



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

CITATION

PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION AWARD

LAS VEGAS WASH COORDINATION COMMITTEE

In recognition of the outstanding contributions of the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee, a partnership of 30 local, state, and Federal agencies, environmental groups, business owners, and concerned citizens, that collaboratively transformed an environmental blight into an important ecological resource for Southern Nevada. Early in its 11 year history, the Committee created the Las Vegas Wash Comprehensive Adaptive Management Plan containing 44 specific actions related to water quality, habitat management, erosion control, and other key Wash issues. The Plan serves as the basis from which to implement the actions and as a guidance instrument from which to develop long-term management strategies with full stakeholder involvement. Accomplishments include channel stabilization, re-vegetation, water quality improvement, wildlife monitoring, cultural resource management, and creating one of the most unique wetlands parks in the country. Nearly 200 million gallons of water move through the Wash each day, eroding the banks of the Wash, destabilizing the channel, and increasing sedimentation in Lake Mead. To protect the Wash from further erosion, 22 erosion control structures are planned. There are now 12 weirs along a 6-mile section of the Wash, with an additional three constructed by the National Park Service near Lake Mead. The Bureau of Reclamation construction crews have fortified more than 27,000 linear feet of shoreline with concrete and rock rip-rap that is often recycled from imploded or remodeled casinos along Las Vegas Boulevard.

The Wash is of great importance to local citizens and for that reason the wetlands park contains more than 4 miles of constructed trail for wildlife viewing and recreation. Fifteen volunteer planting events have allowed nearly 5,000 people to lend a hand in planting native plants to beautify and help stabilize the Wash area. For their extraordinary contributions to solving long-standing water resource challenges facing southern Nevada and preserving a valuable ecological resource for present and future generations, the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee is awarded the U.S. Department of the Interior Partners in Conservation Award.