

QUARTERLY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

JULY – SEPTEMBER 2018



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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.



Clockwise from top: Windmills; Browneyes; Silver cholla; and Yellow cups all found on the BCCE (Photos: C. Floyd)

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

- Continue processing a request from the City of Boulder City for a modification to the BCCE and easement agreement.
- Provided oversight and project management for the interlocal agreement with Boulder City for Law Enforcement on the BCCE.
- Conducted twenty site visits to monitor use, disturbances, and related issues; to perform new signage installation, maintenance and upgrades; for restoration planning and monitoring; and in support of the Predation Study and the Desert Tortoise Occupancy Study.
- Mapping and assessment of unauthorized roads and other disturbances is ongoing and will guide prioritization of restoration activities on the BCCE.
- Met with law enforcement during three site visits to plan patrols to cover areas where unauthorized uses were detected.
- Continued coordination with utility companies based in the Energy Zone in order to meet desert conservation and restoration goals.
- Bird surveys on the BCCE were completed by SWCA Environmental Consultants. The final report is available on the DCP website.
- Small mammal surveys on the BCCE were completed by NewFields. The final report is available on the DCP website.

A comprehensive list of BCCE management accomplishments for this quarter can be viewed here: <https://bit.ly/2aa5C42>

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

- Eagle View Contractors continues ongoing maintenance of the Muddy River Reserve Units.
- Planning efforts for the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 16 project to conduct habitat restoration on the Muddy River Reserve Unit continue. A Request for Proposals (RFP) is currently being prepared to complete the restoration design.
- Monthly data collection on groundwater monitoring wells continues.
- Attended the Biological Advisory Committee meeting on September 11th.
- Restoration implementation is ongoing for the SNPLMA Round 14 project to conduct habitat restoration. The National Park Service's (NPS) Exotic Plant Management Team has collected native species and is currently propagating at their nursery. The site will be prepared late 2018/early 2019 and subsequently planted with the propagated plants.
- NPS' Exotic Plant Management Team continues to conduct vegetation management and maintenance activities for enhancement of native riparian species.
- Attended Riparian Habitat Restoration for the Arid Southwest Workshop September 13th – 14th.



Perkins Pond at the Muddy River Reserve Unit

A comprehensive list of Riparian Reserve Units management accomplishments for this quarter can be viewed here: <https://bit.ly/2j6D3Ja>

Virgin River Reserve Unit

- Continued photo-monitoring documentation of restored areas within Subunit 1.
- Planning efforts for the SNPLMA Round 15 project to conduct 20 to 40 acres of habitat restoration on the Virgin River Reserve Unit continue.
- Attended a workshop with other stakeholders to discuss preliminary planning of a Lower Virgin River Integrated Watershed Management Plan on July 12th.
- Attended the quarterly Virgin River Conservation Partnership meeting on July 19th.
- Participated in the Virgin River Collation Steering Committee meeting on August 13th.
- SWCA completed point count and federally listed species surveys on newly acquired properties on the Virgin River. The final report is available on the DCP website.
- NPS' Exotic Plant Management Team continues to conduct vegetation management and maintenance activities for enhancement of native riparian species.

Property Acquisition

- The Board of County Commissioners approved the DCP's request to purchase previously identified properties of interest along the Virgin River in Mesquite, Nevada, in 2017. One parcel closed in Q3 of 2018 and now belongs to the County.



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 (formerly Outside Las Vegas Foundation) for the Mojave Max Education Program.
- One Tortoise Talk was conducted during this reporting period.
- Eleven outreach events were conducted during this reporting period.



Candlelighters 5K

Outreach Events and Mojave Max Appearances

The following outreach events were conducted during this reporting period:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| • Wetlands Park Discovery Day | Wetlands Park | July 7th |
| • Back to School Fair | Walnut Comm. Ctr. | August 8th |
| • Back to School Fair | Pearson Comm. Ctr. | August 9th |
| • Doris Reed Back to School Bash | Doris Reed Elementary | August 29th |
| • Apraxia Walk | Lone Mtn Discovery Park | Sept 8th |
| • Federal Duck Stamp Contest | Springs Preserve | Sept 14th and 15th |
| • Candlelighters 5K | Mountains Edge Park | Sept 15th |
| • Circus Circus Green Fair | Circus Circus Hotel | Sept 26th |
| • Healthy Kids Festival | Pearson Community Ctr | Sept 29th |
| • NV Public Lands Day | Spring Mtn State Park | Sept 29th |

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.

- No calls were received from the Wild Desert Tortoise Assistance Line during this reporting period.

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

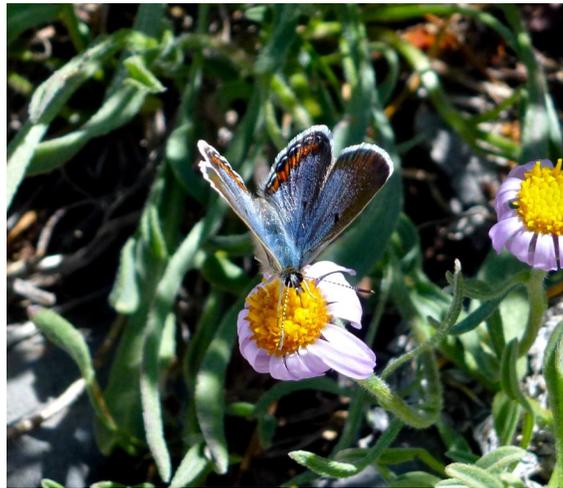
- We have begun working with the Nevada Division of Minerals to install bat compatible closures on abandoned mine land hazards in the Gold Butte area. These closures will ensure public safety while retaining the value of the associated wildlife habitat.

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

- Held a resiliency workshop with DCP employees and the independent Science Advisor Panel on August 14th.
- Held the 2018 MSHCP Annual Project Progress Report Symposium on August 15th.
- Met with the independent Science Advisor Panel on August 16th.
- Represented Clark County during the Desert Tortoise Management Oversight Group meeting on September 13th.
- Met with the USFWS to discuss ongoing range-wide desert tortoise monitoring across Clark County and surrounding areas on September 24th.



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 meet with the 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. Met with staff in the BLM state office and the Washington D.C. office to brief them on legislative efforts. Also met with staff working for elected officials to begin development of legislation language.
- 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. Consultants continued developing methods for a habitat functionality analysis that will be used in conducting impact analyses to support the County's application for an amended incidental take permit. Work to complete climate change review worksheets for all proposed covered species are being continued this quarter as well.
- Continued coordination with Nevada Division of Forestry to discuss development of a master permit for the take of state-listed plant species. This permit would provide the MSHCP Permittees with disturbance authorization from the State Forester Firewarden, in accordance with Nevada Revised Statutes, for state-listed plant species in Clark County.

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 Defenders of Wildlife Organization.
- Provided GIS data and maps to Victor Rodriguez with Nellis Air Force Base.
- Provided GIS data to the NPS, Lake Mead National Recreation Area.
- Provided GIS data and maps to the BLM State Office.
- Provided GIS data and maps to Intersect Power, Inc.
- Provided maps to Clark County management to support the Nevada Lands Bill.
- Provided GIS analysis for solar areas requested by E. ON, Inc.
- Provided GIS analysis for solar areas requested by Atlas Renewable Power, Inc.
- Updated maps for both the DCP and the Department of Air Quality's websites.
- Continued to participate as a cooperating agency to the BLM's Resource Management Plan revision process. Meet regularly with BLM staff to discuss revisions and potential resource conflicts.
- Met with renewable energy developers to review proposed project siting and discuss potential land use conflicts.
- Provide assistance to Department of Comprehensive Planning to update the Federal Lands Element of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Prepared letters documenting Endangered Species Act compliance for projects requiring the submittal of flood zone map revision requests to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.



Spring Mountains Acastus Checkerspot butterfly

NEW, ONGOING, AND CLOSED PROJECTS

New projects started this quarter

- Mormon Mesa Restoration Services, 1521C
- Gold Butte AML Closures, 1792C

Ongoing projects this quarter

- Hotline and Processing of Wild Desert Tortoises, 803E
- Parceling for Bunkerville Property, 917BD
- Parceling for Virgin River Properties, 917DE
- Parceling for Bunkerville Property, 917MB
- Legal Services for DCP, 1014J
- BCCE DT Predation Study, 1421B
- Water Rights Consulting, 1445E
- Lower Virgin River Integrated Watershed Plan, 1445F
- Muddy River Habitat Restoration, 1446D
- HCP Consultant for the MSCHP, 1460A
- Muddy River Weed Management, 1520B
- Riparian Rsv Units Prop Maint, 1520M
- Mormon Mesa Restoration Project, 1521Z
- Desert Tortoise Monitoring Data Management, Year 2-5, 1541A
- Desert Tortoise Range-Wide Monitoring, 1541B
- Relict Leopard Frog Conservation Planning and Implementation, 1550A
- Muddy River Restoration Plan, 1570B

Ongoing projects this quarter Cont'd.

- Desert Tortoise Connectivity, 1580A
- BCCE Law Enforcement, 1710A
- BCCE Weed Survey, 1710B
- BCCE Maintenance, 1710C
- Mojave Max Education Program, 1715A
- Virgin River Weed Management, 1720A
- Science Advisor Panel for the DCP, 1730A
- Desert Upland Baseline Bird Surveys, 1730C
- Avian Surveys on Riparian Properties, 1730E
- BCCE DT Telemetry, 1740A
- DCP Branding Project, 1770A
- OHV Marketing, 1775A
- LV Bearpoppy Fencing, Ramada & Trail, 1790A
- Desert Tortoise Predator-Prey Dynamics, 1795A

Projects closed this quarter

- Muddy River Grading Plan, 722K

Requests for proposals and quotes (RFPs / RFQs)

- An RFQ was issued for Desert Tortoise Awareness & Invasive Species Education for the OHV Community on August 6th
- An RFQ was completed for on-call desert tortoise health assessment personnel.



Yellow-billed cuckoo

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

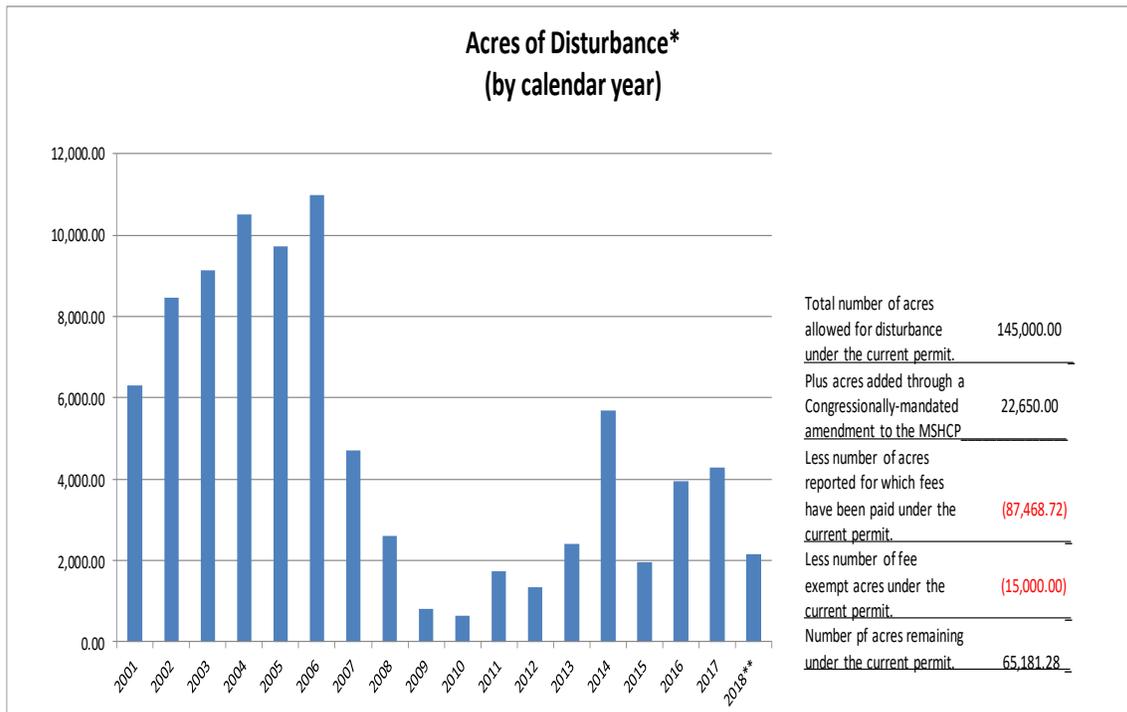
ACTIVITIES FOR THIS QUARTER

- Processed vendor payments - 65 invoices: 64 accepted (98%), 1 rejected (2%).
- Fiscal Year (FY) 18 Budgets reconciled for end of year close and rolled into new fiscal year. Expenditures continue to be monitored regularly to ensure appropriate spending and reporting occur.
- Phase 1 of converting all the existing credit card terminals to the new processor, Wells Fargo, has been completed. Phase 2 of converting the existing web and IVR systems has been completed. Phase 3 is in process to establish e-payment services for County departments that did not currently offer e-payments.
- Oversight of the SNPLMA Round 8 – Round 16 projects totaling \$8,117,515 continues in the County's financial system. The projects continue to be monitored for progress and reimbursement.
- Received reimbursement for SNPLMA projects: Round 8 - 1 draw down (\$44,610.80), Round 15 - 1 draw down (\$5,000.00).
- Continued development of the 2019-2021 Implementation Plan and Budget. A draft report will be released to the public for review and comment next quarter.



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.



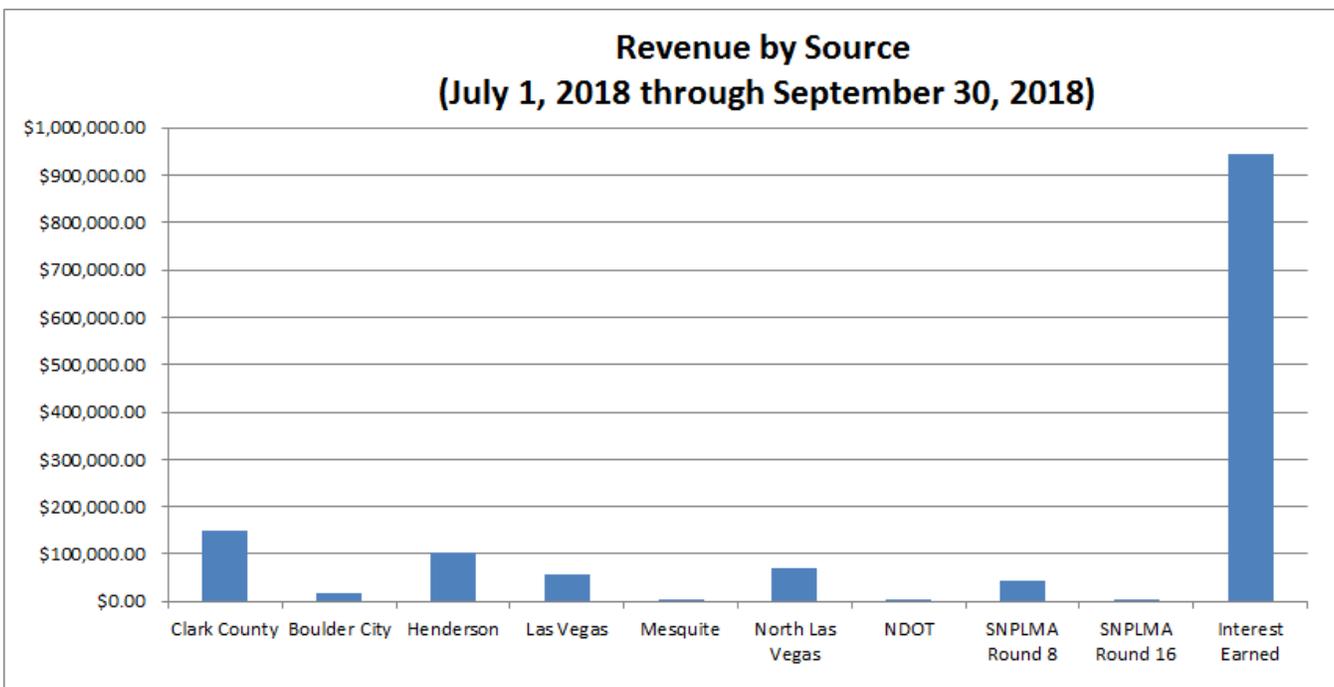
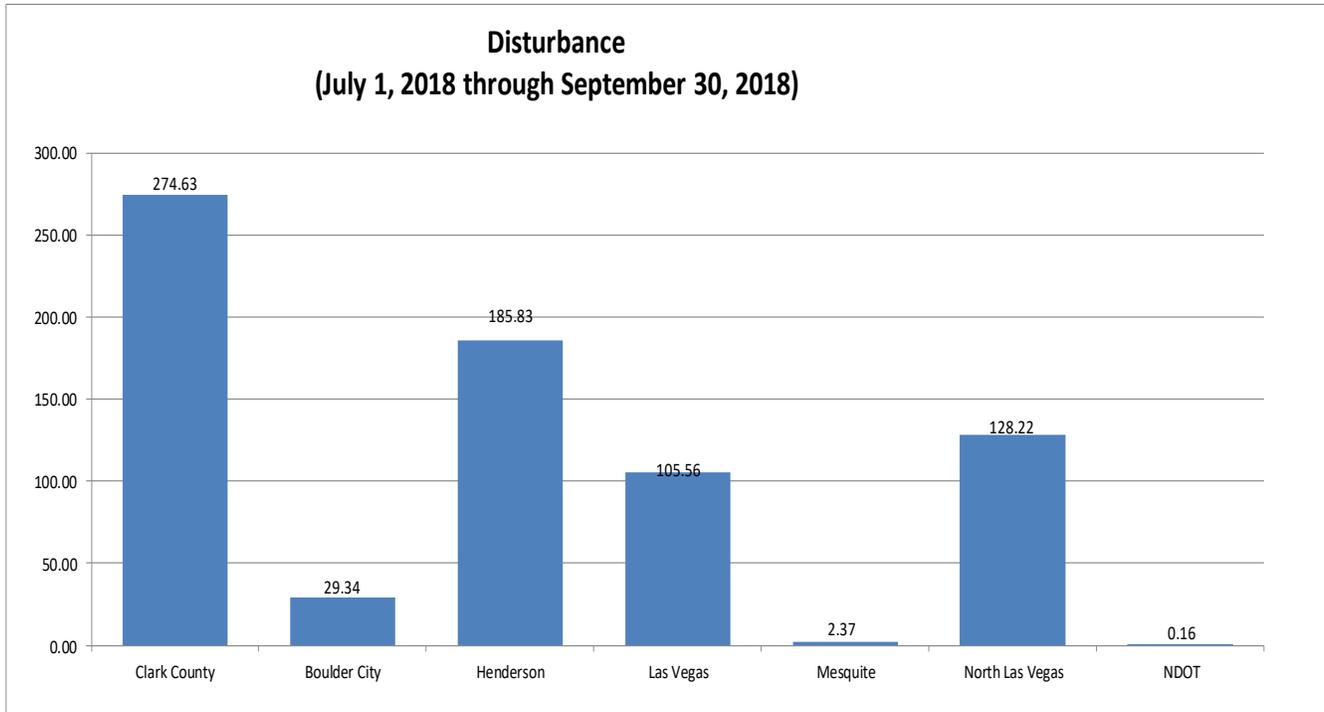
*Total acres reported in this chart do not include 15,000 acres of municipal development, which were exempt from the payment of mitigation fees through January 2010.

**2018 totals are subject to change.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE — CONTINUED



Western Burrowing Owl



OPPORTUNITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Desert Tortoise License Plate

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

We currently have no RFP's advertised for the DCP. Interested parties are encouraged to sign up through Nevada Government EMarketplace ([NGEM](#)) in order to receive future RFP notifications. Please check the Clark County opportunities page regularly at <http://bit.ly/2bBOrvz> for new RFP opportunities.

Employment opportunities:

We will be recruiting for an Environmental Specialist position in the next quarter, so please look for that recruitment as well as any other opportunities on Clark County's Human Resources webpage: [HR](#)

A large advertisement for the Desert Conservation Program. The background is a desert landscape with a cholla cactus in the foreground. The text is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font. At the bottom left, there are two logos: a white silhouette of a desert tortoise and the text "MOJAVEMAX.COM", and a circular logo with a globe and the text "desert conservation PROGRAM".

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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