

Final Project Report

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?

Goals (Indices of success):

Index of Success # 1: LEO will document illegal activities and take appropriate enforcement actions, submitting detailed information through MSHCP quarterly reports.

The LEO documented illegal activities in 285 incident reports. The LEO issued 129 warnings and 174 violation notices while taking appropriate enforcement actions. The LEO submitted detailed information through quarterly reports to the appropriate Forest Service employee for upward reporting to Clark County.

Index of Success # 2: LEO will assist conservation actions by monitoring and patrolling.

The LEO spent 40% of his time in patrol status, 35% in office/meetings, 20% in court, and 5% in training/class. Patrols occurred in the Dispersed West Canyons, which include Clark, Carpenter, Wallace, and Wheeler Canyons, Trout and Lovell Canyons, the Developed Canyons, which include Kyle and Lee Canyons, the area in and around the community of Cold Creek, and the Mt. Sterling/Mt. Potosi areas.

Index of Success # 3: LEO will provide presence to help deter illegal activities through education and enforcement of laws.

The LEO made 6,286 contacts providing educational opportunities. He issued 129 warnings and 174 violation notices as means to educate and enforce laws. Over 1200 hours were spent in patrol status.

Index of Success # 4: RPO receives training to better understand the resources protected and how to best protect them.

The RPO received training that included Forest Service mandatory trainings, recreation management, safety, and resource management.

Index of Success # 5: RPO maintains and installs information signs in key locations, aimed at resource protection.

Fifteen new signs were installed. There were 55 signs either replaced or repaired. Signs include road number signs to aid visitors in knowing where they are, road closure signs for resource protection, both natural and Wilderness, information kiosk with resource protection and recreation management information.

The greatest impact of this project was the reduced visitor abuse of the landscape due to regular USFS patrols, increased education and information, and improved recreational experience.

Is there additional research or efforts that would complement or add to your project that could be conducted?

Not applicable.

FORMAL REPORT:

Executive Summary:

Featured Project and Type:

Proposal Number – 2005-USFS_SMNRA-504-P
Proposal Title – Resource Protection Law Enforcement
Program Category – Implementation
Project Category – Law Enforcement

Species Addressed:

Piranga rubra - summer tanager
Chlosyne acastus - Spring Mountains acastus checkerspot
Euphilotes enoptes - dark blue butterfly
Hesperia comma - Spring Mountains comma skipper
Icaricia shasta - Mt Charleston blue butterfly
Limenitus weidemeyerii - Nevada admiral
Pyrgulopsis turbatrix - Southern Nevada springsnail
Myotis volans - long-legged myotis
Tamias palmeri - Palmers chipmunk
Coleonyx variegatus - banded gecko
Phainopepla nitens – phainopepla
Euphydryas anicia - Morands checkerspot butterfly
Icaricia icarioides - Spring Mountains icarioides blue
Pyrgulopsis deaconi - Spring Mountains springsnail
Speyeria zerene - Caroles silverspot butterfly
Myotis evotis - long-eared myotis
Crotalus mitchelli - speckled rattlesnake
Crotalus scutulatus - Mojave green rattlesnake
Eumeces gilberti - western red-tailed skink
Angelica scabrida - rough angelica
Astragalus aequalis - Clokey milkvetch
Astragalus oophorus - Clokey eggvetch

Project Status/Accomplishment:

For the two years of this contract, the LEO and FPO have covered the west side of the SMNRA. They have made over 10,758 public contacts during these two years. They have driven over 107,000 miles to accomplish the goals and objectives set forth in the MSHCP agreement. They have written 852 incident reports. They have issued 256 warnings for resource based violations and issued 175 violation notices for non compliance of rules and regulations. The warnings and violations consisted of illegal fuel wood cutting, driving off-road, damaging natural resources, cutting or damaging trees, illegal campfires, litter, dumping of household waste, blocking or restricting a roadway, driving in a careless/reckless manner, driving without a license, underage drinking. 90 percent of the violations are resourced based and the 10 percent of non resource based still have an impact on the natural resources. The majority of the non-resource based violations came from investigating resourced based violations.

Partners:

None

Project Contact:

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Funding:

This project requests funding for one full-time Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) and one Forest Protection Officer (FPO). Personnel costs include salary, overtime, night/weekend/holiday differential, and all associated employment costs. Equipment includes two leased vehicles, mileage rate, outfitting new LEO vehicle and communication equipment including cell and satellite phones. Travel includes training. The other category combines facility lease, communication lines, and required overhead assessment.

Personnel: \$343,699

Equipment: \$68,800

Travel: \$13,500

Other: \$118,920

Supplies:

Total: \$544,919

The Spring Mountains National Recreation Area (NRA) has one additional LEO and Wilderness FPO funded under the Conservation Initiative. One additional FPO is being requested for implementation of the OHV trail designation and mitigation for that project under (2005-USFS_SMNRA-491-P at a total cost of \$212,724).

Introduction:

Project Description and Need for the Project:

The Spring Mountains NRA serve as an oasis in the middle of the desert with cooler temperatures in the summer and snow fall in the winter. Therefore the mountains are a prime destination for the Las Vegas valley and Pahrump residence. With the increase of users visiting the Spring Mountains NRA it is imperative to maintain a Law Enforcement presence working toward MSHCP goals and objectives. The Spring Mountains NRA management is striving to meet the needs of the resources, managing a sustainable ecosystem, while providing recreation and wilderness opportunities and experiences for people. Balancing the requirements of the natural and social environmental is strongly supported through this project where the staff members are focused on education and instructing visitors in appropriate use while being able to issue tickets, warnings, and take enforcement actions when mitigation is required.

MSHCP Conservation/Management Actions:

USFS(2) -- Use all opportunities where the public is contacted (e.g., ranger stations, future visitor center and entrance stations, public meetings) to distribute materials emphasizing biodiversity protection and ecosystem management. Ensure that educational materials are focused on critical issues such as staying on trails, controlling pets, and avoidance of vegetation trampling and wildlife harassment.

USFS(5) -- Develop and distribute information and education materials; directed at specific user groups (climbers, cavers, mountain bikers, equestrians, off-highway vehicle users, etc.), and the public at large; emphasizing protection of riparian habitats, alpine areas, and other sensitive areas.

USFS(10) -- Design and install information and educational signs in accordance with Appendix A of the Interagency Agreement # 14-48-0001-94605 between the USFS and USFWS for the Spring Mountains NRA. Signs will be located outside the Wilderness Area, at trailheads or near sensitive habitats, and will provide information on low impact recreation and ecological resource protection. Priorities include the following: Fused PVC color signs: Cathedral Rock, Mary Jane Falls Trailhead, Deer Creek Picnic Area, Bristlecone Trailhead, Robbers Roost Trailhead, Fletcher Canyon Trailhead, Trail Canyon Trailhead, North Loop Trailhead, Bonanza Trailhead, Harris Spring Trailhead, Carpenter Canyon Smaller signs: Mummy Springs, Stanley B Spring, CC Spring, Trough Spring, Cave Spring, Macks Canyon Spring

USFS(13) -- Educate the public to the sensitivity of endemic species of the Spring Mountains, the importance of diversity, the significance of the Spring Mountains' biodiversity, and how to recreate without impacting these resources.

USFS(15) -- Educate the public to the value of Wilderness, not just as a non-motorized recreation area, but as a place of natural processes and of personal risks.

USFS(38) -- Encourage partnerships with volunteers to maintain and enhance natural resources in the NRA.

USFS(39) -- Adhere to goals, objectives, standards and guidelines detailed in the Plan Amendment which promote protective management of the species of concern and other ecological resources.

Results and Evidence of the Results

For the two years of this contract, the LEO and FPO have covered the west side of the SMNRA. They have made over 10,758 public contacts during these two years. They have driven over 107,000 miles to accomplish the goals and objectives set forth in the MSHCP agreement. They have written 852 incident reports. They have issued 256 warnings for resource based violations and issued 175 violation notices for non compliance of rules and regulations. The warnings and violations consisted of illegal fuel wood cutting, driving off-road, damaging natural resources, cutting or damaging trees, illegal campfires, litter, dumping of household waste, blocking or restricting a roadway, driving in a careless/reckless manner, driving without a license, underage drinking. 90 percent of the violations are resourced based and the 10 percent of non resource based still have an impact on the natural resources. The majority of the non-resource based violations came from investigating resourced based violations.

It is the LEO's and FPO's belief that the more presence and contacts made with the users of the SMNRA are key to promoting the uniqueness of the SMNRA and how to enjoy without damaging this unique area.



(From left to right, 20 plus live trees cut down to make this illegal structure in CC springs, stolen vehicle driven approx ½ mile across undisturbed ground and dumped off of Lovell wash)

They have made several large group contacts that have stressed the importance of the SMNRA and the unique features and opportunities that the SMNRA has to offer. Some of the groups are Spring Mountain Free Trappers, Pahrump/Las Vegas Boy Scouts, Las Vegas/Henderson/Pahrump Father-Son campouts, Iron Cross motorcycle group, UNLV astronomy class and miscellaneous user groups.