



United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
National Headquarters
Washington, DC 20240
<https://www.blm.gov>



DECISION DOCUMENT

ROUND 20 and an Off-Cycle Land Acquisition¹ Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act

The Secretary of the Department of the Interior hereby approves the estimated expenditures from the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act, as amended (SNPLMA), Public Law 105-263, special Treasury account and other authorizations outlined below, with the provisos as stated.

1. Authorize the total expenditure of \$325,277,696 from the SNPLMA special Treasury account for Round 20, including estimated expenditures of:

Expenditure Category	Projects	Total Recommended Funding
Capital Improvements	5	\$32,376,763
Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan	3	\$4,098,664
Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas	14	\$235,255,466
Conservation Initiatives	5	\$23,008,916
Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project	2	\$4,836,638
Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention	6	\$25,701,259
Category Totals	35	\$325,277,696
Special Account Reserve		\$50,000,000
Total Round 20 Recommendation		\$375,277,696

¹ Off-cycle Land Acquisition – a high value land acquisition opportunity requested outside of the normal round process.

Attachment A lists the projects recommended for funding by the SNPLMA Executive Committee (EC).

- a. Authorize an additional \$335,045 for the United States Forest Service's off-cycle "Thomas Creek Canyon Ranch" high value Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisition that occurred outside of the Round 20 process. The project will allow the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest to acquire approximately 19 acres. The additional lands will consolidate National Forest System lands, protect wildlife, riparian, and wetland areas, and expand recreational access to public lands.
- b. All project funds not expended to complete the projects will be returned to the SNPLMA special Treasury account to be used for future rounds, the Special Account Reserve (SAR), and other authorized purposes. No reallocation of excess funds to previously approved projects is authorized.
- c. Authorization for expenditures for projects submitted in Round 20 as set forth in this Decision Document will not be construed as a final approval for any expenditure. The amounts authorized herein are not approved for expenditure unless and until all requisite procedures are followed as outlined in this document and in the *SNPLMA Implementation Agreement*.
- d. The estimated cost for land acquisitions under the Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisition category reflects the owner's asking price plus estimated costs for other necessary expenses such as appraisals and case management but does not reflect the actual value of any property or the actual price to be paid for any property. The actual purchase price will be based on the appraised fair market value determined consistent with appraisal requirements outlined in the *SNPLMA Implementation Agreement*. Acquisitions of land and interests in land using funds from the SNPLMA special Treasury account will be made in all cases from willing sellers and will comply with the land acquisition authorities of the acquiring agency or entity. Acquisitions by the United States will also comply with the guidance for such acquisitions established by the Department of Justice. Final purchase of any property, including final determination of the purchase price, will depend upon successful completion of the acquisition process under these authorities, as well as the *SNPLMA Implementation Agreement*.
- e. For projects that will be performed by Federal agencies, no amount authorized herein will be an amount approved for expenditure until the following have been met:
 - i. A notice of availability of funding has been issued.
 - ii. A work plan has been submitted by the proponent and accepted by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The work plan will set forth a schedule of milestones with associated expenditures.

- f. For projects that will be performed by non-federal entities, no amount authorized herein will be an amount approved for expenditure until all the following have been met:
 - i. A notice of availability of funding has been issued.
 - ii. A cooperative agreement or grant between the recipient entity and the BLM or other Federal agency has been fully executed.
 - iii. A work plan has been submitted by the proponent and accepted by the BLM or other Federal agency. The work plan must set forth a schedule of milestones with associated expenditures.
 - iv. The starting point for an identified deliverable and its associated funding start date has been reached.
2. Authorize the establishment of a reserve within the SNPLMA special Treasury account in the amount of \$50,000,000 for expenditure at the discretion of the EC toward allowable expenditures under the SNPLMA and in accordance with the *SNPLMA Implementation Agreement*. The Round 20 SAR availability would expire when the Secretary approves the Round 21 SAR. These SAR funds are authorized to address unexpected shortfalls between estimated and actual costs for approved projects and respond to unique opportunities or unanticipated circumstances that require immediate action. All expenditures from the SAR will be undertaken in compliance with established procedures and internal controls as well as all applicable laws, regulations, and policies. Funds in the SAR that are not obligated or allocated upon the approval of the Round 21 SAR would be returned to the SNPLMA special Treasury account for allocation in future rounds.
3. Simultaneously approve the use of financial assistance agreements in support of SNPLMA projects to meet any requirements for additional review by the Department of the Interior and/or the BLM. This review requirement would apply to the SNPLMA non-federal cooperative agreements for the Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas; Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Program; Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Project; and Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Prevention categories. Absent a simultaneous approval to release funds for projects that would be funded through grants or cooperative agreements, those projects may be required to undergo additional reviews. As such, non-federal partners with approved projects in one of the listed categories would likely experience unnecessary delays with the implementation of their projects.
4. Authorize the expenditure of that portion of the SNPLMA special Treasury account on one or more SNPLMA Round 20 projects where the revenue in the SNPLMA special Treasury account was generated from land sales in the Mesquite Lands Act,

Public Law 99-548, amended by Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002, Public Law 107-282, title IX, section 901.²

5. Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR 800, the funding recipient entity is directed to initiate consultation with State Historic Preservation Officers, brief the BLM SNPLMA Program on all findings and determinations required under the NHPA, and ultimately demonstrate NHPA compliance to the BLM SNPLMA Program prior to initiation of project implementation. Non-federal funding recipient entities should contact the BLM SNPLMA Program upon award for direction and assistance in completing NHPA requirements. Project implementation cannot begin until the BLM SNPLMA Program confirms all or part of the project area NHPA compliance requirements have been completed. At the discretion of the BLM SNPLMA Program, project implementation may be phased if NHPA compliance requirements for each phase have been completed before implementation of that phase begins, and if the integrity of any historic property or property eligible for listing on the National Register within the larger project area is maintained. Non-compliance with this paragraph will result in project termination in part or in whole.
6. Reiterate the expectation that approved projects will be implemented in accordance with the project purpose and deliverables and within the timeframe specified in the project nomination, with appropriate time allocated for project startup and closeout as agreed upon in the work plan approved by the BLM. Requests for extension of time for project completion should be considered exceptions to the expected practice of timely implementation of projects and therefore limited in number and scope.

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² Title IX, section 901 (3) Use of Proceeds states the funds can be used by (A) BLM to dispose of the lands that generated the funds, directed by this section; (B) develop a multispecies habitat conservation plan (MSHCP) for the Virgin River, including for a groundwater monitoring plan; and (C) use of the funds as described in SNPLMA 4(e)(3). SNPLMA 4(e)(3) includes funding for projects.

There are no additional lands to dispose of under this act. Additionally, in 2023 the FWS confirmed funding was not needed for the MSHCP and the ground water plan had been completed. Thus in 2023 the EC recommended the remaining funds be used for Round 20 projects.

SECRETARY'S DECISION

- APPROVE Expenditure for All Projects and the SAR as recommended
- APPROVE Expenditure for Certain Projects and the SAR, as described below
- APPROVE Expenditure for All Projects and a portion of the SAR, as described below
- APPROVE Expenditure for Certain Projects and a portion of the SAR, as described below
- DISAPPROVE Expenditure for All Projects and the SAR

COMMENT:

OCT 31 2024
Date


Deb Haaland

Priority Ranking	Project Title	Requesting Entity	Amount Requested	Project Duration (Years)	Cooperative Agreement (Yes/No)
Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisition Proposal					
1	Thomas Creek Canyon Ranch	United States Forest Service	\$335,045	3	No
Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisition Proposal Total:					
			\$335,045		
Capital Improvements Proposals					
1	Construct Campground and Improve Recreational Access in Strawberry Creek	NPS	\$4,198,668	5	No
2	Public Restrooms and Drinking Water System Modernization and Expansion	BOR	\$11,959,570	5	No
3	Hoover Dam Visitor Tour Route Refurbishment	BOR	\$10,955,640	5	No
4	Bristlecone Trail Reconstruction	United States Forest Service	\$3,269,150	5	No
5	Cathedral Rock Trail Reconstruction	United States Forest Service	\$1,993,725	5	No
			\$71,993,239		
Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Program Proposals					
1	Connectivity Management Plan Implementation	Clark County	\$948,664	5	Yes
2	Tule Springs Enhancement and Wildlife Protection	Clark County	\$2,500,000	5	Yes
3	Boulder City Conservation Easement Translocation Plan Update	Clark County	\$650,000	5	Yes
			\$4,098,664		

Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Proposals

1	Wetlands Park Enhancements	Clark County	\$19,311,943	5	Yes
2	Morrell Park Renovation	Henderson	\$18,583,513	5	Yes
3	Downtown Park Renovation	Henderson	\$16,475,834	5	Yes
4	Mills Park Master Plan Implementation	Carson City	\$14,917,800	5	Yes
5	Mountain's Edge Regional Park Phase II	Clark County	\$43,618,352	5	Yes
6	Valley View Park Renovation	North Las Vegas	\$7,471,227	5	Yes
7	North Maine Softball Complex Upgrade	Churchill County	\$9,947,810	5	Yes
8	Multi-Sport Complex	Lincoln County	\$27,339,462	5	Yes
9	Bettye Wilson Soccer Complex Upgrades	Las Vegas	\$19,300,000	5	Yes
10	Warm Springs Natural Area Wildlife and Bird Viewing Tower	Southern Nevada Water Authority	\$1,000,000	5	Yes
11	Craig Ranch Regional Park Improvements	North Las Vegas	\$21,199,200	5	Yes
12	Las Vegas Wash Restoration Activities	Southern Nevada Water Authority	\$1,048,553	5	Yes
13	3C Recreational Complex Expansion	Churchill County	\$32,355,772	5	Yes
14	Pioche Main Street Linear Park	Lincoln County	\$2,686,000	5	Yes
Parks, Trails, and Natural Areas Proposals Total:			\$235,255,466		

Priority Ranking	Project Title	Requesting Entity	Amount Requested	Project Duration (Years)	Cooperative Agreement (Yes/No)
Conservation Initiatives Proposals					
1	Promoting Native Plants for Restoration, Landscaping, and Water Conservation	FWS	\$5,111,240	5	No
2	Improving Recreational Fishing Opportunities and Native Trout Conservation	NPS	\$1,939,062	5	No
3	Wildlife Water Reestablishment for Desert Bighorn Sheep Conservation	FWS	\$1,858,117	5	No
4	Landscape-level Migration Monitoring, Outreach, and Restoration	FWS	\$5,435,854	5	No
5	Managing Illegal Roads to Protect Recreation, Safety, and Resources: Phase 1	NPS	\$8,664,643	5	No
Conservation Initiatives Proposals Total: \$23,008,916					
Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Proposals					
1	Cooperative Weed Management, Restoration, and Outreach	United States Forest Service	\$1,973,458	5	Yes
2	North Schell Phase III	United States Forest Service	\$2,863,180	5	No
Eastern Nevada Landscape Restoration Proposals Total: \$4,836,638					

Hazardous Fuels and Wildfire Prevention Proposals						
1	National Resilience Corridors, Phase II	United States Forest Service	\$3,818,755	6	No	
2	Mount Charleston Hazardous Fuels Reduction	United States Forest Service	\$3,192,550	6	No	
3	Utility Corridors Resilience - Zone 2 and Zone 3, Phase II	United States Forest Service	\$10,219,650	6	No	
4	Clear Creek Defense Zone	Carson City Fire Department	\$2,782,816	6	Yes	
5	Meadow Restoration and Fuels Reduction	United States Forest Service	\$2,133,825	6	No	
6	Little Valley Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Wildfire Mitigation & Fire-Adapted Forest Restoration	University of Nevada Reno	\$3,553,663	6	Yes	
Hazardous Fuels and Wildfire Prevention Proposals Total:			\$25,701,259			
All Categories Total:			\$325,612,741			
Special Account Reserve:			\$50,000,000			
Round 20 Total Budget:			\$375,612,741			