

SPRING MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT



USDA Forest Service Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

September 2004

Issue 1

Who's on the Landscape Assessment Team?

Experts, both within and outside the agency, including biologists, social scientists, archeologists, recreation specialists, planners, and many others.

Landscape Assessment Timeline

The landscape assessment process started in March 2004, and will be completed by the middle of 2006. However, projects will not be implemented until we finish environmental assessments.

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What is a Landscape Assessment?

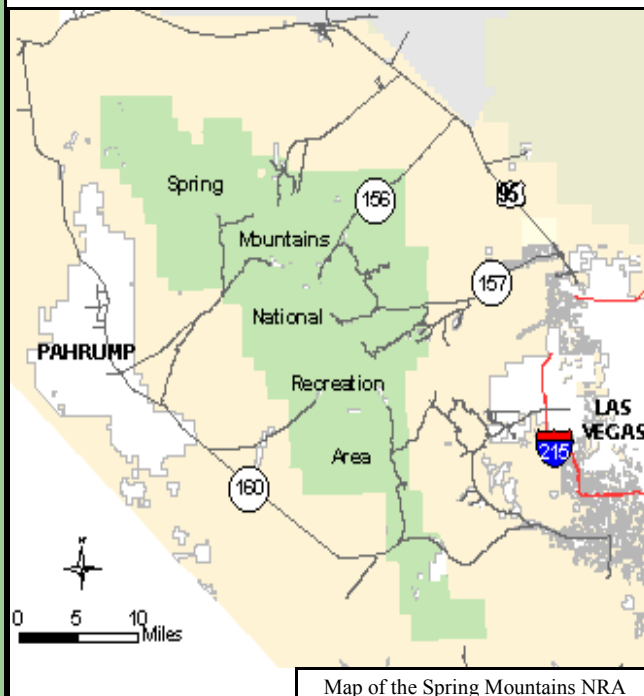
The Spring Mountains National Recreation Area (NRA), more commonly known to locals as Mt. Charleston, is developing an ecological landscape assessment for its entire 316,000 acres. A landscape assessment is a study to evaluate and characterize:

- social
- biological
- and physical elements of the forest.

Primary focuses will target past management actions and gathering information about historical resources, fire history, facilities, and transportation systems.

Why Prepare a Landscape Assessment?

Just 30 minutes from downtown Las Vegas, the cool mountain range makes a great getaway from the city's fast pace. Las Vegas' phenomenal population growth and its increasing



Map of the Spring Mountains NRA



Spring Mountains Range

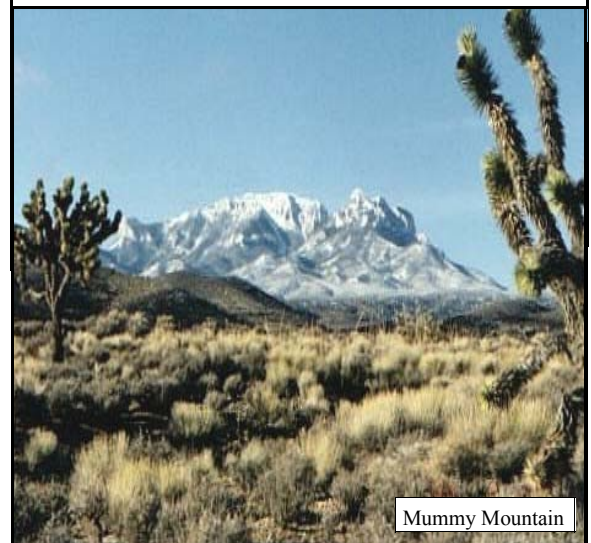
outdoor demands are greatly affecting the Spring Mountains NRA's precious natural resources. The Spring Mountains NRA is not only a sought-after location for public enjoyment, but is a critically important habitat for numerous plant and animal species that are only found here. The greatest challenge in managing the Spring Mountains NRA's annual two million visitors is providing both quality recreation and protecting this special forest environment.

What Are Some Possible Landscape Assessment Outcomes?

Managers will use assessment information as a strategic tool for creating and prioritizing future projects. For example:

- The **social study** will better explain visitors' wants and needs.
- The **biological study** will gather information about plant and animal species, habitats, and what is needed to sustain the Spring Mountains NRA.
- The **physical study** will provide much needed facts about soils, water, and geology.

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Mummy Mountain

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TO:

How Can I Stay Informed?

To ensure that all interested parties are provided appropriate and timely information, a public website will be available by the end of 2004. In addition, a newsletter will be distributed twice a year.

A workshop will be held to celebrate the completion of the Landscape Assessment. During this event, the landscape assessment results will be shared and discussed through booths, presentations, and visuals. A User Guide describing the results of the Landscape Assessment will be distributed. Additional meetings and briefings will be held upon request.

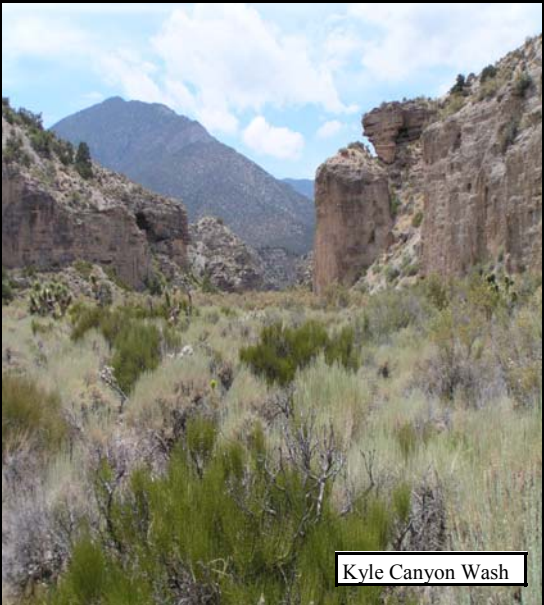
For further information, please contact Beth Short at 702-839-5567 or send an email to smnra_landscape_assessment@fs.fed.us

Other Planning Efforts

At the same time as the Landscape Assessment, a comprehensive plan is being created for a permanent information and recreation center. The Spring Mountains Information and Recreation Center will be constructed at the recently acquired Nel Property, which is located at the entrance of lower Kyle Canyon. Both projects will be conducted independently, but the data, public information, and comprehensive findings will complement and enhance each planning effort.



Lower Kyle Canyon



Kyle Canyon Wash

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