



desert conservation  
PROGRAM  
respect, protect and enjoy our desert!

## Community Advisory Committee

Educational Field Trip, May 16, 2009



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## Committee Members Present

1. Jane Feldman
2. Mike Ford
3. Stan Hardy
4. Matt Heinhold
5. Paul Larsen
6. Terry Murphy
7. Joe Pantuso
8. Jim Rathbun
9. Scott Rutledge
10. Allan Spooner
11. Mindy Unger-Wadkins
12. Tom Warden - Las Vegas

## Committee Members Absent

1. Victor Caron
2. Gary Clinard
3. Patrick Foley
4. Dave Garbarino
6. Bryan Nix
7. Ann Schreiber
8. Marcia Turner
9. Darren Wilson
10. Tribal Representative

## Staff/Contractors in Attendance

1. John Brekke -
2. Marci Henson
3. Matt Hamilton
4. Eric Hawkins
5. Douglas Huston
6. Ann Magliere
6. Ruth Nicholson
7. Robert Oliver
8. John Tennert
10. Lewis Wallenmeyer

## Others In Attendance

1. Brok Armantrout
2. Julie Ervin-Holoubek
3. Jeri Krueger
4. Johanna Murphy
5. Tracy Foutz
6. Par Rasmussen
7. Carolyn Ronnig
8. Cheng T. Shih



Committee members gathered at the Clark County Government Center



## Clark County Government Center

The May 16, 2009, Desert Conservation Program (DCP) Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) Permit Amendment Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting consisted of a field trip organized by the Clark County DCP to familiarize the committee members with some of the locations and issues associated with the MSHCP permit amendment process. The field trip began at the Clark County Government Center where participants signed the attendance sheet and were briefed prior to departing on the tour. The tour departed at 8:20 a.m.



Ruth briefs the participants prior to departure



## El Dorado Energy Solar Plant



Mirrors at the El Dorado Energy Solar Plant

The committee's first stop was the El Dorado Energy Solar Plant. En-route, the group picked up Brok Armantrout, Boulder City, and Bob Oliver, Boulder City Conservation Easement (BCCE) Law Enforcement Officer. Brok briefed the committee on the history, operation, size and future plans for the solar plant. The tour arrived at the plant at approximately 9:10 a.m., and the committee members disembarked to view the plant.

At about 9:20 a.m., the committee members got back on the bus and the tour headed for the race course staging area. Brok answered questions about the solar energy plant and geothermal exploration.

Following the questions, John Tennert, DCP Permit Amendment Project Manager, discussed renewable energy projects and the amount of take those projects involve. Following John's comments, Bob Oliver spoke on the history of the illegal race course.



During Bob's remarks a tortoise was spotted by the side of the road. The bus stopped to allow Erik Hawkins, Co-Facilitator, to take pictures. At 9:40 a.m., the bus arrived at the site of the now closed race course. Committee members left the bus to view the damage caused by illegal racing in the desert. Bob spoke to the committee members and staff on the extent and history of the race course. At 10:02 a.m., committee members reboarded the bus and left to view a tortoise fencing area.



Brok Armantrout, Boulder City, briefs committee members on the El Dorado Energy Solar Plant



Young Desert Tortoise spotted beside the road to the race track



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## Race Course Staging Area



View of the damage done to the desert by the illegal race course



No Motor Vehicles sign posted at race course



Bob Oliver talks to committee members and staff about the race course



Committee members and staff view the race course



## Tortoise Fencing Area



Typical tortoise fence installation



Committee members view a tortoise fence

After leaving the race course area, the committee traveled to a section of the BCCE where they viewed a typical tortoise fence installation. On the bus ride to the tortoise fencing area, the group discussed details concerning the BCCE such as its size, history and future plans; the various types of wildlife found on the BCCE; and the problems with interactions between people and tortoise fencing.



Carrie Ronning, Bureau of Land Management, discusses tortoise fence construction with committee members



## Tortoise Burrow

Following the stop at the tortoise fence, the committee viewed an abandoned tortoise burrow adjacent to an illegal motorcycle trail.



Abandoned Desert Tortoise burrow adjacent to an illegal motorcycle trail



Bob Oliver points out egg-shell fragments at the opening to the tortoise burrow.



Committee members view the abandoned tortoise burrow



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## Lunch at Callville Bay Picnic Area



The committee stopped for lunch at the Callville Bay Picnic Area. While there, Ross Haley, National Park Service, spoke to the committee on the National Park Service, the management of Lake Mead, and the status of several species in the park such as the Relict Leopard Frog and the Bald Eagle. Committee members had questions concerning the status of the Desert Tortoise in the park, the number of visitors to the park, and the park's funding.



Ross Haley, National Park Service, speaks to committee members



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## Sunrise Mountain ACEC



Access road at the Sunrise Mountain ACEC

Following lunch, the committee traveled to the Sunrise Mountain Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) where Gayle Marrs-Smith, Bureau of Land Management, spoke to the members on how areas became ACECs in general, and how Sunrise Mountain became an ACEC in particular. She stated that Sunrise Mountain was designated an ACEC due to its scenic and geologic properties and the presence of rare species.

Committee members had questions concerning the status of the bear poppy and the endangered species budget for the area.



Gayle Marrs-Smith, Bureau of Land Management, speaks to the committee at the Sunrise Mountain ACEC





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## Return to Clark County Government Center



Committee members on the bus

Following the visit to the Sunrise Mountain ACEC, the committee returned to the Clark County Government Center and arrived at approximately 2:45 p.m.



John Tennert, DCP Permit Amendment Project Manager, speaks to committee members on the bus



View of the desert on the Boulder City Conservation Easement



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