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Los Angeles District

# Virgin River Watershed Analysis

May 24, 2007- Mesquite, NV

- Study Updates
- Networking
- Watershed Planning Objectives



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# FY 2006 Civil Works Watershed Assessments

2006 Energy and Water Appropriations (PL 109-103) Directs the Secretary to conduct:

*“at full federal expense, comprehensive analyses that examine multi-jurisdictional use and management of water resources on a watershed or regional scale”*

## 5 Projects Nationwide

- Great Lakes Habitat Protection and Restoration
- Delaware River Basin, NY, PA, NJ and DE
- Comprehensive Water Resource Planning for the 18 Western States
- Middle Mississippi River (MMR) Regional Corridor
- Virgin River and Tributaries – Utah, Arizona and Nevada

[http://www.usace.army.mil/civilworks/ccwcp/news/watershed\\_06.html](http://www.usace.army.mil/civilworks/ccwcp/news/watershed_06.html)



# August 2006, Planning Exercise

## What are the biggest problems facing the watershed?

- Floodplain management
- Land use planning
- Invasive species
- Water availability
- River function (habitat, endangered species, channel maintenance)

## How do you recognize successful watershed management?

- Cooperation-lack of conflict
- Floodplain management/mitigation
- Healthy functioning ecosystem
- Effective planning tools (monitoring)
- Knowing/understanding resources

## During the next 10 years what could be done to improve watershed management in the Virgin River Watershed?

- Develop watershed wide plan
- Invasive species/vegetation/habitat management
- Managing urban encroachment
- Public education, outreach, and involvement of locals





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# Major Issues

Floodplain Management

Land Use Planning

Invasive Species

Endangered Species

Water Supply





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# Common Themes

“Not another Federal Report”

Communication/Cooperation

Useful tools/information

Borders/Boundaries

Funding Constraints





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# Virgin River Watershed Analysis

## Watershed Needs Analysis

- Describe past/ongoing efforts, reports
- Provide contacts
- Include lessons learned
- Define unmet needs



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# Virgin River Watershed Analysis

## Floodplain management strategy:

- Integrated approach (**systemic**)
- Review 2005 flooding/reports
- Post **fire** information
- Floodplain mgmt **guidelines**
- **Flood risk** management
- Land use recommendations
- **Communication** plan
- Sediment/debris
- Flood mitigation **options**
- No Adverse Impact





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## Watershed Strategy:

- Coordination/Communication **Plan**
- Invasive species strategy (toolbox)
- **Priorities**
- **Implementation Plan**





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# Reports

## Interim and Final Reports

- Participants
- What were the expectations, were they met?
- Products
- Challenges
- Lessons learned
- How will collaborative efforts continue
- Recommendations

