

# Welcome

## Travel and Recreation Implementation Plan

### OPEN HOUSE MEETINGS

#### DATES AND LOCATIONS

MARCH 1, 2011	<b>SEARCHLIGHT COMMUNITY CENTER 200 MICHAEL WENDELL WAY SEARCHLIGHT, NV</b>
MARCH 2, 2011	<b>MESQUITE COMMUNITY AND SENIOR CENTER 102 WEST OLD MILL ROAD MESQUITE, NV</b>
MARCH 3, 2011	<b>BLM LAS VEGAS FIELD OFFICE 4701 NORTH TORREY PINES DRIVE LAS VEGAS, NV</b>
MARCH 9, 2011	<b>GOODSPRINGS COMMUNITY CENTER 375 WEST SAN PEDRO AVENUE GOODSPRINGS, NV</b>
MARCH 10, 2011	<b>OVERTON COMMUNITY CENTER 320 NORTH MOAPA VALLEY BLVD. OVERTON, NV</b>



# Purpose of This Meeting

## WHY ARE WE HERE?

THE BLM IS HOLDING OPEN HOUSE MEETINGS FOR THE LAS VEGAS TRAVEL AND RECREATION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN, WHICH CONSISTS OF RECREATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS (RAMPs) AND COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION AND TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLANS (CTTM).

THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING IS TO:

- Introduce and describe the project
- Collect public input on travel and recreation activities
- Identify and gain an understanding of the public's issues and concerns related to travel and recreation
- Describe the project schedule, key milestones, and opportunities for public involvement

## IDENTIFYING ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

THE GOAL OF THE PLAN IS TO ENHANCE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND IMPROVE RECREATION MANAGEMENT FOR THE FUTURE.

THE BLM IS INTERESTED IN YOUR COMMENTS ABOUT THE PLAN. COMMENTS RELATED TO RECREATION AND TRAVEL IN THE PLANNING AREA MAY INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- Are there additional issues, concerns, or opportunities (not already identified) that BLM should consider?
- Are there recreation facilities or infrastructure you would like to be developed?
- Are there hiking, mountain biking, equestrian, commercial, administrative, property access, or OHV routes you would like to be designated?
- What factors should be considered when evaluating routes and when making route designation recommendations?

# Environmental Impact Statement Process

## THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) PROCESS

### PREPARE A NOTICE OF INTENT (NOI)

- Publish NOI in the Federal Register to prepare an EIS
- Make local announcements of the NOI

### CONDUCT SCOPING

- Solicit public comments
- Identify issues requiring analysis
- Communicate information
- Consult with agencies and organizations
- Conduct public scoping meetings

### DEVELOP/ANALYZE SCOPING RESULTS AND SHARE WITH PUBLIC

- Prepare Scoping Report
- Post final Scoping Report on the project website for public review

### ALTERNATIVES DEVELOPMENT

- Conduct alternatives evaluation to determine reasonable and practicable alternatives
- Solicit public input on alternatives development
- Conduct public alternatives workshops

### PREPARE DRAFT EIS

- Consider scoping and alternatives comments
- Assess impacts and develop mitigation
- Identify the least environmentally damaging, practicable alternative
- Seek public comments on the Draft EIS
- Publish a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register to begin the 60-day public comment period
- Conduct public meetings

### PREPARE FINAL EIS

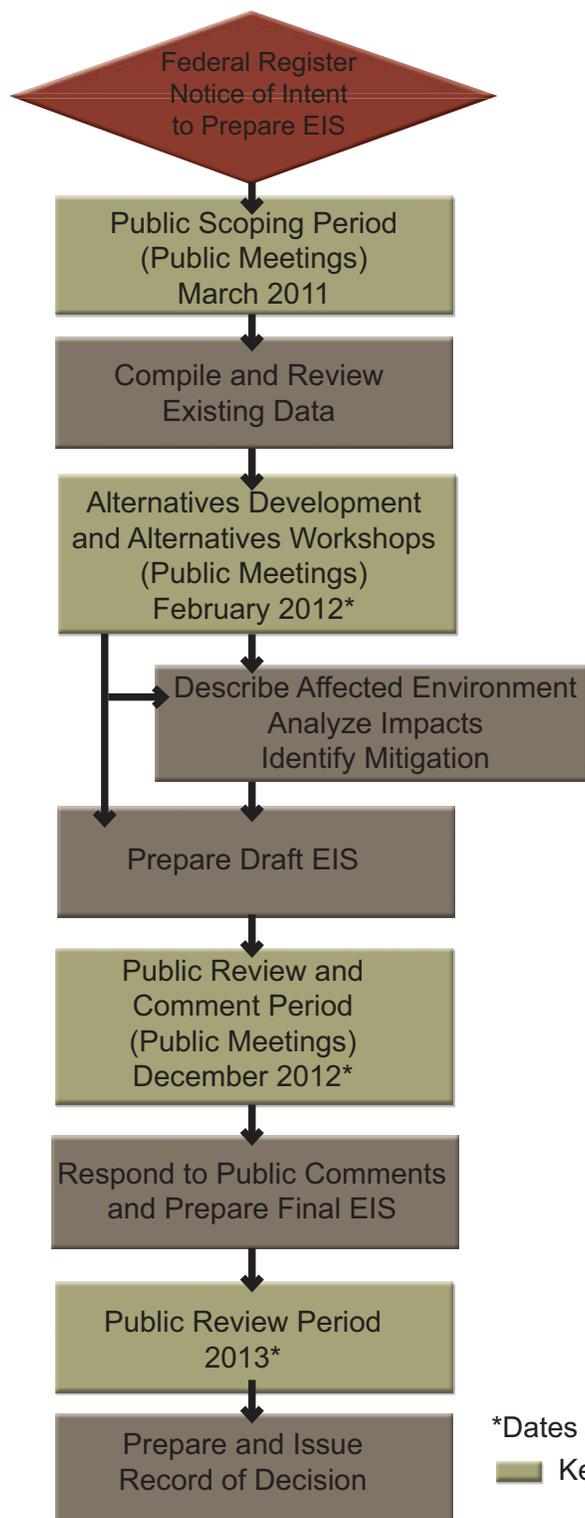
- Consider and analyze comments on the Draft EIS
- Prepare Final EIS
- Publish a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register

### RECORD OF DECISION (ROD)

- Describe commitments for mitigating project impacts
- Announce the ROD no sooner than 30 days after the Notice of Availability of the Final EIS has been published



# Project Schedule



## HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

- Attend scoping meetings
  - ◊ Visit the various information stations
  - ◊ Provide information on issues
  - ◊ Fill out a comment form
- Attend Alternatives Development workshops
- Review Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- Attend Draft EIS public meetings
- Review Final EIS
- Visit website:  
[www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/lvfo.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/lvfo.html)

\*Dates are tentative

Key Points of Public Participation

# How to Participate

THE PURPOSE OF SCOPING IS TO GATHER PUBLIC INPUT ON ISSUES AND MANAGEMENT CONCERNS THAT WILL INFLUENCE THE SCOPE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS, ALTERNATIVES, AND THE PLANNING PROCESS. THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OPEN HOUSE MEETING:

1. Visit information stations and talk to BLM staff
2. Submit verbal comments to the court reporter
3. Fill out a comment form
4. Visit the stations for recreation areas and mark your comments on the large maps

WE INVITE YOU TO SUGGEST SPECIFIC ISSUES AND CONCERNS THAT SHOULD BE EVALUATED IN THE TRAVEL AND RECREATION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN, WHICH WILL FOLLOW THE TRAVEL AND RECREATION MANAGEMENT DIRECTION CONTAINED IN THE LAS VEGAS RMP REVISION.

WE NEED YOUR COMMENTS BY **APRIL 11, 2011**. SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS AT THIS MEETING OR SEND COMMENTS TO:

Marilyn Peterson, BLM Project Lead  
BLM Las Vegas Field Office  
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89130

Email: [LVFO\\_RAMPS@blm.gov](mailto:LVFO_RAMPS@blm.gov)  
Fax: (702)515-5023

YOU MAY REQUEST ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR REQUEST TO BE PUT ON THE MAILING LIST BY SENDING SUCH INFORMATION TO THE LAS VEGAS FIELD OFFICE VIA MAIL, EMAIL, OR FAX.



# Make Your Comments Count

**BLM IS INTERESTED IN YOUR COMMENTS REGARDING THIS PLAN. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WOULD BE THE MOST USEFUL:**

- Are there additional issues, concerns, or opportunities (not already identified) that BLM should consider?
- Are there recreation facilities or infrastructure you would like to be developed?
- Are there hiking, mountain biking, equestrian, commercial, administrative, property access, or OHV routes you would like to be designated?
- What factors should be considered when evaluating routes and when making route designation recommendations?

## **TIPS FOR MAKING EFFECTIVE COMMENTS:**

- Be brief so the reviewer does not miss the point of your comment.
- Be specific so the reviewer clearly understands your concerns. Say “I am concerned about how this will affect...” rather than just saying “Don’t do this.”
- Focus your comments on specific areas, routes, or issues.
- State the facts and back them up where possible. Be sure to share your sources of information to help make your point.
- Be honest and realistic. Distortions of facts or misstatements may cause the reviewer to question the accuracy of your other statements. Requests that are not legal or feasible also reduce the credibility of your comments.
- Be polite. Even though you may be upset about a proposal, try to state your opinion objectively. Communication is increased by extending the same courtesies to Agency staff that you expect from them.
- Please note that petitions and form letters are only counted as one comment.



# What is a Travel and Recreation Implementation Plan?

THE TRAVEL AND RECREATION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN WILL CONSIST OF RECREATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS (RAMPS) AND COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION AND TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLANS (CTTM).

## WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE TRAVEL AND RECREATION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN?

The travel and recreation implementation plan process will identify specific recreation actions and decisions to improve recreation for the future, including:

- Route evaluation for individual motorized and non-motorized routes
- Visitor services and facilities to be provided
- Locations for competitive races and events
- Updates to the Special Recreation Permit process
- Strategies for enforcement and monitoring of recreation activities
- Development of educational and interpretive information and materials
- Potential use restrictions and fees
- Potential partnerships

## WHAT IS A RAMP?

A RAMP is a document that identifies specific management actions and decisions for recreation in a specific area. While the Las Vegas Resource Management Plan provides the overall guidance for recreation, the RAMPs will identify the actions that are necessary to manage a variety of recreational activities and implement recreation programs for each recreation area.

## WHAT IS CTTM?

BLM uses CTTM to proactively and comprehensively address transportation and travel management. CTTM will evaluate the effects that all forms of motorized and non-motorized travel have on public lands, natural resources, and administrative, commercial, recreational and other users.

CTTM will address all motorized and non-motorized uses of routes, including recreational, traditional, casual, agricultural, commercial, and educational uses.

# Route Evaluation

## HOW WILL ROUTE EVALUATION BE ACCOMPLISHED?

### THE PROCESS WILL:

- Evaluate routes in a systematic standardized manner
- Look at routes individually and collectively
- Utilize all available, reliable, up-to-date data
- Involve the public
- Be simple, but thorough, looking at all pertinent factors
- Provide clear reasoning for route recommendations/decisions
- Provide a route-by-route data record

### ROUTE EVALUATION WILL NOT BE CONDUCTED FOR:

- ACECs, Wilderness Areas, Red Rocks NCA, Sloan Canyon NCA

### ROUTE EVALUATION WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

- Phase I: Data collection and identification of issues
- Phase II: Route evaluation
  - ◇ Step I - Review issues, opportunities, goals, and priorities
  - ◇ Step II - Evaluate primary and secondary level routes
  - ◇ Step III - Evaluate tertiary level routes
  - ◇ Step IV - Draft preliminary route network alternatives
  - ◇ Step V - Public workshops to review preliminary route network alternatives
  - ◇ Step VI - Incorporate public comment into route network alternatives
- Phase III: Analysis of impacts and finalization of route network

# Las Vegas RMP Revision

## HOW DOES THE TRAVEL AND RECREATION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN RELATE TO THE CURRENT LAS VEGAS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (RMP) REVISION?

THE LAS VEGAS RMP REVISION WILL IDENTIFY RECREATION GUIDANCE AND MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES FOR RECREATION AREAS WITHIN THE LAS VEGAS FIELD OFFICE, INCLUDING:

- Designation of recreation management areas;
- Establishment of recreation and visitor service objectives for each recreation area;
- Identification of allowable uses for each recreation area; and
- Overall off-highway vehicle (OHV) area designations of Closed, Limited, and Open.

THE TRAVEL AND RECREATION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN WILL PROVIDE SPECIFIC RECREATION ACTIONS AND DECISIONS FOR THE RECREATION AREAS IDENTIFIED IN THE RMP REVISION, INCLUDING:

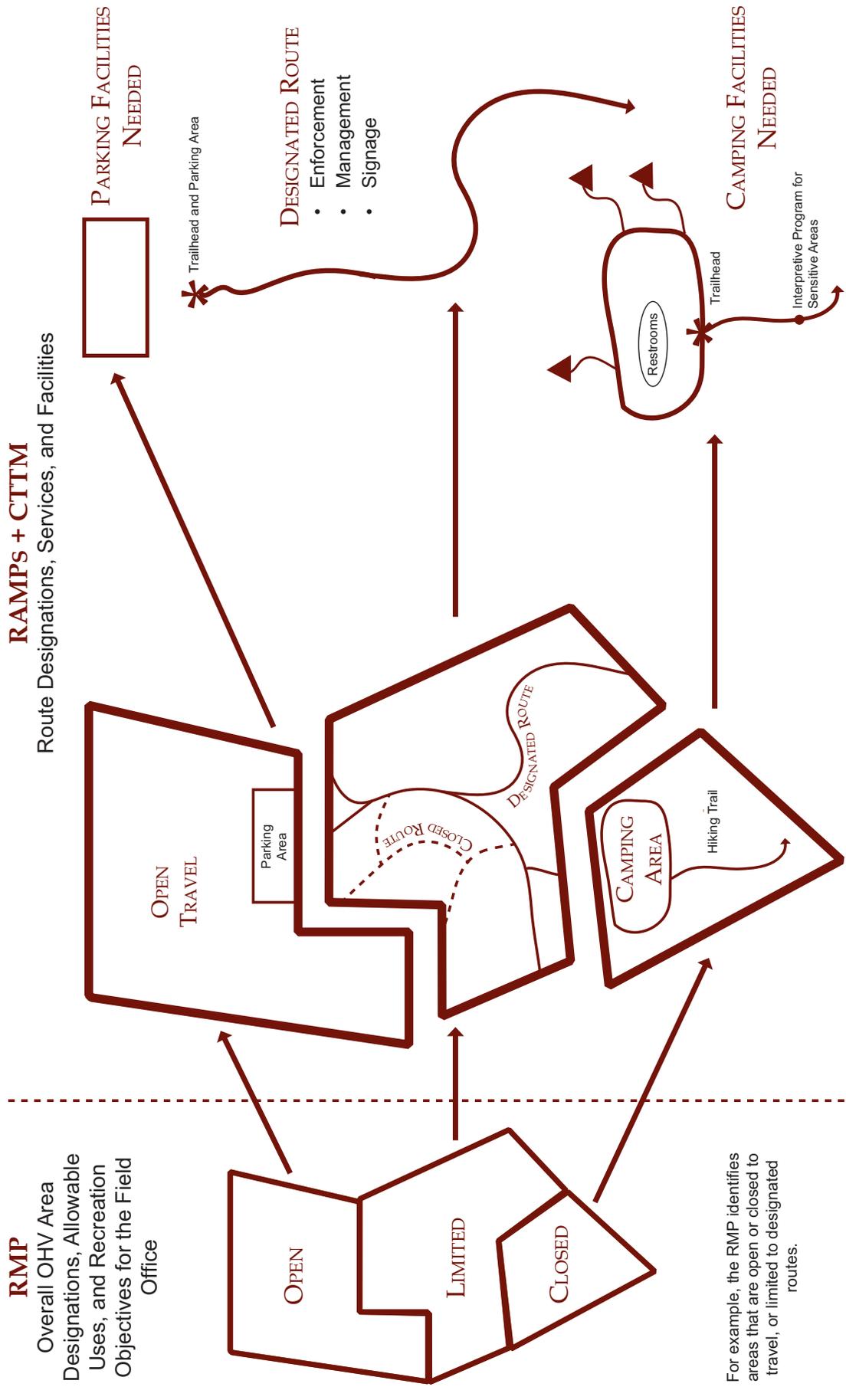
- Route designation for individual motorized and non-motorized routes in Travel Management Areas
- Visitor services and facilities to be provided
- Locations for competitive races and events
- Updates to the Special Recreation Permit process
- Strategies for enforcement and monitoring of recreation activities
- Development of educational and interpretive themes and information
- Potential use restrictions and fees
- Potential partnerships

### FOR EXAMPLE:

The RMP will determine where camping will be allowed within the planning area, and whether camping services and facilities need to be provided. The Travel and Recreation Implementation Plan will then identify where campgrounds or campsites would be located, the desired site capacities, necessary road access, as well as what types of services and facilities are needed at each camping area.



# RMP Revision vs. RAMPS + CTM



# Issues & Opportunities

## PRELIMINARY ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

PRELIMINARY ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THIS PROJECT HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED. THE LIST OF ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE REVIEWED AND EXPANDED FOLLOWING SCOPING. THE PRELIMINARY ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED INCLUDE:

- How visitors' activities will be managed to protect cultural and natural resources for current and future generations while providing reasonable access;
- Visitor services and facilities that will be needed to support recreation activities;
- How to incorporate route designations into long-term goals for recreation and other resource needs;
- How to respond to continually changing conditions and an increasingly urban interface;
- How to manage recreation to be compatible with the plans and needs of Native American tribes and other agencies;
- How to integrate with other federal, regional and local plans;
- Where urban trails can connect to federal lands;
- Effect of rights-of-way authorizations and land sales on recreation opportunities; and
- How the Las Vegas Valley Perimeter Open Space and Trail concept should be considered.

BLM IS INTERESTED IN IDENTIFYING OTHER ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES RELATED TO RECREATION AND TRAVEL IN THE PLANNING AREA.



# Recreation Areas

A RECREATION AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN (RAMP) WILL BE DEVELOPED FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING RECREATION AREAS:

- Clark County North
- Clark County West
- Clark County South (Includes Searchlight and Laughlin)
- Gold Butte (South of Mesquite)
- Jean Lake/Roach Lake
- Las Vegas Valley (Includes Nellis Dunes and Sunrise Mountain)
- Logandale
- Muddy Mountains

# Gold Butte

## EXISTING USES

- Off-highway vehicle (OHV) touring
- Visiting archaeological and historic sites
- Sightseeing
- Horseback riding
- Camping
- Travel on Gold Butte Back Country Byway
- Big and small game hunting

## PRELIMINARY ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Protection of desert tortoise habitat
- Lack of interconnecting trails
- Lack of interpretive signage
- Protection of archaeological and historic sites
- Impacts from heavy dispersed use
- Non-motorized access
- Integrate motorized and non-motorized use with existing route designations in ACECs (designated in 2007)
- Development of visitor use facilities

# Muddy Mountains

## EXISTING USES

- Off-highway vehicle (OHV) touring
- Competitive motorized events
- Travel on Bitter Springs Back Country Byway
- Overnight camping
- Hiking
- Geocaching
- Bighorn sheep hunting
- Nature study and photography
- Visiting archaeological and historic sites

## PRELIMINARY ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Unauthorized motorized use in Muddy Mountains Wilderness and Hidden Valley Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)
- Protection of sensitive, endangered and special status plant species: Las Vegas bearpoppy, threecorner milkvetch, and sticky ringstem
- Protection of bighorn sheep habitat
- Protection of archaeological and historic sites
- Relation to management and uses of adjacent lands
- Potential for mineral exploration
- Protection of scenic views and visual resources
- Protection of ACECs and Wilderness areas
- OHV access and route evaluations
- Non-motorized access



# Logandale

## EXISTING USES

- Commercial tours
- Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use
- Visiting archaeological and historic sites
- Horseback riding
- Camping
- Sightseeing
- Picnicking
- Hiking
- Rock climbing
- Mountain biking

## EXISTING TRAVEL AND RECREATION OBJECTIVES

- Update and implement the 2007 Integrated Resource and Recreation Area Management Plan for the Logandale Trails System where needed
- Provide a dispersed and diverse range of recreation opportunities
- Avoid impacts to resources or minimize impacts to within “acceptable limits”
- Secure legal access to private inholdings, flood control facilities accessible for trail use, and other trail systems
- Encourage awareness and dissemination of knowledge regarding the resources on the Logandale Trails System
- Maintain facilities, including fire suppression based on suppression areas/zones
- Monitor resources and facilities to track conditions and support enforcement actions
- Coordinate with volunteers, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Valley of Fire State Park to manage the Logandale Trails System

# Las Vegas Valley

## EXISTING USES

- Hiking
- Biking
- Rock hounding
- Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use
- Competitive motorized events
- Commercial tours

## PRELIMINARY ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- OHV use in unauthorized areas
- Illegal shooting
- Illegal camping
- Trash dumping
- Boundaries difficult to identify
- Urban interface
- Noise and dust
- Compatibility with adjacent land uses
- Protection of desert tortoise habitat and relocation center
- Recreation and travel issues at Nellis Dunes open area
- OHV access and route evaluations
- Non-motorized access
- Conflict between different recreational user groups
- Consider the Las Vegas Valley Perimeter Open Space and Trail concept

# Clark County North

## EXISTING USES

- Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use
- Visiting archaeological and historic sites
- Sightseeing
- Rock climbing
- Hiking
- Camping
- Commercial tours

## PRELIMINARY ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Protection of desert tortoise habitat
- Protection of archaeological and historic sites
- Potential for energy and airport development
- OHV access and route evaluations
- Non-motorized access
- Urban interface

# Jean Lake / Roach Lake

## EXISTING USES

- Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use
- Competitive motorized events
- OHV concentrated use areas
- Commercial OHV touring
- Organized events
- Dispersed recreational use
- Hunting

## PRELIMINARY ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Potential for energy development (wind, solar, etc.)
- Potential airport development
- Trash dumping
- Illegal shooting
- OHV access and route evaluations
- Protection of sensitive white-margined penstemon habitat
- Protection of desert tortoise habitat
- Non-motorized access

# Clark County South

## EXISTING USES

- Hiking
- Shooting
- Competitive motorized events
- Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use
- Hunting
- Mining

## PRELIMINARY ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Protection of desert tortoise habitat
- Protection of archaeological and historic sites
- Potential for energy development
- Trail connection to Walking Box Ranch
- OHV access and route evaluations
- Non-motorized access

# Clark County West

## EXISTING USES

- Dispersed recreation use
- Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use

## PRELIMINARY ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Protection of desert tortoise habitat
- Protection of archaeological and historic sites
- Potential for energy development
- OHV access and route evaluations
- Non-motorized access