

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
LAS VEGAS FIELD OFFICE

FINAL REPORT

TO
CLARK COUNTY DESERT CONSERVATION PROGRAM
FOR THE BIENNIUM
JULY 1 2005 TO JUNE 30, 2007

**LAW ENFORCEMENT
2005-BLM-496-P**



Photo: Don Miller, BLM Law Enforcement Ranger

Law Enforcement, 2005-BLM-496-P

PROJECT REVIEW:

What measurable goals did you set for this project and what indicators did you use to measure your performance? To what extent has your project achieved these goals and levels of performance?

The following were the goals (indices of success) of the project:

- Law enforcement should help deter illegal activities, which degrade sensitive habitat.
- Law Enforcement should help to decrease the incidence of vandalism to resources and structures (e.g., kiosks), built to educate the public.
- Law Enforcement should increase effectiveness of conservation actions, such as restoration, by patrolling and monitoring public use. Restoration sites should remain undisturbed by vehicle intrusion.
- Law enforcement should promote "respect, protect, and enjoy" message of the Clark County MSHCP
- Law enforcement should discourage irresponsible use of the desert

The rangers patrolled four patrol areas consisting of the Coyote Springs, Gold Butte, Mormon Mesa, and Piute/Eldorado desert tortoise Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), Rainbow Gardens ACEC, Logandale Trails, wilderness areas, and the mesquite habitat around Glendale. In addition, each patrol area contained Multiple Use Management Areas which contain a large percentage of the habitat for MSHCP covered and evaluation species.

Patrols were conducted primarily by vehicle (truck, All Terrain Vehicle, or motorcycle), due to the size of the patrol areas. Foot patrols were conducted to check on sensitive resources off the roads, such as springs and cultural sites, and inside wilderness areas where vehicle use is prohibited. Law enforcement rangers issued citations, warnings or educated the public, as appropriate, when unauthorized or illegal activities were observed. Investigations were conducted to determine parties responsible if not observed at the time the crime was being committed. Law enforcement rangers recovered stolen and abandoned property and had it removed from public land, documented new vehicle incursions, protected BLM personnel in unsafe areas, represented the BLM at community meetings, and coordinated activities with local law enforcement. Monitoring sites established during previously funded MSHCP law enforcement projects were monitored for change.

Rangers produced weekly patrol reports that included information such as number of patrol days, the roads patrolled, number of public contacts made, number of citations issued, changes to the monitoring sites, and issues and concerns of the area. As often as possible, photos documenting the use (and abuses) of the areas were taken.

Measuring effectiveness of an implementation action is a challenge. Unlike a scientific study which has a hypothesis, the goals and objectives of this project are difficult to measure as a control can not be put in place to use for comparison. The volume of

Illegal trash dumping around the edges of developed areas continued to fragment habitat on public lands despite law enforcement, restoration, desert clean-up, and environmental education efforts. For example, BLM has conducted three saturation patrols with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Sherriff, US Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service and completed over 15 desert cleanups within the Sunrise Management Area during the 2005-2007 biennium, yet desert dumping continues at a consistent level.

As these problems are on-going, the BLM did not ask for assistance, beyond coordinating the task force activities with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Sherriff and receiving funding through the Desert Conservation Program to support four rangers. In retrospect, if Clark County (as a whole) could have become more engaged, more strides may have been made. While we can not change the past, Clark County could become more engaged in the future. For instance, Clark County could give Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Sherriff the ability to issue citations for illegal land use activities on BLM managed lands, thereby increasing the number of law enforcement available to enforce the law at the wild land-urban interface. The Desert Conservation Program could engage other departments within the County to create a coordinated, effective public outreach campaign to address OHV and desert dumping issues. The Desert Conservation Program could also work with the Health District, Air Quality, Code Enforcement, Comprehensive Planning and the waste management companies to identify why desert dumping occurs and find ways to combat the problem, such neighborhood design, additional transfer stations to reduce wait times, curbside green waste pickup, etc.

What lessons did you learn from undertaking this project?

- Use of resident rangers has increased law enforcement visibility, agency public contacts, and cooperation with local law enforcement.
- Monitoring effectiveness of law enforcement activities in the ACECs is very difficult due to the large patrol area, limited personnel resources, and an adjacent growing human population that exceeds 1 million residents and 30 million visitors a year. Public contacts and citations may stop repeat offenses, but only at the individual level.
- Based on the projected population growth in Clark County and increase in visitation, the current law enforcement strategy will require a substantial increase in law enforcement officers and equipment and/or use of strategies like saturation patrols in order to maintain the existing level of natural resource protection (Jones and Stokes, 2003).

Illegal activities, such as vandalism of kiosks and off-road vehicle use are random in nature. Therefore, it is hard to ascertain how effective four LE rangers are in curbing damage to sensitive habitat, resources and structures, and restoration sites over hundreds of thousands of acres of public lands. Increased LE activity has resulted in: an increased awareness of locations where more intense public use is occurring; increased public contact and education on correct use of public lands; as well as indicating levels of seasonal use. Their presence provides for public safety and reminds the public that rules and regulations exist. The ability of LE rangers to cite persons conducting illegal activities is an important deterrent for reducing repeat offenses.

3. Protecting the mitigation investments Clark County and the BLM has made on the ground is very important. Yet, even with an educated public, these illegal activities will continue to some degree and will need to be addressed by law enforcement. Continued support of law enforcement activities, either through funding or interagency partnerships between local law enforcement and the federal agencies should continue.

Law Enforcement Final Report

Executive Summary:

Featured Project and Type:

Law Enforcement (2005-BLM-496-P). MSHCP implementation project conducted by the US Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Species Addressed:

Federally listed covered species: desert tortoise and southwestern willow flycatcher.
Non-listed covered species: phainopepla, sidewinder, desert iguana, California kingsnake, western chuckwalla, stick ringstem, Las Vegas bearpoppy, white bearpoppy, threecorner milkvetch, sticky buckwheat, Blue Diamond cholla, white-margined beardtongue.

Summary Project Description:

The project supported four full-time BLM law enforcement (LE) rangers to patrol the four Desert Tortoise Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) and other high value habitats consistent with MSHCP goals.

Project Status/Accomplishments:

Between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2007, BLM law enforcement rangers conducted 1,016 field days patrolling four patrol areas consisting of the Coyote Springs, Gold Butte, Mormon Mesa, and Piute/Eldorado ACECs, Rainbow Gardens ACEC, Logandale Trails, wilderness areas, and the mesquite habitat around Glendale. In addition, each patrol area contained Multiple Use Management Areas which contain a large percentage of the habitat for MSHCP covered and evaluation species. Additional work days were spent completing reports, attending court for citations issued, coordinating with BLM staff to resolve resource impacts, and mandatory training such as weapon qualifications.

A total of 13,157 public contacts were made during the project, 1,161 citations issued, and 168 arrests made. Eight out of 15 monitoring sites showed no change during the project. Seven sites did receive damage of varying degrees and duration.

Partners and/or Subcontractors:

No partners or subcontractors were funded through this proposal. US Department of the Interior National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service, and US Department of Agriculture Forest Service coordinated law enforcement activities with BLM through the Law Enforcement Working Group and other interagency cooperative law enforcement efforts such as task forces and saturation patrols. Local law enforcement agencies including Las Vegas Metropolitan Police and Moapa Tribal Police conducted joint law enforcement operations with BLM.

Agency Project Contact:

Carolyn Ronning, BLM Las Vegas Field Office, Las Vegas, NV

Introduction:Description of the Project:

The project supported four full-time BLM law enforcement (LE) rangers to patrol the four Desert Tortoise Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) and other high value habitats consistent with MSHCP goals.

Background and Need for the Project:

Resource damage resulting from unauthorized activities degrades habitat quality habitat; results in loss of the mitigation investments made on mitigation lands; and can result in direct take of listed and covered species. Recovery of listed species and keeping additional species off the Endangered Species List in Clark County is dependent, in part, on the BLM keeping the habitat they manage intact and reducing unauthorized take. A critical component of conservation of habitat and species in southern Nevada is the public's compliance with BLM's policies, regulations, and land use constraints. Resource protection through full-time LE is identified in the Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan, Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP), and the four Conservation Management Strategies for the Desert Wildlife Management Areas. The BLM Las Vegas Field Office's position is that traditional LE provides the mechanism to enforce land use compliance and protect natural resources, which will ultimately assist in recovery of listed species and preclude federal listing of species at risk of listing. BLM has maintained LE coverage on the most environmentally sensitive areas of Clark County, Nevada for over 10 years. LE rangers coordinate with the BLM resource staff and with other volunteer groups (Wilderness Society, Archeo Nevada, Friends of Gold Butte, OHV clubs, etc.) that inform the LE staff if resource damage is occurring (see Jones and Stokes, 2002).

Management Action Addressed:

- BLM(71): Limit motorized uses in the Piute/Eldorado "Conserved Habitat" to designated roads and trails.
- BLM(91): Harvesting mesquite will require a permit (for green or dead or down) consistent with sustaining the plant communities in a healthy and vigorous state, and also consistent with viable wildlife populations
- BLM(98): Provide adequate law enforcement presence to ensure that management actions and restrictions are implemented for conservation of covered and/or evaluation species.
- BLM(119): Close Sunrise Mountain and Nellis Dunes Species Recreation Management Area to casual recreational shooting in accordance with Clark County's designated no shooting zone.

Goals and Objectives of the Project:

The following were the goals (indices of success) of the project:

- Law enforcement should help deter illegal activities, which degrade sensitive habitat.
- Law Enforcement should help to decrease the incidence of vandalism to resources and structures (e.g., kiosks), built to educate the public.
- Law Enforcement should increase effectiveness of conservation actions, such as restoration, by patrolling and monitoring public use. Restoration sites should remain undisturbed by vehicle intrusion.

Figure 1. BLM Rangers work in remote areas, patrolling large areas, alone, regardless of weather.



Monitoring sites established during previously funded MSHCP law enforcement projects were monitored for change. The following monitoring sites were established in each patrol area. Their locations are identified in Figure 3.

Gold Butte Patrol Area

- Whitney Pockets
- Red Rock Springs
- Lime Canyon Wilderness boundary
- White Rock Campground

Mormon Mesa/Arrow Canyon/Muddy Mountains Patrol Area

- Mesquite area near Glendale
- Arrow Canyon Wilderness boundary
- US 93 border of the Coyote Springs ACEC

Piute/Eldorado Patrol Area

- Kiosk at US 95 and Nelson
- Kiosk at Christmas Tree Pass Road
- Rail Road Grade Road
- Loran Station Road

Sunrise Management Area Patrol Area

- Kiosk near Lake Mead Blvd.
- Post and cable fence along Rainbow Gardens Road
- Gypsum Spring
- Bearpoppy Hill Restoration Area

Figure 3. Map of monitoring points.

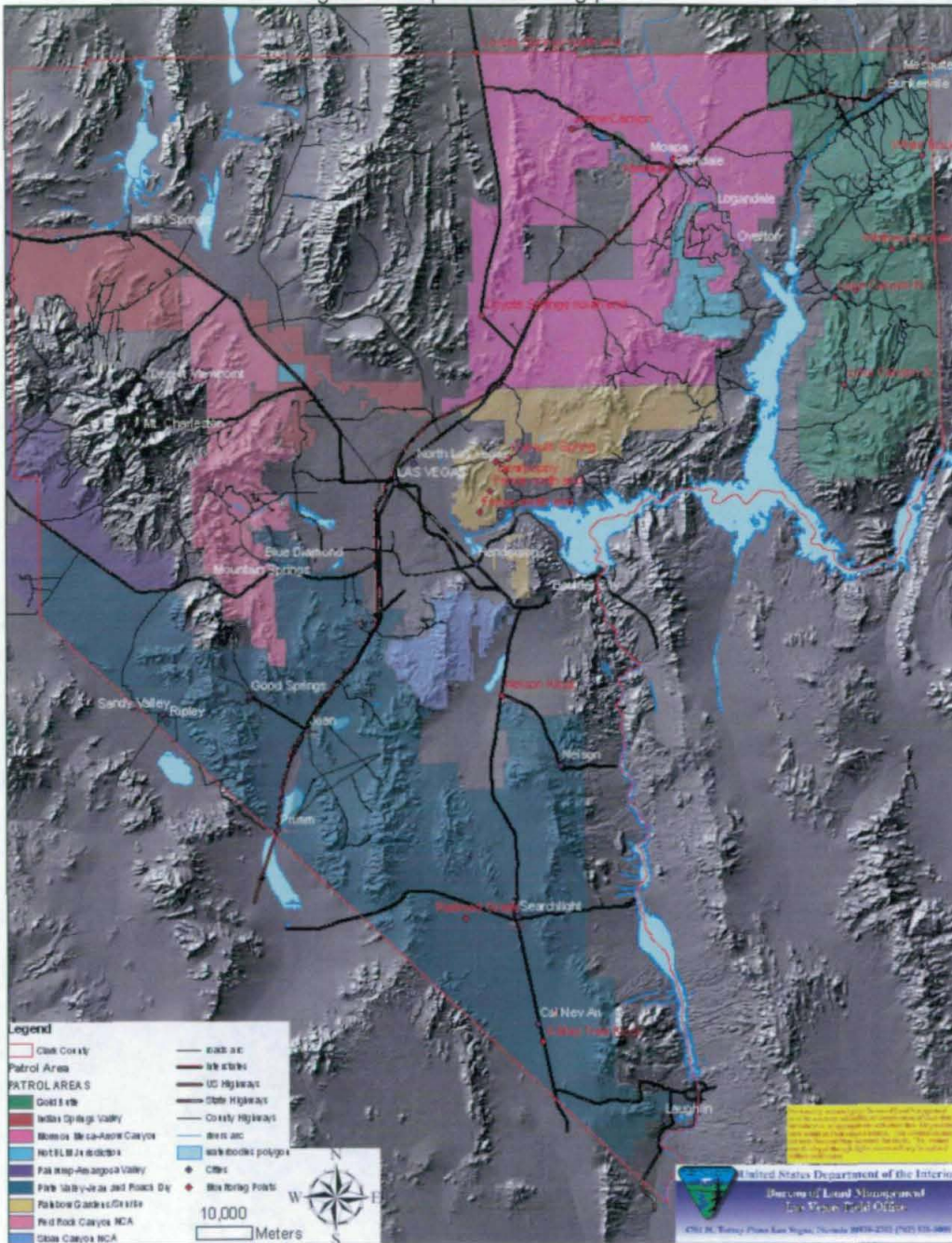


Table 2. Summary of patrol reports for the Gold Butte Patrol Area

ACEC	# Field Days	# Contacts	# Citations	# Warnings	# Arrests
Quarter 1	41	393	0	4	0
Quarter 2	34	155	0	18	0
Quarter 3	8	214	0	0	0
Quarter 4	34	149	0	12	0
Quarter 5	33	246	0	37	0
Quarter 6	32	1420	1	5	0
Quarter 7	28	1877	1	3	0
Quarter 8	29	57	0	0	0
Total	239	4,511	2	79	0

Table 3. Summary of public contacts within the Gold Butte Patrol Area

ACEC	**Hunters	**Campers (non RV)	Sightseers incl. Jeep Groups*	ATVs	Shooters	RVs	Medical	Other	TOTAL
Quarter 1	0	0	348	35	0	0	0	10	393
Quarter 2	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	149	155
Quarter 3	0	47	9	57	0	4	0	97	214
Quarter 4	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	149	155
Quarter 5	0	0	243	10	0	0	0	0	253
Quarter 6	421	129	363	392	0	101	0	14	1420
Quarter 7	0	393	392	529	0	59	0	504	1877
Quarter 8	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	42	57
Total	421	569	1355	1038	12	164	0	965	4524

Figure 5. Law enforcement public contact in action.



Table 4. Summary of patrol reports for the Mormon Mesa/Arrow Canyon/Muddy Mountains Patrol Area

ACEC	# Field Days	# Contacts	# Citations	# Warnings	# Arrests
Quarter 1	41	304	3	2	0
Quarter 2	36	249	2	0	2
Quarter 3	33	649	2	1	0
Quarter 4	7	16	0	0	2
Quarter 5	36	1401	5	10	1
Quarter 6	38	310	9	31	3
Quarter 7	25	428	11	1	4
Quarter 8	30	646	1	3	0
Total	246	4003	33	48	12

Table 5. Summary of public contacts within the Mormon Mesa/Arrow Canyon/Muddy Mountains Patrol Area

ACEC	**Hunters	**Campers (non RV)	Sightseers incl. Jeep Groups*	ATVs	Shooters	RVs	Medical	Other	TOTAL
Quarter 1	44	20	36	157	46	0	0	1	304
Quarter 2	10	41	18	88	15	0	1	76	249
Quarter 3	1	98	44	407	11	0	0	5	566
Quarter 4	10	41	25	91	15	0	0	77	259
Quarter 5	0	135	50	1180	30	0	6	0	1401
Quarter 6	13	44	7	216	18	1	1	10	310
Quarter 7	5	73	28	260	60	0	0	2	428
Quarter 8	0	133	28	442	34	0	0	9	646
Total	83	585	236	2841	229	1	8	180	4163

Roads patrolled: US 95, State Route 168, Carp Elgin, Logandale Trails, various dirt roads within the Coyote Springs and Mormon Mesa ACECs and the Moapa Valley.

Piute/Eldorado Patrol Area:

A large variety of issues were documented by the ranger residing in Laughlin. They included: mining trespasses, an occupancy trespass, copper wire burning activities, abandoned/stolen vehicles, restoration sites damaged by vehicles, illegal OHV use resulting in new OHV trails, arson, a stolen bulldozer, a crushed desert tortoise carcass, dumped hazardous materials, illegal use of fireworks, closure violations, an unauthorized ATV tour operation, and vehicles in the South McCullough Wilderness. In addition, the ranger noted a high concentration of desert tortoise burrows in Piute Valley, observed 3 healthy golden eagles in area and reported one injured golden eagle to USFWS. The ranger worked with an NDOW officer (one day) to check on legal trappers in the area, inspected numerous OHVs without spark arrestors, documented evidence of cattle near Pine Spring and McCullough Spring., and monitored the Tiger Lilly mining claim clean-up.

Figure 7: Desert dumping occurs regularly along the edge of the Las Vegas Valley. This dump site is located within the Clark County Sunrise Conservation Area, the Sunrise Instant Study Area and the Rainbow Gardens ACEC.



Table 8. Summary of patrol reports for the Sunrise Management Area Patrol Area

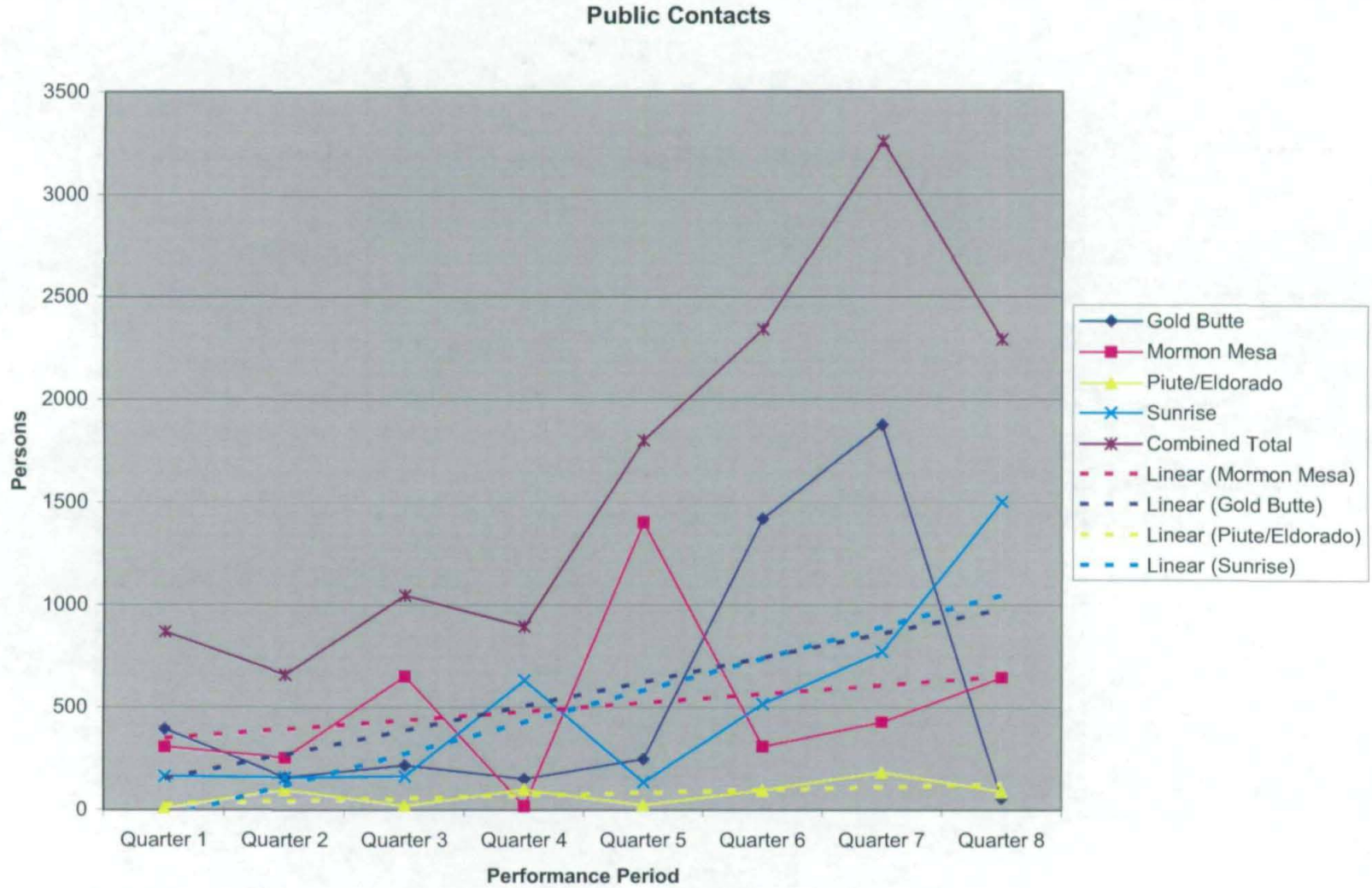
ACEC	# Field Days	# Contacts	# Citations	# Warnings	# Arrests
Quarter 1	37	160	184	99	7
Quarter 2	26	154	41	11	8
Quarter 3	19	161	24	44	10
Quarter 4	47	630	283	247	78
Quarter 5	47	133	11	16	1
Quarter 7	42	516	11	48	2
Quarter 7	46	772	363	104	33
Quarter 8	33	1503	42	21	8
Total	297	4,029	959	590	147

Table 9. Summary of public contacts within the Sunrise Management Area Patrol Area

ACEC	Hunters*	Campers (non RV)*	Sightseers incl. Jeep Groups*	ATVs	Shooters *	RVs	Medical	Other	TOTAL
Quarter 1	0	1	116	21	1	1	0	20	160
Quarter 2	0	0	8	51	9	0	2	84	154
Quarter 3	0	0	7	26	0	0	0	41	74
Quarter 4	0	0	210	106	0	0	0	414	730
Quarter 5	0	2	106	10	4	0	1	10	133
Quarter 6	0	6	377	98	10	0	3	22	516
Quarter 7	0	18	590	107	13	0	1	43	772
Quarter 8	5	7	1048	429	6	6	2	0	1503
Total	5	34	2462	848	43	7	9	634	4042

*Darkened area is closed to camping and shooting, thus any occurrence is a violation. In quarters where citation numbers are less than the closure violations, the ranger(s) may have issued a warning instead at their discretion based upon the circumstances.

Figure 9. Trends in public contacts for all patrol areas



Tables 10 through 12 below show the type and number of citations, warnings, and arrests reported per quarter by the rangers cumulatively.

Table 10. Total citations issued by quarter

Citations	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 5	Quarter 6	Quarter 7	Quarter 8	Total
Dumping	4	6	1	35	5	4	37	2	94
Shooting	4	2	1	7	0	1	10	3	28
Off-road	3	4	13	48	0	7	28	46	149
Other - trespass	52	42	9	137	2	11	308	4	565
Other	125	28	17	78	21	21	22	13	325
TOTAL	188	82	41	305	28	44	405	68	1161

Figure 11. Driving vehicles off existing roads and trails (outside Nellis Dunes Special Recreation Management Area) is illegal on BLM managed lands within Clark County. Damage to the soil and vegetation occurs during the initial event (left below) and can result in creation of unauthorized roads that are difficult to restore to pre-disturbance condition (right below).



Table 11. Total warnings issued by quarter

Warnings	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Quarter 5	Quarter 6	Quarter 7	Quarter 8	Total
Off-road	104	3	4	43	38	58	61	19	330
Shooting	0	0	0	16	5	3	8	0	32
Camping	0	0	0	46	7	5	17	4	79
Dumping	2	6	0	17	0	0	1	1	27
Other	0	26	41	143	16	21	29	0	276
TOTAL	106	35	45	265	66	87	116	24	744

Figure 13. Abandoned vehicle in Logandale.



Law Enforcement Working Group Attendance:

BLM law enforcement rangers regularly attended the Law Enforcement Working Group. This working group built cooperation between the federal law enforcement agencies that may not have developed as quickly through other channels. Regular communication at the law enforcement working groups raised issues that the agencies were able to resolve, like the need to be able to issue citations across administrative boundaries and differences in citation penalties.

Monitoring:

Eight out of 15 monitoring sites showed no change during the project. Seven sites did receive damage of varying degrees and duration. Vandalism only occurred at one monitoring site (kiosk) and appeared to be a random act. The kiosk was tagged with graffiti once and was not damaged further, before or after it was repainted. Resource damage at 4 sites was the result of off road travel in areas where roads are not posted, yet two areas (Lime Canyon and Arrow Canyon) had vehicle incursions though the areas were posted as closed to vehicles due to wilderness designation. Regular use of Whitney Pockets by campers and OHV riders is regularly creating resource damage, but other highly used areas like Sunrise Management Area, had no damage to the monitoring sites, though regular damage occurred in other areas. The remaining site received damage from an arson fire and wood collection.

Gold Butte:

Resource damage from casual OHV use within the patrol area remained an on-going problem at the Lime Canyon and Whitney Pockets monitoring sites over the course of the biennium. No change was documented at the White Rock Campground and only flood damage to the fence at Red Rock Spring. Table 14 summarizes the monitoring results within the Gold Butte Patrol Area.

Table 14. Results of Monitoring Sites in Gold Butte patrol area.

Patrol Area	Name	Monitoring End Date	Condition
Gold Butte	Lime Canyon N.	31-Dec-05	ATV incursions
Gold Butte	Lime Canyon N.	31-Mar-06	ATV incursions
Gold Butte	Lime Canyon N.	30-Jun-06	ATV incursions. Need post and cable fence.
Gold Butte	Lime Canyon N.	30-Sep-06	ATV incursions
Gold Butte	Lime Canyon N.	31-Dec-06	No change
Gold Butte	Lime Canyon N.	31-Mar-07	No change
Gold Butte	Lime Canyon N.	30-Jun-07	No change
Gold Butte	Lime Canyon S.	30-Sep-05	ATV incursions continue
Gold Butte	Lime Canyon S.	31-Dec-05	ATV incursions
Gold Butte	Lime Canyon S.	31-Mar-06	ATV incursions
Gold Butte	Lime Canyon S.	30-Jun-06	ATV incursions. Need post and cable fence.
Gold Butte	Lime Canyon S.	30-Sep-06	ATV incursions
Gold Butte	Lime Canyon S.	31-Dec-06	No change
Gold Butte	Lime Canyon S.	31-Mar-07	No change
Gold Butte	Lime Canyon S.	30-Jun-07	No change
Gold Butte	Red Rock Spring	31-Dec-05	No change
Gold Butte	Red Rock Spring	31-Mar-06	Fence down from flooding; trespass cattle
Gold Butte	Red Rock Spring	30-Jun-06	No change
Gold Butte	Red Rock Spring	30-Sep-06	No change
Gold Butte	Red Rock Spring	31-Dec-06	No change
Gold Butte	Red Rock Spring	31-Mar-07	No change
Gold Butte	Red Rock Spring	30-Jun-07	No change
Gold Butte	Red Rock Springs	30-Sep-05	No change
Gold Butte	White Rock	30-Sep-05	No change
Gold Butte	White Rock	31-Dec-05	No change
Gold Butte	White Rock	31-Mar-06	No change
Gold Butte	White Rock	30-Jun-06	No change
Gold Butte	White Rock	30-Sep-06	No change
Gold Butte	White Rock	31-Dec-06	No change
Gold Butte	White Rock	31-Mar-07	No change
Gold Butte	White Rock	30-Jun-07	Abandoned camper and 2 abandoned cars
Gold Butte	Whitney Pockets	30-Sep-05	Off road travel and resource damage continue
Gold Butte	Whitney Pockets	31-Dec-05	Off road travel and resource damage continue
Gold Butte	Whitney Pockets	31-Mar-06	Threats to Gilas. Off-road & resource damage
Gold Butte	Whitney Pockets	30-Jun-06	Off-road & resource damage continue
Gold Butte	Whitney Pockets	30-Sep-06	Off-road & resource damage continue
Gold Butte	Whitney Pockets	31-Dec-06	No change
Gold Butte	Whitney Pockets	31-Mar-07	Habitat disturbance has increased
Gold Butte	Whitney Pockets	30-Jun-07	No change

Table 16. Results of Monitoring Sites in Piute/Eldorado Patrol Area.

Patrol Area	Name	Monitoring End Date	Condition
Piute/Eldorado	Loran Stn.	30-Sep-05	No change
Piute/Eldorado	Loran Stn.	31-Dec-05	No change
Piute/Eldorado	Loran Stn.	31-Mar-06	No change
Piute/Eldorado	Loran Stn.	30-Jun-06	No change
Piute/Eldorado	Loran Stn.	30-Sep-06	No change
Piute/Eldorado	Loran Stn.	31-Dec-06	No change
Piute/Eldorado	Loran Stn.	31-Mar-07	No change
Piute/Eldorado	Loran Stn.	30-Jun-07	No change
Piute/Eldorado	Nelson Kiosk	30-Jul-05	Good - Kiosk panels replaced
Piute/Eldorado	Nelson Kiosk	31-Dec-05	No change
Piute/Eldorado	Nelson Kiosk	31-Mar-06	Graffiti on kiosk. Cleaned up by BLM restoration
Piute/Eldorado	Nelson Kiosk	30-Jun-06	No change
Piute/Eldorado	Nelson Kiosk	30-Sep-06	No change
Piute/Eldorado	Nelson Kiosk	31-Dec-06	No change
Piute/Eldorado	Nelson Kiosk	31-Mar-07	No change
Piute/Eldorado	Nelson Kiosk	30-Jun-07	No change
Piute/Eldorado	Railroad Grade	30-Sep-05	No change
Piute/Eldorado	Railroad Grade	31-Dec-05	No change
Piute/Eldorado	Railroad Grade	31-Mar-06	No change
Piute/Eldorado	Railroad Grade	30-Jun-06	No change
Piute/Eldorado	Railroad Grade	31-Dec-06	No change
Piute/Eldorado	Railroad Grade	31-Dec-06	No change
Piute/Eldorado	X-Mas tree Kiosk	30-Sep-05	No change
Piute/Eldorado	X-Mas Tree Kiosk	31-Dec-05	No change
Piute/Eldorado	X-Mas Tree Kiosk	31-Mar-06	No change
Piute/Eldorado	X-mas Tree Kiosk	30-Jun-06	No change
Piute/Eldorado	X-mas Tree Kiosk	30-Sep-06	No change
Piute/Eldorado	X-mas Tree Kiosk	31-Dec-06	No change
Piute/Eldorado	X-mas Tree Kiosk	31-Mar-07	No change
Piute/Eldorado	X-mas Tree Kiosk	30-Jun-07	No change

Evaluation/Discussion of Results:

Measuring effectiveness of an implementation action is a challenge. Unlike a scientific study which has a hypothesis, the goals and objectives of this project are difficult to measure as a control can not be put in place to use for comparison. The volume of potential users of the public lands is so large and the numbers of law enforcement officers so low that any attempts to measure change associated with law enforcement alone are subjective. The population estimates for Clark County show an expected increase of 96,954 residents from 2005 to 2006. If rates stayed consistent for 2006-2007, during the course of this project there were 193,900 residents with access to public lands in Clark County. During that same time frame, the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority reported 77,481,606 visitors came to Las Vegas, of which an estimated 19% (14,721,505) were first time visitors (GLS, 2006). In addition, 3.3 million people visited Laughlin and 1.6 million visited Mesquite in 2006 (LVCVA, 2006). The BLM can not separate out the effects of public education campaigns (Mojave Max, road signing, and kiosks), existing public knowledge, restoration efforts, and law enforcement on public behavior and resource damage.

While answers can not be definitive, trends were observed. The linear trends in public contacts show that over the course of the project there was an increase in the number of public contacts made in each patrol area. This was a 27 percent increase in public contacts over the 9,603 conducted during the 2003-2005 biennium. Most contacts were informative, rather than punitive. During those contacts, rangers informed the public about appropriate use of the public lands, thereby promoting the "respect, protect, and enjoy" message of the Clark County MSHCP and hopefully discouraging future irresponsible use of the desert by those contacted. The public contacts provided valuable information to the BLM as well. Members of the public informed the rangers of illegal activities they observed, new resource damage, sightings of wildlife, and special resource areas to monitor. Those 13,157 public contacts would not have been made without this funding.

Without a control it is not possible to prove whether law enforcement affected the number of illegal activities occurring that degrade sensitive habitats, reduced vandalism or increased the effectiveness of conservation actions. The linear trends show that over the course of the project there was an increase in the number of citations made in each patrol area. Overall there was a 49% increase from the 443 citations issued in the 2003-2005 biennium. The monitoring sites established to provide locations to measure change showed some successes as well. It is possible that law enforcement activities resulted in the lack of resource damage at 8 monitoring sites and that the kiosk in Piute Valley was not damaged more often or more extensively as a result of law enforcement presence. Law enforcement presence did not stop damage at the remaining 7 sites. Whether the amount or severity of that damage would have been reduced with more law enforcement presence or other management actions is not known. Though we can not determine whether issuance of citations reduced future habitat degradation or vandalism, it is expected that those issued citations learned that their actions should not be repeated and the presence of law enforcement vehicles throughout the remote areas of the county let public users know that the area was being managed.

In addition to the law enforcement monitoring sites, BLM's project Restoration of Critical Desert Tortoise Habitat (2005-BLM-500-P) had monitoring results at habitat restoration

our wild lands than in our communities if resources in these Intensively Managed Areas and Multiple Use Areas must be protected to mitigate for urban growth.

Recommendations:

1. Law enforcement has received a large amount of discussion and, at times criticism, at the Advisory Committee meetings. Based upon the costs, questions have been raised about the effectiveness of the projects run by each agency and the benefit they bring to the Desert Conservation Program. If those concerns remain, then it is recommended that the Desert Conservation Program identify what "measurable results" are for law enforcement and how to measure the value of projects as "mitigation credits" to define expectations. This will enable the BLM to adjust data collection on enforcement actions to better inform the Program.
2. To reduce threats to the listed and MSHCP covered species within the county, the Desert Conservation Program should become more engaged in the future in educating the public about appropriate use of public lands and enforcing compliance.
 - a. The Desert Conservation Program should continue to support a County-wide designation of roads and trails.
 - b. The Desert Conservation Program should engage other departments within the County to create a coordinated, effective public outreach campaign to address OHV and desert dumping issues.
 - c. Clark County should give Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Sheriff the ability to issue citations for illegal land use activities on BLM managed lands, thereby increasing the number of law enforcement available to enforce the law at the wild land-urban interface.
 - d. The Desert Conservation Program could also work with the Health District, Air Quality, Code Enforcement, Comprehensive Planning and the waste management companies to identify why desert dumping occurs and find ways to combat the problem, such as neighborhood design, additional transfer stations to reduce wait times, curbside green waste pickup, etc.
3. Protecting the mitigation investments Clark County and the BLM has made on the ground is very important. Yet, even with an educated public, these illegal activities will continue to some degree and will need to be addressed by law enforcement. Continued support of law enforcement activities, either through funding or interagency partnerships between local law enforcement and the federal agencies should continue.