

2007 – 2009

**Implementation Plan and
Budget**

**CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM**

Issue: 2007-2009 Implementation Plan and Budget for the Clark County Desert Conservation Program	Back-up:
Petitioner: Lewis Wallenmeyer, Acting Director, Air Quality & Environmental Management	Clerk Ref. #
Recommendation: That the Board of County Commissioners receive and accept the final recommendations regarding the 2007-2009 Implementation Plan and Budget for the Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan from the Clark County Desert Conservation Program Advisory Committee; and authorize staff to submit the budget to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for approval; or take other action as necessary.	

FISCAL IMPACT:

None

BACKGROUND:

On January 9, 2001, Clark County along with the cities of Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Boulder City, Henderson, Mesquite and the Nevada Department of Transportation were issued a Section 10(a)1(B) incidental take permit for 78 species in Clark County by the Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The permit operates in conjunction with the Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP), approved by the Board of County Commissioners (Board) on July 16, 1999 and is known as the Desert Conservation Program. Clark County serves as the administrator of this Program.

Section 2.12 of the MSHCP requires the preparation of a biennial Implementation Plan and Budget, which requires approval by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. In February 2006, the Board established the Clark County Desert Conservation Program Advisory Committee (DCP-AC) and in May and July 2006 the Board appointed a total of 11 members that represent community and business interests, environmental interests, local government agencies, user groups and the public-at-large. The DCP-AC's Charter and Operating Guidelines were adopted by the Board on May 16, 2006 and charged the committee with advising staff on major policy issues facing the MSHCP and with providing input on the program's 2007-2009 Implementation Plan and Budget for consideration by the Board.

In accordance with the MSHCP and the DCP-AC's Charter and Operating Guidelines, the DCP-AC met eight times in public meetings, obtaining input from the public and receiving facts, analyses and documents from staff in the areas of plan implementation status, permit requirements, land use trends, habitat loss by ecosystem, population trends, ecosystem health, and effectiveness monitoring. Through the information received during its meetings, the DCP-AC developed a set of recommendations for the 2007-2009 Implementation Plan and Budget for the Board's consideration. The recommendations are attached (Attachment A).

Staff concurs with the DCP-AC's recommendations. The Board is requested to receive and accept the DCP-AC's final recommendations for the 2007-2009 Implementation Plan and Budget; and authorize staff to submit the budget to the US Fish and Wildlife for approval.

RECEIVED/ACCEPTED/AUTHORIZED AS RECOMMENDED

Respectfully submitted

L. Wallenmeyer

LEWIS WALLENMEYER
Acting Director, Air Quality and
Environmental Management

Cleared for Agenda

2/6/07 ou

Agenda
Item #

127

ATTACHMENT A
Clark County Desert Conservation Program Advisory Committee
2007-2009 Implementation Plan and Budget

Recommendations

1. The Desert Conservation Program - Advisory Committee (DCP-AC) recommends that the total Desert Conservation Program budget be \$6.4 million for the 2007-2009 Implementation Plan and Budget; that 70%, or \$4.5 million, of the total budget be dedicated to implementation projects and 30%, or \$1.9 million, of the total budget be dedicated to development projects as illustrated in Exhibit 1.

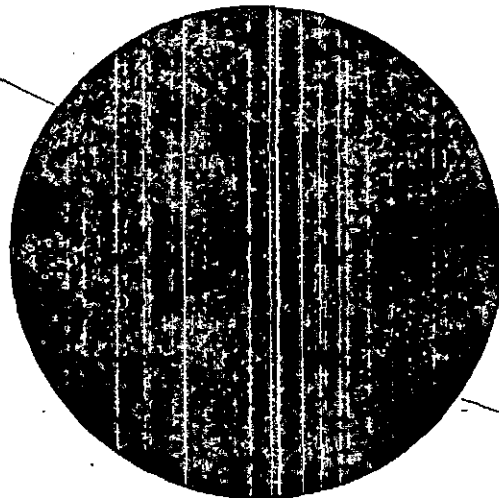
2. The DCP-AC recommends that Clark County, as Plan Administrator, fund projects in the priority order illustrated in Exhibit 2, which is the result of the Committee's average scores per project per budget category.

3. The DCP-AC advises the Board of County Commissioners to direct staff to fund projects in the priority order adopted in Recommendation 2 and commensurate with the budget adopted in Recommendation 1.

4. The DCP-AC recommends implementing the supplemental budget recommendations in Exhibit 3.

Exhibit 1
2007-2009 Implementation Plan and Budget = \$6.4 million

30% Development =
\$1.9 million



70% Implementation =
\$4.5 million

Exhibit 2

Desert Conservation Program Advisory Committee					
Project Concept Evaluation Summary: D&I by Av w/o Larsen, Tribal, & Freeman (PRINT)					
MSHCP 2007-2009 Implementation Plan and Budget					
Line	Budget	Project	Project Concept Title	Lead Agency	Average
	Category	Concept			Evaluation
		Number			Score
1	Development	716	Conservation Management Strategies	Clark County	68
2	Development	709	Adaptive Management Program	Clark County	66
3	Development	788	78 species selection	Clark County	61
4	Development	733	Species Status Reporting	Clark County	59
5	Development	731	Mojave Max Emergence Contest	Clark County	56
6	Development	725	Cactus Cate Habitat Maintenance	Clark County	50
7	Development	729	Mass Media Campaign	Clark County	48
8	Development	707	Support of Virgin River CMS	BLM	48
9	Development	781	Support of Virgin River CMS	Nat'l Park Service	44
10	Development	705	Road designation and monitoring	BLM	44
11	Development	743	Palmer's chipmunk in the Spring Mountains	NV Wildlife	39
12	Development	727	Community Outreach	Clark County	37
13	Development	762	Mesquite/acacia habitat management	Nat'l Park Service	32
14	Development	774	Rare plant monitoring	Nat'l Park Service	31
15	Development	769	Seed budgets	Nat'l Park Service	29
16	Development	748	Relict leopard frog habitat research	Nat'l Park Service	28
17	Development	739	Reptile collection	NV Wildlife	28
18	Development	755	Exotic plant removal	Nat'l Park Service	26
19					
20					
21	Implementation	711	Administration	Clark County	88
22	Implementation	719	Desert Tortoise Conservation Center	Clark County	77
23	Implementation	714	Boulder City Conservation Easement	Clark County	73
24	Implementation	722	Acquired Lands and Water Rights	Clark County	68
25	Implementation	737	Fencing	Nevada DOT	62
26	Implementation	785	Desert tortoise monitoring	Fish & Wildlife	53
27	Implementation	777	Spring-fed wetlands and riparian restoration	Nat'l Park Service	44
28	Implementation	703	Rare plant inventories	BLM	37
29	Implementation	766	Rare bird monitoring	Nat'l Park Service	36
30	Implementation	745	Peregrine falcon monitoring	NV Wildlife	34
31	Implementation	750	Relict leopard frog monitoring	Nat'l Park Service	32
32	Implementation	753	Interagency weed sentry program	Nat'l Park Service	32
33	Implementation	735	Forester II	NV Forestry	27
34	Implementation	764	Peregrine falcon as an ecosystem indicator	Nat'l Park Service	24
35	Implementation	779	Monitoring of traffic patterns and roads	Nat'l Park Service	23
36	Implementation	701	Law enforcement	BLM	22
37	Implementation	783	Resource Protection and Law Enforcement	Forest Service	22
38	Implementation	758	Lake Mead GIS and Data Management Support	Nat'l Park Service	21
39	Implementation	772	Resource Protection at Lake Mead	Nat'l Park Service	20

EXHIBIT 3
Desert Conservation Program Advisory Committee
2007-2009 Implementation Plan and Budget

Supplemental Recommendations

1. The Committee recommends the Plan Administrator consider the past record of contract performance, including timely submission and quality of deliverables, in awarding contracts and executing interlocal agreements for 2007-2009. Specifically, the Committee recommends that no new contracts or agreements be executed unless existing commitments have been satisfactorily been met.
2. The Committee recommends the Plan Administrator not execute more contracts and/or interlocal agreements than the available contract and project management staff can handle in order to ensure that all contractual obligations are fulfilled and all delivered products and services are acceptable.
3. The Committee recommends the total recommended budget for all four public information and education-related project concepts not exceed \$190,000.
4. The Committee recommends that in the event funds are available to implement the law enforcement-related projects received by Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and the US Forest Service, the combined and total recommended budget for these three projects should not exceed \$200,000 per year as commensurate with the specific law enforcement guidance provided in Permit 801045, which was incorporated by reference into Permit TE-034927-0, Special Term and Condition H.
5. The Committee recommends that in the event funds are available to implement the law enforcement-related projects received by Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and the US Forest Service, the budget not be used to fund permanent, full-time equivalent law enforcement positions, but rather the budget should be used to provide time and materials compensation for specific law enforcement services. These services should be limited to activities such as the actual time spent patrolling Intensively Managed and Less Intensively Managed Areas, MSHCP-related restoration sites, specific populations of listed plants and animals, the actual time spent making natural resource protection-related contacts, the actual time spent issuing and following through on citations/violations for natural resource-related offenses, and the actual time spent preparing various MSHCP-related deliverables. The Committee recommends staff more fully flesh out the definition of natural resource-related law enforcement services and distinguish such services from health, human safety and property-related law enforcement services.
6. The committee recommends that the budget for the Clark County Adaptive Management Program (Project No. 709) not exceed \$1,000,000.
7. With regard to the US Fish and Wildlife Service Desert Tortoise Monitoring project (No. 785), the committee recommends that Section 10 funds only be used to fund monitoring within Clark County. Monitoring done outside of Clark County should be paid for using other funds.