

QUARTERLY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

APRIL – JUNE 2019



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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 Service (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.



Clockwise from top: Alkali mariposa lily; Las Vegas bearpoppy; Blue Diamond cholla; and Joshua tree. (Photos: S. Ferrazzano)

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 agassizzi*) 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

- Provided oversight and project management for the interlocal agreement with Boulder City for Law Enforcement on the BCCE.
- Conducted 26 site visits to monitor use, disturbances, and related issues; to perform new signage installation, maintenance and upgrades; and for restoration planning and monitoring.
- Met with law enforcement during four site visits to plan patrols to cover areas where unauthorized uses were detected.
- Moved border sign on Route D to a location that is more accurate for the north border.
- 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.
- The Board of County Commissioners approved a proposed boundary adjustment for the BCCE. This adjustment will add approximately 1,927 acres to the Easement in exchange for approximately 1,145 acres that will be added to the area known as the Energy Zone.
- Processed a Reserve Use Authorization for GridLiance's proposed Sloan to Mead Rebuild project.
- Conducted pre-restoration vegetation monitoring at a planned restoration site.
- BEC Environmental, Inc. completed small mammal surveys. Their official findings will be reported next quarter.
- SWCA Environmental Consultants completed a Class III cultural resources survey for planned restoration areas at the BCCE. The final report for this project will be delivered next quarter.

A comprehensive list of BCCE management accomplishments for this quarter can be viewed here: <http://bit.ly/2xSXOSO>

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

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 – a Request for Proposals (RFP) was prepared to complete the restoration design. The top selections have been evaluated and Natural Channel Design has been approved by the Board of County Commissioners to negotiate pricing. The contract will be approved by the Board of County Commissioners next quarter.
- The National Park Service’s (NPS) Exotic Plant Management Team continued to conduct vegetation management and maintenance activities for enhancement of native riparian species.
- NPS’ Exotic Plant Management Team (EPMT) continued monitoring of restoration implementation for SNPLMA Round 14 project. EPMT will continue monitoring the site through Q3 2019.
- Eagle View Contractors continued ongoing maintenance of the Muddy River Reserve.
- Continued monthly data collection on groundwater monitoring wells.
- Participated in the Muddy River Biological Advisory Committee.



EPMT Crews Work to Restore Habitat at the Muddy River Reserve Unit

A comprehensive list of Riparian Reserve Units management accomplishments for this quarter can be viewed here: <http://bit.ly/30A6UzJ>

Virgin River Reserve Unit

- Continued planning efforts for a SNPLMA Round 15 project to conduct 20 to 40 acres of habitat restoration on the Virgin River Reserve. An interlocal agreement was approved November 6, 2018 for Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) to masticate tamarisk on the Mormon Mesa and Riverside sites. NDF has masticated four acres to date. They will continue this work in the fall.
- Participated in the Virgin River Coalition Steering Committee meeting.
- Began acoustic surveys for bats at all riparian properties. The surveys will continue into the next quarter.
- NPS’ Exotic Plant Management Team continued to conduct vegetation management and maintenance activities for enhancement of native riparian species.
- Continued photo-monitoring of restored areas within Mormon Mesa parcel.

Property Acquisition

- Continued coordination with Public Works Map Team to subdivide two parcels identified for future acquisition; one parcel map has been completed and is currently being processed within County Assessor’s Office.
- Continued coordination with Public Works Map Team to subdivide one parcel the County purchased in 2018.



Photos of property at the Virgin River Reserve Unit



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.
- Conducted seven Tortoise Talks during this reporting period.
- Conducted ten outreach events during this reporting period.
- Held Mojave Max Emergence Contest field trip on May 2, 2019 at Springs Preserve.

Outreach Events and Mojave Max Appearances

Conducted the following outreach events during this reporting period:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| • Children's Festival | Winchester Dondero Cultural Center | Apr 20 |
| • Summerlin Greenfest | 10801 W Charleston Blvd. | Apr 20 |
| • Eggstravaganza Grace Baptist | Lewis Family Park | Apr 20 |
| • Zappos Earth Day Event | 400 East Stewart Ave. | Apr 24 |
| • Junior Ranger Day | Lake Mead Visitor Ctr. | Apr 27 |
| • NV Earth Day Festival | Freedom Park | Apr 27 |
| • Bilbray ES Ice Cream Party | Bilbray Elementary School | Apr 29 |
| • Cinco De Mayo Fiesta | Shadow Rock Park | May 3 |
| • Get Outdoors NV Days | Boulder City NV | May 4th, 5th |



Junior Ranger Day - High Fives



Serving Up Sprinkles at the Ice Cream Party!

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





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

ACTIVITIES FOR THIS QUARTER

Wild Desert Tortoise Assistance Line

The 1995 Desert Conservation Plan and the 2001 MSHCP require that the DCP provide a hotline and pick up service to deal with wild desert tortoises which are displaced by development or appear to be in harm's way due to construction activity. The DCP operates the wild desert tortoise assistance line to meet this requirement.

- Received eight calls from the Wild Desert Tortoise Assistance Line during this reporting period.
- Collected one wild desert tortoise during this reporting period.
- Worked with Inspirada Builders to survey and remove two tortoises from a potential construction site on June 3rd.

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. This project will go out for bid once the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has completed their cadastral survey of the monument.

OTHER WORK

ACTIVITIES FOR THIS QUARTER

- Through an interlocal agreement with the Nevada Division of Minerals, installed two bat compatible closures on abandoned mine land hazards in the Valley of Fire area. These closures will ensure public safety while retaining the value of the associated wildlife habitat. Additional bat compatible closures will be installed at suitable locations in the coming quarters.
- SWCA Environmental Consultants completed avian point-count surveys at all DCP properties and completed the first rounds of surveys for federally-listed bird species at the riparian properties. The remaining rounds of surveys and the final report are scheduled to be completed in the next quarter.

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

- Participated in teaching and assisting with the Desert Tortoise Health Assessment training course in Phoenix April 1st - April 6th.
- Participated in the Recovery Implementation Team meeting for Desert Tortoise on April 17th.
- Participated in a public outreach event at the National Park Service's Health and Wellness Fair on April 25th.
- Participated in the Quarterly Science Advisor Panel meeting on May 14th.
- Participated in a meeting for the Captive Tortoise Working Group on May 31st.
- Participated in a two-day workshop to develop Priority Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Areas in Nevada June 18th – June 19th.



Mount Charleston Blue Butterfly

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 (USFWS) to discuss issues related to the proposed amendment.
- Continued to work with Permittees on federal legislation that will support efforts to obtain an amended MSHCP; continued to coordinate with elected officials and other stakeholders on the development of the County lands bill; continued to meet monthly with the OHV Advisory Committee to discuss including protections for OHV recreation areas in the lands bill.
- Continued to administer a contract with Ebbin, Moser + Skaggs, LLP to provide legal counsel services in support of the permit amendment effort.
- 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.
- Kicked-off a new interlocal agreement with University of Nevada, Reno for the development of an additional 17 species distribution models. The models will be used in the development of the habitat functionality analysis and to estimate and track impacts to species.
- Completed negotiations with NDF for a Master Permit that covers impacts to state-listed plant species. The Board of County Commissioners approved the permit last quarter.

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

- Provided GIS data and maps to the Clark County OHV Advisory Committee.
- Provided GIS data and maps to the Clark County Comprehensive Planning Department.
- Provided maps for the Clark County Enterprise Land Use Update Meeting.
- Provided GIS data and maps to the Wilderness Society.
- Provided GIS data and maps to the National Parks Conservation Association.
- Provided GIS data to Nevada Department of Wildlife.
- Provided GIS data to Nevada Department of Transportation.
- Provided assistance to the Department of Comprehensive Planning to update the Federal Lands Element of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Met with renewable energy developers to review proposed project siting and discuss potential land use conflicts.
- Served as a cooperating agency to the BLM's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Gemini Solar Project.
- Served as a cooperating agency to the BLM's EIS for the Yellow Pine Solar Project.
- Prepared letters documenting endangered species compliance for projects requiring the submittal of flood zone map revision requests to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
- Reviewed legislation proposed during the 2019 legislative session for potential impacts to division operations.
- Provided assistance to the Clark County Wetlands Park regarding Endangered Species Act compliance during long-term operations.
- 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.
- Provided interview assistance to the Department of Air Quality for recruitment purposes.
- Participated in meetings with Clark County Regional Flood Control District for development of an In Lieu Fee Program.
- Participated in the Southern Nevada Restoration Team Annual Field Trip.
- Participated in the Virgin River Conservation Partnership Annual Symposium in conjunction with Cross Watershed Network Workshop.



Spring Mountains Acastus Checkerspot butterfly

NEW, ONGOING, AND CLOSED PROJECTS

New projects started this quarter

- Species Distribution Modeling, Phase II, 1460E
- Muddy River Flood Inundation Project, 1521G

Ongoing projects this quarter

- DT Health Assess & Pickup Svc Support, 803F
- DT Awareness & Invasive Spec Ed for OHV, 807H
- BCCE Cultural Resource Survey, 809M
- Parceling for Bunkerville Property, 917BD
- Legal Services for DCP, 1014J
- BCCE DT Telemetry & Health Assess, 1412D
- Water Rights Consulting, 1445E
- Muddy River Habitat Restoration, 1446D
- HCP Consultant for the MSCHP, 1460A
- Virgin River Riparian Restoration, 1521E
- Desert Tortoise Monitoring Data Management, Year 2-5, 1541A
- Desert Tortoise Range-Wide Monitoring, 1541B
- Relict Leopard Frog Conservation Planning and Implementation, 1550A
- Desert Tortoise Connectivity, 1580A
- BCCE Law Enforcement, 1710A
- BCCE Weed Survey, 1710B
- BCCE Maintenance, 1710C

Ongoing projects this quarter Cont'd.

- Mojave Max Education Program, 1715A
- Virgin River Weed Management, 1720A
- Science Advisor Panel for the DCP, 1730A
- Effects of Exotic Forage on Mojave DT, 1730J
- Avian Species Surveys, 1730K
- Desert Upland Small Mammal Surveys II, 1730M
- Gold Butte AML Closures, 1792C
- Desert Tortoise Predator-Prey Dynamics, 1795A

Projects closed this quarter

- Muddy River Weed Management, 1520B
- Bearpoppy Fencing, Ramada & Trail, 1790A

Requests for proposals and quotes (RFPs / RFQs)

No RFPs or RFQs were solicited during this reporting period.



Yellow-billed cuckoo

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

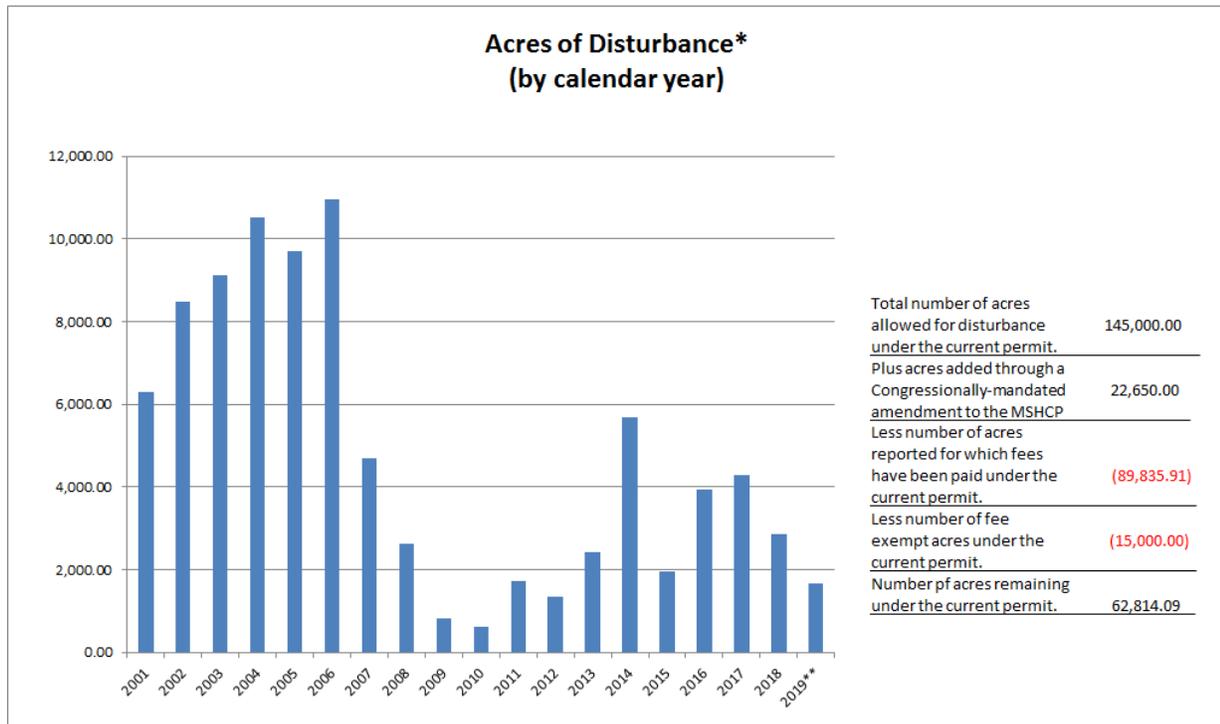
ACTIVITIES FOR THIS QUARTER

- Processed vendor payments - 71 invoices: 70 accepted (99%), one rejected (1%).
- Continued to reconcile Fiscal Year (FY) 19 Budgets for end of year close. Expenditures continue to be monitored regularly to ensure appropriate spending and reporting occur. The process of encumbering the FY20 budget has begun.
- Completed Phase 1 of converting all existing credit card terminals to the new processor, Wells Fargo. Phase 2 of converting the existing web and IVR systems has also been completed. Phase 3 is in process to establish e-payments services for County departments that do not currently offer e-payments services.
- Continued production of the desert tortoise specialty license plate and plates are being distributed at Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles (DMVs).
- Continued oversight of the SNPLMA Round 8 – Round 16 projects totaling \$8,117,515 in the County's financial system. The projects continue to be monitored for progress and reimbursement.
- Received reimbursement for SNPLMA projects: Round 15 – one draw down (\$22,632.84), Round 16 – one draw down (\$23,000.00).



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 2001-2018.

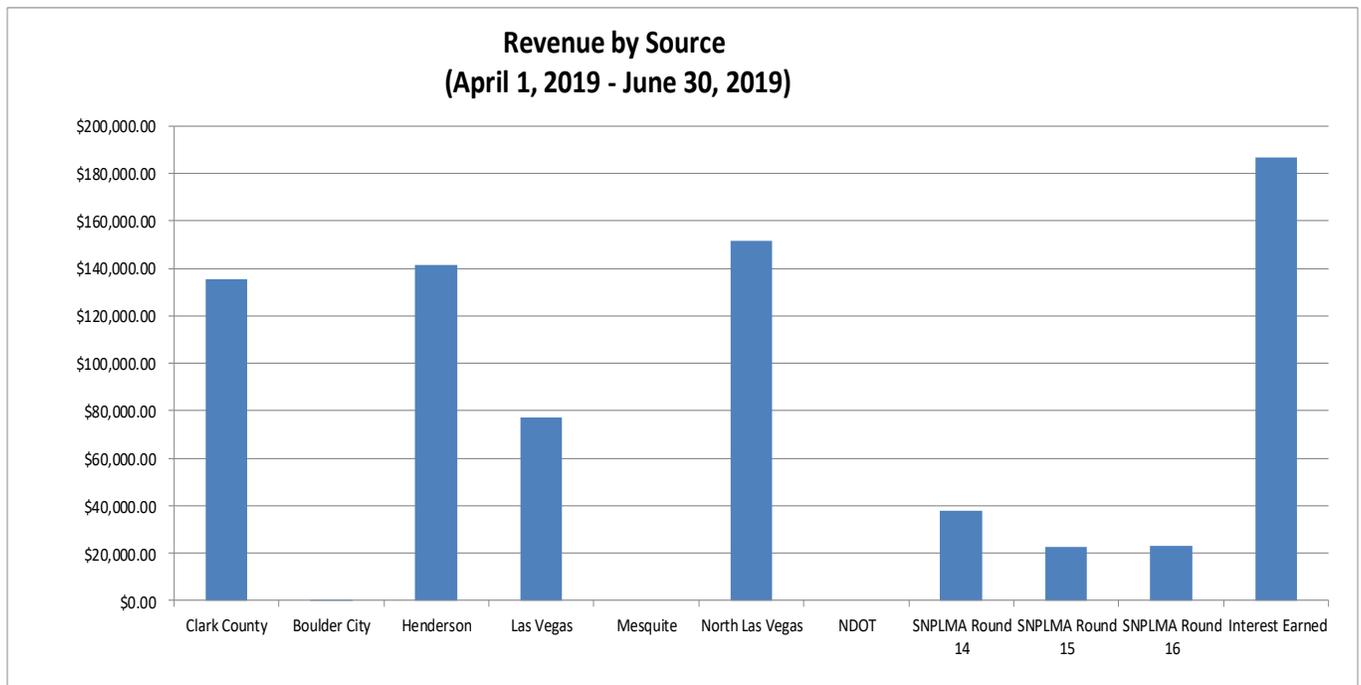
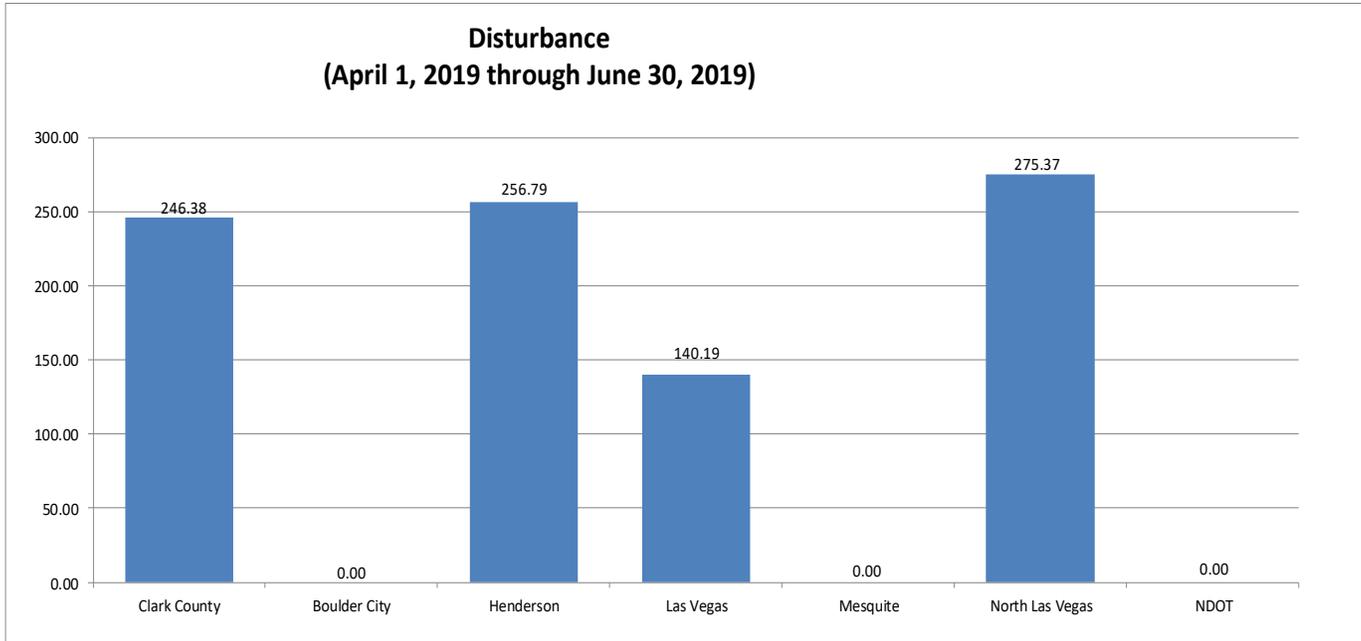


*Total acres reported in this chart do not include 15,000 acres of municipal development, which were exempt from the payment of mitigation fees through January 2010.

**2019 totals are subject to change.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE — CONTINUED

Western Burrowing Owl



OPPORTUNITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Desert Tortoise License Plate

The Desert Tortoise License Plate continues to be 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:

Please check for employment opportunities within the DCP, as well as other County departments, by visiting Clark County's Human Resources webpage: [HR](#)

DESERT CONSERVATION PROGRAM

**CLARK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AIR QUALITY
DESERT CONSERVATION PROGRAM
4701 WEST RUSSELL ROAD, SUITE 200
LAS VEGAS, NV 89118**

WWW.CLARKCOUNTYNV.GOV/DCP

 MOJAVEMAX.COM

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