



desert conservation
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respect, protect and enjoy our desert!

Boulder City Conservation Easement

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Objectives

Presentation Objectives:

- Background
- Management Context
- Completed and Current Activities
- Research Activities
- Future Activities
- Summary



- Clark County purchased the easement in 1995 as a permit condition
- Purpose:
 - “...ensure that the property is retained in a natural condition, and to prevent any uses that will impair the conservation, protection, restoration and enhancement of the natural resource values, especially those values associated with habitat for the desert tortoise and other indigenous flora and fauna.”



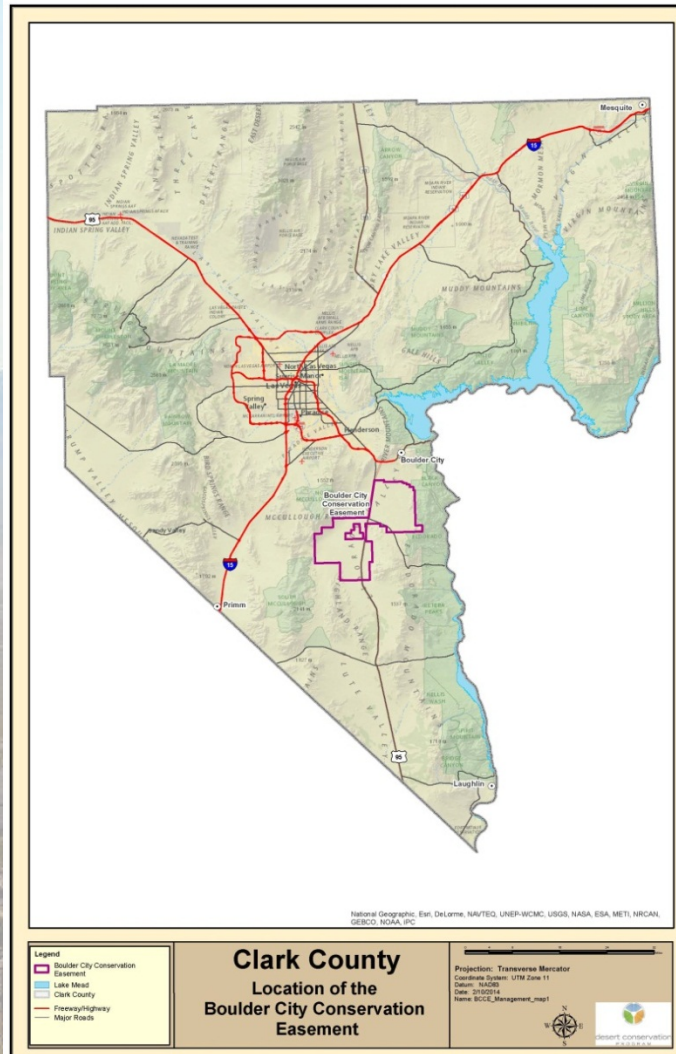
- Approximately 86,423 acres
- Bisected by U.S. 95 and S.R. 165
- Highly accessible to the public (95 miles of open roads)
- Energy Zone, substations, and switching yards
- 58 Rights-of-way
- New solar and transmission lines
- Boulder City bypass (Corridor I-11)



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Management Context

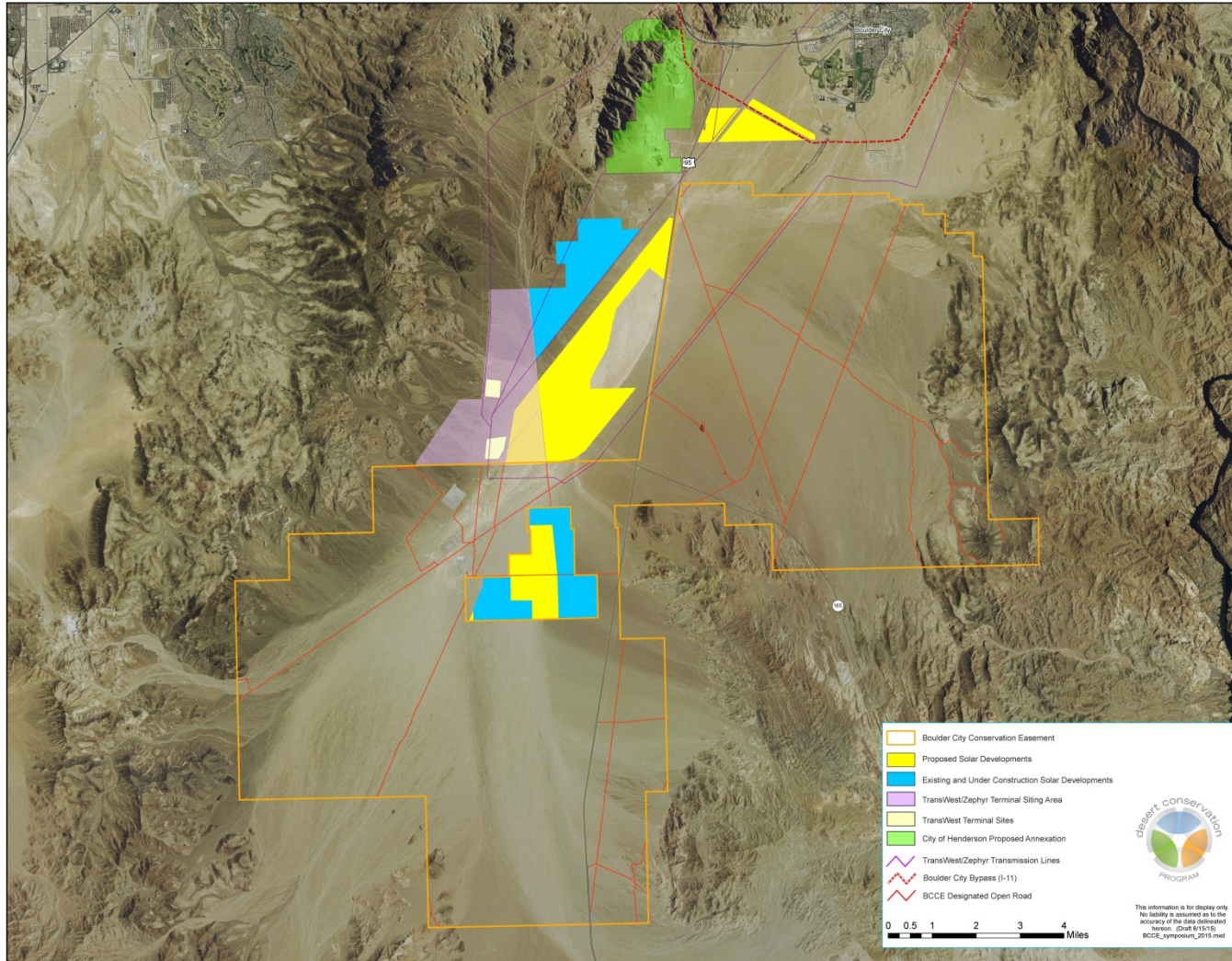




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Management Context





- Completed BCCE Management Plan
- Law enforcement (>17,000 miles, 1,632 patrol hours)
 - 416 contacts, 44 warnings
 - 378 brochures
- Signage updates (140)
- Ongoing weed inventory and treatment
- Working with several energy companies
 - Transmission lines, trespass, land exchange



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Completed and Current Activities

- Designed and contracted installation of informational gateway signage at a key access point to the BCCE from Boulder City





- Tortoise Occupancy Project
 - Vegetation project completed 2nd year
 - Tortoise occupancy survey completed 3rd year
 - LiDAR/Satellite data acquisition
- Tortoise survey and translocation (98 tortoises translocated to BCCE)
- UNLV project
- Drone access



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Future Activities

- Continue restoration of intrusion areas
- Continue weed inventory and treatment
- Continue law enforcement
- Continue traffic monitoring
- Contract to install tortoise fencing around the energy zone (includes installation of tortoise guards and culvert)



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Future Activities

- Research into possible tortoise threats from ravens and other predators
- Monitor future developments (residential/commercial)
- Continue to develop tortoise model
- Develop a Fire Management Plan



- Law enforcement contacts are trending downward
- Vandalism of signs and fencing are trending downward
- Restoration of closed roads is working (locking gates and fencing closed roads)
- Fencing of pet cemetery has slowed access
- Trash from dumping and illegal shooting has been minimized



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Questions?



Covered Species Present:

- Desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*)
- Desert iguana (*Dipsosaurus dorsalis*),
- Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*)
- Mojave green rattlesnake (*Crotalus scutulatus scutulatus*)
- Speckled rattlesnake (*C. mitchelli*)
- Arizona bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii arizonae*)
- Many other sensitive plants and animals