

Current and Future Conditions in the Upper Las Vegas Wash: A Survey of Nearby Residents

As you may already know, rapid growth occurring in Las Vegas and North Las Vegas is creating increased demand for land where additional residential and commercial development can occur. As a result, some public lands surrounding the Upper Las Vegas Wash that currently are managed by the Bureau of Land Management are now being considered for possible auction to private investors and developers.

In making decisions about this situation, the BLM must consider the ecological condition and value of this land area, as well as the ways in which various development options could affect social and economic conditions for local residents and the broader community.

This survey is designed to help us, and BLM decision-makers, understand how social and economic conditions in nearby neighborhoods are linked to the landscape and environment that surrounds the Upper Las Vegas Wash. We are interested in how you and others living near the Wash think about and make use of this area.

Who should complete this questionnaire?

This questionnaire is being delivered to a random sample of households in neighborhoods located near the Upper Las Vegas Wash. To further randomize participation in the survey, we ask that this questionnaire be completed by the adult (age 18 or older) member of your household whose birthday occurred most recently.

- Please carefully read all directions and mark your responses clearly.
- Feel free to write any comments or explanations directly on the questionnaire in the margins or in available blank space.
- As soon as you have finished, please seal the completed questionnaire in the provided business reply envelope, and drop it in the mail. No postage is necessary.
- To insure your privacy please do not write your name or address on the questionnaire.

As one of a limited number of local residents who are being asked to participate in this survey, your responses are important! By completing and returning the questionnaire, you can help to insure that all residents whose opinions are similar to yours are adequately represented in the results of this study.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Richard Krannich at Utah State University either by email (Richard.Krannich@usu.edu) or by telephone (435-797-1241). **Thank you very much for your help!**

NOTICES:

The Privacy Act of 1974 and the regulations at 43 CFR 2.48 (d) provide that we furnish you with the following information:

Your participation in this survey is voluntary. There are no penalties for not answering some or all of the questions. Your cooperation is extremely important since each person surveyed will represent many others who will not be surveyed.

An identification number written on the cover of the questionnaire is for mailing purpose only, and is used so that your name can be removed from the mailing list once we receive your completed questionnaire. The mailing list used for this survey and other information that could be used to identify individual respondents will be destroyed as soon as data collection is complete.

The results of answers that you and other survey participants provide will be summarized across groups of survey participants, and no individuals' answers will be reported separately. We will not use the information beyond the purposes of this study.

The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 requires us to inform you that:

The Bureau of Land Management will use the comments to improve the management decisions that govern a highly sensitive area called the Upper Las Vegas Wash.

Your response is voluntary, and there is no effect to you for not providing the requested information.

You do not have to respond to this or any other Federal agency sponsored information collection which does not display a currently valid OMB control number.

Public reporting burden for this survey is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing the instructions, gathering and maintaining the data, and completing and reviewing the survey. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspects of this survey to: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Information Collection Clearance Office (@O-630) (1004-XXXX), 1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 401LS, Washington, DC 20240.

PLEASE TURN THE PAGE AND BEGIN THE SURVEY

Living Near the Upper Las Vegas Wash

We are interested in learning about your familiarity with and opinions about the Upper Las Vegas Wash environment. Questions in this section focus on your familiarity with the Wash, your participation in various activities within the natural areas surrounding the Wash, and your views about current and future conditions of those areas. For each question please check the appropriate answer or fill in the requested information.

- 1. Please take a moment to look at the enclosed map of the Upper Las Vegas Wash analysis area. Is any portion of this analysis area visible from your home or yard?**

- NO
 YES

- 2. Overall, how familiar would you say you are with the land areas and environmental features of the Upper Las Vegas Wash analysis area?**

- Not at all familiar with the area
 Only slightly familiar with the area
 Moderately familiar with the area
 Very familiar with the area

- 3. Have you spent any time at all walking, riding, driving, or pursuing other activities within any part of the Upper Las Vegas Wash analysis area during the past 12 months?**

- NO → *please SKIP AHEAD to question #6 on the next page*
 YES → *please answer questions #4 and #5 below*

- 4. Please indicate whether you have participated in any of the following outdoor activities anywhere within the Upper Las Vegas Wash analysis area during the past 12 months, by checking either YES or NO for each activity.**

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>		<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
Walking or hiking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bird watching/wildlife viewing?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Running or jogging?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nature photography?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exercising your dog or other pet?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paint ball shooting?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ATV or dirt bike riding?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Archery shooting?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4-wheel driving/jeeping?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Firearms shooting?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bicycling?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other recreation activities?		
Seeking fossils, rocks or minerals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	(please list): _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Horseback riding?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

- 5. From the list of activities presented above, please write in below the ONE activity that is MOST IMPORTANT to you, and indicate approximately how many times you have engaged in that activity within any portion of the Upper Las Vegas Wash analysis area during the past 12 months.**

MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITY? _____

HOW MANY TIMES DURING THE PAST 12 MONTHS? _____

6. Please indicate how appropriate or inappropriate you think it is for each of the following activities to occur on the public lands that are included within the Upper Las Vegas Wash analysis area.

	<u>Never Appropriate</u>	<u>Usually Not Appropriate</u>	<u>It depends on the specific circumstances</u>	<u>Usually Appropriate</u>	<u>Always Appropriate</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
a. Dumping of organic waste such as lawn clippings or landscaping wastes?	1	2	3	4	5	DK
b. Dumping of solid waste such as household trash, old appliances, or construction debris?	1	2	3	4	5	DK
c. Unregulated target shooting?	1	2	3	4	5	DK
d. ATV or dirt bike riding?	1	2	3	4	5	DK
e. 4-wheel driving/jeeping?	1	2	3	4	5	DK
f. Off-road bicycle riding?	1	2	3	4	5	DK
g. Horseback riding?	1	2	3	4	5	DK
h. Hiking and walking?	1	2	3	4	5	DK

7. How concerned are you about potential ecological damage to the lands and resources contained within the Upper Las Vegas Wash analysis area from each of the following activities and uses?

	<u>Not At All Concerned</u>	<u>Slightly Concerned</u>	<u>Moderately Concerned</u>	<u>Highly Concerned</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
a. ATV or dirt bike riding?	1	2	3	4	DK
b. 4-wheel driving/jeeping?	1	2	3	4	DK
c. Unregulated target shooting?	1	2	3	4	DK
d. Dumping of organic waste such as lawn clippings or landscaping waste?	1	2	3	4	DK
e. Dumping of solid waste such as household trash, old appliances, or construction waste?	1	2	3	4	DK
f. Off-road bicycle riding?	1	2	3	4	DK
g. Horseback riding?	1	2	3	4	DK
h. Hiking or walking?	1	2	3	4	DK

8. Did the nearby location of the natural environments located within the Upper Las Vegas Wash analysis area have any influence on your decision to purchase or rent a home in this neighborhood?

- NO
- YES

9. For each of the following hypothetical situations, please indicate how likely you would be to report such activity to the appropriate authorities.

	Definitely Would <u>Not Report</u>	Probably Would <u>Not Report</u>	Probably Would <u>Report</u>	Definitely Would <u>Report</u>	Don't Know
a. You witnessed someone dumping organic waste such as lawn clippings or landscaping waste in the Upper Las Vegas Wash?	1	2	3	4	DK
b. You witnessed someone dumping solid waste such as household trash, appliances, or construction debris in the Upper Las Vegas Wash?	1	2	3	4	DK
c. You witnessed someone riding an ATV or dirt bike in an area within the Upper Las Vegas Wash where such use is prohibited?	1	2	3	4	DK
d. You witnessed someone driving a 4-wheel drive vehicle or jeep off-road in an area within the Upper Las Vegas Wash where such use is prohibited?	1	2	3	4	DK
e. You observed someone involved in the illegal collection of fossils from an area within the Upper Las Vegas Wash?	1	2	3	4	DK
f. You witnessed someone involved in unregulated target shooting in an area where such use is prohibited?	1	2	3	4	DK
g. You witnessed someone damaging an area where threatened or endangered plant species grow?	1	2	3	4	DK

10. Which of the following best represents your opinion about how the Upper Las Vegas Wash analysis area should be utilized and managed in the future?

- All or nearly all of the area that is not currently developed should be preserved in a natural, undeveloped condition to protect natural resources and maintain open space
- Residential and commercial development should be allowed to occur in some parts of the area that are not currently developed, while other portions of the area that contain important environmental features should be protected in a natural, undeveloped condition
- All or nearly all of the area should be available for residential and commercial development without worrying about protecting any significant portion of the area in a natural, undeveloped condition
- Don't know/no opinion

11. For each of the following statements, please indicate the degree to which you either agree or disagree by circling the one number that best represents your opinion.

	<u>Strongly Disagree</u>	<u>Somewhat Disagree</u>	<u>Neither Agree or Disagree</u>	<u>Somewhat Agree</u>	<u>Strongly Agree</u>
a. Public access into the Upper Las Vegas Wash should be controlled in order to protect ecologically sensitive areas and resources	1	2	3	4	5
b. New designated and signed trail systems for non-motorized recreation uses like hiking, biking, and horseback riding should be developed in and around the Wash	1	2	3	4	5
c. Management of the Upper Las Vegas Wash should focus more on flood control than on protection of of natural landscapes and the environment	1	2	3	4	5
d. Rules that restrict use of motorized vehicles in the Upper Las Vegas Wash area should be more strictly enforced	1	2	3	4	5

12. Suppose that in the future certain ecologically sensitive portions of the Upper Las Vegas Wash analysis area were protected from residential or commercial development, while remaining open for selected public uses and activities. If this did occur, how likely do you think it is that you would participate in each of the following activities there?

	<u>Definitely Would Not Participate</u>	<u>Probably Would Not Participate</u>	<u>Probably Would Participate</u>	<u>Definitely Would Participate</u>	<u>Don't Know</u>
a. Walking or hiking on designated nature trails?	1	2	3	4	DK
b. Visiting sites designed to educate people about fossil resources located in the Wash?	1	2	3	4	DK
c. Visiting sites that are designed to educate people about plant and animal species that are part of the Wash ecosystem?	1	2	3	4	DK
d. Running or jogging on a designated trail system?	1	2	3	4	DK
e. Off-road bicycling on a designated trail system?	1	2	3	4	DK
f. Horseback riding in designated areas in and around the Wash?	1	2	3	4	DK
g. Exercising your dog or other pet?	1	2	3	4	DK
h. Bird watching or other wildlife viewing?	1	2	3	4	DK

Feelings About the Upper Las Vegas Wash

People often develop strong feelings about certain outdoor places and settings that have special meaning and importance to them. Sometimes these are areas where a person has spent time doing enjoyable activities. For others, such places have special meaning because of the scenery, historical or cultural importance, economic importance, or any number of other personal reasons. The questions in this section focus on the meanings and attachments that you may have with the Upper Las Vegas Wash area.

13. Please think for a moment about the natural environments and landscapes that characterize the Upper Las Vegas Wash analysis area, and the ways in which the characteristics of that area may affect your quality of life. Then, please indicate the extent to which you either agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

	<u>Strongly</u> <u>Disagree</u>	<u>Somewhat</u> <u>Disagree</u>	Neither <u>Agree or</u> <u>Disagree</u>	<u>Somewhat</u> <u>Agree</u>	<u>Strongly</u> <u>Agree</u>
a. The natural environment provided by the Upper Las Vegas Wash area is an important part of my life	1	2	3	4	5
b. The natural environment provided by the Upper Las Vegas Wash area is an excellent place for me to do some of the things I like to do most	1	2	3	4	5
c. As far as I am concerned there is nothing particularly special about the natural environments that are present in the Upper Las Vegas Wash analysis area	1	2	3	4	5
d. I have a strong spiritual or emotional connection to one or more natural areas located within the Upper Las Vegas Wash analysis area	1	2	3	4	5
e. The natural environment provided by the Upper Las Vegas Wash analysis area plays an important role in defining who I am as a person	1	2	3	4	5
f. I could be just as happy in a neighborhood that is not close to a natural environmental area such as that provided by the Upper Las Vegas Wash	1	2	3	4	5
g. Living near the Upper Las Vegas Wash has an important positive influence on my overall quality of life	1	2	3	4	5
h. Things like housing cost, the quality of the neighborhood, or convenient access to work, school, or shopping were far more important in my decision to live in this home than is its location near to the Upper Las Vegas Wash	1	2	3	4	5

Background Information

To enable us to compare the responses of residents with similar or different characteristics, in this section we ask you to provide us with some information about yourself and your household. Please check or circle the appropriate answer or fill in the appropriate information for each question. As with all of your answers, the information that you provide will be remain completely anonymous.

14. What is your sex?

- Male
- Female

15. In what year were you born?

_____ (write in year)

16. What is the highest level of education that you have completed?

- Less than a high school degree
- High school degree or GED
- Some college
- 2 year technical or associate degree
- 4 year college degree (BA/BS)
- Advanced degree (i.e. Master's, JD, MD, Ph.D.)

17. Is the residence that this questionnaire was delivered to your permanent, year-around home, or do you live there for just part of the year on a seasonal basis?

- Live in this home year-around
- Live in this home on a seasonal basis

18. How long have you lived in this neighborhood?

- Less than one year
- One to two years
- For more than two years (please write in how long you have lived here): _____ years

19. Do you own your home where this questionnaire was delivered, or are you leasing or renting it?

- Own or are buying the home
- Leasing or renting the home

20. Which of the following best describes the type of home that you live in?

- Single family house
- Condominium unit or townhome
- Unit within a multiple-unit apartment complex
- Mobile home or trailer
- Other type of housing unit (please describe): _____

21. Including yourself, how many people are living in your household at the present time?

___ (write in number of people in household)

21a) How many children under the age of 18 currently live in your household?

___ children

22. Which of the following best describes your current employment situation?

- Employed for pay by a company, business or agency
- Self employed
- Unemployed but looking for work
- Unemployed, not looking for work
- Retired
- Homemaker not working outside of the home
- Other (please explain): _____

23. Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin?

- Yes
- No

24. What is your race? Please select one or more of the following categories:

- White
- Black or African American
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- American Indian or Alaska Native

25. Which of the following categories best describes your total pre-tax annual household income for 2007?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$20,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000 to \$74,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20,000 to \$29,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75,000 to \$99,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30,000 to \$39,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000 to \$149,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$40,000 to \$49,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$150,000 or more |

Thank you for your cooperation! Please feel free to use any available space in this questionnaire or in a separate letter to tell us any additional information or share other comments.

Once you have completed the questionnaire please seal it in the business reply envelope provided, and just drop it in the mail.