

QUARTERLY ADMINISTRATOR

October—December 2021



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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.



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 agassizii*) 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

- Continued to provide oversight and project management for the interlocal agreement with Boulder City for Law Enforcement on the BCCE. Law Enforcement officers are assisting in investigating the source of these dumpsites and unauthorized routes. Law Enforcement continues to engage in contacting those responsible and investigations are currently ongoing.
- The County is participating in patrol ride-alongs with Law Enforcement on the BCCE to work together in minimizing illegal road use, trash dumping, and other illegal activities.
- This quarter, there was an increase of illegal dump sites and unauthorized routes observed on the BCCE.
- Continued to administer a contract for ongoing maintenance of roads, fences, and other various maintenance needs.
- Continued coordination with utility companies based in the Energy Zone in order to meet desert conservation and restoration goals.
- Continued mapping and assessment of unauthorized roads and other disturbances to guide prioritization of restoration activities on the BCCE.
- Gothic Landscape, Inc. has completed maintenance and scheduled watering of shrubs planted in late 2020 to restore a decommissioned road located in valuable desert tortoise habitat at the BCCE (2017-GOTHIC-1745A). The second round of post-restoration monitoring will be conducted by DCP staff in spring of 2022.

Click on the link for a comprehensive list of [BCCE](#) management accomplishments for this quarter.

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

Click on the link for a comprehensive list of [Riparian Reserve Units](#) management accomplishments for this quarter.

Muddy River Reserve Unit

- Continued planning efforts for the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 16 project to conduct habitat restoration on the Muddy River Reserve Unit - Natural Channel Design was selected to complete the restoration design. Their design is in its final stage and currently under review with Public Works. Continued coordination with adjacent landowners to request easements for future restoration implementation activities. A scope of work was prepared to conduct tamarisk treatment on the Muddy River. This was awarded to American Conservation Experience. The work will begin in Q1 of 2022.
- Continued monthly data collection on groundwater monitoring wells.
- Attended monthly meetings with Muddy River Biological Advisory Committee meetings.



Overview of the Mormon Mesa Riparian Reserve Unit

Virgin River Reserve Unit

- All work was completed for the SNPLMA Round 15 project. Forty acres of habitat restoration was implemented on the Mormon Mesa subunit including planting material from the National Park Service (NPS) Song Dog Nursery, harvesting and planting willow cuttings, and installing exclusion fencing. Staff submitted the closeout request package to the SNPLMA Program Manager. A final inspection of the completed project was conducted on 10/26/2021. Staff continues monitoring the project area for non-native plant species and browsing by trespass cattle.
- NPS' Invasive Plant Management Team (IPMT) continued vegetation management and maintenance activities for enhancement of native riparian species.
- Continued photo-monitoring documentation of restored areas within Mormon Mesa site.
- A request to adjudicate hydrobasins 222, 223, and 224, submitted in Q2 2020 to Nevada Division of Water Resources (NDWR) is currently under review.
- Examined inventory of water rights and determined that fifty-eight (58) surface water rights and twelve (12) groundwater rights could be conveyed to the Nevada Division of Wildlife (NDOW). Board of County Commissioners approved the proposed conveyance of water rights. Staff will coordinate with NDOW to update the ownership of each water right with NDWR.

Property Acquisition

- A willing seller contacted DCP with two parcels along the Virgin River they are interested in selling. Evaluated the parcels and an offer letter was sent and accepted in Q2 2021. The BCC approved in November 2021.
- A willing seller contacted with one parcel along the Virgin River they are interested in selling. DCP is currently evaluating the parcel to determine if an offer should be sent.

Other

- SWCA was selected to evaluate archaeological resources on County riparian parcels. Final reports have been prepared for all of the parcels.



Banded SWFL



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 for the Mojave Max Education Program.
- Distributed emergence contest flyers and other promotional materials.
- Selected and coordinated with schools to schedule 14 assemblies; assemblies will begin in January and continue through February.
- Conducted 25 virtual Tortoise Talks with 44 classes.
- Continued to administer a contract with Inform Evaluation and Research to conduct an evaluation of the Mojave Max program.

Outreach Events and Mojave Max Appearances

- Participated in several community outreach events to connect with 15,000 community members at events at Bob Price Recreation Center, Downtown Summerlin, Lorenzi Park, Tule Springs National Monument, and Silver Bowl Park.

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



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 coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to discuss issues related to the proposed MSHCP amendment.
- Continued to work with Permittees on a proposed federal lands bill that will support efforts to obtain an amended MSHCP; continue to coordinate with elected officials and other stakeholders on the development of the lands bill.
- 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;
- Continued to administer a contract with Cogan Technology to prepare a County-wide fine-scale vegetation map. Completed the Coarse Level Mapping for 4 Additional Work Zones, 14 total completed. This quarter, site visits were conducted for field verification of photo interpretations.
- Continue to administer a contract with SWCA Environmental Consultants to conduct avian surveys to improve knowledge of ecology and distribution of proposed covered avian species; the final data deliverable and report were submitted this quarter and the contract was renewed to conduct an additional year of surveys.
- Completed a contract with BEC Environmental to conduct pocket mouse surveys to improve our understanding of the ecology and distribution of this proposed covered species in Clark County; the final data deliverable and report were submitted this quarter.
- Continued to administer a contract with Ventajas, LLC to conduct research on conflicts and encumbrances within the proposed Special Management Areas that will serve as the Reserve System under an amended MSHCP.



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

The DCP implements numerous conservation actions to benefit the desert tortoise and to assist with recovery efforts. Two of the key projects implemented to reduce the impacts of development on wild desert tortoises include operation of the Wild Desert Tortoise Assistance Line and the implementation of a translocation program, conducted in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Desert Tortoise Recovery Office. Additional projects that benefit wild desert tortoise populations include the construction and maintenance of over 400 miles of desert

ACTIVITIES FOR THIS QUARTER

Wild Desert Tortoise Assistance Line

- No calls were received from the Wild Desert Tortoise Assistance Line during this reporting period and no tortoises were picked up.
- Continued to administer a contract with Ecocentric to provide support for the Wild Desert Tortoise Assistance Line and in conducting health assessments for tortoises that are removed from construction sites.

Translocation

- Translocated two tortoises removed from construction sites to the BCCE.
- Continue to administer a project with the U.S. Geological Survey to study the predator-prey relationships in order to better understand how these dynamics may impact desert tortoise translocation success.

Desert Tortoise Fencing

- Continued planning activities for the construction of post-and-cable and desert tortoise fencing along the boundary of the Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument. A revised scope of work was sent out for bids this quarter and an award will be made in early 2022.

Misc. Projects

- Natural Resource Conservation LLC continues to provide academic consultation services in preparation for an upcoming workshop which will focus on Mojave Desert restoration as a tool for desert tortoise recovery. A finalized literature review and fact sheet were completed and distributed to registered participants in preparation for the workshop.
- Southwest Decisions Resources, Inc. continues to facilitate meetings and provide planning assistance in preparation for an upcoming workshop which will focus on Mojave Desert restoration as a tool for desert tortoise recovery. This quarter, four meetings were held, and SDR assisted DCP with finalizing the workshop agenda and communicating with possible speakers.
- Continued to administer several contracts related to examining the state of desert tortoise population connectivity in Clark County.; these projects will culminate in the development of a Connectivity Management Plan for Clark County, scheduled to be completed in quarter 2 of 2022. This quarter we held a Mojave Desert Tortoise Connectivity Solutions meeting.

OTHER CONSERVATION WORK

ACTIVITIES FOR THIS QUARTER

- Ironwood Consulting completed rare plant surveys and submitted final data. The final report will be completed next quarter.
- U.S. Geological Survey continued to study rare plant propagation for this project through an interlocal agreement. Research activities included seedbank emergence trials, seed longevity trials, and seed propagation trials.
- Continue to administer a contract with Austin Peay University to examine Gila monster spatial ecology and habitat use. Completed one investigation of thermally-mediated refuge site selection in Gila monsters. All other field work and analyses were completed this quarter.
- Continue to administer a contract with U.S. Geological Survey to conduct an assessment of the genetic diversity among Gila monster populations. Requested a 90 day no cost extension to include additional genetic samples from the 2021-GBI-2040C Gila Monster Seasonal Support project. Presented preliminary findings to County; 2-3 genetic populations of Gila Monsters were observed in Clark County with initial samples.
- Continue to administer a contract with University of Nevada Reno to model Gila monster habitat. This quarter, the draft project report was submitted and draft future movement models were developed in coordination with UNR climatologists.
- Continued planning activities for the construction of wildlife protective fencing at Willow Creek Spring in the Spring Mountains National Recreation Area.



Gila monster, photo by Jason Jones, NDOW

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

- Continue to administer a contract with Alta Sciences to provide for an independent Science Advisor Panel; held the Quarterly Science Advisor meeting.

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 coordinate with the Clark County Regional Flood Control District on the development of a new in-lieu fee mitigation program for projects that require a permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.
- Continued to participate in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Desert Tortoise Transportation Ecology work group.
- Continued to participate in the Desert Tortoise Manager's Oversight Group (MOG); attended biannual meeting.
- Continued to participate in the Relict Leopard Frog Coordination meetings.

LIST OF PROJECTS ADMINISTERED THIS QUARTER

Ongoing and active projects this quarter

Project Number	Title	Contractor
803F	DT Health Assess and Pickup Svc Support	Ecocentric, LLC
1521G	Muddy River Flood Inundation Project	US Geological Survey (USGS) -Western Eco Rsrch Ctr
1570C	Muddy River Habitat Restoration	Natural Channel Design, Inc
1570D	MR Habitat Restoration Implementation	American Conservation Experience
1580C	DT Connectivity Solutions Modeling	University of Nevada Reno (UNR) - BRRRC
1580E	DT Telemetry around Culverts	Ecocentric, LLC
1580G	Connectivity Management Plan	Recon Environmental, Inc
1580H	Culvert Image Inspection	SWCA Environmental Consultants
1580J	Connectivity Data Analysis	Heron Ecological, LLC
1580K	Connectivity Movement Simulation	Alta Sciences & Engineering, Inc.
1720E	Water Rights Consulting	Farr West Engineering
1720F	Riparian Reserves Maintenance	Eagle View Contractors, Inc.
1745A	Restoration at the BCCE	Gothic Landscape, Inc
1750D	Archeological Resource Evals on Rip Rsv Parcels	SWCA Environmental Consultants
1755A	Rare Plant Surveys	Ironwood Consulting, Inc.
1760A	Academic Consultant for DT Rest Workshop	Natural Resource Conservation LLC
1760B	Restoration Workshop Facilitation	Southwest Decisions Resources, Inc
1782B	Avian Surveys	SWCA Environmental Consultants
1910C	Riparian Reserves Vegetation Management	National Park Service (NPS)
1915A	Mojave Max Education Program	Outside Las Vegas Foundation
1915F	Mojave Max Education Prg Eval	Inform Evaluation & Research
1920A	Science Advisor Panel	Alta Sciences & Engineering, Inc.
1920B	DT Occupancy on the BCCE	Bio Logical, LLC
1965A	Vegetation Map for Clark County	Cogan Technology Inc
1970B	HCP Consultant for the MSHCP Amendment	WRA Environmental Consultants
1987A	DT Predator-Prey Dynamics	US Geological Survey (USGS) -Western Eco Rsrch Ctr
1990A	Rare Plant Propagation Research	US Geological Survey (USGS) -Western Eco Rsrch Ctr
1997A	Assess Genetic Diversity of Gila Monster	US Geological Survey (USGS) -Western Eco Rsrch Ctr
1997C	Gila Monster Habitat Modeling	University of Nevada Reno (UNR) - BRRRC
2005B	BCCE Law Enforcement	City of Boulder City
2005C	BCCE Law Enforcement	Boulder City Conservation Easement Law Enforcement
2005D	BCCE Weed Survey	National Park Service (NPS)
2030A	BCCE DT Telemetry & Health Assess	Great Basin Institute
2040B	Reptile Monitoring and Surveys	Great Basin Institute
2095A	MSHCP Amendment Reserve System Research	VENTAJAS LLC
2095B	Workzone 6 Imagery	SkyWatch Space Applications Inc

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

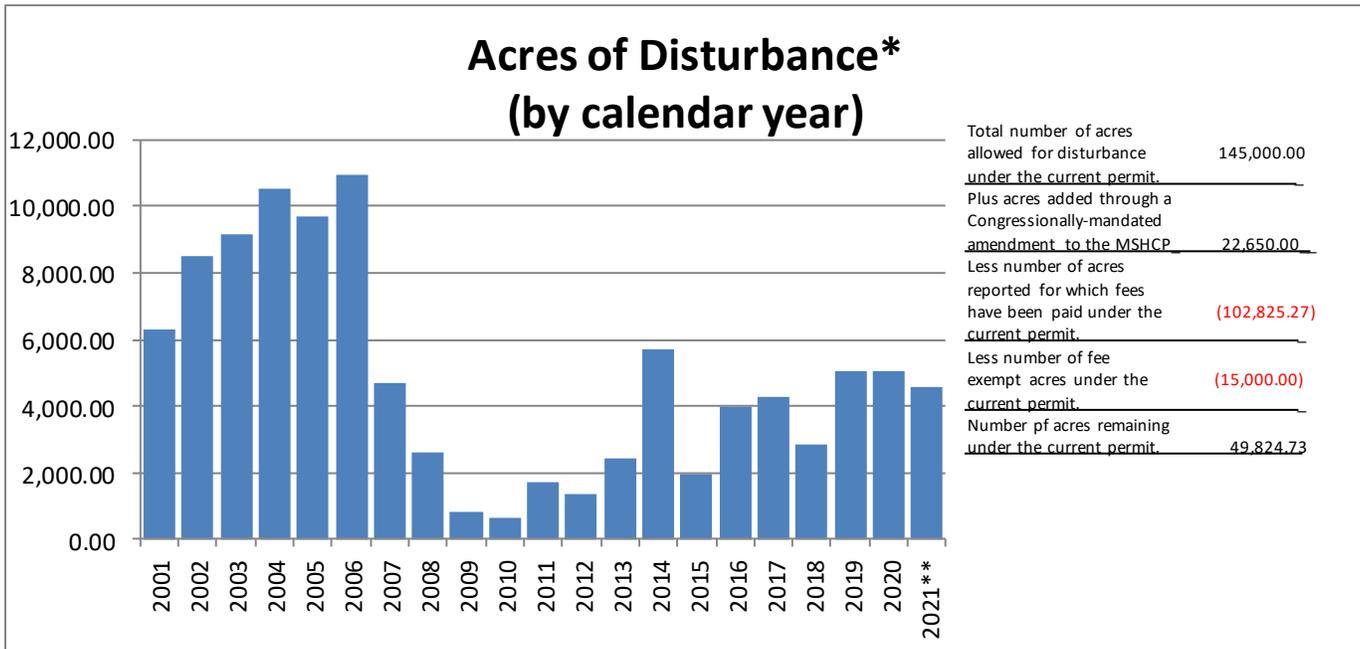
ACTIVITIES FOR THIS QUARTER

- Processed vendor payments 50 invoices: 46 accepted (92%), 4 rejected (8%).
- Fiscal Year (FY) 22 Budgets and expenditures continue to be monitored regularly to ensure appropriate spending and reporting occur. Initiated process of developing the FY22 estimates and FY23 budget.
- Phase 1 of converting all the existing credit card terminals to the new processor, Wells Fargo, is completed. Phase 2 of converting the existing web and IVR systems has been completed. Phase 3 is in process to establish e-payments services for County departments that did not currently offer e-payments.
- Continued production of the desert tortoise specialty license plate and plates are being distributed at Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles (DMVs). Active plates are currently exceeding the 1,000 minimum threshold.
- Continued oversight of the SNPLMA Round 16 – Round 17 projects totaling \$6,410,071 in the County's financial system. The projects continue to be monitored for progress and reimbursement.
- Received reimbursement for SNPLMA projects: : Round 16 – six draw downs (\$147,845.80), Round 17 – two draw downs (\$13,225.00).
- Completed the 2019-2021 Biennium Progress Report. The report is report may be viewed on our website [here](#).
- Continued recruitment processes to hire two additional staff members for the positions of Management Assistant and Management Analyst I/II.



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 2001-2021.

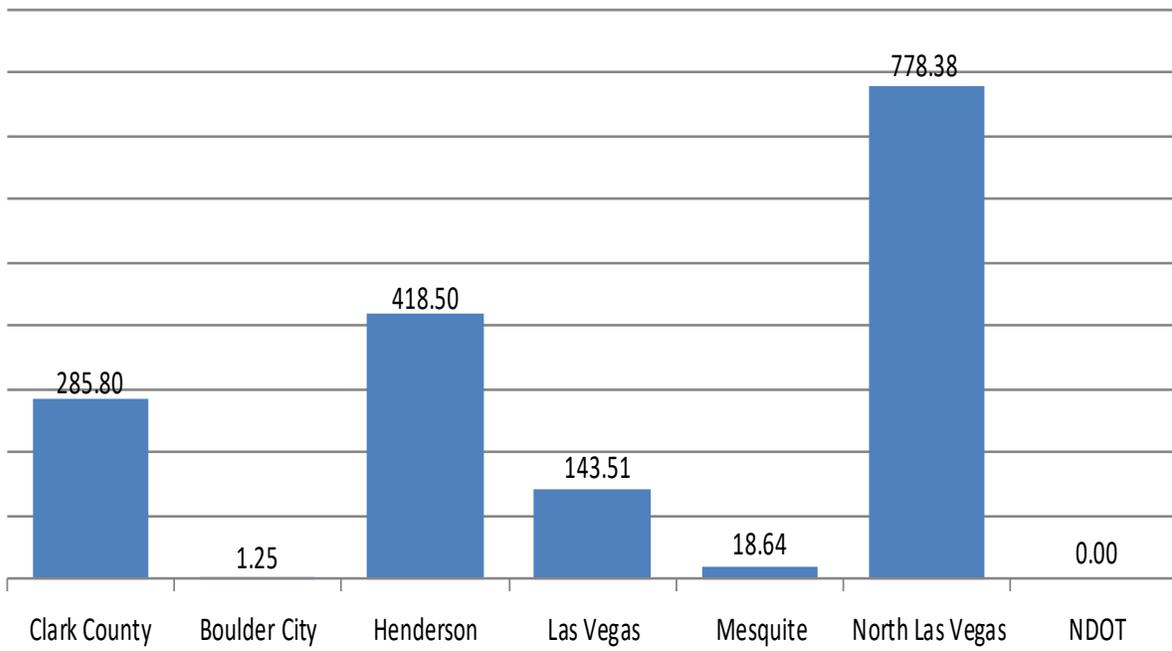


*Total acres reported in this chart do not include 15,000 acres of municipal development, which were exempt from the payment of mitigation fees through January 2010.

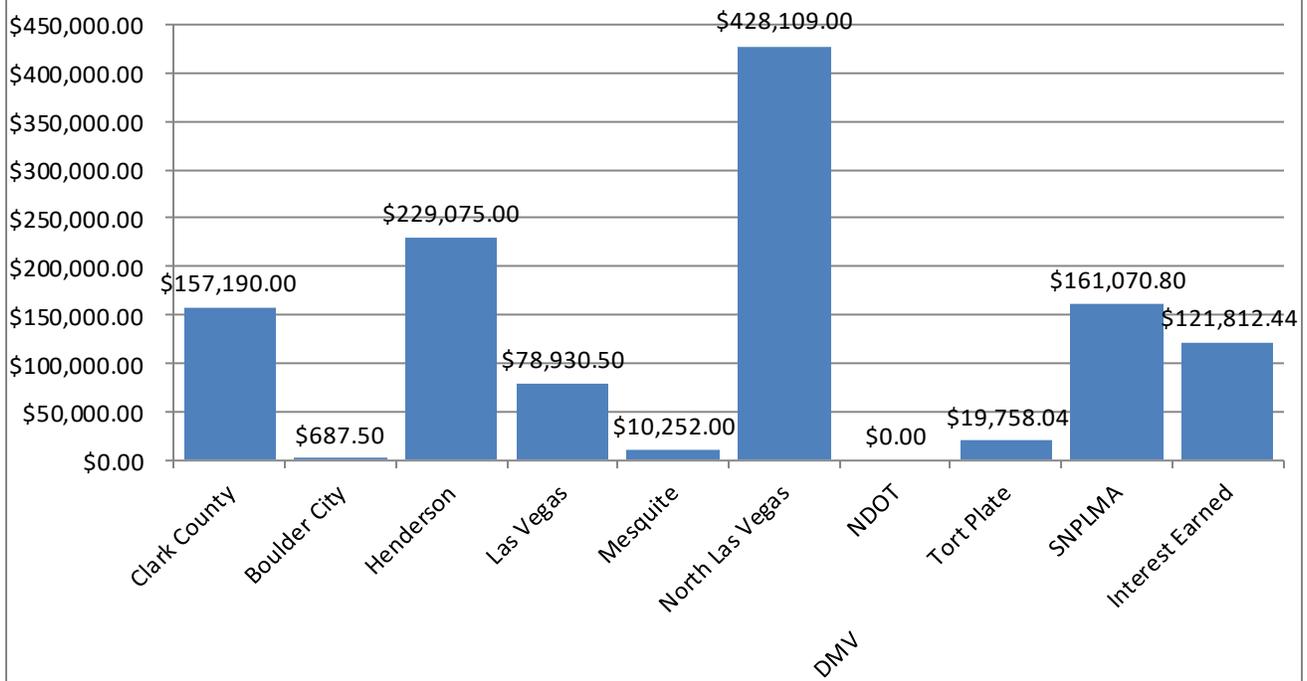
**2021 totals are subject to change.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE — CONTINUED

Disturbance
(October 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021)



Revenue by Source
(October 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021)



OPPORTUNITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Desert Tortoise License Plate

On January 21, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners approved a department name change from the Department of Air Quality to the Department of Environment and Sustainability.

DCP's Desert Tortoise License Plate is available at Nevada Department of Motor Vehicle offices across the state. Click here for more information about the [plate](#).

Those interested in viewing any RFPs that are advertised for the DCP, are encouraged to sign up through Nevada Government EMarketplace ([NGEM](#)) to receive RFP notifications. Please check the Clark County opportunities page regularly at <http://bit.ly/2bBOrvz> for RFP opportunities.

Employment opportunities:

DCP currently had no active recruitment opportunities; please check for employment opportunities within the DCP and other County departments frequently by visiting Clark County's Human Resources webpage: [HR](#)

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