

# CLARK COUNTY OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATION TO URGE THE DESIGNATION OF THREE OFF-  
HIGHWAY VEHICLE AREAS THROUGH FEDERAL LEGISLATION

February 19, 2019

# Background

- 6/19/18 BCC established the OHV Recreation Advisory Committee
- Committee has met 1 x month since August 2018
- Open public process; all meetings have been conducted under NV Open Meeting Law

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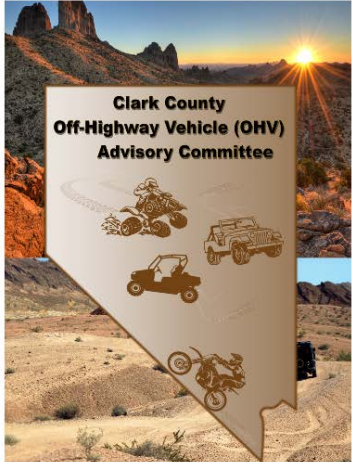
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**Air Quality : Clark County OHV Advisory Committee**



**Announcements:**

[Off-Highway \(OHV\) Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled](#)  
Wednesday, February 27th, 2019 from 4 - 6 PM

Clark County Government Center  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Pueblo Room  
500 S. Grand Central Pkwy  
Las Vegas, NV 89155

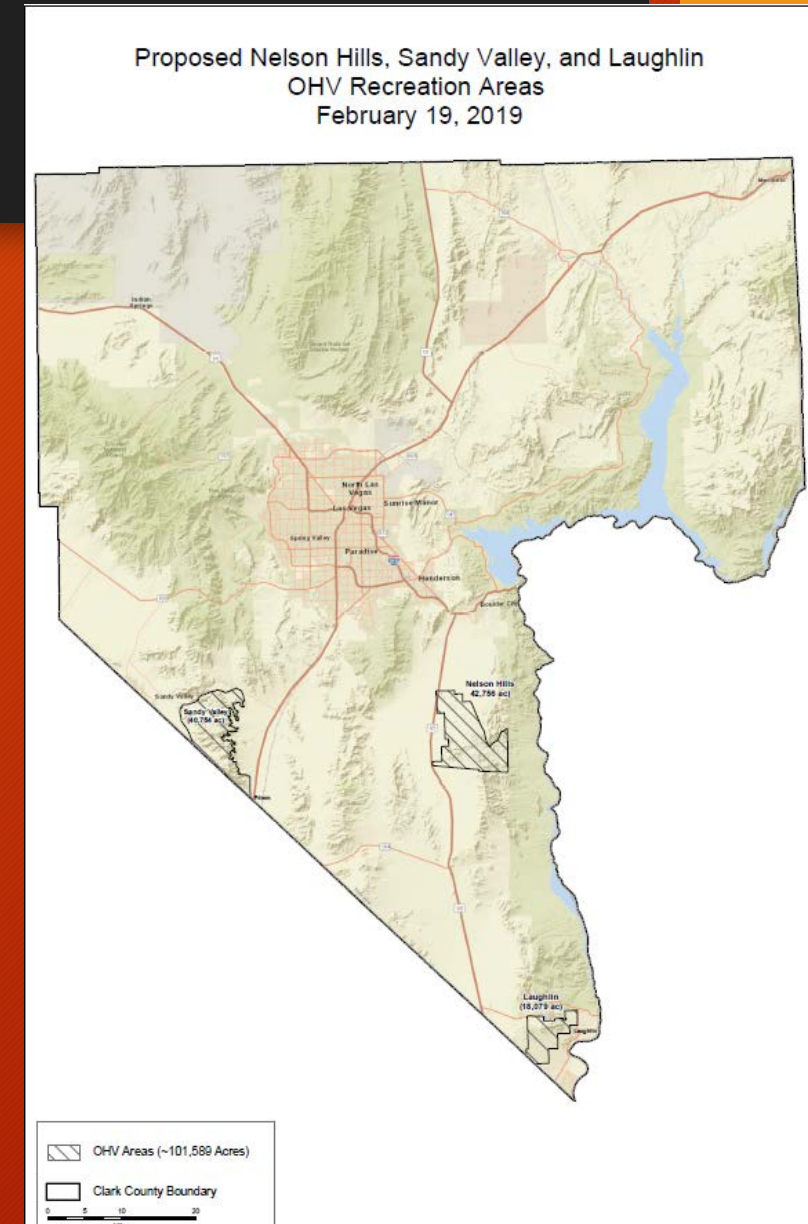


# Background

- Purpose of the committee is to make recommendations to BCC regarding OHV recreation in Clark County.
- Committee is comprised of 10 members representing OHV interests.
- Recommendation presented today was unanimously approved by the OHV Advisory Committee at its January 16, 2019 meeting.
- Committee deliberations have included:
  - Desire to protect existing OHV areas in federal legislation & offer parity with disposal, wilderness, ACECs, and other designations
  - Desire to identify new areas that can offset the loss of access due to other designations

# Recommendation

- Support the establishment of three OHV Recreation Areas near Nelson Hills, Laughlin and Sandy Valley through federal legislation
- Require BLM travel and transportation planning and recreation management planning be completed within two years of the date the bill is signed into law





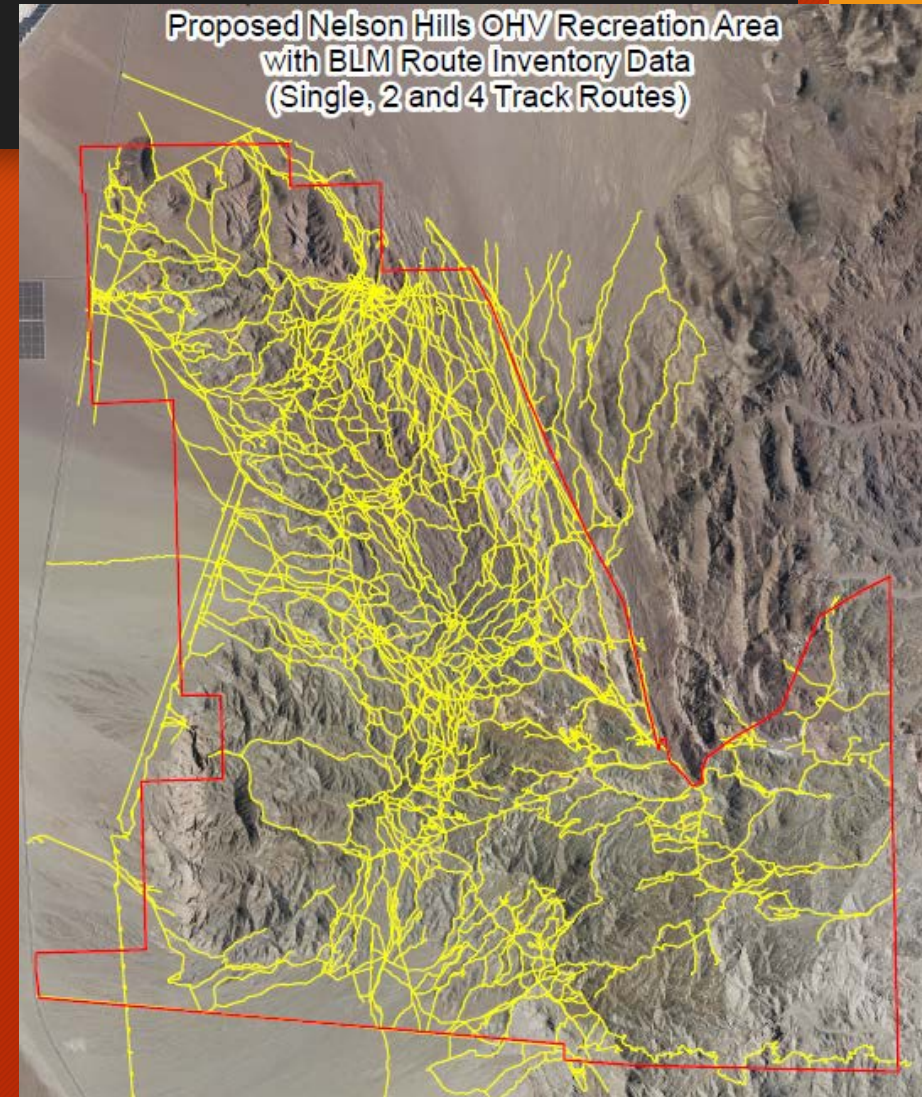
# Nelson Hills

- 1998 - BLM designated Nelson Hills/Eldorado Valley as a Special Recreation Management Area by BLM in '98 Resource Management Plan
  - For competitive off-road events subject to FWS Biological Opinions to protect desert tortoise habitat
  - Maximum of nine events per year on existing courses between 11/1 - 2/28 within parts of the recreation area that are designated critical habitat



# Nelson Hills

- Heavily used for casual and organized OHV events for decades
- BLM existing route inventory





# Nelson Hills

## Concerns we've heard:

- This area was designated by the FWS as desert tortoise critical habitat in 1994
  - Correct and in 1998 the BLM designated the Nelson Hills/Eldorado Valley as a Special Recreation Management Area for competitive off-road events in accordance with applicable FWS Biological Opinions to protect desert tortoise habitat
  - Area has been used extensively for casual and organized OHV recreation since 1998
  - The proposed designation through federal legislation would make permanent its current use as an OHV area.
  - The designation would be subject to NEPA & ESA consultation and applicable FWS Biological Opinions
- This area includes lands with wilderness characteristics and proposed Eldorado Wilderness expansion
  - This was a BLM planning analysis and desk top exercise
  - The planning exercise was not intended to result in de facto wilderness areas; wilderness can only be designated through an act of Congress
  - This area was proposed by BLM to be managed at a Prescription Level Three - management to emphasize other multiple uses over wilderness characteristics
  - Potential Remedy: remove lands with wilderness characteristics/proposed Eldorado Wilderness from the proposed Nelson Hills OHV Recreation Area

# Nelson Hills

## Concerns we've heard:

- This area includes Keyhole Canyon ACEC
  - Area of significant natural and cultural significance
  - Potential remedy: remove lands designated as Keyhole Canyon ACEC from the proposed Nelson Hills OHV Recreation Area
- This area is too close to Irebeta Peaks & Eldorado Wilderness
  - Wilderness designations do include a buffer area
  - BLM travel and transportation planning and recreation management plans will minimize impacts



# Laughlin

- 1998 – BLM designated as a Special Recreation Management Area
- Heavily utilized for casual and organized OHV use
- July 2018 Laughlin Race and Event Environmental Assessment
  - Finding of No Significant Impact





# Laughlin

## Concerns we've heard:

- This area includes proposed Hiko Canyon ACEC
  - Identified in the 2018 Draft BLM Resource Management Plan amendment; never completed
  - Proposed remedy: remove the proposed Hiko Canyon ACEC from proposed Laughlin OHV Recreation Area
- This area includes proposed Granite Springs ACEC
  - Identified in the 2018 Draft BLM Resource Management Plan amendment; never completed
  - Proposed remedy: remove the proposed Granite Springs ACEC from the proposed Laughlin OHV Recreation Area
- This area is close to Proposed Bridge Canyon Wilderness
  - Wilderness designations do include a buffer area
  - BLM travel and transportation planning and recreation management plans will minimize impacts



# Sandy Valley

- New area for permanent OHV recreation; currently multiple use
- 40,754 acres

## Concerns We've Heard:

- This area is too close to the desert tortoise large scale desert translocation site
  - ❖ Translocation area is currently protected and not directly impacted by this proposal
  - ❖ Existing geological barrier why the western edge of the LSTS has not been fenced
  - ❖ Designation as an OHV Recreation Area will require various environmental planning processes and will result in protective measures that will ensure various biological and cultural resources are protected, when necessary

# Additional Review

- Proposed Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Areas would remain BLM-administered lands
- Designation action would be subject to:
  - National Environmental Policy Act
  - Endangered Species Act
  - National Historic Preservation Act
  - Archeological and Historic Preservation Act
  - Archeological Resources Protect Act
  - Many of these laws require consultation with other resource agencies; Native American Tribes; and cooperating agencies through a legally-required public process



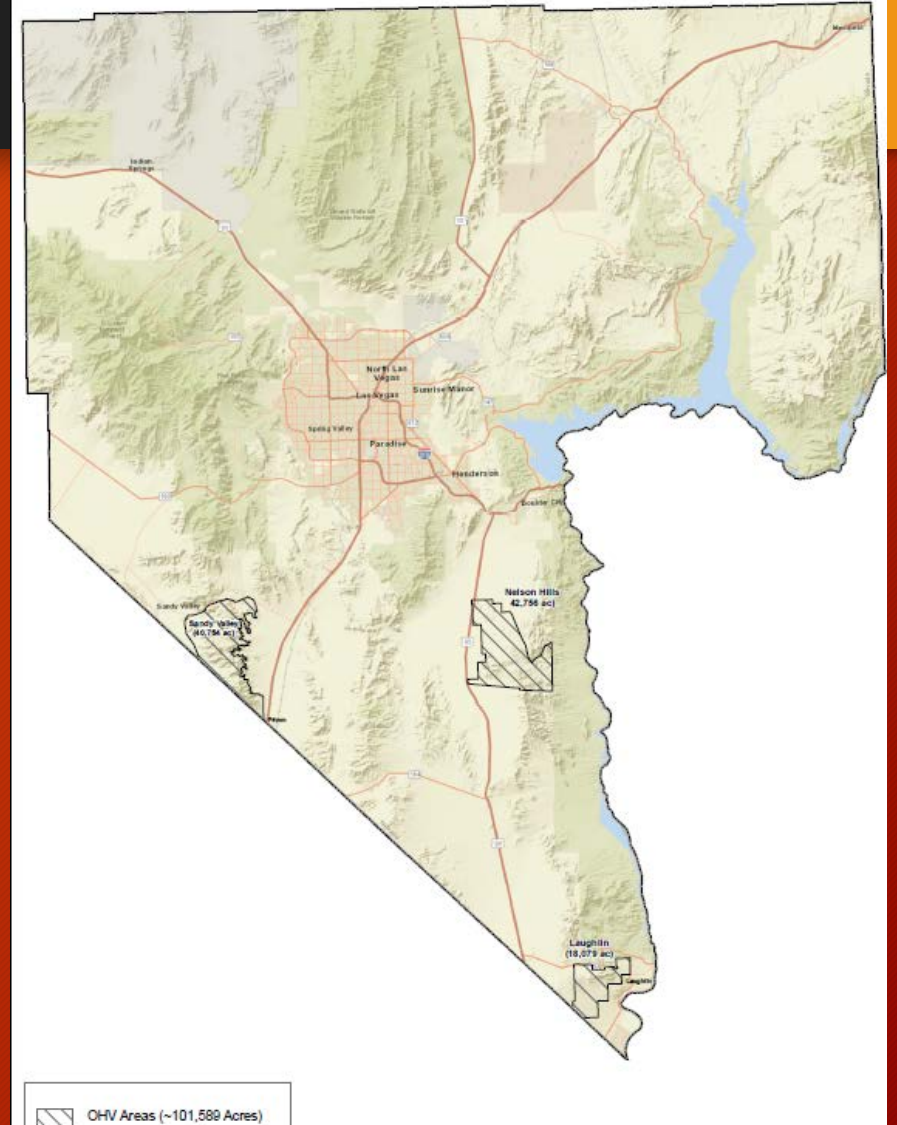
# Additional Review

- BLM Recreation Management Plan
  - Public process
  - Subject to NEPA & FWS Consultation
- BLM Travel and Transportation Planning
  - Public process
  - Subject to NEPA and FWS Consultation
  - Will result in designate routes for OHV use
- BLM Special Recreation Permits for organized events

# Revised Map

- Remove lands designated as Keyhole Canyon ACEC from the proposed Nelson Hills OHV Recreation Area
- Remove lands with wilderness characteristics/proposed Eldorado Wilderness from the proposed Nelson Hills OHV Recreation Area
- Remove the proposed Hiko Canyon ACEC from proposed Laughlin OHV Recreation Area
- Remove the proposed Granite Springs ACEC from the proposed Laughlin OHV Recreation Area

**REVISED**  
Proposed Nelson Hills, Sandy Valley, and Laughlin  
OHV Recreation Areas  
February 19, 2019





# Questions