

**Bureau of Land Management
Environmental Assessment:
South Hollywood Desert
Cleanup**

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Chapter 1. Introduction

1.1. Identifying Information:

1.1.1. Title, EA number, and type of project:

South Hollywood Desert Cleanup, DOI-BLM-NV-S010-2010-0192-EA

1.1.2. Location of Proposed Action:

South Hollywood Desert Cleanup

Location:

East of Hollywood between Sahara and Russell in the Las Vegas Valley

Legal Description:

Mt. Diablo Meridian

T. 21 R. 62:

Section 11 E2 & SW4

Section 12 (all)

Section 13 (all)

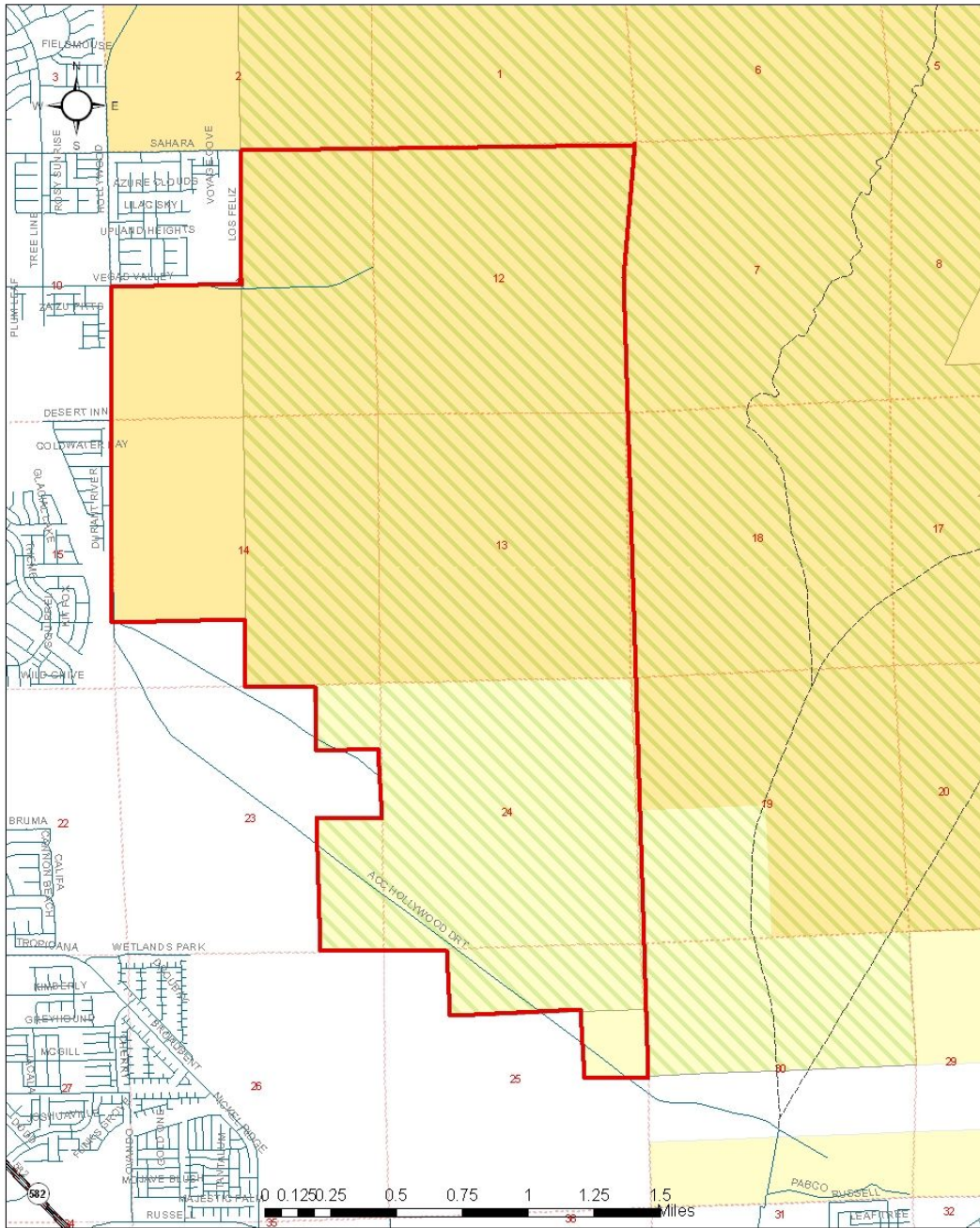
Section 14 all except S2SW4

Section 24 (all)

Section 23 NE4NE4 & E2SE4

Section 25 N2NE4 & NE4NW4

South Hollywood Cleanup Map



Land Status			
Bureau of Indian Affairs	Clark County, Nevada	Forest Service	Cultural ACEC
Bureau of Land Management	Department of Defense	National Park Service	Cultural/Biological ACEC
Bureau of Reclamation	Department of Energy	Nevada State	Desert Tortoise ACEC
City of Las Vegas	Fish and Wildlife Service	Private	Desert Tortoise/Cultural ACEC
	Biological ACEC		

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1.1.3. Name and Location of Preparing Office:

Lead Office - Las Vegas FO and number LLNVS01000

1.1.4. Applicant Name:

Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation

1.2. Purpose and Need for Action:

The purpose for this project is to remove illegally dumped materials from Bureau of Land Management and adjacent Bureau of Reclamation lands. Illegal dumping is a public health and safety issue which is continually growing on public lands in and around the Las Vegas Valley.

The BLM need for this project is to comply with the Las Vegas RMP section AR-1 and its requirement to comply with local, state, and federal regulations; the Reclamation need for this project is to comply with applicable Reclamation Manual Policy and Directives and Standards as well as all applicable federal, state and local regulations related to hazardous materials. Clark County PM-10 Regulations Section 90 requires measures to be taken to limit disturbance on vacant lands due to illegal dumping.

1.3. Scoping, Public Involvement and Issues:

No scoping issues were identified.

Chapter 2. Proposed Action and Alternatives

2.1. Description of the Proposed Action:

All sections addressed in this document have experienced repeated and historical illegal dumping, resulting in complaints from the public, Clark County Code Enforcement and the Southern Nevada Health District. BLM will coordinate with Bureau of Reclamation in the hand removal and mechanized cleanup of several washes and heavily disturbed areas within the proposed area beginning December, 2010. BLM has assumed lead status for NEPA and other compliance (see attached memoranda). All mechanized cleanup will be limited to existing rights of way and areas previously disturbed by motor vehicles. Any dumpsters will be placed on existing roads in disturbed areas. Waste will be removed in roll-off dumpsters and disposed of in an approved landfill. Any benign soil separated from waste will be deposited in existing human-created excavations outside of areas with resource conflicts. Items will be removed from washes and brought to existing roads for pickup by mechanized equipment; no mechanized equipment will be driven in washes or sensitive areas. No new disturbance will be generated by these cleanup efforts. Crews will be educated as to biological and cultural sensitivities regarding this area (i.e. desert tortoise, bear poppy, cultural sites) and mitigation measures outlined for these issues. Any illegally dumped large rocks or concrete slabs extracted during the cleanup will be used to berm along existing legal roads to prevent future penetration into this area by unauthorized vehicles. No right of way access will be affected. If necessary, a Clark County dust permit will be obtained.

2.2. Description of Alternatives Analyzed in Detail:

No Action Alternative

Under the no action alternative, dumped materials would continue to accumulate unabated.

No other alternatives were analyzed for this project.

2.3. Alternatives Considered but not Analyzed in Detail

No other alternatives were considered.

2.4. Conformance

The EA is in conformance with the NV Las Vegas RMP.

Date Approved: October 5, 1998

The proposed action is in conformance with the Las Vegas Resource Management Plan (RMP) and comply with the following objectives and management direction:

AR-1-b — Permit only those activities on BLM-administered lands that are consistent with Federal, Stat, and local air quality standards and regulations. Require that all appropriate air quality permits are obtained before BLM approval of an action is granted. Where applicable, demonstrate how proposed management actions comply with local, state, tribal and Federal air quality laws, regulations and standards.

VG-2-a — Rehabilitate, reclaim, or re-vegetate areas subjected to surface disturbing activities, where feasible. When rehabilitation disturbed areas, manage for optimum species diversity by seeding native species, except where non-native species are appropriate.

Clark County Air Quality Regulations Section 90— Fugitive Dust from Open Areas and Vacant Lots — If open areas and vacant lots are 5,000 square feet or larger and are disturbed by any means, including use by motor vehicles, off-road motor vehicles or material dumping, then the owner/operator of such open areas and vacant lots shall implement one or more of the control measures described in Subsection 90.2.1.1. Subsection 90.2.1.1(a) describes control measures that can include barriers, fences, gates, posts, signs, etc.

Chapter 3. Affected Environment:

Internal Affected Resources Form and Comments Below:

DETERMINATION OF STAFF: (Choose one of the following abbreviated options for the left column)

- NP = not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions
- NI = present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required
- PI = present with potential for relevant impact that need to be analyzed in detail in the EA

Table 3.1. Affected Resources Form

Deter- mina- tion	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Digital check off	Date
NI	Air Resources	No Issues	Lisa Christianson, Air Resources Specialist	09/13/2010
NI	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	See EA language below.	Jessie Stegmeier	10/19/2010
NP	BLM Natural Areas	The proposed action is located within T. 21 R. 62, as depicted on the map (legal description stating R. 63 is inconsistent and incorrect — please rectify). There are no such designations within the District.	Sendi Kalcic	09/21/2010
NP	Cultural Resources	No issues. Clean up modern/recent trash only.	Susanne Rowe	09/29/2010

NI	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Currently there are no emission limits for suspected Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, and no technically defensible methodology for predicting potential climate changes from GHG emissions. However, there are, and will continue to be, several efforts to address GHG emissions from federal activities, including BLM authorized uses.	Lisa Christianson, Air Resources Specialist	09/13/2010
NP	Environmental Justice	No minority or low-income communities are present in project area.	John Evans	09/16/2010
NP	Farmlands (Prime or Unique)	There are no prime or unique farmland designations in our district.	Krystal Johnson	09/17/2010
NI	Fish and Wildlife Excluding Federally Listed Species	See EA language below.	Jessie Stegmeier	10/19/2010
NP	Floodplains	Not present	Sarah Peterson	9/16/2010
NI	Fuels/Fire Management	No Impacts.	Greg Marfil	9/16/2010
NI	Geology / Mineral Resources/Energy Production	No mining claims or mining operations present. Mineral materials will not be severed from the property by this action. If excavation that produces mineral materials within the ROW is necessary, the mineral materials must be used within the ROW or stockpiled on site for disposal by the BLM. If mineral materials are to be stockpiled on site for disposal, the disposal of the mineral materials must be analyzed in this NEPA document.	Evan Allen	9/16/2010
NI	Hydrologic Conditions	Areas are previously disturbed due to dumping activities. No impact	Sarah Peterson	9/16/2010

NI	Invasive Species/ Noxious Weeds	Standard stipulations for weed mitigation apply. It is important that personnel rid their clothing and equipment of vegetation and seeds before exiting the sites daily. Any weeds to be deposited in the dumpster shall be bagged.	Nora Caplette	9/15/10
NI	Lands/Access	No issues.	Kerri-Anne Thorpe	9/16/2010
NP	Livestock Grazing	The proposed site is not located in an authorized grazing allotment.	Krystal Johnson	09/17/2010
NI	Migratory Birds	As there will be no new surface disturbance associated with the proposed action, there will be no impact on migratory birds.	Jessie Stegmeier	10/19/2010
NP	Native American Religious Concerns	No issues. Indian Trust Assets not identified in the project area; no impacts to ITA are anticipated.	Susanne Rowe Faye Streier (Bureau of Reclamation representative	09/29/2010
NP	Paleontology	No issues.	Susanne Rowe	09/29/2010
NI	Rangeland Health Standards	The proposed site cleanup will not negatively impact rangeland health standards, due to the previous disturbance that has already occurred in this area.	Krystal Johnson	09/17/2010
NI	Recreation	No issues.	Marilyn Peterson	9/23/2010
NI	Socio-Economics	This project will not adversely nor beneficially impact social or economic values.	John Evans	09/16/2010
NI	Soils	Areas are previously disturbed due to dumping activities. No impact	Sarah Peterson	9/16/2010
NP	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Plant Species	Not present.	Katie Kleinick	10/12/2010

PI	Threatened, Endangered or Candidate Animal Species	Comment will be provided after receiving letter from Bureau of Reclamation and BLM concurs. See EA language below and attached Terms and Conditions.	Jessie Stegmeier	10/19/2010 11/9/2010
	Wastes (hazardous or solid)	Reclamation regional hazardous materials coordinator, having visited the site several times, identified no hazardous materials but abundant solid waste	Faye Streier (Bureau of Reclamation representative)	11/19/2010
NI	Water Resources/ Quality (drinking/ surface/ground)	Areas are previously disturbed due to dumping activities. No impact	Sarah Peterson	9/16/2010
NP	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	Not present	Sarah Peterson	9/16/2010
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers	Not present	Marilyn Peterson	9/23/2010
NP	Wilderness/WSA	The proposed action is located within T. 21 R. 62, as depicted on the map (legal description stating R. 63 is inconsistent and incorrect — please rectify). The proposed action is not located within designated Wilderness, WSAs, or ISAs.	Sendi Kalcic	09/21/2010
NI	Woodland / Forestry	Cactus and yucca are considered government property and regulated under the BLM Nevada forestry program. As the proposed action will not result in any surface or vegetation disturbance and vehicles and equipment will be restricted to established roads and other disturbed areas, no impacts to cactus and yucca are expected. The proposed action will have an overall benefit to cactus	Katie Kleinick	10/12/2010

		and yuccas and their habitat.		
NI	Vegetation Excluding Federally Listed Species	The proposed cleanup is in Las Vegas Bearpoppy (<i>Arctomecon californica</i>) habitat. However, as the proposed action will not result in any surface or vegetation disturbance and vehicles and equipment will be restricted to established roads and other disturbed areas, no impacts are expected. If Las Vegas Bearpoppy is observed in the area of activity, care will be taken by crews to avoid impacts. The proposed action will have an overall benefit to plant species and their habitat.	Katie Kleinick	10/12/2010
NI	Visual Resources	The proposed action is located within T. 21 R. 62, as depicted on the map (legal description stating R. 63 is inconsistent and incorrect — please rectify). The proposed action is located within and meets the objectives for VRM Class III. The activity will be limited to previously disturbed areas and no change to the landscape will occur. Activities are temporary in nature and will not dominate the view of the casual observer.	Sendi Kalcic	09/21/2010
NP	Wild Horses and Burros	The proposed cleanup site is not located in an active herd management area.	Krystal Johnson	09/17/2010

NP	Areas with Wilderness Characteristics	<p>The proposed action is located within T. 21 R. 62, as depicted on the map (legal description stating R. 63 is inconsistent and incorrect — please rectify). The proposed action is located within an area which was inventoried and completed the requirements for wilderness characteristics analysis and recommendations per Section 603 of FLPMA. The following is a summary of the Wilderness Inventory Unit (WIU) Number/Name and determination:</p> <p>NV-050-04R-16/East Vegas the entire unit was dropped from further wilderness consideration following the initial inventory.</p> <p>NV-050-420/Sunrise Mountain the entire unit was dropped from further wilderness consideration following the initial inventory.</p>	Sendi Kalcic	09/21/2010

ACEC

The proposed action is within the Rainbow Gardens ACEC. The Rainbow Gardens ACEC is 37,620 acres and contains geological, scientific, scenic, cultural and sensitive plant values. Reclamation land does not have an ACEC designation.

Wildlife

The proposed project area supports and is adjacent to lands that support wildlife characteristic of the Mojave Desert. Biological diversity varies according to topography, plant community, and proximity to water, soil type, and season.

Several common species of reptiles that may be present in the vicinity of the proposed project site may include the western whip-tail (*Cnemidophorus tigris*), desert iguana (*Dipsosaurus dorsalis*), side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*), zebra-tail lizard (*Callisaurus draconoides*), desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*), western shovel-nosed snake (*Chionactis occipitalis*) and garter snake (*Thamnophis sp.*).

Common bird species that may be present in the vicinity of the proposed project site may include the rock wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus*), black-throated sparrow (*Amphispiza bilineata*), turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), common raven (*Corvus corax*), phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), and western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*).

Common mammal species include the black-tailed hare (*Lepus californicus*), the desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), badger (*Taxidea taxus*), kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis*) and many species of rodents.

BLM Sensitive Wildlife Species

BLM sensitive species are species that require special management consideration to avoid potential future listing under ESA and that have been identified in accordance with procedures set forth in BLM Manual 6840. The following sensitive species are known to potentially occur within the parcel: phainopepla and western burrowing owl.

Western burrowing owl (*Athene cuniculari hypugaea*)

The Western burrowing owl is a diurnal bird of prey specialized for grassland and shrubsteppe habitats in western North America. The owls are widely distributed throughout the Americas and can be found from central Alberta, Canada to Tierra del Fuego in South America. Burrowing owl habitat typically consists of open, dry, treeless areas on plains, prairies, and desert floors. Burrowing owls most frequently use mammal burrows created by other animals such as prairie dogs (*Cynomys spp.*), ground squirrels (*Spermophilus spp.*), coyotes (*Canis latrans*) or desert tortoises (*Gopherus agassizii*). The burrows are used for nesting, roosting, cover, and caching prey. In recent decades, the range and species count have been declining primarily due to agricultural, industrial, and urban development that reduce burrow availability.

Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*)

The phainopepla is a song bird of glossy black coloration in males and grey coloration in females. Both have a slender tail and a crested head. The bird resides in the desert scrub, mesquite, juniper and oak woodland, tall brush, riparian woodland and orchards. During spring breeding season its range includes central California, southern Nevada, southern Utah, southern New Mexico, and western Texas, south to southern Baja California, and central mainland of Mexico. It winters in southern California, southern Nevada, central Arizona, southern New Mexico, western and southern Texas. The population of the phainopepla is secure worldwide, but the modest population in Nevada has made it a NNHP and State of Nevada Species of Concern.

Threatened, Endangered Species

Threatened and endangered species are placed on a federal list by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and receive protection under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended. The only T&E species known to occur in the vicinity of the project area is the threatened desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*). In the Mojave region, the desert tortoise occurs primarily on flats and bajadas with soils ranging from sand to sandy-gravel characterized by

scattered shrubs and abundant inter-shrub space for herbaceous plant growth. They are also found on rocky terrain and slopes. Historical survey data indicates that the area surrounding the project site is low density tortoise habitat. A site visit to the area conducted by BLM Wildlife Biologist indicates that although the area of activity is highly disturbed, the site is adjacent to large tracts of undisturbed tortoise habitat.

Historical survey data indicates that the area surrounding the project site is low density tortoise habitat. Desert tortoise survey data conducted for the preparation of the Disposal Boundary EIS indicates there are multiple tortoise burrows located within the project site. A site visit to the area conducted by BLM Wildlife Biologist and GBI Natural Resource Specialist indicates that although the area of activity is highly disturbed, the site is adjacent to large tracts of undisturbed tortoise habitat.

Chapter 4. Environmental Effects:

ACEC

As there will be no new surface disturbance associated with the proposed action, there will be no impact on the Rainbow Gardens ACEC. The proposed action will have an overall benefit to the values of this ACEC by removing trash and debris from the area.

WILDLIFE

Although there is no new surface disturbance associated with this project, direct impacts associated with mortality of wildlife from vehicular traffic may result during cleanup events. The proposed action will have an overall benefit to wildlife species and their habitat.

BLM Sensitive Wildlife Species

Western burrowing owl (*Athene cuniculari hypugaea*) and Phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*)

Potential western burrowing owl and phainopepla habitat occurs adjacent to the project area. Direct loss of individuals is not anticipated as there is no new surface or vegetative disturbance. Upon completion of the proposed action, habitat will be enhanced.

Threatened, Endangered Species

No new surface or vegetation disturbance will occur and all vehicles will remain within existing roadways and turnouts. Use of heavy equipment will be restricted to existing disturbed areas.

Although this project will not create new surface disturbance, it is adjacent to undisturbed, contiguous habitat wherein potential corridors for tortoise entry exist. Since tortoise sign has been found in the vicinity and undisturbed habitat exists in the area, there is potential for tortoises to wander into the project area. If not noticed and avoided during maintenance activities, desert tortoises could be either injured or killed (by crushing) or harassed (by being moved out of harm's way).

The proposed action is to occur on BLM and Bureau of Reclamation administered lands; as noted in the attached correspondence between the two agencies, BLM is taking the lead for NEPA and Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance. ESA Section 7 Consultation for this project is covered under the Las Vegas Valley Biological Opinion (1-5-96-F-23R.3) contingent on compliance with the attached terms and conditions.

Minimization measures in the above biological opinion contain measures to reduce potential impacts to desert tortoise. Additionally, compliance with the special stipulations below will help to ensure that no affect to desert tortoises occurs.

- 1) A speed limit of 25 miles per hour shall be required for all vehicles travelling on the existing access roads.
- 2) Should a desert tortoise enter the area of activity, all activity shall cease until such time as the animal has left the area of its own accord.
- 3) Workers will be instructed to check underneath all vehicles before moving them as tortoises often take cover underneath parked vehicles.

Chapter 5. Tribes, Individuals, Organizations, or Agencies Consulted:

Table 5.1. List of Persons, Agencies and Organizations Consulted

Name	Purpose & Authorities for Consultation or Coordination	Findings & Conclusions
Jason Kirby	Bureau of Reclamation	Cooperative, coordinated effort
Faye Streier	Bureau of Reclamation	Cooperative, coordinated effort
Marc Maynard	Bureau of Reclamation	Cooperative, coordinated effort

Chapter 6. List of Preparers

Table 6.1. List of Preparers

Name	Title	Responsible for the Following Section(s) of this Document
Sedona Maniak	Desert Cleanup Coordinator	Team Lead, Author, Editor
Eric Delynko	Air Quality Technician	Author, Editor