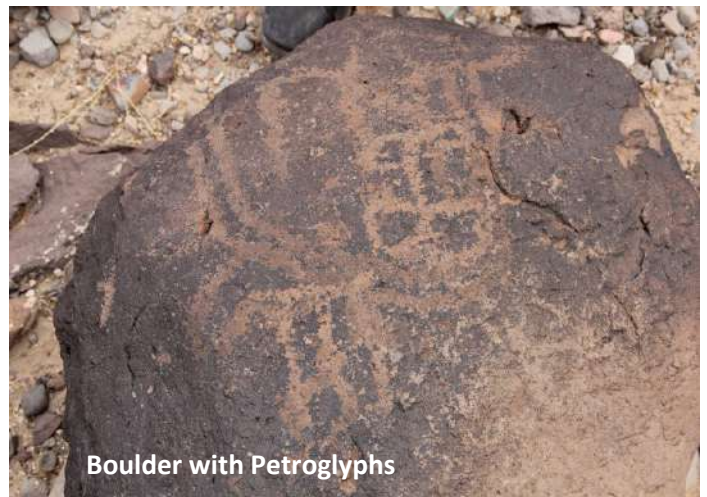


Rich Habitat

The Monument would conserve the natural, cultural, visual and recreational resources and values of this special piece of the East Mojave Desert in Nevada for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. It would protect an expanse of relatively intact East Mojave Desert ecosystem in Nevada that provides continuity to the other parts of the East Mojave Desert ecosystem already protected on the California side. The Monument would create an essential corridor that connects the Mojave National Preserve, Castle Mountains National Monument, Mojave Trails National Monument and Dead Mountain Wilderness Area in California with Lake Mead National Recreation Area in Nevada and the Colorado Plateau. This will serve as a contiguous block of habitat of sufficient quality and quantity to promote the survival, growth, reproduction, and maintenance of viable populations of Mojave Desert flora and fauna.



Spirit Mountain



Boulder with Petroglyphs

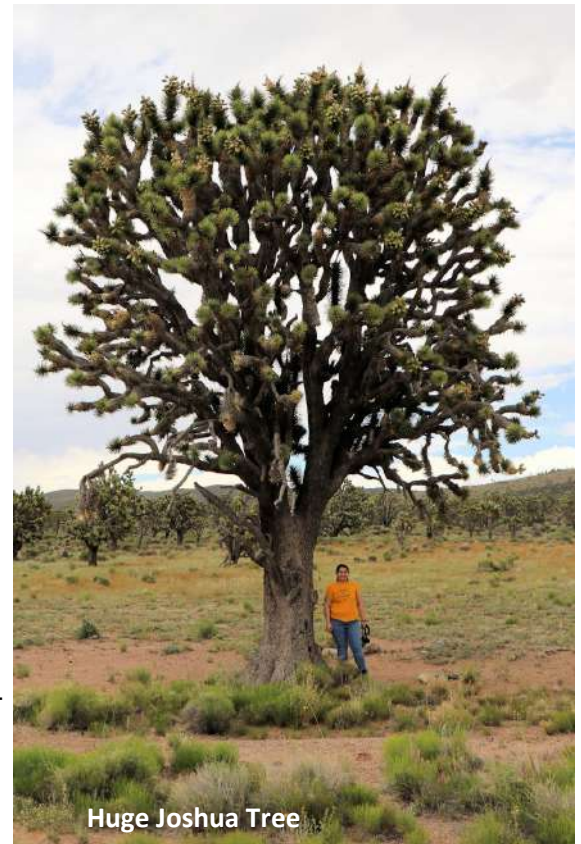
As important as this area is ecologically, it is equally significant as a cultural landscape. The Monument is a “living laboratory” showcasing the progression of human history in the Eastern Mojave Desert, a literal crossroads of the American West. There are significant elements of Native American, Western-American,

and Mining History, including the historic Walking Box Ranch which figures prominently in the history of movie making in America.

This entire area is considered sacred by the nine Yuman speaking tribes as well as the Hopi and Chemehuevi Paiute. For the Yuman tribes, the area is empirically tied to their creation, cosmology, and well-being. Spirit Mountain, called Avi Kwa Ame by the Mojave Tribe, is located on the eastern boundary of the proposed Monument. It is designated a Traditional Cultural Property on the National Register of Historic Places in recognition of its religious and cultural importance.



Arc of light on Spirit Mt. towards the Dead Mts.



Huge Joshua Tree

The Monument would protect a wide variety of recreational experiences and opportunities for the public to explore and enjoy, including hiking, backpacking, wildlife viewing, scenic driving, hunting, horseback riding, as well as opportunities for solitude, dark night skies, and personal discovery.

The land within the proposed Monument is primarily rural, undeveloped public land managed by Bureau of Land Management with small sections of Bureau of Reclamation lands. Both Cal-Nev-Ari and the community of Searchlight have a disposal boundary identified within the approved Bureau of Land Management 1998 Resource Management Plan that allows for long-term growth and are excluded from the Monument boundary.

The shrub canopy of the main Monument valley floor formed by extensive cover of creosote-bursage scrub is a critical habitat element in the harsh Mojave Desert, and represents outstanding desert tortoise habitat, as well as habitat for other sensitive species. The scrub canopy provides several biologically valuable services by: moderating microclimate (shade, reduced temperatures, and evaporation), reducing heat loss, and biogeochemical processing and cycling. The shrub canopy is also the primary location for seed-foraging by rodents and birds, and foraging of insects by birds and lizards. The vegetation is diverse and there are an abundance of burrows, including desert tortoise, kangaroo rats, pocket mice, and white-tailed antelope squirrels.



Creosote-bursage scrub Habitat

Above the valley floor is a transition to a Montane Shrub community which is dominated by blackbrush and typically Joshua Trees, Mojave Yucca, and less frequently, Banana Yucca. This community is found on the upper bajadas and slopes of the mountain ranges. Blackbrush typically occurs between 3,800 to over 5,500 feet. The Joshua Tree forests within the Monument are among the most significant ones on the planet. At the higher elevations of the Montane Shrub community Utah juniper and single-leaf pinyon pine are often present. Associated shrubs may include spiny hopsage, Mormon tea, shadscape, and desert thorn.



Montane Shrub Habitat



Montane Shrub transition to Pinyon/Juniper Habitat

Washes are visible green oases in the arid Monument landscape. Larger washes support catclaw, cheesebush, and sweetbush. The diverse invertebrate communities in these microclimates support higher tropic complexity than in the surrounding uplands. Desert washes provide optimal microclimates, cover from predators and extreme environmental conditions, food resources, and serve as a critical source of water.

There are also a number of springs within the Monument, the most notable are Pine Spring, Hiko Spring, and Granite Spring. Springs support a suite of plants unable to survive in drier areas, and offer unique habitat for birds, springsnails, and some aquatic species. Springs also serve as important stops for larger animals, such as bighorn sheep, which travel to springs for water and lush vegetation, and bats, which are attracted by insects and open water. Because of the unique habitat and number of species dependent on springs, their preservation is important to maintaining high biodiversity and critical ecological linkages.



Hiko Canyon Natural Spring



Foothills of the South McCullough Mountains

Most of the Valley creosote-bursage community and much of the Montane Shrub community is presently included in the Paiute/Eldorado Area of Critical Environmental Concern. This ACEC is comprised of 329,440 acres of public land designated as critical habitat for the threatened Agassiz's desert tortoise by the United States Fish & Wildlife Service within the Paiute-Eldorado Desert Wildlife Management Area.

The ACEC is designated as an “Intensely Managed Area,” the most protective management category under Clark County’s Multi-Species Habitat Management Plan. The Intensely Managed Areas consist of lands in which management is oriented toward actions that reduce or eliminate potential threats to biological resources and biodiversity.

The Proposed Monument consists of nearly 400,000 acres of BLM public land in Clark County, of which 81% contains public access and conservation protection from large-scale development through existing ACECs and Wilderness. It is proposed that the Secretary of the Interior manage the monument through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as a unit of the National Landscape Conservation System to protect the ecological, cultural, visual, recreational and public access values of the Monument lands. Included within the Monument boundary are the existing South McCullough Wilderness Area (43,974 acres), Wee Thump Joshua Tree Wilderness Area (6,489 acres), and Piute-Eldorado ACEC (274,119 acres) to help assure continuity in the management of the overall ecosystem.



Gilded flicker

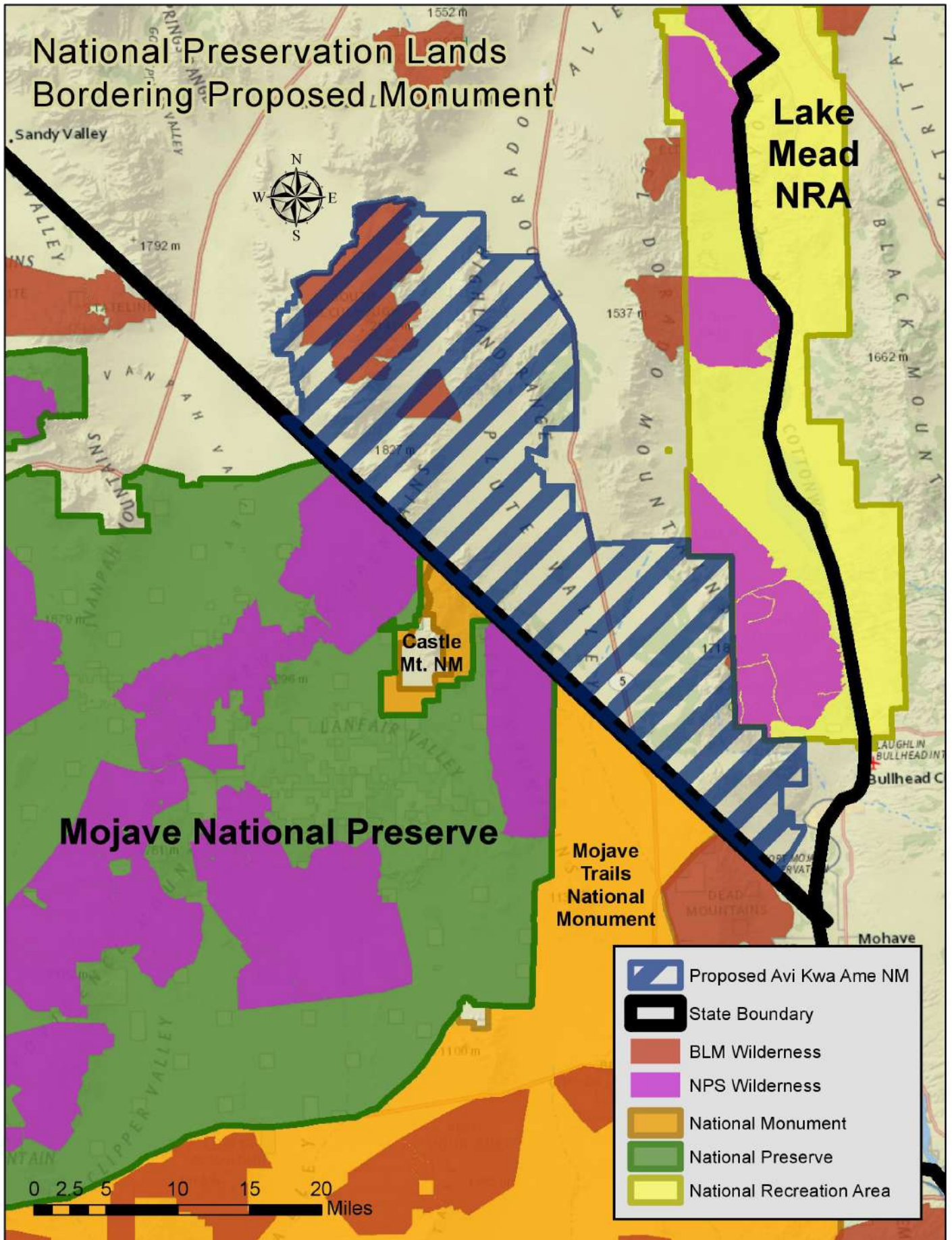


Piute Mountains—Nevada Side



Castle Mountains—Nevada Side after a snowstorm

Tentative Avi Kwa Ame National Monument Boundary —Subject to Revision



Ecological and Geologic Resources

Few places in the American Southwest can rival the pristine quality of the region. It is a critically important ecological area because of the work done over the years to provide permanent protection for key components of the ecosystem. With its habitat linkages, wildlife corridors, and intact ecosystems, the area offers exceptional opportunities to study plant and animal movement and connections between diverse natural systems, especially in the context of climate change.

The Monument boundaries are designed to connect water flow and wildlife corridors and provide connectivity with other key components of the ecosystem such as the Wee Thump and South McCullough Wilderness Areas, Castle Mountains National Monument, Mojave National Preserve, Spirit Mountain Traditional Cultural Property, Piute/Eldorado Valley ACEC, Walking Box Ranch conservation easements, and the recent work to restore the cultural integrity of the Walking Box Ranch itself.



Joshua Tree Forest—Castle Peaks in Background



Backcountry Road

The Mojave Desert Ecoregional Assessment undertaken by The Nature Conservancy (Randall et al. 2010), identified the area as Ecologically Intact. These are defined as *“lands of high conservation value and are largely undisturbed and unfragmented and support conservation targets. They require levels of protection that will allow them to remain relatively undisturbed to preserve ecological processes and to provide viable habitat and connectivity for native animals, plants, and communities.”*



Joshua Tree Forest



Teddybear Cholla in bloom

The recommended conservation objectives for Ecologically Intact lands is to: *“Promote land uses and management practices that maintain or improve landscape integrity and protect conservation targets. Promote restoration of habitat connectivity, natural vegetation communities, and ecological processes (e.g., sand transport and water-flow regimes).”* A National Monument designation and subsequent management would achieve these objectives.

Clark County, in their Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan, designates most of this area under the “Intensively Managed” lands category which speaks to its importance in sensitive species management and recovery.



Plants/Unique Grasslands: The area is a hotspot of botanical diversity. The uplands part of the Monument contains a unique arid grassland community in Nevada and extending into California. The unique plant assemblage includes 28 species of native grasses, about half of which are rare. This area contains the only stands of diverse C4 perennial grasslands west of the Colorado River, subtropical grasslands that are normally found in the Sonoran Desert uplands in Arizona and Mexico. Grass species common in this plant community flower and seed during the warm seasons of summer and fall, especially after strong monsoon rainfall events.

Joshua Tree Forest: The Monument forms the eastern terminus of the world’s largest Joshua Tree forest. The area is home to some of the oldest and largest Joshua trees on the planet. These ancient ones have grown tall in the silence of the desert, some rising to more than 30 feet over 900 years.

Desert Tortoise: The area contains critical habitat for the desert tortoise. The area has the largest area of high quality tortoise habitat in the State of Nevada and may also possess the highest desert tortoise population densities. Moreover, this high-density population of desert tortoise is contiguous with a large, high-density area in California.



Bighorn Sheep: The Monument lands would serve as an important migratory corridor for desert bighorn sheep. A herd of desert bighorn sheep lives on the steep, rocky slopes of the Castle Mountains and the New York Mountains. They and other wildlife traverse the area between the Piute Mountains and the New York Mountains and east to the Newberry and Eldorado Mountains.



Important Birding Area: The area has been designated by Audubon as an “Important Birding Area.” The area has a unique Sonoran bird fauna that is more typical of Arizona --Gilded flickers, Harris’ Hawks and a possible resident population of curved-billed thrashers. The area is also important for migratory birds due to its proximity to foraging habitat, nesting habitat, and to the Colorado River, one of the most significant features in the Pacific Flyway.

Golden Eagles/Raptors: The area contains one of the highest known density of golden eagles in Nevada. In addition, various species of raptors, which use diverse habitat types, reside in the Monument area: American kestrel, bald eagle, prairie falcon, barn owl, burrowing owl, Cooper’s hawk, ferruginous hawk, merlin, northern goshawk, northern harrier, northern saw-whet owl, osprey, peregrine falcon, red-tailed hawk, rough-legged hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, short-eared owl, turkey vulture, and western screech owl.



Raptor species are protected by State and Federal laws. In addition, bald eagle, burrowing owl, California spotted owl, ferruginous hawk, flammulated owl, golden eagle, northern goshawk, peregrine falcon, prairie falcon, and short-eared owl are Nevada Department of Wildlife species of special concern and are target species for conservation as outlined by the Nevada Wildlife Action Plan.

Gila Monster: Elevations up to 4,300 feet within the Monument area are important habitat for the Gila monster. Its range is limited to regions that receive several inches of rain during the summer months and have mild winters and hot summers. The Gila monster spends a significant portion of its life underground and is most active during the spring.

Important Water Sources: There are a number of natural springs and guzzler water developments that provide precious water for the wildlife found throughout the area. The most prominent springs are Pine Spring, Hiko Spring and Granite Spring.

Biological Soil Crusts: Soil biological crust is a mix of organisms that occupy and protect the surface of the soil in most desert ecosystems. The organisms often include filamentous and non-filamentous cyanobacteria, mosses, lichens, liverworts and fungi. Biological crusts protect the soil and hold weeds at bay. These living soil crusts naturally sequester carbon dioxide, and thus these regions are a pool for carbon that can help offset climate change impacts, as long as it is not mechanically disturbed (e.g. developed). Biological soil crusts are common throughout the proposed Monument boundaries.



Geologic Resources: There are several prominent geologic features within the Monument. The volcanic Highland Range on the northeast section of the Monument is about 10 miles long and remarkably rugged and ragged. The multicolored volcanic peaks tower several thousand feet above the surrounding valley and are remarkably scenic and is important Bighorn Sheep habitat.

The Nevada portion of the scenic volcanic Castle Mountains are within the Monument. They rise to a height of over 5,000 feet, presenting a picturesque skyline visible from many locations within the Monument. Hart Peak is the prominent feature in the Castle Mountains skyline at 5,543 feet.

The jagged, steep, rust-colored Dead Mountains in the southern part of the Monument rise to elevations of 3,598 feet at Mt. Manchester on the southern part of the Monument.

Scenic Canyons: There are a number of scenic canyon areas within the proposed Monument lands, the most spectacular being Hiko Springs Canyon. Hiko Springs is a natural spring and a hike through the canyon downstream takes you through some spectacular scenery and some ancient petroglyphs.

Cultural Resources

The area is a ‘living laboratory’ showcasing the progression of human history in the Eastern Mojave Desert. It is truly the crossroads of the American west.

Native American Association

The entire area within the proposed National Monument is within the viewshed of Spirit Mountain and considered sacred by the Yuman speaking tribes which include the Mohave, Hualapai, Yavapai, Havasupai, Quechan, Maricopa, Pai Pai, and Kumeyaay. The area is empirically tied to their creation, cosmology, and well-being. Spirit Mountain, called Avi Kwa Ame by the Mojave Tribe, is located on the eastern boundary of the Monument, mostly within Lake Mead National Recreation Area. Spirit Mountain is also a sacred site to the Hopi and Chemehuevi Paiute. The part of Spirit Mountain not within Lake Mead is included in the Monument boundaries.



Spirit Mt. from Christmas Tree Pass Road



Important Native American Cultural Site

Spirit Mountain and the 48,000 acres immediately surrounding the mountain was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a ***Traditional Cultural Property (TCP)*** on September 8, 1999 in recognition of its religious and cultural importance. This designation followed a 4-year process of negotiations between the National Park Service, and Bureau of Land Management with the affected Native Tribes. It became the first listed TCP in Nevada. A TCP is an area that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places because of its association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community. The Spirit Mountain TCP is rooted in the Yuman community's history and is important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community, which the proposed Monument will protect the larger area of association.

What distinguishes this type of significance for a TCP is the historical and ongoing relationship between the property and the cultural practices, values, and beliefs of the people for whom the property has importance. The concept of tradition refers to aspects of culture—values, beliefs, customs, and practices—that have been passed down from previous generations, and thus are grounded in past (historical) patterns of thought and behavior of the community. These traditions are also evident in current behavior patterns of a living community—there is continuity between earlier and contemporary beliefs, customs, and practices of the living community. Anthropologists refer to this quality of cultural systems as “cultural continuity.”

Spirit Mountain (Avi Kwa Ame) is the center of the Yuman tribes’ creation and figures predominately within their spiritual ideology. The Yuman Tribes believe the mountain is the spiritual birthplace of the tribes, the place where ancient ancestors emerged into this world. In order to be identified and listed in the National Register, a property has to have a specified boundary. In establishing a boundary for the Spirit Mountain TCP nomination, the tribes recognized the need in this case for establishing a boundary but were clear there is a larger area which they consider to be associated with their religious beliefs and practices.

According to the Mojave Tribe, which serves as caretaker of the mountain and surrounding landscapes on behalf of the other Yuman tribes, the area within the proposed Monument is “physically and spiritually connected to the viewshed and landscapes that surround Avi Kwa Ame.” They believe this connection is through the mountain peaks and ranges surrounding Avi Kwa Ame. They say “the physical network of Mojave trails and cultural sites (tangible cultural resources) and the corresponding Mohave Bird Songs and Creation Stories (intangible cultural resources) links their tribe and religious traditions,” to this important landscape.



Another area of religious and cultural importance to the Mojave and Chemehuevi Tribes religious is the Dead Mountains in the southern portion of the proposed Monument. The portion of the Dead Mountains in California is officially designated by Congress as the Dead Mountains Wilderness Area. However, the Nevada portion of the Dead Mountains and the important Granite Springs site area has no protected status and, therefore, has been included within the proposed Monument. It should be noted that the Dead Mountains Wilderness Area in California was specifically designated to provide protection of Native American values. The Dead Mountains contains areas of both sacred and ritual importance that are associated with traditional cosmogony, delineate religious events, embody religious figures, and define burial places. These important values are subject to the provisions of the American Indian Religious Act. Additionally, there are biological values as well. Bighorn sheep populations utilize the Granite Springs area. The Homer Mountain Ocotillo Plant Assemblage and the Piute Valley Smoke Tree Assemblage also occur here. There are important petroglyphs elements at Granite Springs.

No formal cultural resources surveys have been conducted for the entire proposed Monument lands, but important cultural resources are known to exist from tribal information and the result of the environmental reviews for a number of proposed (and cancelled) undertakings (e.g. land-use proposals) in the past. Historical trash scatters and prehistoric lithic scatters and sites, including rock shelters, petroglyphs, and quarry sites are known in the area. Additionally, it is expected that unrecorded sites exist throughout the area.



Historic Cattle Grazing/Walking Box Ranch : Cattle Ranching in the Monument area began in the first decade of the 20th century when the Rock Springs Land and Cattle Company (RSLCC) began to move cattle into the Paiute Valley from their headquarters in California. The Walking Box Ranch became their base of operations. The grazing rights associated with the Walking Box Ranch extended north to Railroad Pass, east to the Colorado River, south to the Newberry Mountains, and west across the Crescent Peaks to the California border.

The RSLCC suffered financial reverses as a result of several seasons of drought in the 1920s and decided to sell its assets, including land, livestock, grazing and water rights. As part of this disposition, the Nevada ranch lands were given to John Woolf. The ranch was then purchased by Rex Bell in May 1931. Walking Box Ranch continued as a working cattle ranch until Bell sold it to rancher Karl “Cap” Weikel in 1951. Weikel sold the ranch to Viceroy Gold Corporation in 1991, which restored the ranch house for use as an executive retreat. The Nature Conservancy acquired the property in the 1990s and the BLM purchased the ranch and surrounding ranch site in 2004. The property was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2009. The BLM has restored the historic integrity of the ranch and will be offering public interpretive tours of the ranch.



The most colorful part of the Walking Box Ranch history was when film stars Rex Bell and his wife Clara Bow owned the property. The remote mystique of the Mojave Desert is what attracted the Bell and Bow to purchase the ranch, who craved solitude and a way of escaping the rat race. Bell and Bow constructed a two-story, 5,060-square-foot home in the Spanish-Colonial Revival style popular in Southern California during the 1920s and 1930s. Walking Box Ranch gets its name from the ranch brand, a camera box on a tripod. Structures on the property include the house, a barn, caretaker’s residence, guesthouse, tennis court, a 60x120 foot swimming pool and a 575 square-foot cactus garden. On the first floor, a grand living room features a dramatic stone fireplace; upstairs, Rex and Clara’s bedroom overlooks the Joshua Tree forest.



Rex Bell and Clara Bow were some of the biggest film actors of the 1920s and 30s. Rex Bell acted in a variety of films, but soon earned a reputation of starring in roles he had a personal affinity for: Westerns. By the late 1920s, Rex Bell went on to act as the lead in many westerns, like *The Cowboy Kid*, *Battling with Buffalo Bill*, *The Man from Arizona*, *Tombstone*, and *Lonestar*. Bell married Clara Bow in 1931, who had earned the reputation of “The It Girl” in Hollywood. She earned her success in the silent film industry initially before transitioning to “talkies”, or films with audio capability. Typically playing characters who embodied sexuality or broke traditional gender roles, Bow became one of the most famous celebrities of her time and even inspired the still-famous Betty Boop cartoon character.

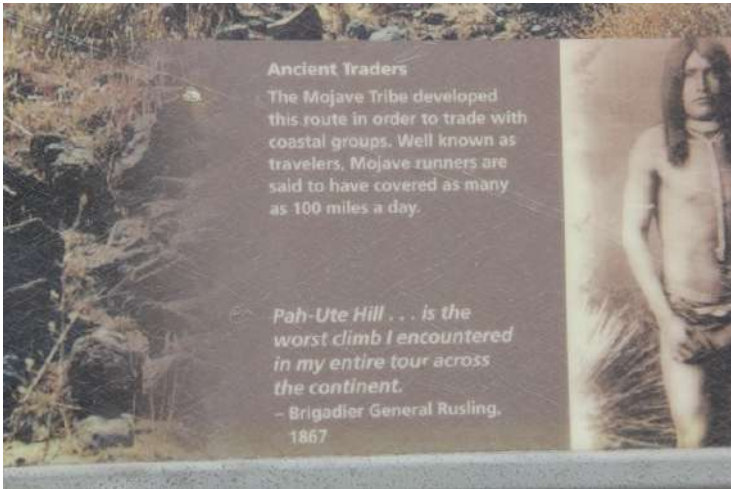


Both of their careers took off in a way they couldn’t anticipate. Considering they were some of the famous actors of their time, their home soon became the most famous ranch in the state of Nevada, attracting other Hollywood icons. The Walking Box Ranch was an escape they all craved, and the ranch soon became a regular hangout for Clark Gable and Carole Lombard, along with Errol Flynn, Lionel Barrymore and John Wayne. Together, Rex and Clara retired from the film industry and lived at their fortress, where they were perfectly content with cowboying for real, tending to elaborate rock and cactus gardens, and drinking in every minute of silence they had created for themselves in their “Desert Paradise.” Here, they raised two sons, Rex Jr. and George. Bell and Bow separated in the mid-1940s and Bell went on to serve as Nevada’s lieutenant governor from 1955 until his death in 1962.

Historic Mojave Trail/Road: In the southern part of the proposed Monument is a section of the historic Mojave Trail/Road. The Trail was originally used by Mojave and other Native Americans to transport goods from the southwest to trade with the Chumash and other coastal tribes. This trail originated at a crossing at the Colorado River and connected numerous springs and water sources throughout the Mojave Desert that formed the backbone of the Mojave Trail.



Between 1857 and 1859, Lt. Edward F. Beale surveyed for and established a wagon road from Fort Defiance, New Mexico Territory along the thirty-fifth parallel to the Colorado River. As part of his survey, Beale used 12 camels imported from the Middle East to better deal with the desert conditions that he would encounter. Once entering the Mojave Valley, he crossed the Colorado River at what would become known as Beale's Crossing and followed the Mojave Trail west. What he called Beale's Crossing was indeed the indigenous crossing used for centuries by Native Americans that signified the eastern terminus of the Mojave Trail. Due to the early use of the Beale Road, relations between emigrants and the local Tribes resulted in the establishment of Fort Mojave, located on the eastern banks of the Colorado River at this crossing. Due to early problems with supplying such a remote military installation, the Mojave Trail was modified into the Mojave Road, also called the Government Road.



This route later served to some extent in the westward expansion. In the 1860s, the Mojave Road served both civilian and military travelers, mail carriers and supply wagons between Arizona Territory and California. The U.S. Army built a series of small military posts along this important supply route, including Fort Piute, to protect key water sources and provide assistance for travelers.

Today, the Mojave Road is a popular four-wheel drive road and is unique in that for most of its 138 mile stretch it is in much the same condition as the pioneers would have found it, and a lot of the trail passes through country that is virtually unchanged since prehistoric times.

Piute Springs/Fort Piute: The access to Piute Springs and Fort Paiute just across the California border in Mojave National Preserve is through proposed Monument lands along the historic Mojave Road. The ruins of Fort Piute, one of a string of military outposts built along the Mojave Road, is located at Piute Springs. It was built of volcanic rock on a small rise at the mouth of a canyon at the base of the Piute Range.



Looking into section of the Fort Mojave Indian Reservation



Colorado River near Fort Mojave Indian Reservation

The fort was small by most standards. It basically consisted of two roofed structures, one for horses and one for men, purposely close together to deter raiders from stealing their horses or supplies. It is thought that the number of men stationed at the fort never exceeded 18. Yet, for all its simplicity, the design had clever features such as entryways with right-angle turns, so no sniper could hit a soldier by shooting directly into the opening. This post was used for only several months, for the main traveling route was soon moved a short way to the south.

The human history of Piute Creek is as compelling as its natural history. Archeological evidence suggests that humans have used the area for thousands of years.

Searchlight/Gold & Silver Mining: Searchlight has a most interesting and intriguing history that includes many famous names: Clara Bow, Rex Bell, Edith Head, Louis Meyer, LT William Nellis, U.S. Senator Harry Reid, John Macready, James Cashman, and an endless list of colorful and fascinating characters that are fodder for the legends of the old west. Retired U.S. Senator and Majority Leader Harry Reid grew up in Searchlight.

Initial discoveries of predominately gold ore were first made at this location on May 6, 1897. G. F. Colton filed the first claim, later to become the Duplex Mine. The Searchlight Mining District was founded July 20, 1898. The Quartette Mining Company, formed in 1900, became the mainstay of the Searchlight District, producing almost half of the area's total output. In May, 1902, a 16-mile narrow-gauge railroad was built down the hill to the company's mill on the Colorado River.

The Searchlight Post Office was established in October 1898. Searchlight began to boom in 1902 and reached its peak year in 1907. Up until 1940, total production amounted to \$4.5 million. On March 31, 1907, the 23-mile Barnwell and Searchlight Railroad connected the town with the then main Santa Fe line from Needles to Mojave. By 1919 trains were operating over the B and S Railroad only twice a week. A severe washout on September 23, 1923 halted traffic completely and train service was never restored.



Searchlight



Abandoned Mine Shaft

In the 1900's, Searchlight was a typical busy mining town of a reported 1,500 people. At this time, they were larger than Las Vegas. There were many gold and silver mines that were good producers in the Searchlight mining district. The "Mines of Searchlight" map dated October 1906 shows that there were well over 300 mining claims in the area at that time. Eventually, the gold and silver production cost went up and the grade of ore went down, so people started to move on. By 1927, there were about 50 people left in Searchlight. Scott Joplin, who never lived in Searchlight, was so intrigued by the stories of his composer friend, Tom Turpin - who had spent time in Searchlight in his youth - that he composed the Searchlight Rag.

Today the Searchlight community has approximately 800 residents and about 50% of them are retired. The other 50% are an eclectic mix of miners, ranchers, small business owners and artists. Several of the mines are reopening and starting production with the higher price for gold on today's markets.



Highland Range



Highland Range

Recreational & Visual Resources

Hiking, hunting, sightseeing, rock hounding, nature studies, geological sightseeing, orienteering, archaeological sightseeing, outstanding landscape and nature photography, rock scrambling, rock climbing, peak bagging, night sky viewing, burro packing, horseback riding, archeological study, backpacking, journaling, sketching, and painting opportunities abound in this area.



New York Mountains in Distance



Castle Peaks in Distance



South McCullough Mts. In Distance



Castle Mountains

The most popular backcountry roads are: Christmas Tree Pass Road, Pine Spring Road, Piute Springs Road and the road through the valley between the South McCullough Mountains and the Highland Range.

Natural Quiet & Dark Night Skies: The remote nature of the area protects the ability to enjoy increasingly rare natural quiet and dark night sky and solitude. The star-filled nights and natural quiet of a majority of the Monument lands transport visitors to an earlier eon. Against an absolutely black night sky, our galaxy and others more distant leap into view.

Viewscapes: One of the most valuable resources in the area are the spectacular viewscapes. From almost everywhere within the Monument, you can see the prominent granitic Spirit Mountain as well as the Castle Mountains and Castle Peaks. The Highland Range and the South McCullough Ranges can be seen from most areas in the northern section of the Monument and the Dead Mountains from the southern part of the Monument lands.

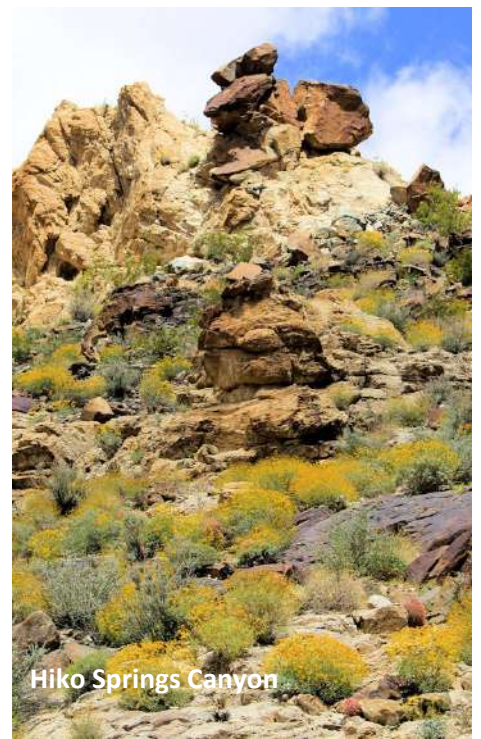
Maintaining Rural Lifestyle: The rural nature of the area, combined with the diversity of recreational activities available, is one of the main reasons many of the Searchlight and other rural residents live here or moved here in the first place. The Monument would help protect the rural character of the area.



Joshua Tree in Bloom



Cactus in Bloom



Hiko Springs Canyon



Joshua Tree Forest at Sunset



Castle Mountains Area



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

NOV 19 2018

Mr. Hans-Christian Schulze
Country Manager
Eolus North America, Inc.
5538A La Jolla Boulevard
La Jolla, California 92037

Dear Mr. Schulze:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received a Right-of-Way (ROW) application in November 2015 from Crescent Peak Renewables, LLC, to construct, operate, and eventually decommission, up to 106 wind turbines and associated facilities on approximately 32,500 acres of public lands in southern Nevada. The BLM determined that the proposed project would not be in conformance with the Las Vegas Resource Management Plan (RMP). The Visual Resource Management class in the Application Area is III, which would require a land use plan amendment to a class IV in order for the project to be consistent with the RMP. In addition, authorization of the project would be inconsistent with the Fish, Wildlife, and Special Status Species management direction contained in the Las Vegas RMP Record of Decision:

- FW-1-a. Maintain and improve bighorn sheep habitat by maintaining existing water developments, protecting and improving springs, seeps, and riparian habitat for Crescent Peak.
- FW-2-b. Evaluate discretionary activities proposed in bighorn sheep habitat and on a case-by-case basis. Grant authorization if projects are consistent with goals and objectives of the Range-wide Plan for Managing Desert Bighorn Sheep Habitat on Public Lands and other applicable policies.
- FW-3-e. Protect artificial and natural waters that provide benefit to wildlife.
- FW-3-f. Protect key nesting and migration routes.

Because the BLM is prohibited from approving resource management authorizations and actions that are not in conformance with approved RMPs, the BLM generally denies applications for any non-conforming proposed uses, such as the Crescent Peak Wind Project.

In this instance, however, the BLM published a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register to gather information about whether it should consider exercising its discretion to amend the approved land use plan to facilitate the proposed wind project. *Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and a Possible Land Use Plan Amendment for the Proposed Crescent Peak Wind Project, West of Searchlight in Clark County, Nevada; and a Notice of Public Lands Segregation*, 83 Fed. Reg. 11,559 (March 15, 2018). The NOI initiated a 90-day public scoping period to allow the public to inform the BLM about whether to complete a plan amendment process and to provide input on the proposed project. The BLM also engaged a number of cooperators, including Federal, county, and state governments, to provide special expertise relative to project impacts. These areas of expertise included military training airspace, future airport development, and wildlife. The scoping period closed on June 13, 2018, and the Scoping Summary Report was completed at the end of July

2018. Through the scoping process, the BLM identified the following resource conflicts associated with the proposed project and plan amendment:

Public Review

According to the Scoping Report Summary, BLM received 216 comments. The BLM received many concerns about the potential biological impacts of the project, especially to eagles, birds, and bats, as well as impacts to existing land uses. The comments indicated that the town of Searchlight, Nevada, closest to the project site, would be heavily impacted by this project. The National Park Service expressed concern about the visual impacts to their visitors' experience due to the project's proximity to the Mojave National Preserve, Castle Mountain National Monument, and Mojave Trails National Monument.

Mining

Within the proposed project area, there are 306 active mining claims. Access to the wind turbines would require construction of roads that would impact active claims. Access roads crossing active mining claims would likely cause conflicts with the claimants developing their mining claims.

Clark County Southern Nevada Supplemental Airport (SNSA)

Wind energy projects can pose logistical challenges to the operation of airport facilities. Crescent Peak Wind's nearly 600-foot tall wind turbines could create height obstructions, interfere with air navigation systems (e.g., radar), or create adverse impacts on the safe and efficient use of navigable airspace to Clark County Department of Aviation's proposed SNSA.

Bighorn Sheep, Eagles, and other Wildlife

Secretary's Order (S.O.) 3356 directs the Department of the Interior (DOI) to enhance hunting and fishing opportunities and improve the management of game species and their habitats. In addition, S.O. 3362 directs the BLM to enhance and improve the quality of big-game migration corridor habitat in a way that recognizes state authority to conserve and manage big-game species.

Hunting and trapping are long-time and well-established recreational pursuits within the Crescent Peak proposed project area. Comments from cooperators on the proposed project expressed concern that the operation of a wind facility would affect wildlife populations. Large game species, particularly bighorn sheep, may permanently avoid the area, reducing hunting opportunities and diminishing the population linkages between Crescent Peak and north Castle Mountains in southern Nevada and southern California, respectively. The State of Nevada acquired water rights to springs adjacent to the project area that are utilized by mule deer, bighorn sheep, and many other wildlife species. Comments from cooperators expressed a strong concern that activities and impacts associated with construction and operational phases of the proposed wind project would result in reduced wildlife use and presence, particularly near water sources. Likewise, developed wildlife water developments (guzzlers) located close to proposed wind turbines are likely to impact small game hunting.

Raptors, birds, and bats do not see the wind turbine rotors, causing mortality associated with wind energy. Within Crescent Peak Wind's project area, 17 golden eagle nests have been identified. A smaller wind energy project in northern Nevada killed two eagles shortly after becoming operational. The Crescent Peak area has tree roosting and migratory bat species that could be impacted during bat migration through the project area at heights that are within the wind turbine's rotor sweep area.

Tribal Concerns

One of the DOI's top priorities is to promote meaningful tribal sovereignty and consultation. Southern Paiute Tribes within California and Nevada have been very engaged and vocal in proposed land use planning and use authorization decisions, especially in the last few years. BLM formally consulted face-to-face with the eight affected tribes, who shared their stories and educated BLM on specific areas of tribal importance within and around the proposed Crescent Peak Wind project area. They described the tremendous spiritual and cultural significance of sacred landscapes and sites, such as the Salt Song Trail and Spirit Mountain (Avi Kwanze). Several of the Tribes, including the Colorado River Indian Tribes, stressed the importance of Spirit Mountain and the surrounding area that are central to the creation story, cultural identity, and ancestral heritage of tribal members. They expressed concern that the proposed Crescent Peak Wind project would impair and degrade the view shed of Spirit Mountain. The Twenty-nine Palms Band of Mission Indians specifically regards Crescent Peak as an area of tribal importance.

Military Training Missions

Military training missions, including those from China Lake Naval Air Weapons Station (China Lake), require airspace that is free of aircraft radar interference. Wind turbines are potentially incompatible with and pose a significant threat to military operations in the R-2508 airspace and beyond. China Lake conducted over 30,000 flights in the R-2508 airspace in 2017 and they expect a 10-20 percent increase in 2018.

Summation

Based on this information, I have concluded that the proposed Crescent Peak Wind project, which does not conform to the approved Las Vegas RMP, would also create conflicts with resource uses, including hunting, mining, tribal values, military training missions, and county development. Accordingly, at this time it is not in the public interest to continue to process the ROW application and complete a detailed environmental analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act. I, therefore, am directing the BLM to cease further work on this land use planning effort and deny your ROW application, pursuant to 43 CFR 2804.25 (e)(2)(ii-iii) and 2804.26 (a)(1-2, 5).

Sincerely,



Joseph R. Balash
Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management

cc: Mr. Ed Duggan
Senior Vice President
Project Development
Eolus North America, Inc.
5538A La Jolla Blvd
La Jolla, California 92037