

Clark County
desert conservation program
and Multiple Species Habitat
Conservation Plan
101



Clark County Desert Conservation Program

- Clark County, as Plan Administrator and on behalf of the cities of Las Vegas, Henderson, North Las Vegas, Boulder City, Mesquite and responsible for:
 - Compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act
 - Compliance with a Section 10(a)(1)(B) incidental take permit
 - Implementation of the Clark County Multiple Species Habitat

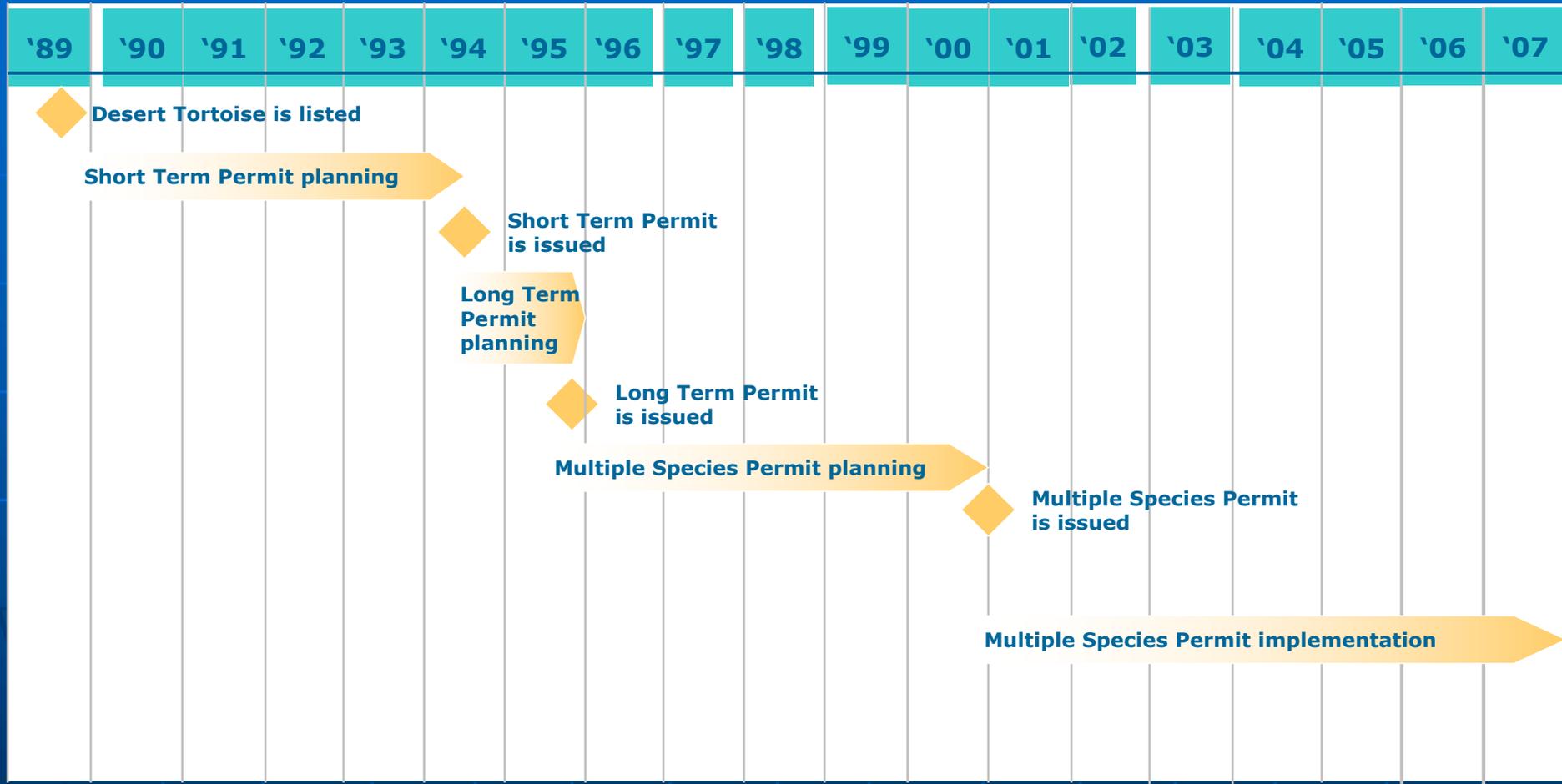
Take & Incidental Take Permit

- **Take:** means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect or attempt to engage in such conduct. Includes significant habitat modification.
- **Incidental Take Permit (ITP):** A permit that exempts a permittee from the prohibited take of a protected species.
- Provides for continued development of private lands in Clark County without individual project consultations with USFWS for incidental take of species covered by the permit.

Habitat Conservation Plan

- A planning document that is a mandatory component of an incidental take permit application.
- Ensures that the effects of the authorized take are adequately minimized and mitigated.

History



Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

- The associated Habitat Conservation Plan for the current incidental take permit.
- Contains:
 - Analysis
 - 604 possible conservation actions
 - Funding mechanisms
 - Implementation guidelines

Scope of the Permit & MSHCP

- Covers all non-Federal (private, municipal, state) lands within Clark County and NDOT activities in areas within Clark, Nye, Lincoln and Esmeralda Counties south of the 38th parallel and below 5,000 feet in elevation.

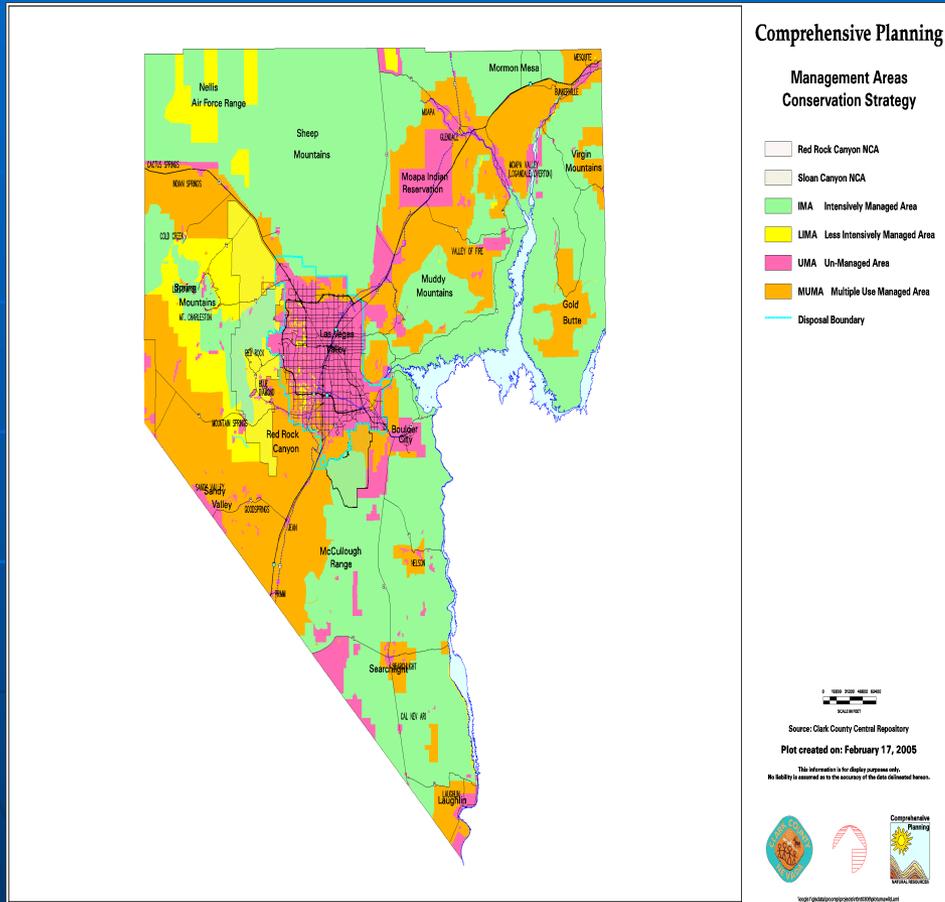
How Long & How Much Take?

- 30 year permit starting February 2001
- MSHCP – “In no event, however, shall the total amount of “take” exceed 145,000 acres

Conservation Strategy

- The MSHCP is unique in that it relies on a reserve system consisting of primarily federal lands that are categorized by management levels to achieve its minimization, mitigation, and conservation actions.
- Makes federal agencies important partners in the implementation of the MSHCP.

Conservation Strategy



MSHCP classifies lands county-wide into categories of conservation status:

- Intensively Managed Areas (IMA)
- Less Intensively Managed Areas (LIMA)
- Multiple Use Management Areas (MUMA)
- Unmanaged Areas (Non-federal) (UMA)

Covered Species

- Covered species = 78 species
 - 2 listed: Desert tortoise and Southwestern Willow Flycather
- Evaluation species
- Watch list species



What will the plan do for covered species?



- Analyzes threats to species and habitats.
- Identifies 604 conservation actions that minimize & mitigate and monitor the impacts of take.

Possible Conservation Actions



- **Public Information and Education**
- **Research**
- **Inventory**
- **Monitoring**
- **Protective Measures**
- **Restoration and Enhancement**
- **Land Use Policies and Actions**

Funding



- Required expenditures for conservation actions = approximately \$4 million per biennium
- 3 funding sources:
 - Section 10 mitigation fees
 - Section 7 mitigation fees
 - Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act - MSHCP Development Funds

Implementation Plan & Budget Process

- Every even numbered year
- Determines the conservation actions to be implemented each biennium
- Implementation Plan & Budget reviewed and recommended by:
 - Plan Administrator on behalf of permittees
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Adaptive Management Science Team
 - Advisory Committee
- Approved by Clark County Board of County Commissioners and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

How will you know if the Plan is being implemented?

- Through regular reports:
 - Administrator updates (monthly)
 - Quarterly financial, mitigation fee and land disturbance reports
 - Biennial Progress Report (October 15 each odd year)
 - Biennial Adaptive Management Report (March 15 each even year)

How will USFWS know if the MSHCP is works?

- The MSHCP's Adaptive Management Program evaluates the effectiveness of the conservation actions and makes recommendations for any changes in implementation in each adaptive management report.

Adaptive Management Program

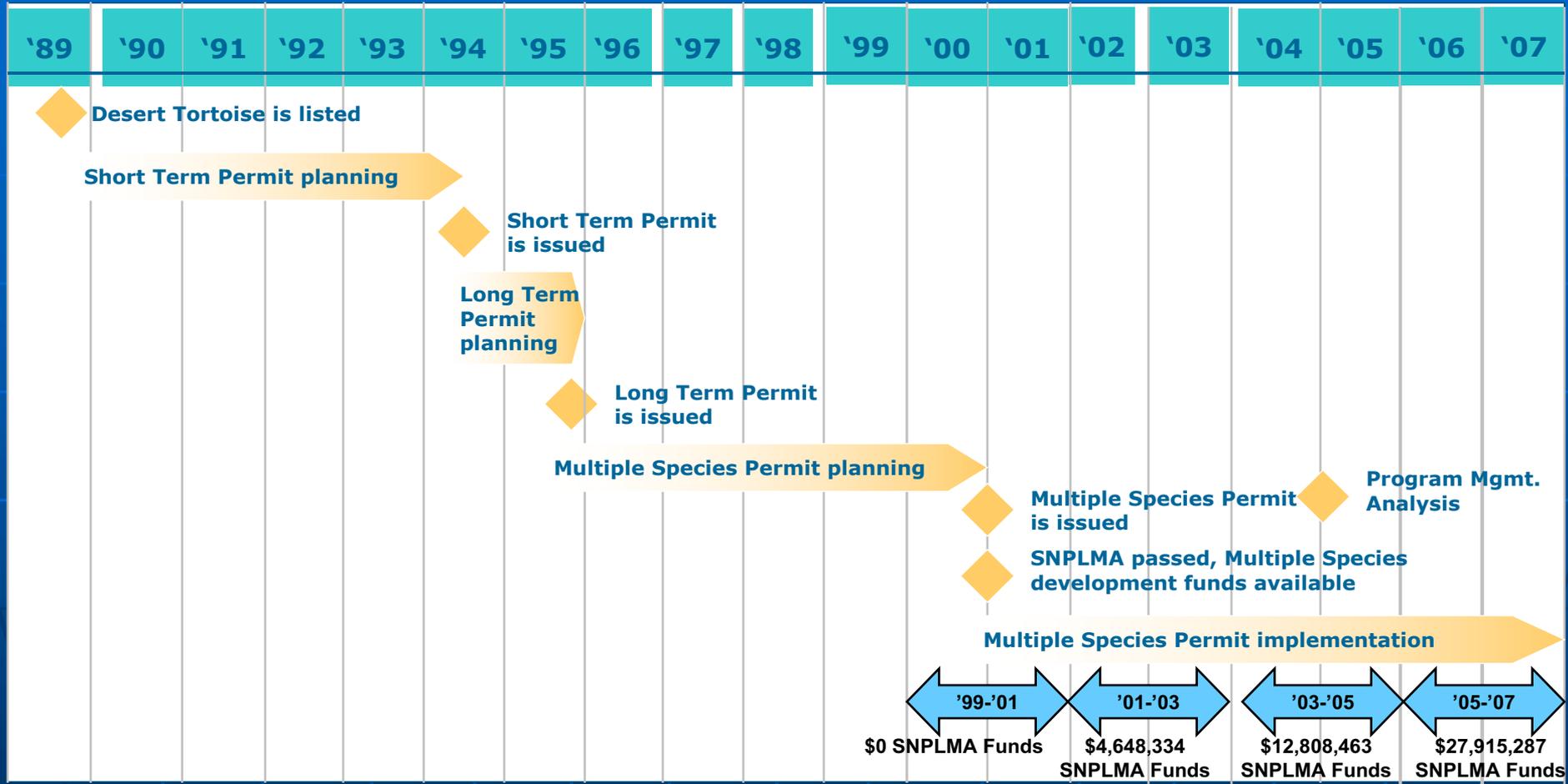
- Described in MSHCP as the primary method for:
 - gauging effectiveness of conservation actions
 - proposing additional or alternative conservation actions
 - dealing with changed circumstances



Adaptive Management Program

- Refer to the Adaptive Management Report dated May 1, 2006 for more information
- Advisory Committee will receive a briefing on the AMP and Adaptive Management Report at the June meeting.

MSHCP Implementation Status



MSHCP Implementation Status

- Refer to the Adaptive Management Report, May 1, 2006 for more on status of implementation
- 6th year of implementation
- Since 1999, 124 projects have been completed totaling over \$42 million
- 459 of the 604 conservation actions in the MSHCP have been implemented
- Actions have been taken to implement 18 of the 22 permit conditions and the remaining 4 are ongoing policies.

MSHCP Implementation Status

- Budget for the 2005-2007 biennium exceeds \$38 million
- 41 current projects
- 58 additional projects being implemented from Round 6 SNPLMA

MSHCP Implementation Status

- Merged with the Department of Air Quality & Environmental Management in 2004
- Program Management Analysis December 2005
- Several major initiatives underway

MSHCP Implementation Status

- Major initiatives include:
 - Restructuring of the advisory committee to address conflict of interest, membership & operations
 - Plan administration and business process re-engineering
 - Adaptive management plan implementation
 - Staffing analysis and management plan implementation
 - Long-term advisory committee structure
 - Permit discussions
 - 2007-2009 Implementation Plan & Budget Process

MSHCP Implementation Status

- Advisory Committee's work plan & focus over the next year is coming up on the agenda.

Questions?

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