

# QUARTERLY ADMINISTRATOR UPDATE

JANUARY – MARCH 2019



## IN THIS ISSUE

Boulder City Conservation Easement (BCCE)	2
Riparian Reserve Units	3
Public Information & Education	4
Wild Desert Tortoise Assistance	5
Other Work	5
Adaptive Management	6
Permit Amendment	6
External Agency Coordination	7
Projects	8
Administration and Finance	9, 10
Opportunities & Announcements	11

## 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 Service (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

- Continued processing a request from the City of Boulder City for a modification to the BCCE and easement agreement. The Board of County Commissioners will consider the boundary adjustment at an upcoming meeting.
- Provided oversight and project management for the interlocal agreement with Boulder City for Law Enforcement on the BCCE.
- Conducted twenty-three site visits to monitor use, disturbances, and related issues; to perform new signage installation, maintenance and upgrades; and for restoration planning and monitoring.
- Met with law enforcement during five site visits to plan patrols to cover areas where unauthorized uses were detected. A new Officer was assigned to patrol the BCCE.
- Installed two new signs on Route E to warn of flooding during and after rain events.
- Continued coordination with utility companies based in the Energy Zone in order to meet desert conservation and restoration goals.
- Continued ongoing mapping and assessment of unauthorized roads and other disturbances that will guide prioritization of restoration activities on the BCCE.
- Issued a Request for Quotes (RFQ) for cultural resource surveys of future restoration areas at the BCCE. The contract was awarded to SWCA Environmental Consultants, and the project is in progress.
- Issued an RFQ for round two of small mammal surveys at the BCCE. The contract was awarded to BEC Environmental, Inc., and the project is in progress.

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

# 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

- Planning efforts for the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Round 16 project to conduct habitat restoration on the Muddy River Reserve continue. A Request for Proposals (RFP) was prepared for completion of the restoration design. Proposals have been evaluated and a selection will go before the Board of County Commissioners in May 2019 for approval.
- The National Park Service's (NPS) Exotic Plant Management Team continues to conduct vegetation management and maintenance activities for enhancement of native riparian species.
- Restoration implementation is complete for the SNPLMA Round 14 project to conduct and enhance habitat restoration. The site was cleared of decadent vegetation and non-native species. NPS' Exotic Plant Management Team has planted previously collected native species and propagated species from their nursery. The site was completed and will be monitored throughout 2019.
- Eagle View Contractors continues ongoing maintenance of the Muddy River Reserve Unit.
- Monthly data collection on groundwater monitoring wells continues.



Muddy River Reserve Unit Overview

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

### Virgin River Reserve Unit

- Continued photo-monitoring documentation of restored areas within the Mormon Mesa site.
- Planning efforts continue for the SNPLMA Round 15 project to conduct 20 to 40 acres of habitat restoration on the Virgin River Reserve Unit. An Interlocal Agreement was approved November 6th for Nevada Division of Forestry (NDF) to masticate tamarisk on the Mormon Mesa and Riverside subunits. NDF has masticated four acres to date, and will continue this work in the fall.
- Participated in the Virgin River Coalition Steering Committee meeting.
- Analysis of Virgin River drone imagery was completed.
- NPS' Exotic Plant Management Team continues to conduct vegetation management and maintenance activities for enhancement of native riparian species.
- Additional surveys were conducted to provide an easement to Duane Magoon and Bunkerville Irrigation Company for a recently acquired parcel in Bunkerville.

### Property Acquisition

- Continued coordination with Clark County Public Works Map Team to subdivide parcels identified for future acquisition.
- One parcel map has been completed and is currently being processed by the Clark County Assessor's Office.



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 for the Mojave Max Education Program.
- Twenty-Six Tortoise Talks were conducted during this reporting period.
- Six outreach events were conducted during this reporting period.
- Mojave Max emerged from brumation on March 30th at 1:28 pm; over 7,100 emergence contest guesses were received.

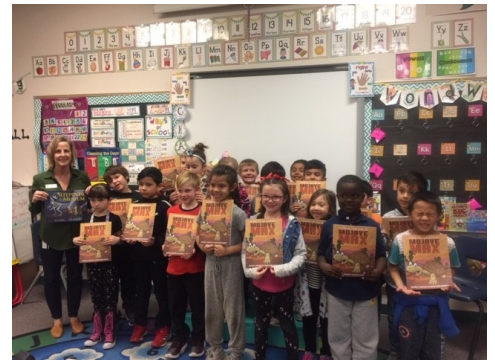


Scale the Strat Event

### Outreach Events and Mojave Max Appearances

The following outreach events were conducted during this reporting period:

- |                            |                              |                |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| • Girl Scouts Cookie Rally | 2941 Harris Avenue, LV       | Jan 26         |
| • Move Your Way 5K         | Craig Ranch Regional Park    | Feb 9          |
| • Fat Boy 5K               | Wayne Bunker Park            | Feb 16         |
| • Scale The Strat          | Stratosphere Hotel           | Feb 24         |
| • NV Reading Week          | Various Clark County Schools | Feb 26, 27, 28 |
| • Sandy Valley Animal Expo | Sandy Valley Senior Center   | Mar 23         |



NV Reading Week

# 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](http://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.

- One call was received from the Wild Desert Tortoise Assistance Line during this reporting period.
- One wild desert tortoise was picked up during this reporting period; the tortoise is currently being held in quarantine pending a health assessment.

#### **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

- Through our Interlocal Agreement with the Nevada Division of Minerals, two bat compatible closures were installed on abandoned mine land hazards in the Valley of Fire area. These closures will ensure public safety while retaining the value of the associated wild-life habitat. Additional bat compatible closures will be installed at suitable locations in the coming quarters.

# 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 the quarterly Science Advisor meeting on February 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Attended the Desert Tortoise Council's annual symposium on February 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> and spoke on the work Clark County has done over the past year regarding tortoises.
- Attended the Desert Tortoise Management Oversight Group meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Aided in training Great Basin Institute field crews involved in range wide monitoring on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.



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 coordinate 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; continued to coordinate with elected officials and other stakeholders on the development of the County lands bill; continued to meet monthly with the OHV Advisory Committee to discuss including protections for OHV recreation areas in the lands bill.
- Continued to administer a contract with Ebbin, Moser + Skaggs, LLP to provide legal counsel services in support of the permit amendment effort.
- Continued to secure necessary signatures to fully execute a Master Permit with NDF covering impacts to state-listed species. The Board of County Commissioners will consider approving the Master Permit at an upcoming meeting.
- 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. This quarter, the 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.
- Executed an interlocal agreement with the University of Nevada, Reno for the development of an additional seventeen species distribution models. The models will be used in the development of the habitat functionality analysis and to estimate and track impacts to species. A kick-off meeting will be held in the next reporting period.

## 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 to Matrix Design Group, Inc.
- Provided GIS data to the City of Mesquite, NV.
- Provided GIS data to United States Geological Survey (USGS), Henderson, NV.
- Provided GIS maps and data to Nye County, NV.
- Provided GIS maps and data to The Nature Conservancy.
- Provided GIS maps and data to Eolus North America, Inc.
- Provided GIS maps and data to the Clark County OHV Advisory Committee.
- Provided GIS maps and data to Linda Bullen, Bullen Law, LLC.
- Provided GIS maps and data to The Wilderness Society.
- Provided GIS maps and data to the Conservation Lands Foundation.
- Provided assistance to the Department of Comprehensive Planning to update the Federal Lands Element of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Met with renewable energy developers to review proposed project siting and discuss potential land use conflicts.
- Served as a cooperating agency to the BLM's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Gemini Solar Project.
- Served as a cooperating agency to the BLM's EIS for the Yellow Pine Solar Project.
- Prepared letters documenting Endangered Species Compliance for projects requiring the submittal of flood zone map revision requests to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
- Reviewed legislation proposed during the 2019 legislative session for potential impacts to division operations.
- Provided assistance to the Clark County Wetlands Park regarding Endangered Species Act compliance during long-term operations.
- Continued to coordinate with the Clark County Regional Flood Control District on the development of a new in-lieu fee mitigation program for projects that require a permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.
- Provided interview assistance to the Department for recruitment purposes.



Spring Mountains Acastus Checkerspot butterfly

# NEW, ONGOING, AND CLOSED PROJECTS

## New projects started this quarter

- DT Health Assessments & Pickup Svc, 803F
- DT & Invasive Species Awareness, 807H
- BCCE Cultural Survey, 809M
- Effects of Exotic Forage on Desert Tortoise, 1730J
- Desert Upland Small Mammal Surveys II, 1730M

## Ongoing projects this quarter

- Parceling for Bunkerville Property, 917BD
- Parceling for Virgin River Properties, 917DE
- Parceling for Bunkerville Property, 917MB
- Legal Services for DCP, 1014J
- BCCE DT Telemetry & Health Assess, 1412D
- Water Rights Consulting, 1445E
- Muddy River Habitat Restoration, 1446D
- HCP Consultant for the MSCHP, 1460A
- Riparian Rsv Units Prop Maint, 1520M
- MR Vegetation Clearing, 1520P
- Virgin River Riparian Restoration, 1521E
- Mormon Mesa Restoration Project, 1521Z
- Desert Tortoise Monitoring Data Management, Year 2-5, 1541A
- Desert Tortoise Range-Wide Monitoring, 1541B



Yellow-billed cuckoo

## Ongoing projects this quarter Cont'd.

- Relict Leopard Frog Conservation Planning and Implementation, 1550A
- 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
- OHV Marketing, 1775A
- LV Bearpoppy Fencing, Ramada & Trail, 1790A
- Gold Butte AML Closures, 1792C
- Desert Tortoise Predator-Prey Dynamics, 1795A

## Projects closed this quarter

- Lower Virgin River Integrated Watershed Plan, 1445F
- Muddy River Restoration Plan, 1570B
- DT Telemetry on the BCCE (Year 4), 1740A
- DCP Branding Project, 1770A

## Requests for proposals and quotes (RFPs / RFQs)

- An RFP was prepared and sent to potential bidders for Muddy River Habitat Restoration.
- An RFP was issued last quarter for up to five years of avian surveys on all properties managed by the DCP (includes all riparian reserve units as well as the BCCE). SWCA Environmental Consultants was selected, and the project will be initiated next quarter.



# ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

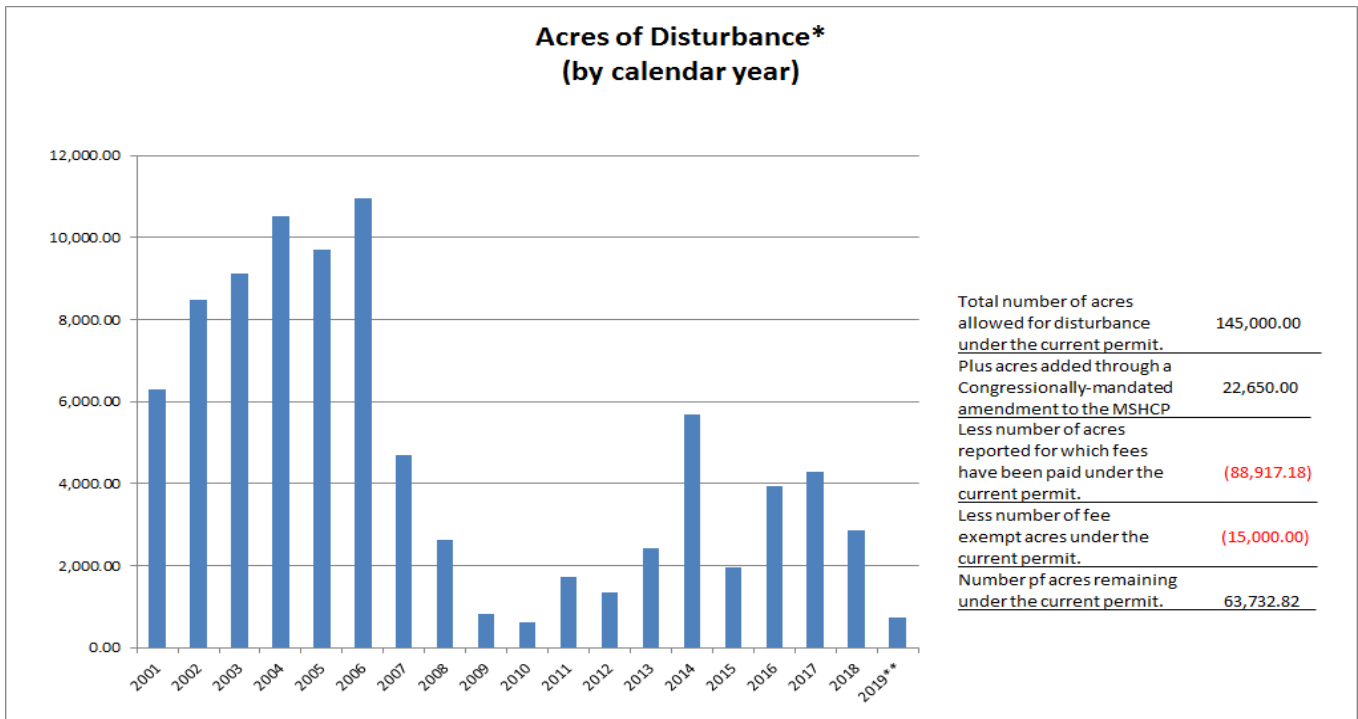
## ACTIVITIES FOR THIS QUARTER

- Processed vendor payments - 65 invoices: 61 accepted (94%), four rejected (6%).
- Fiscal Year (FY) 19 Budgets are being reconciled to prepare for end of year close. Expenditures continue to be monitored regularly to ensure appropriate spending and reporting occur. The process of developing FY19 estimates and FY20 budget is completed and submitted to the County Budget and Finance Office.
- Phase 1 of converting all 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-payments services for County departments that do not currently offer e-payments.
- Desert tortoise specialty license plate production is ongoing and plates are being distributed at Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles (DMVs).
- 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 15 - 3 draw downs (\$53,750.29).
- Completed the recruitment process to hire a new Environmental Specialist.



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.



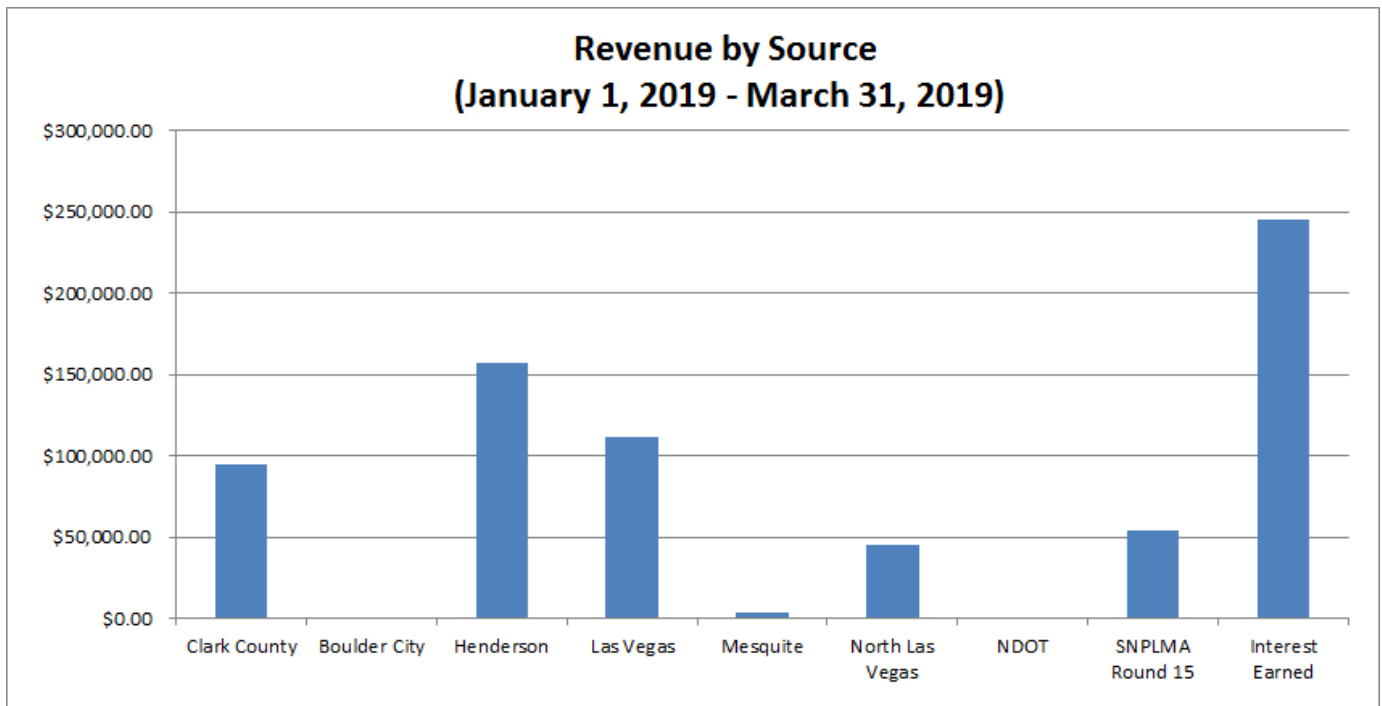
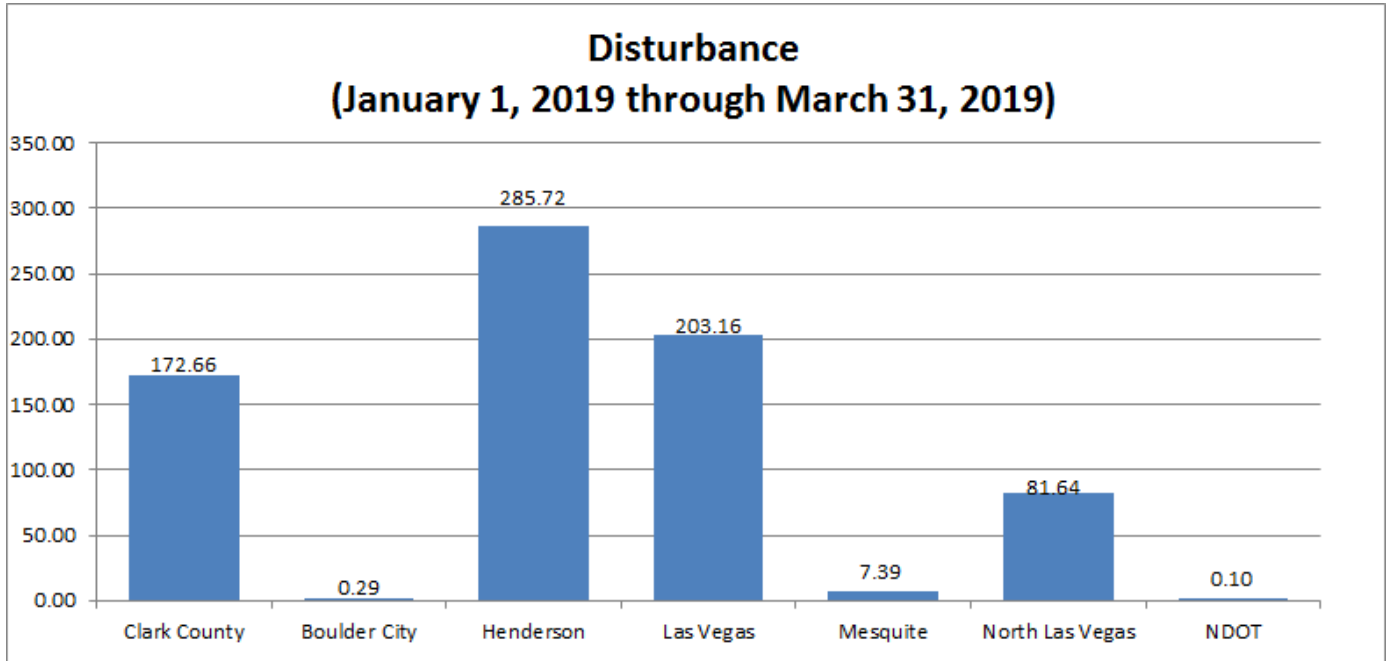
\*Total acres reported in this chart do not include 15,000 acres of municipal development, which were exempt from the payment of mitigation fees through January 2010.

\*\*2019 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](#).

Those interested in viewing any RFPs that are advertised for the DCP, are encouraged to sign up through Nevada Government EMarketplace ([NGEM](#)) to receive RFP notifications. Please check the Clark County opportunities page regularly at <http://bit.ly/2bBORvz> for RFP opportunities.

### Employment opportunities:

Please check for employment opportunities within the DCP, as well as other County departments, by visiting Clark County's Human Resources webpage: [HR](#)



**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

 desert conservation PROGRAM