

PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION

P.O. Box 298
Moapa, Nevada 89025
PIC is a 501c3 organization



702-864-2464
picorg@mvdsl.com
Tax ID #88-0388487

REPORT TO NAMRC

NOVEMBER 2, 2015

1. Dues/membership:

- a. Partners In Conservation (PIC) continues to operate our non-profit in a different manner than most organizations. To date, we do not have membership, but have a paid staff and Board of Directors. We specialize in partnering with many different organizations depending on current projects and issues.
- b. PIC has yet to implement a membership component to our organization, but we do maintain an active volunteer base of over 200 scout, youth, civic, and social organizations—whose collective memberships are in the 1000s, so we have direct access to many individuals.
- c. Because we have a MOA with the BLM to manage, maintain, administer, and promote Logandale Trails, we will be developing a membership ambassador-type club specifically for the Logandale Trails.

2. Key issues:

- a. *BLM RMP for Las Vegas Field Office:*
 - PIC had the pleasure of spending a day visiting key areas in Clark County with Don Amador, BRC; Nick Harris, AMA; Bob Adams, BLM Permitted Recreation MOS) RAC; and Sean McDaniels, MRAN. General consensus is that any alternative except the status quo alternative seriously moves management from multiple use to preservation/protection management.
 - All except the status quo alternative designate hundreds of thousands of acres as “Land with Wilderness Characteristics”, as restrictive “Visual Resource Management Class 1 or Class 2”, and as additional ACECs (Areas of Critical Environmental Concern).
 - An additional problem is that of travel in washes which has been a traditional use for decades. Proposed ACEC and other restrictive classifications contain language that will prevent travel in washes once the Travel Management Plan has been finalized. So if the proposed designation is finalized, it will have as a management action ‘no travel in washes’ so that when the Travel Management Plan is implemented, the BLM can say because of this ACEC designation and it’s management action, travel in washes is not allowed. So in essence, the public cannot comment on travel in washes once the RMP is finalized. It is making travel management decisions BEFORE a travel management document is written to obtain public input.
 - ACEC’s are proposed for sensitive species without considering the health and number of those species on NPS managed land next to the proposed ACECs; ACEC’s are proposed based on the BLM’s Rationale of Determination stating ‘recreational use COULD impact sensitive, fragile habitat’. Designations are being made based on biased future predictions of ‘could impact’.

- Proposed Lands with Wilderness Characteristics, if designated, state “REMOVE existing structures and facilities unrelated to the preservation or enhancement of wilderness characteristics”; however, areas proposed for LWWC have historic structures existing already---if these areas are designated, then one of the management actions is to remove these historic structures.
 - Visual Resource Management Class 1 or 2: The language in the draft RMP states, “Decommissioning roads would result in benefits to visual resources by reducing contrasts on the landscape”. Then further on that same page, “Reducing the number of miles in the route network will also reduce its visual intrusiveness if the routes chosen for closure are selected because of their visual characteristics and if they are carefully reclaimed.” Again, the designating of areas in the RMP as VRM 1 or 2 automatically supersedes the upcoming Travel Management Plan, denying the public the ability to comment and have input in the TMP; once something is designated, management actions of that designation become doctrine.
- b. *Designations by the President/Congress:*
- Great Basin and Range Monument: No public input; no county commissioners supporting it; happily the “jerky lady” was consulted.
 - Gold Butte: Not yet
 - Senator Reid’s bill to give almost 27,000 acres to the Paiute Tribe: involves giving Tribe much of one of the last remaining areas that allows OHV racing as currently, it is designated “Least Intensely Managed Area” LIMA on the east side; on the north, it would give the Tribe control over historical areas and prime hunting habitat; on the south, it impacts the historic Arrowhead Trail, the historic Old Spanish Trail, and the recreational Bitter Springs Back Country Byway.

3. Highlights:

- a. *Logandale Trails:*
- 3 MOA with BLM to manage, maintain, administer, and promote Logandale Trails
 - Most heavily used area in Clark County
 - International and National Visitors
 - Entire area is Desert Tortoise habitat
 - **CHALLENGE: To manage for heavy use while protecting habitat for threatened species and cultural resources**
 - **CHALLENGE: To manage for heavy use without a Travel Management Plan, designated routes or signage (for 3-5 more years)**
 - **CHALLENGE: To integrate community and trail system so both benefit from each other**
 - **CHALLENGE: To develop a business plan for self-sustainability after initial 3-year agreement expires**
 - **ADVICE, SUGGESTIONS, WHAT WORKS, WHAT TO AVOID—ALL DEEPLY APPRECIATED**