

QUARTERLY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

APRIL – JUNE 2018



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DESERT CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The Desert Conservation Program (DCP) manages Endangered Species Act compliance on behalf of Clark County and the cities of Boulder City, Henderson, Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Mesquite and the Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) (collectively, the Permittees) through implementation of the Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) and associated Section 10(a)(1)(B) incidental take permit. The MSHCP and permit allow private landowners to develop land in Clark County without the need for individual project-by-project consultations and negotiation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) to comply with the Endangered Species Act, providing a streamlined process for compliance. In exchange for this permit, the DCP implements actions to mitigate impacts from development. These actions include research, acquisition of sensitive habitats, habitat restoration, public information and education, the Wild Desert Tortoise Assistance Line, and installation and maintenance of fencing along roadways to reduce tortoise mortality.



Clockwise from top: Windmills; Browneyes; Silver cholla; and Yellow cups all found on the BCCE (Photos: C. Floyd)

BOULDER CITY CONSERVATION EASEMENT (BCCE)

The incidental take permit requires the establishment of a conservation easement in the Eldorado Valley to be managed and protected for the benefit of the desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizzi*) as partial mitigation for the take of desert tortoise and its habitat. The BCCE was established between Clark County and Boulder City in July of 1995 to fulfill this requirement.

ACTIVITIES FOR THIS QUARTER

- Provided oversight and project management for the interlocal agreement with the City of Boulder City for Law Enforcement on the BCCE.
- Conducted forty-five site visits to monitor use, disturbances, and related issues; to perform new signage installation, maintenance and upgrades; for restoration planning and monitoring; and in support of the Predation Study and the Desert Tortoise Occupancy Study.
- Met with law enforcement during four site visits to plan patrols to cover areas where unauthorized uses were detected.
- Completed a turnaround barrier at the end of an open road to prevent off road travel.
- Added a desert tortoise guard to replace a gate on an open road south of SR-165.
- Began processing a request from the City of Boulder City for a modification to the BCCE and easement agreement.



Clockwise from top: Brittlebush; Desert palafox; Desert dandelion; and Pricklypear all found on the BCCE (Photos: C. Floyd)

BOULDER CITY CONSERVATION EASEMENT— CONTINUED

- Continued coordination with utility companies based in the Energy Zone in order to meet desert conservation and restoration goals.
- Mapping and assessment of unauthorized roads and other disturbances is ongoing and will guide prioritization of restoration activities on the BCCE.
- Bird surveys on the BCCE were completed by SWCA Environmental Consultants. The final report will be available next quarter.
- Small mammal surveys on the BCCE were completed and the final report will be available next quarter.
- Spring surveys to document pre-restoration conditions for a large closed road on the BCCE were completed as preparation for a restoration project that is scheduled to occur in the fall of next year.
- Passive detection methods were used to complete baseline bat surveys on the BCCE. Surveys at the riparian reserve units will be conducted spring/summer 2019.

A comprehensive list of BCCE management accomplishments for this quarter can be viewed here: <https://bit.ly/2aa5C42>

RIPARIAN RESERVE UNITS

The incidental take permit stipulates that take of covered avian species is conditioned upon the acquisition of private lands in desert riparian habitats along the Muddy and Virgin rivers and the Meadow Valley wash. To comply with this permit condition, the DCP has acquired properties with riparian habitat along the Muddy and Virgin rivers in Clark County. These properties serve to mitigate impacts to covered species and conserve habitats and important connectivity corridors.

ACTIVITIES FOR THIS QUARTER

Muddy River Reserve Unit

- Eagle View Contractors continues ongoing maintenance of the Muddy River Reserve Units.
- Planning efforts for the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 16 project to conduct habitat restoration on the Muddy River Reserve Unit continue. A Request for Proposals (RFP) is currently being prepared to complete the restoration design.
- Monthly data collection on groundwater monitoring wells continues.
- Attended the State Engineer's workshop on Order 1169 findings and potential consequences for water rights holders in the Muddy River watershed.
- Restoration implementation is ongoing at the Muddy River Reserve Unit for the SNPLMA Round 14 project to conduct habitat restoration. The National Park Service's (NPS) Exotic Plant Management Team has collected native species and is currently propagating at their nursery. The site will be prepared late 2018/early 2019 and subsequently planted with the propagated plants.
- NPS' Exotic Plant Management Team continues to conduct vegetation management and maintenance activities for enhancement of native riparian species.



Perkins Pond at the Muddy River Reserve Unit

A comprehensive list of Riparian Reserve Units management accomplishments for this quarter can be viewed here: <https://bit.ly/2j6D3Ja>

Virgin River Reserve Unit

- Continued photo-monitoring documentation of restored areas within Subunit 1.
- Planning efforts for the SNPLMA Round 15 project to conduct 20 to 40 acres of habitat restoration on the Virgin River Reserve Unit continue.
- Attended two workshops this quarter with other stakeholders to discuss preliminary planning of a Lower Virgin River Integrated Watershed Management Plan.
- SWCA Environmental Consultants was selected to conduct point count and federally listed avian species surveys on newly acquired properties on the Virgin River. Surveys are ongoing and will conclude in August.
- NPS' Exotic Plant Management Team continues to conduct vegetation management and maintenance activities for enhancement of native riparian species.

Property Acquisition

- Continued coordination with County Surveyor on properties identified for acquisition.



Photos of property at the Virgin River Reserve Unit



PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

One of the requirements of the MSHCP is to provide public information and education and to complete outreach projects that support messages of the DCP.

ACTIVITIES FOR THIS QUARTER

Mojave Max Education Program

- Continued to provide oversight and project management for the contract with Get Outdoors Nevada (formerly Outside Las Vegas Foundation) for the Mojave Max Education Program.
- Fourteen Classroom Tortoise Talks were conducted during this reporting period.
- Eleven outreach events were conducted during this reporting period.

Outreach Events and Mojave Max Appearances

The following outreach events were conducted during this reporting period:

• Summerlin Wellness Fair	Downtown Summerlin	April 7th
• Fox 5 Studio Interview	Fox 5	April 20th
• Junior Ranger Day	Lake Mead	April 21st
• Healthy Kids Festival	Manch Elementary School	April 21st
• Zappos Earth Day Celebration	Zappos Headquarters	April 23rd
• Pinwheel for Prevention	Galleria Mall	April 28th
• Metro Cinco de Mayo	NLV Police	May 4th
• NV Reading Week Ice Cream Party	Herr Elementary School	May 7th
• Desert Tortoise Table	Lake Mead Visitor Center	May 19th
• NV Child Seekers	Sea Quest	May 19th
• Summer Slam	Cambridge Rec Center	May 25th

NV Reading Week | Ice Cream Party



FOLLOW MOJAVE MAX

Get information about Mojave Max, who he is and why he's an important mascot for the Desert Conservation Program. Also check out his website at MojaveMax.com. Follow him on social media too!



Mojave Max



Mojave_Max



@MojaveMax





ATTENTION CONSTRUCTION PERSONNEL

If you see a wild desert tortoise on a construction site, please call the Wild Desert Tortoise Assistance line at 702-593-9027. The tortoise will be picked up free of charge.

CONSTRUCTION SITE TRAINING

Please contact the DCP if you would like to schedule a desert tortoise training session for your construction staff. The DCP will explain what to do if you find a wild desert tortoise on your construction site and the training will be provided free of charge. Please contact the DCP at 702-455-3536 if you're interested.

WILD DESERT TORTOISE ASSISTANCE

ACTIVITIES FOR THIS QUARTER

Wild Desert Tortoise Assistance Line

The 1995 Desert Conservation Plan and the 2001 MSHCP require that the DCP provide a hotline and pick up service to deal with wild desert tortoises which are displaced by development or appear to be in harm's way due to construction activity. The DCP operates the wild desert tortoise assistance line to meet this requirement.

- One call was received from the Wild Desert Tortoise Assistance Line during this reporting period, and the tortoise was translocated.

Desert Tortoise Fencing

- Continued planning activities for the construction of post-and-cable and desert tortoise fencing along the boundary of the newly-designated Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument. A Biological Opinion for the construction of the proposed fence was issued by the USFWS this quarter. This project will go out for bid once the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has completed their cadastral survey.

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

As a requirement of the incidental take permit, the DCP is required to have an Adaptive Management Program (AMP) in order to gauge the effectiveness of existing conservation measures, propose alternative conservation measures as the need arises and to deal with changed or unforeseen circumstances.

ACTIVITIES FOR THIS QUARTER

- Participated in the Mojave Desert, LLC Eastern Mojave Workshop on April 10th and 11th.
- Attended the Southern Nevada Restoration Team's Restoration Forum on April 26th.
- Assisted the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) with a Relict Leopard Frog release at Corn Creek on April 25th.
- Performed health assessments on three desert tortoises received from the desert tortoise hotline to prepare for their release on May 4th.
- Held the quarterly Science Advisor meeting on May 7th.
- Translocated three wild desert tortoises to the BCCE on May 11th.
- Participated in an internal AMP think tank workshop to help streamline the AMP process on May 21st and 22nd.
- Participated in the Management Oversight Group meeting for tortoise on June 14th.
- Attended meetings for the Desert Tortoise Recovery and Implementation Team.



Mount Charleston Blue Butterfly

Permit Amendment

The DCP continues to pursue a major amendment to the MSHCP and incidental take permit. This amendment would allow for additional take authorization in Clark County while providing long-term assurances to the Clark County community for continued economic growth.

ACTIVITIES FOR THIS QUARTER

- Continued to meet with the USFWS to discuss issues related to the proposed amendment.
- Completed a contract with Southwest Ecology, LLC to provide covered species analysis support. This contract resulted in the development of 31 new species distribution models, provided review and assessment of 25 existing species distribution models, and prepared species accounts for 56 species.
- Began working with U.S. Geological Survey to develop an approach for revising the County's vegetation map.
- Continue to administer a contract with Ebbin, Moser + Skaggs, LLP to provide legal counsel services in support of the permit amendment effort.
- Continued to administer a contract with WRA Environmental Consultants to assist with the preparation of documents and analyses that will support development of the MSHCP amendment. This quarter, the analysis of covered species was completed and consultants began developing methods for a habitat functionality analysis that will be used in conducting impact analyses to support the County's application for an amended incidental take permit.
- Continued coordination with Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) to discuss development of a master permit for the take of state-listed plant species. This permit would provide the MSHCP Permittees with disturbance authorization from the State Forester Firewarden, in accordance with Nevada Revised Statutes, for state-listed plant species in Clark County.

External Agency Coordination and Assistance

In order to keep well informed on the current and future land use impacts to Clark County, the DCP will review and potentially provide comments on issues relevant to Clark County. As a public agency, the DCP also provides data as requested to interested parties.

ACTIVITIES FOR THIS QUARTER

- Continued to participate as a cooperating agency to the BLM's Resource Management Plan revision process. Submitted comments on the BLM's proposed range of alternatives. Met regularly with BLM staff to discuss revisions and potential resource conflicts.
- Met with renewable energy developers to review proposed project siting and discuss potential land use conflicts.
- Attended meeting with representatives of the Apple Valley, California, Habitat Conservation Program.
- Prepared letters documenting Endangered Species Act compliance for projects requiring the submittal of map revisions requests to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
- Provided GIS data to Linda Bullen with Bullen Law, LLC.
- Provided environmental compliance assistance to the Department of Public Works in relation to the Goodsprings Trail Project.
- Provided GIS data to Ryan Mulvenon with Cassidy, Inc.
- Provided GIS data to Laura Abram with First Solar, Inc.
- Provided GIS data to Starla Lacy with NV Energy.
- Provided GIS data to Lucas Ingvaldstad with Eolus North America, Inc.
- Provided GIS data to Paul Moreno with AECOM, Inc.
- Provided Maps to Donald Jackson with the Best in the Desert racing organization.
- Provided Maps to Jasmine Carr, Grants Coordinator, with the Clark County Social Service Department.



Spring Mountains Acastus Checkerspot butterfly

NEW, ONGOING, AND CLOSED PROJECTS

New projects started this quarter

- Desert Upland Baseline Bird Surveys, 1730C
- Desert Upland Baseline Small Mammal Surveys, 1730D
- Avian Surveys on Riparian Properties, 1730E
- LV Bearpoppy Fencing, Ramada & Trail, 1790A

Ongoing projects this quarter

- Hotline and Processing of Wild Desert Tortoises, 803E
- Boundary Surveys and Parceling for Virgin River Properties, 917AC
- Parceling for Bunkerville Property, 917BD
- Parceling for Virgin River Properties, 917DE
- Parceling for Bunkerville Property, 917MB
- Desert Tortoise Occupancy Sampling, 1012D
- Legal Services for DCP, 1014J
- BCCE DT Predation Study, 1421B
- Water Rights Consulting, 1445E
- Lower Virgin River Integrated Watershed Plan, 1445F
- Muddy River Habitat Restoration, 1446D
- HCP Consultant for the MSCHP, 1460A
- Muddy River Weed Management, 1520B
- Riparian Rsv Units Prop Maint, 1520M
- Mormon Mesa Restoration Services, 1521C
- Mormon Mesa Restoration Project, 1521Z

Ongoing projects this quarter Cont'd.

- Desert Tortoise Monitoring Data Management, Year 2-5, 1541A
- Desert Tortoise Range-Wide Monitoring, 1541B
- Relict Leopard Frog Conservation Planning and Implementation, 1550A
- Muddy River Restoration Plan, 1570B
- Desert Tortoise Connectivity, 1580A
- BCCE Law Enforcement, 1710A
- BCCE Weed Survey, 1710B
- BCCE Maintenance, 1710C
- Mojave Max Education Program, 1715A
- Virgin River Weed Management, 1720A
- Science Advisor Panel for the DCP, 1730A
- BCCE DT Telemetry, 1740A
- DCP Branding Project, 1770A
- OHV Marketing, 1775A
- Desert Tortoise Predator-Prey Dynamics, 1795A

Projects closed this quarter

- Covered Species Analysis Support, 901B
- Phase I Env. Site Assess. of Bunkerville Parcel, 917MC
- Joshua Tree Habitat Model, 1460D
- Tule Springs Cultural Resource Survey, 1525B
- Viable Process for Surveying DT Using Drones, 1785B

Requests for proposals and quotes (RFPs / RFQs)

- An RFP was issued to potential bidders for BCCE DT Telemetry and Health Assessments.



Yellow-billed cuckoo

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

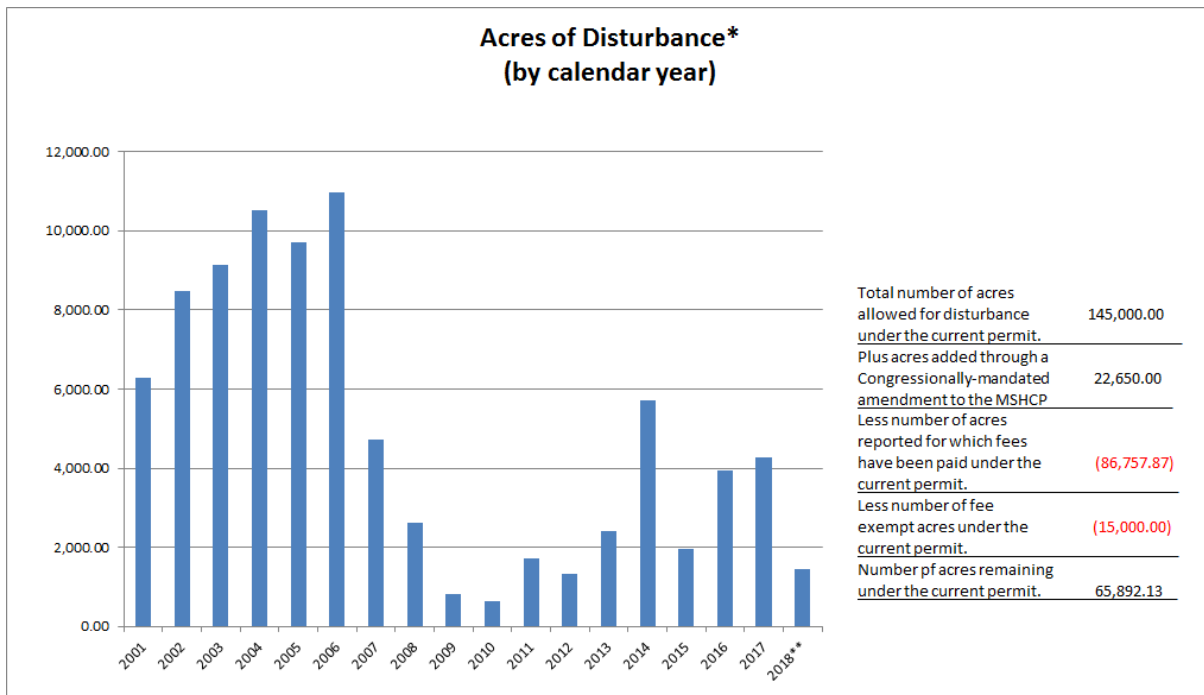
ACTIVITIES FOR THIS QUARTER

- Processed vendor payments - 78 invoices: 77 accepted (99%), 1 rejected (1%).
- Fiscal Year (FY) 18 Budgets continue to be reconciled for end of year close. Expenditures continue to be monitored regularly to ensure appropriate spending and reporting occur. The process of encumbering the FY19 budget has begun.
- Phase 1 of converting all the existing credit card terminals to the new processor, Wells Fargo, has been completed. Phase 2 of converting the existing web and IVR systems has been completed. Phase 3 is in process to establish e-payment services for County departments that do not currently offer e-payments.
- The desert tortoise specialty license plate design received approval from the Nevada Highway Patrol (NHP). Production of the license plate has begun and the list of reserved plate numbers was submitted to the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).
- Oversight of for the SNPLMA Round 8 - Round 16 projects totaling \$8,117,515 continues in the County's financial system. The projects continue to be monitored for progress and reimbursement.
- Received reimbursement for SNPLMA projects: Round 8 - 5 draw downs (\$91,000.00), Round 14 - 1 draw down (\$4,654.00), Round 15 - 3 draw downs (\$88,919.47), and Round 16 - 1 draw down (\$14,500.00).
- Continued development of the 2019-2021 Implementation Plan and Budget. A draft report will be released to the public for review and comment in October.



Red Rock Canyon, NCA

DCP staff is responsible for ensuring that land disturbed pursuant to the MSHCP is accounted for and monies are collected and deposited in the Section 10 special reserve fund established under the MSHCP. Below are charts which outline the total amount of fees collected and acres disturbed for the period 2001-2018.



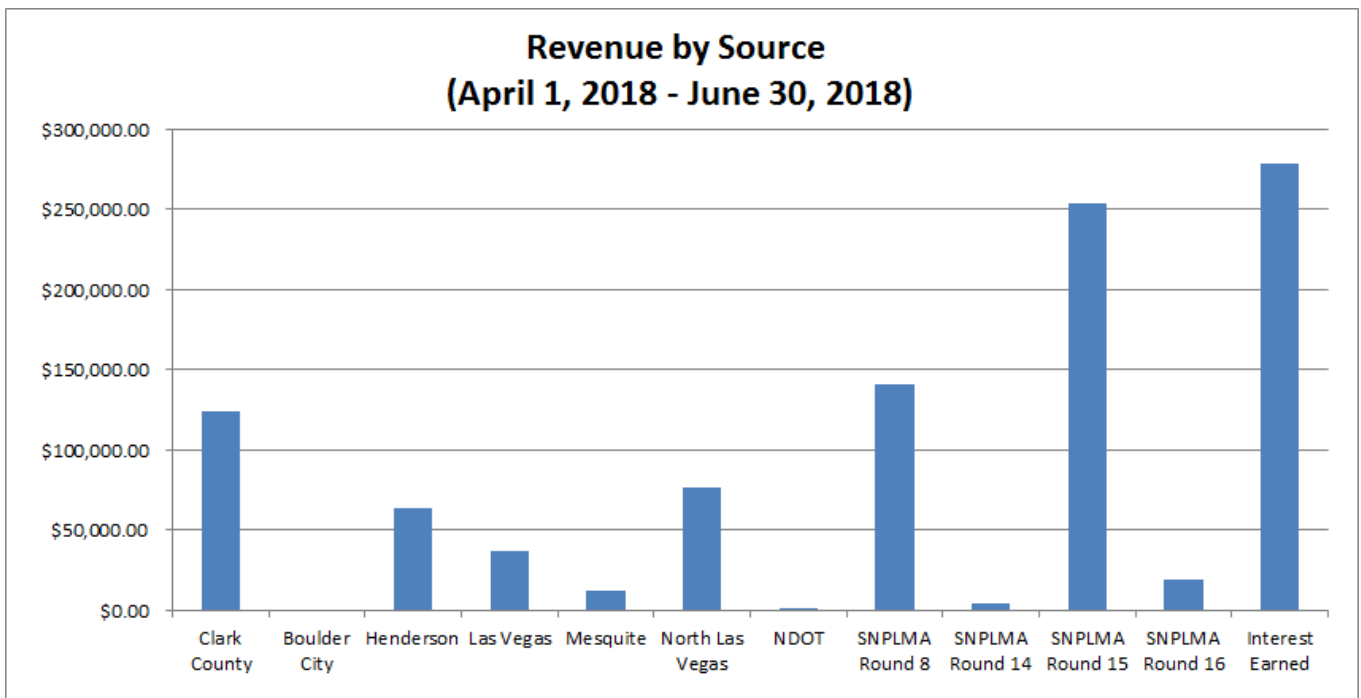
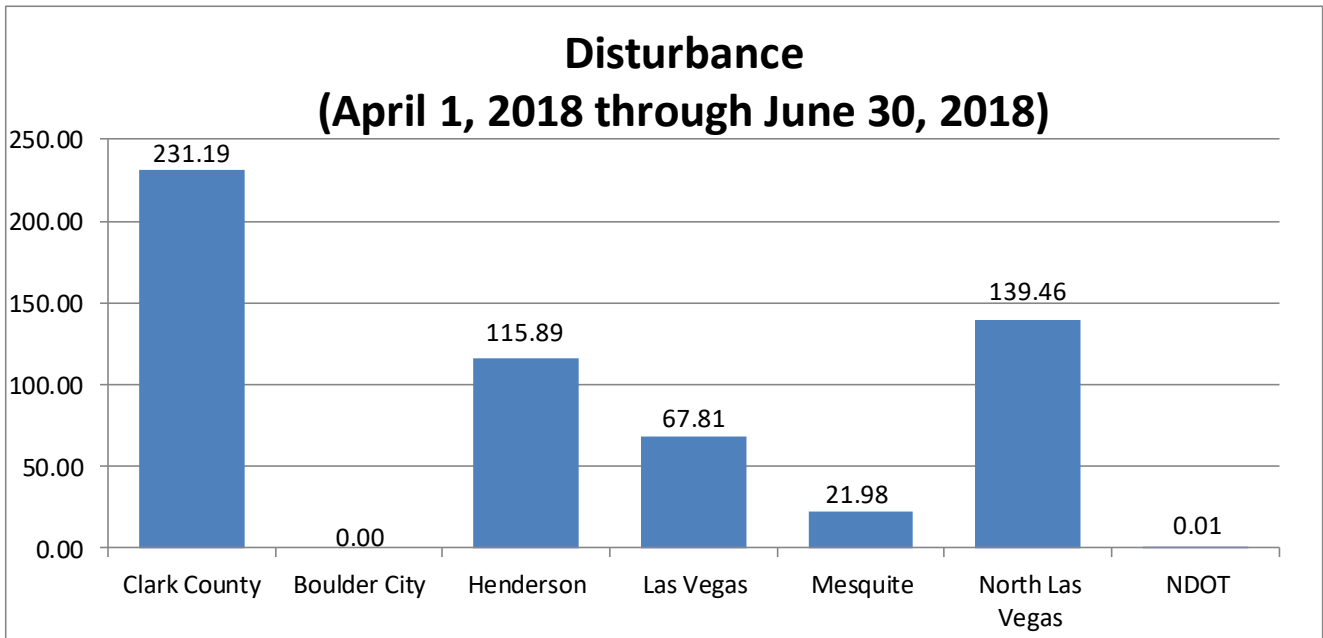
*Total acres reported in this chart do not include 15,000 acres of municipal development, which were exempt from the payment of mitigation fees through January 2010.

**2018 totals are subject to change.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE — CONTINUED



Western Burrowing Owl



OPPORTUNITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Brittlebush

We currently have no RFPs advertised for the Desert Conservation Program.

Interested parties are encouraged to sign up through Nevada Government EMarketplace ([NGEM](#)) in order to receive future RFP notifications.

Check the Clark County opportunities page regularly at <http://bit.ly/2bBOrvz> for new opportunities.

Employment opportunities:

There are currently no employment opportunities advertised for the Desert Conservation Program.

Employment opportunities can be viewed on this webpage:

[HR](#)

DESERT CONSERVATION PROGRAM

**CLARK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AIR QUALITY
DESERT CONSERVATION PROGRAM
4701 WEST RUSSELL ROAD, SUITE 200
LAS VEGAS, NV 89118**

WWW.CLARKCOUNTYNV.GOV/DCP


MOJAVEMAX.COM


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