

WSA Redesignation within Clark County Nevada

Preliminary Results of the
Release on the MSHCP

Main Goal of Analysis

- Determine if release of the Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) in Public Law 107-282 would result in a net unmitigated loss of Intensively and Less Intensively Managed Area acreage under the MSHCP
 - Future land management to be conducted in compliance with our Resource Management Plans and conservation agreements (which include the MSHCP)

Specific Goals

- Determine if the many land exchange actions in P.L. 107-282 resulted in a net change in IMA and LIMA lands on the map.
- Develop a process for Clark County to calculate IMA and LIMA acreages and assess change when future land actions occur.

PL 107-282 Actions

- Red Rock Canyon land exchange and boundary adjustment
- Wilderness designation and WSA release
- Transfer of land from the BLM to the US Fish and Wildlife Refuge system and the National Park Service
- Creation of Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area

Participants

- BLM – provided computerized mapping (GIS) support
- NPS, FWS and FS - provided up-to-date administrative boundary information
- Clark County – provided previous GIS map and oversight
- GIS Working Group – Peer Review

Process

- Used best available data
- Used the definitions in the MSHCP to establish which lands qualified as IMAs and LIMAs
- Merged the qualifying lands together
 - IMAs with WSAs
 - IMAs with Wilderness
 - LIMAs with WSAs
 - LIMAs with Wilderness

Definitions - IMA

- BLM lands committed to conservation of the desert tortoise pursuant to the terms of the DCP
- All National Park Service lands except those identified as development zone in the GMP and existing minor developments such as parking lots, trailheads, and boat ramps
- Wilderness, Research Natural Areas (RNAs), Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs), and Instant Study Areas (ISAs) managed by the BLM and the USFS
- The Desert National Wildlife Range (including portions of NAFR), and other refuges, managed by the USFWS
- State Wildlife Management Areas located within the plan area
- State parks located within the plan area (Valley of Fire State Park)
- Nellis Small Arms Range

Definitions - LIMA

- BLM lands managed as National Conservation Areas (NCAs)
- USFS lands managed as the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area
- Lands within NAFR and NSAR with limited Air Force use and restricted access
- Target areas on NAFR
- State parks other than Valley of Fire State Park

County-wide Preliminary Results

- IMAs - 53,656 acres less if released WSA outside other IMA areas are reclassified as MUMA.
- LIMA - 3,512 acres less if released WSA outside other LIMA areas are reclassified as MUMA.
- Added together the total is 59,168.3 acres
(This was incorrect. There is some overlap.)

County-wide Preliminary Results

■ When IMA and LIMA are merged...

– Prior to release 3,780,705 acres

– After release 3,837,884 acres

– Difference 57,179 acres

County-wide Preliminary Results

- Land not included as an IMA or LIMA in the MSHCP
 - Gold Butte Part B ACEC
 - ~66,764 acres
 - Values – cultural resources, scenic, wildlife habitat, sensitive species
 - Virgin Mountains ACEC (Gold Butte Part C)
 - ~28,602 acres
 - Values – wildlife habitat, scenic and botanical

County-wide Preliminary Results

- Land not included as an IMA or LIMA in the MSHCP
 - Rainbow Gardens ACEC
 - More than 18,317 acres
 - Values – geological, scientific, scenic, cultural, sensitive plants
 - River Mountains ACEC
 - 10,948 acres
 - Values - bighorn sheep, scenic viewshed for Henderson and Boulder City

County-wide Preliminary Results

- Land not included as an IMA or LIMA in the MSHCP
 - Desert Tortoise Conservation Center
 - ~11,000 acres
 - Values – moderate density desert tortoise habitat
 - Arden ACEC
 - ~966 acres
 - Values – historic, moderate density desert tortoise habitat

County-wide Preliminary Results

- Land not included as an IMA or LIMA in the MSHCP
 - Virgin River ACEC
 - ~6,411 acres
 - Values – T&E habitat, riparian habitat, cultural resources
- Total = 143,488 acres not on MSHCP map

What Else We Know

- 11,251 acres of WSA lands released by PL 107-282 were included in the Las Vegas Valley disposal boundary
 - Quail Springs, Nellis A, B and C

What Next?

- Resolve IMA and LIMA definitions
 - Do cultural and botanical ACECs count?
- Determine habitat values
- Determine mitigation