



Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan: Partner Feedback Summary

February 2025
Southwest Decision Resources



Outline

1. Engagement Activities
2. Feedback on Specific Plan Components
3. Feedback on Process and Timing
4. Overall Takeaways

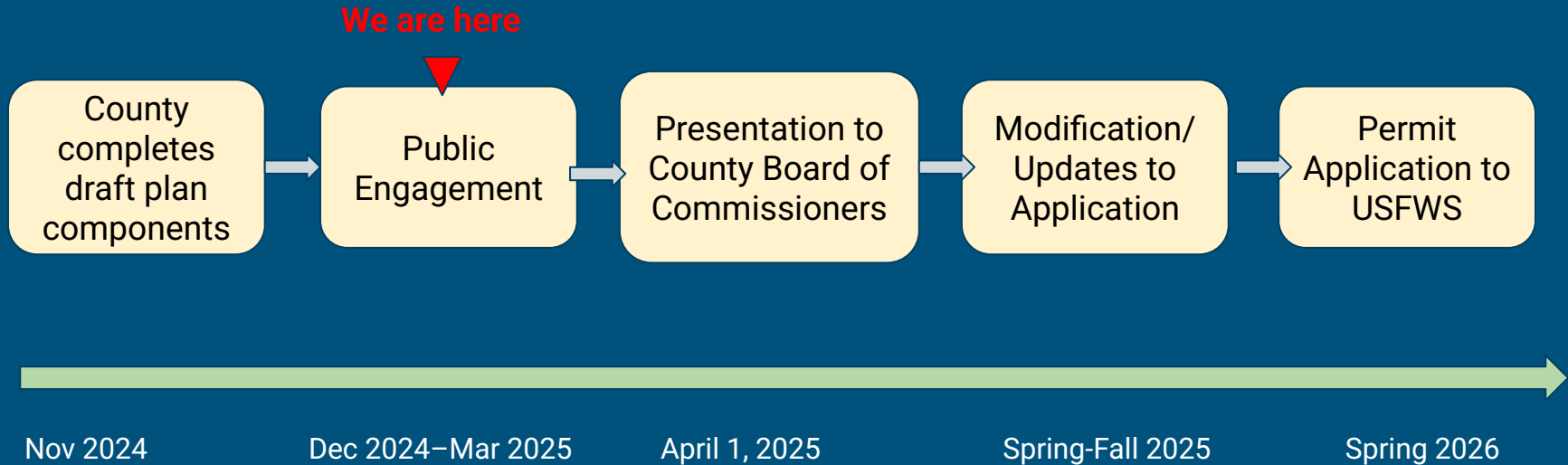


Engagement Activities

To Date:

November 2024-February 2025

Public Engagement



1. Engagement Activities

- **Interviews with key stakeholders** [*Dec/Jan*]
 - Better understand important issues, areas of concern
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- **Introductory Information Sessions** [*Jan 14th and 15th*]
 - Overview of MSHCP and amendment process
 - Initial feedback and input on desired information
- **Individual review and feedback of plan elements** [*Jan, ongoing*]
 - MSHCP Plan Amendment website and feedback form (until mid-year)

1. Engagement Activities, Cont'd

- **Focus Groups** *[February]*

- In-depth sessions with technical and subject-matter experts to explore specific components of the draft plan

- *Development (2)*
- *Recreation*
- *Conservation (2)*
- *Government Agencies*

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- **Final Information Sessions** *[Feb 25 and 26]* ← **We are here**

- Share findings from interviews and focus groups
- Gather any additional feedback

1. Participants to date

Basin and Range Watch
Center for Biological Diversity
City of Henderson
Clark County Regional Flood Control
District
Conservation Lands Foundation
Friends of Avi Kwa Me
National Association of Industrial and
Office Parks

NV Department of Wildlife
NV Division of Forestry
NV Division of Natural Heritage
NV National Security Site
Southern Nevada Home Builders
Southern Nevada Off Road Enthusiasts
Southern NV Conservancy
Southern NV Mountain Bike Association
Southern NV Off-Road Recovery
SWCA Environmental Consultants
The Nature Conservancy
US Bureau of Land Management
US Fish & Wildlife Service

Feedback on Plan Components:

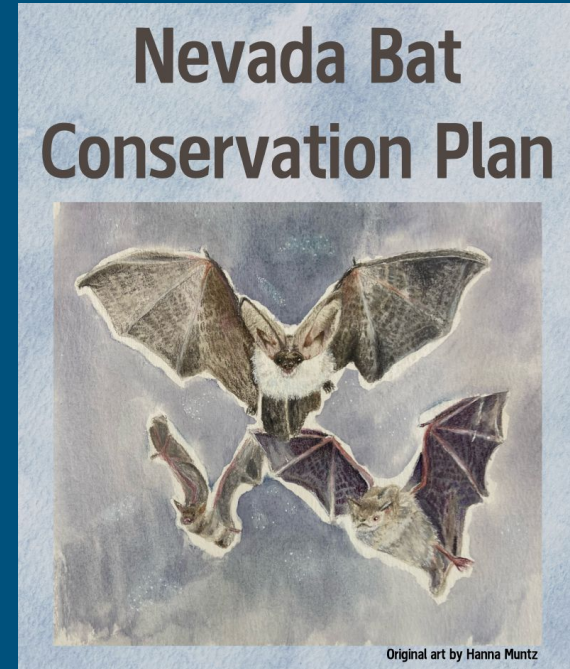
What the Facilitation Team heard

2. Plan Components: Covered Species

- Most participants had no issue with the shortened/focused species list.
- Potential addition of covered species could include:
 - Chuckwalla, Phainopepla, Straw Milkvetch, Rosy twotone beardtongue , Yellow twotone beardtongue, Clark phacelia, Polished blazing star, Relict leopard frog
- Recommendation that the County utilize information from The Nature Conservancy's analysis of land use change in the Mojave Desert.
- Pressures outside County control have significant impact on species (e.g., solar energy development).
- Concern that Desert Tortoise is still declining across the range.

2. Plan Components: **Biological Goals + Objectives**

- Ensure plan takes climate change into account
- Goals and objectives related to bats should be updated in light of new Nevada Bat Conservation Plan



2. Plan Components: Avoidance and Minimization Measures

- Clearance survey timings: Ensure these don't hold up development review process (one month prior to grading is reasonable timing)
- Recognition of different timings and complexity of addressing different covered species.
- Lack of certainty in the development review process
- Project Design Measure “*Reduce shared boundary*” - this is unclear and confusing. Better describe the objective, and how it would work in practice.

2. Plan Components: Avoidance and Minimization Measures

- Ensure actions taken by the County are clearly communicated and can be completed in a timely way.
- Development standards and enforcement need to be implemented consistently and fairly.
- Some stakeholders lacked clarity on:
 - How collected seeds would be used, and who collects them
 - How developers will know if they have covered species on their site
 - Whether the County pays for and carries out the surveys and collections

2. Plan Components: Reserve System

Identified Lands

- Revisit boundaries before plan completion.
- Suggestion of additional lands to consider: Mt. Sterling, areas around Mormon Mountain, Coyote Springs.
- Concern about potential solar development in reserve system, both before designation and after.
- More information on how pre-existing rights within reserve system would be treated.

2. Plan Components: Reserve System

Future management

- Cooperative management of units between BLM and Clark County still needs to be worked out with clear roles and responsibilities.
- Ensure these units continue to allow multiple-use (there is not much left in Southern Nevada).
- Trail users want to ensure continued access; also want to support responsible recreation.
- Enforcement, signage and education will be critical.
- Define how will eBikes will be considered in planning.

2. Plan Components: Adaptive Management and Monitoring

- Include acoustic survey monitoring for birds, building on NDOW's success with the Yellow-billed cuckoo.
- Provide more detail on specific actions that would be taken when triggers are hit.
- Incorporate BLM's monitoring protocols.
- Stakeholders would like to clearly see the anticipated economic, community, and ecological impacts of the MSHCP.

2. Plan Components: Funding analysis, permit fee and process

Permit fee

- Development community expressed concern at increased fee. Some said they understand why fee needs to be increased, and consider fee a relatively small part of overall costs.
- Some wonder if fee is high enough to achieve all conservation goals.
- Want to be assured the fees lead to effective conservation measures.
- Some wanted to know exactly how funds would be spent, while others trusted County to execute the plan efficiently.

2. Plan Components: Funding analysis, permit fee and process

Permit fee

- Many partners were unaware that the fee is lower than most plans of this scale (in some cases substantially).
- If additional funds become available, how would this be used to reduce the permit fee?

Permit process

- Current permit process is easy and efficient - keep it this way.
- No one wants an individual permit system - those who have done this report it is more cumbersome and expensive.

Feedback on plan amendment process and timing



3. Process and Timing

Critical items: designation of reserve system and increased permit fee

- Reserve system designation:
 - Federal Lands Bill - concern about getting legislation passed.
 - ACEC nominations to BLM - would be slower and may result in less land
 - Could there be a phased approach to bringing on reserve system?
- Increased fee (requires change in Nevada Revised Statutes)
 - Concerns about what would happen if this isn't achieved.
 - Consider another entity to submit the bill.

3. Process and Timing

Critical items: designation of reserve system and increased permit fee

- Given the likelihood and timing of these critical items, is there value in working on a backup plan?
- County should emphasize to legislature and Governor that not getting permit will harm development.
- Unknown how possible future changes to federal policy/regulation may impact MSHCP requirements.

Overall Takeaways

4. Overall takeaways

- No one wants the current permit to expire without replacement and end up in a situation of individual ESA permits.
- Big need for educating the public about what the MSHCP is, why it is important and what it has achieved.
- Need for clarity and transparency on the County's activities and costs related to the MSHCP.
- Stakeholders would like to stay informed about opportunities to review future drafts of the plan.

An aerial photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, there is a rocky, brownish hillside with some sparse vegetation. Below the hillside, a large, flat, sandy area stretches out, possibly a dry lake bed or a large open field. In the middle ground, a residential area with many houses and trees is visible. Further back, a city skyline with several tall buildings can be seen on the horizon. The sky is blue with some light clouds. The text "Thank you!" is overlaid in the center of the image in a large, black, serif font.

Thank you!