

**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
STAFF REPORT**

MEETING DATE: 3J

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: September 24, 2012

STAFF: Juan F. Guzman, Open Space Manager



REQUEST: **For Possible Action:** To recommend to the Board of Supervisors and staff regarding the potential nominations for projects to be developed as part of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act, Round 14, process.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Round 14 of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act has opened with a closing date for submittal of grant nominations of November 9, 2012. Carson City may apply for a grant along the Carson River corridor for land acquisition or for a grant within the entire jurisdiction of Carson City for the purpose of improving a park, trail or natural areas. Staff considered 10 potential projects, as listed below.

- 1) The Lower Centennial Park conversion
- 2) Pedestrian path improvements through Imus Park
- 3) Playground and community center splash pad
- 4) Kings Canyon pathway from Ormsby Boulevard to Long Ranch
- 5) Lighting of Edmonds Sport Complex soccer fields
- 6) Pathway along the narrow-gauge V&T historic line from the county line to the former Serpa property along the Carson River Canyon.
- 7) Advancement of the Ash Canyon to Kings Canyon trail
- 8) Completion of Fuji Park improvements
- 9) Multi-purpose freeway pathway on the Lompa property south of Highway 50 East
- 10) Completion of the Waterfall Trail Loop

Staff seeks from the Committee concurrence and/or any other potential project input. It is staff's recommendation to proceed with the Lower Centennial Park conversation improvements. This project consists of converting the existing lower softball fields into soccer fields and the associated improvements. This project will serve a great number of our population segment will provide for the ability to improve the scheduling to our present activity program and is within an area that contains all the necessary utilities and infrastructure to support the proposed remodel or improvements.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Move to recommend to the Board of Supervisors and staff the nomination of the Lower Centennial Park conversion project to be developed as part of the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act, Round 14, grant process.



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SNPLMA Nevada Round 14 Call for Nominations

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The Bureau of Land Management is now accepting Round 14 nominations for projects authorized by the **Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998** (SNPLMA, Public Law 105-263, as amended), in the following categories:

- Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas
- Capital Improvements
- Conservation Initiatives
- Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisitions
- Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention
- Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project (ENLRP)
- Clark County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan and Implementation (MSHCP)

Due to dramatically slowing land sales and falling interest earned on funds in the SNPLMA Special Account, funds available for Round 14 are significantly lower than earlier rounds. As a result, although the round is open to all categories there should be no expectation that every category will receive a recommendation for funding in Round 14.

Round 13 recommended funding was \$6,893,252, with average recommended funding per project of \$344,663. The Executive Committee has set a funding target for Round 14 at approximately the same level as Round 13.

In order to prepare the best possible nomination, it is recommended that partners look at the types of projects approved in Round 12 and recommended for funding in the Round 13 Preliminary Recommendation to ensure that nominations are competitive. Those projects can be found at www.blm.gov/snplma. In addition, it should be noted that in times of reduced funding, projects that leave a legacy on the landscape, and thus demonstrate the positive effect of the SNPLMA legislation, are highly desirable.

Please carefully adhere to the limitations and requirements outlined in the nomination package requirements to ensure nomination packages are complete, and have thorough responses to criteria questions. Incomplete packages will not be accepted.

Nomination packages will be accepted beginning Monday, September 10, 2012, through the close of business (4:30 p.m. Pacific Time) on Friday, November 9, 2012. Late submittals will not be accepted.

Land acquisition nominations require early submittal of a nomination summary and a preliminary title report by 4:30 pm PST on Wednesday, October 10, 2012. The summary form for this submittal is available on the SNPLMA website at the link listed below.

In order to extend the benefits of the SNPLMA funding program and to allow partner agencies to complete previously approved projects, the SNPLMA Executive Committee has agreed to postpone the opening of Round 15 until September 2014.

NOMINATION PACKAGE REQUIREMENTS BY CATEGORY

Below is a link to the nomination package requirements documents for each category. Each requirements document includes "Round 14 Nomination Limitations and Direction," "General Formatting and Submittal Requirements," and "Nomination Content Requirements" that are applicable to all categories. In addition each document includes category-specific requirements such as eligibility requirements, additional content requirements, and assessment questions.

[Click here to go to the Round 14 Nomination Package Requirements For All Categories and A List of SNPLMA Performance Measures with Descriptions](#)

HOW TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS

Nomination packages should be sent to the following address to the attention of the appropriate SNPLMA Program Manager:

BLM Southern Nevada District Office
 SNPLMA Division
 4701 North Torrey Pines Drive
 Las Vegas Nevada, 89130

Land Acquisitions: attn: Libby White, (702) 515-5041

Capital Improvements: attn: Bob Taylor, (702) 515-5139

Conservation Initiatives and MSHCP: attn: Kelly Ross, (702) 515-5120

Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas: attn: Jeff Wilbanks, (702) 515-5070

VI. ROUND 14 PTNA RANKING CRITERIA

Respond to each of the following criteria in the order provided below. These criteria will be used by the PTNA Subgroup to evaluate, score and rank project nominations. Applicants must respond to each criterion. If a factor does not apply respond with N/A. The total points available for each criterion are shown to the right. Ranking criteria scoring is on a sliding scale.

Point value for assessment questions is provided for information purposes only in order to reinforce the importance of addressing each factor. Nominating entities are not to assign a point value to their responses.

Demand: Provides a new or improves an existing park, trail, or natural area to meet the demands and changing demographics of residents and visitors.

Factors:

1. The project meets an unfilled demand or deficiency for parks, trails, or natural areas.	5 10
2. The project meets the need(s) of the target demographic.	5
3. The project is unique and/or significant to the region it is or will be established in.	5
4. The project addresses, remedies or improves a public health and safety concern(s).	5
Total	20 25

Resources: Protects or improves the integrity of resources (community, cultural, educational, environmental, historical, open space and recreational) while addressing the quality of the human experience.

Factors:

1. The project enhances community, cultural, educational, environmental, historical, open space, and recreational resources.	5
2. The project helps protect existing parks, trails and natural areas, or other natural/cultural resources, particularly where urgent action is required.	5
3. The project utilizes a sustainable design, particularly with regard to the conservation of energy, water, and materials.	5
4. The project protects and enhances public health and safety, accessibility, and the quality of the human experience.	5
Total	20

Connectivity: Connects parks, trails and natural areas to form an integrated and accessible system.

Factors:

1. The project enhances connectivity or access to a regional/local park, trail, or natural area, and/or federal lands.	5
2. The park, trail, or natural area is part of an approved regional or local plan. (If no formal regional/local approved plan describes the planning process.)	5

3. The project is a direct phase of a previously approved SNPLMA project, and is useable without future enhancements.	5
Total	15 10

Cost and Value of Investment: Evaluates, describes and considers the costs and benefits of the project.

Factors:

1. The projected deliverables, budget, associated costs, and phasing considerations of the proposal are stated and justified.	5
2. Public demand/use vs. investment required (i.e., service area/radius, communities benefited) is reasonable and is clearly identified.	5
3. The design or approach of the project minimizes future maintenance and/or replacement costs to the extent possible for the type of project.	5
4. Has identified committed non-SNPLMA sources of funding or in-kind contribution in the development and/or implementation of the project (i.e., financial, volunteerism).	5
Total	20
Grand Total	75

**SNPLMA ROUND 13
PARKS, TRAILS AND NATURAL AREAS
SUBGROUP NOMINATION RANK AND RECOMMENDATION
MEETING**

On Thursday, February 16, 2012 the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) Parks, Trails and Natural Areas (PTNA) Subgroup met at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Southern Nevada District (SND) Office in Las Vegas to rank and recommend the Round 13 PTNA project nominations. This was done in accordance with the SNPLMA, Public Law 105-263, Section 4 (e)(3)(A)(iv) which allows revenue from the SNPLMA special account to be expended for: *"...development of parks, trails, and natural areas in Clark, Lincoln and White Pine Counties, and Washoe County (subject to paragraph 4), and Carson City, Nevada (subject to paragraph 5), pursuant to a cooperative agreement with a unit of local government."*

PTNA Subgroup Members in Attendance:

Mel Meier	Associate District Mgr	BLM, SND
Gale Fraser	Gen Mgr/ Eng	Clark County Regional Flood Control District (CCRFCDD)
Johanna Murphy	Principle Planner	City of North Las Vegas
Ron Gregory	Principle Planner	Clark County
Gary Warshefski	Deputy Super	NPS Lake Mead National Recreation Area
Rosemary Thomas	District Manager	BLM, Ely District
Christie Kalkowski	Public Affairs Officer	USFS, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Leilani Takano	Deputy Assistant Field Supervisor	USFWS, Southern Nevada Field Office
Jeremy Brooks	Management Analyst	Southern Nevada Water Authority
Gina Venglass	Engineering Project Manager	City of Las Vegas
Paul Andricopulos	Planner	City of Henderson
Laurie Carson	Commissioner	White Pine County
Elaine Zimmerman	Grants Administrator	Lincoln County
Roger Moellendorf	Director Parks and Recreation	City of Carson City
Jeff Wilbanks	Program Manager, PTNA	BLM, SND

Other Participants:

Karla Norris	Assistant District Manager	BLM, SND
Renee Price	Administrative Assistant	BLM, SND
Debora Ackerman	Database Administrator	BLM, SND
Juan Guzman	Open Space / Property Manager	City of Carson City
Connie Diso	Project Engineer	City of Las Vegas
Scott Hagen	Senior Planner	Clark County
Kathleen Blakely	Senior Analyst	Clark County
Abigail Mayrena	Senior Engineer	CCRFCDD

Others in Attendance:

Carol Bass

Special Legislation Program Manager

BLM, Ely District

Round 13 PTNA Nomination Summary

The BLM, SNPLMA Division received eight PTNA project nominations, totaling \$2,888,278 for consideration in SNPLMA Round 13.

AGENDA ITEMS

Introductions and Opening Remarks

Mel Meier called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM. Mel asked the attendees for introductions.

Jeff reviewed the meeting agenda receiving no objections or changes.

Review of Operating Guidelines and Strategic Goals

The current PTNA Subgroup Operating Guidelines were signed on August 16, 2010. Jeff reviewed each section of the Operating Guidelines with the Subgroup as follows:

- Purpose: No change.
- PTNA Strategic Goals: No change.
- Membership: No change. Leilani recommended to Jeff at the end of the meeting that the Fish and Wildlife Service representative remain as described in the current Operating Guidelines: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex.
- Roles and Responsibilities: No change.
- Working Group Member Appointment: Change: As described in the Draft Operating Guidelines with the following exception. Delete bullet #6: The City of Henderson will be the initial second Subgroup PWG representative beginning January 2012. There was discussion regarding the Desert Conservation Program (DCP) being in attendance at the subgroup meetings since they are next in the PWG representative rotation (following Henderson). Karla will contact the DCP with an invitation to attend the subgroup meetings (done).
- Working Group Member Responsibilities: No change.
- Chair Responsibilities: Change: Designate a Vice Chair for the Subgroup. The Associated District Manager, PTNA Subgroup Chair, will designate a Vice Chair to serve in the absence of the Chair. The Chair may assign the PTNA Program Manager or the Assistant District Manager, SNPLMA Division as the Vice Chair if necessary.
- Meeting Operations: No change.
- Revisions: No change.
- Approval: No change.

The Subgroup asked that the above recommended changes be incorporated into the Draft Operating Guidelines then emailed for final review.

Review Subgroup Scoring Instructions

Jeff explained the procedure for the nomination presentations and the specified time limit per entity. The scoring procedures were reviewed, stating that all final project scores, in ranking order, will be shown following the final presentation. See the Nomination Ranking and Scoring table below. The Subgroup members agreed to score 12 voting entities per nomination. The Subgroup members asked that the ranking table be sent to each member as soon as possible after the meeting. The ranking table was sent to the members on February 22, 2012.

NOMINATION RANKING AND DISCUSSION

Each local and regional governmental entity provided a presentation on their project nominations. Following these presentations the PTNA Subgroup asked questions of the project proponent, clarifying objectives and topics of interest. The project ranking was then finalized using the PTNA ranking criteria as listed in the SNPLMA Implementation Agreement. The following project summaries are in the project nomination binder tab order.

Tab 1: Boulder Creek Park and Trailhead - Amount Requested \$425,000

The City of Henderson (City) will design and construct Boulder Creek Park and Trailhead, which includes open space and park amenities, a trail segment and trailhead. The City and a property development company have contributed funds and will continue funding the remaining portions of the park and trail facilities (\$400,000). The project site is located on the west side of Boulder Highway between Equestrian Drive and Magic Way in Henderson, Nevada. The project will assist in meeting the needs of nearby residents and trail users by providing park amenities in an area deficient in outdoor recreation opportunities.

Primary Deliverables:

- Install about 4 acres of open recreational turf areas with irrigation and ancillary appurtenances
- Install decomposed granite in all non-turf landscaped areas
- Construct a parking lot, two basketball courts, a tot lot with equipment, a restroom, and one to three shade shelters
- Install trees and shrubs in landscaped areas, quantities to be determined by the available budget

Tab 2: Carson River Trail System – Eagle Valley Creek Segment - Amount Requested \$264,700

Carson City will design and construct the Eagle Valley Creek Trail segment near the Carson River between the Empire Ranch and Riverview Park in Carson City, Nevada. The segment will provide a link to existing trails, including the Carson River Trail System, and improve recreation opportunities for Carson City residents and visitors. Carson City has received an in-kind contribution for project design in the amount of \$12,000.

Primary Deliverables:

- Design and construct a 10'x12'x300' non-motorized trail segment with a decomposed granite surface
- Installation of up to two prefabricated bridges, fencing and revegetation of disturbed areas.

Tab 3: Children’s Memorial Park Splash Pad Water Feature - Amount Requested \$290,000

The City of Las Vegas will design and construct a splash pad water feature at Children’s Memorial Park located at Rainbow Boulevard and Gowan Road in Las Vegas, Nevada. The splash pad will provide a new feature for the 19 year old park, helping to meet the recreation need of surrounding community.

Primary Deliverables:

- Provide ground and structure sprays with a splash pad theme
- Splash pad water and electrical operating systems
- Fencing

Tab 4: Desert Inn Park Water Feature - Amount Requested \$255,388.00

Clark County will design and construct a small to medium sized water spray feature at the Desert Inn Park. The park is located in the Desert Inn Mobile Estates near Ellis Boulevard and Desert Inn Road in Clark County, Nevada. The water feature project will assist in meeting the recreation needs of the area residents by replacing a structurally deficient swimming pool. The County received \$211,410 in contributing funds from HUD for demolition of the swimming pool.

Primary Deliverables:

- Installation of the water spray feature
- Splash area surfacing
- Landscaping
- Fencing

Tab 5: Eldorado Park Renovation Project - Amount Requested \$620,000

The City of North Las Vegas will provide renovation design and construction for the Eldorado Park located at Camino Eldorado Boulevard and Tropical Parkway in North Las Vegas, Nevada. The renovation will improve park safety, increase ADA accessibility, and enhance the recreation experience for park visitors.

Primary Deliverables:

- Installation of shade covers over three existing picnic areas and two playground areas
- Remove and replace existing water fountains with ADA equipment
- Install rubberized play surfacing
- Install new play equipment and climbing boulders
- Install park lighting and RPPA in the irrigation system

Tab 6: Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs Trail Access - Amount Requested \$260,000

The City of Las Vegas (City) will design and construct a .6-mile connecting trail segment in Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs located near Racel Street and Durango Drive in Las Vegas, Nevada. The project may also include signage, benches, trash receptacles, and landscaping. Provision of these amenities (\$52,000) is contingent upon City and CCFCD agreement for the CCFCD to construct a portion of the trail during a concurrent project. This would allow the City

to expend SNPLMA funds for the above amenities. The project will improve access and recreational opportunities by increasing the access to the nearly completed Environmental Enhancement Areas and interior park trails.

Primary Deliverables:

- Construct a 0.6-mile, ten foot wide non-motorized asphalt trail with two foot decomposed granite shoulders.

Tab 7: Gypsum Ridge Trail Phase I - Amount Requested \$473,675.00

Clark County will design and construct the Gypsum Ridge Trail located on the east side of Gypsum Ridge approximately .5 mile west of Town Center Drive, between Tropicana Avenue and Russell Road in Clark County, Nevada. The trail is intended to address the recreation needs of the community by providing a moderately difficult trail with spectacular views of the Las Vegas Valley from an elevation of 3,400 feet. The project offers an experience similar to Camelback Mountain Trail in Phoenix, Arizona. The County has committed \$1,178,150 to construct a park/trailhead for the trail at the F-1 Flood Basin.

Primary Deliverables:

- Construct a one-mile by five to eight foot wide natural surfaced trail
- Install interpretive/educational signage and benches
- Install a ramada with interpretation at the trail terminus

Tab 8: Pioneer Park Phase II - Amount Requested \$299,515.00

Lincoln County will provide renovation design and construction for Pioneer Park located at 5th Street and Ernst Street in Panaca, Nevada. This is phase II of the park renovation with phase I currently under construction. Renovation of this 40 year old park will provide needed upgrades to outdated park facilities meeting the increasing demands of a growing Panaca population.

Primary Deliverables:

- Upgrade the baseball field lighting
- Install a shade structure over the playground equipment
- Repairs to the announcer booth
- Replace the public announcer system
- Surface the parking lot with compacted road base

Develop Ranking and Recommendation for Partners Working Group (PWG)

The Subgroup asked Jeff to draft a recommendation statement for distribution, review and finalization:

- Draft Statement: The PTNA Subgroup recommends funding all eight of the Round 13 PTNA nominations with special emphasis placed on the top four ranked nominations. The Subgroup recommends all eight for funding due to the inherent qualities of PTNA projects to be highly visible, provide an immediate public impact, and improve the quality of life for a very large population of benefactors.

PTNA NOMINATION SCORES AND RANKING TABLE

Rank	Tab	Entity	Project Name	Avg. Points	Nomination Request	Contingency
1	6	LV	Floyd Lamb Park at Tule Springs Access Trail	57.17	\$260,000.00	\$26,000.00
2	2	CR	Carson River – Eagle Valley Creek Segment	56.17	\$264,700.00	\$26,470.00
3	1	HN	Boulder Creek Park and Trailhead	55.75	\$425,000.00	\$42,500.00
3	7	CC	Gypsum Ridge Trail Phase I	55.75	\$473,675.00	\$47,368.00
4	8	LC	Pioneer Park Phase II	53.96	\$299,515.00	\$29,952.00
5	4	CC	Desert Inn Park Water Feature	51.92	\$255,388.00	\$25,539.00
6	3	LV	Children’s Memorial Park Splash Pad Water Feature	47.83	\$290,000.00	\$29,000.00
7	5	NLV	Eldorado Park Renovation	43.00	\$620,000.00	\$62,000.00
			Total Without Contingency	Out of 75 Total points	\$2,888,278.00	
			10 % Contingency for the Category as a Whole			\$288,829.00
			Total Including Contingency			\$3,177,107.00

Discuss Possible Changes to the Strategic Goals, Ranking Criteria, etc.

Strategic Goals: The Subgroup engaged in no further discussion of changes to the Operating Guidelines or Strategic Goals. The changes noted above will be written into the Operating Guidelines for review and finalization.

Ranking Criteria: The following are Subgroup recommended changes for the SNPLMA Round 14 PTNA ranking criteria. The Subgroup asked that these recommended changes be distributed to the Subgroup for review and comment. Once finalized, the revised criteria will be reviewed by the SNPLMA Division, PWG and the Executive Committee through the decision memo process for approval.

Demand: Provides a new or improves an existing park, trail, or natural area to meet the demands and changing demographics of residents and visitors.

Factors:

1. The project meets an unfilled demand or deficiency for parks, trails, or natural areas.	5
2. The project meets the need(s) of the target demographic.	5
3. The project is unique and/or significant to the region it is or will be	5

established in.	
4. The project addresses, remedies or improves a public health and safety concern(s).	5
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Resources: Protects or improves the integrity of resources (community, cultural, educational, environmental, historical, open space and recreational) while addressing the quality of the human experience.

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3. The project utilizes a sustainable design, particularly with regard to the conservation of energy, water, and materials.	5
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Total	20

Connectivity: Connects parks, trails and natural areas to form an integrated and accessible system.

Factors:

1. The project enhances connectivity or access to a regional/local park, trail, or natural area, and/or federal lands.	5
2. The park, trail, or natural area is part of an approved regional or local plan. (If no formal regional/local approved plan describes the planning process.)	5
3. The project is a direct phase of a previously approved SNPLMA project, and is useable without future enhancements.	5
Total	15 10

Open for New Business

The Subgroup asked that the SNPLMA Division contact the Desert Conservation Program (DCP) with an invitation to attend all of the subgroup meetings (done). Add DCP to the PTNA Subgroup mailing list (done).

FURTHER DISCUSSIONS, ACTION ITEMS AND DECISIONS

The Subgroup had an open discussion regarding this meeting and Round 13. Jeff will follow up with the following actions:

1. Revise the Operating Guidelines for distribution to the Subgroup to finalize (done).
2. Develop the PWG recommendation statement for distribution to the Subgroup to finalize (done).

3. Revise the PTNA ranking criteria for distribution to the Subgroup to finalize (revised and sent).
4. Send the Subgroup Nomination Ranking Table to the Subgroup members (done).
5. Draft the meeting notes for distribution to the Subgroup to finalize (done).