

**Final  
Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan  
and  
Environmental Impact Statement  
for  
Issuance of a Permit to Allow Incidental Take of  
79 Species in Clark County, Nevada  
September 2000**

Clark County, Nevada, has prepared a proposed Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) to conserve a wide variety of species and their habitats throughout the county. The MSHCP has been prepared pursuant to Section 10(a) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). The MSHCP identifies those actions necessary to maintain the viability of natural habitats in the county for approximately 232 species residing in those habitats, including 4 species listed as endangered (southwestern willow flycatcher, *Empidonax traillii extimus*; Moapa dace, *Moapa coriacea*; woundfin, *Plagopterus argentissimus*; Virgin River chub, *Gila seminuda*), 1 threatened species (Mojave desert tortoise, *Gopherus agassizii*), and 1 candidate species (blue diamond cholla, *Opuntia whipplei* var. *multigeniculata*). While the MSHCP addresses all 232 species, it proposes that 79 of these species be covered by a Section 10(a) Permit for those species which are currently listed and Prelisting Agreements for those species which are not listed (Covered Species). All Covered Species are treated in this plan as though they were listed and are subject to the standards set forth in Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Act and 50 CFR 17.32(b) and 17.22(b). By addressing the habitat needs of the Covered Species, the MSHCP benefits many of the other species that utilize the same habitats. In addition, the MSHCP establishes a process that may be utilized to assure the maintenance of the viability of the natural habitats of the remaining approximately 153 species described in the MSHCP.

If the MSHCP is approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the USFWS would authorize incidental take of the listed species covered by the plan through the issuance of a Section 10(a)(1)(B) permit. In addition, the MSHCP would also be the basis for an incidental take permit and implementation agreement for additional species if these species become listed.

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