



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT NEWS RELEASE
Southern Nevada District Office**Release Date:** 05/31/13**Contacts:** Kirsten Cannon, 702-515-5057, k1cannon@blm.gov

Public Input Sought on Virgin River Restoration Plan

Las Vegas – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Southern Nevada District Office and National Park Service, Lake Mead National Recreation Area are seeking public input on the development of a restoration plan for the Virgin River floodplain in Nevada.

The floodplain area covers about 21,000 acres and extends from the Nevada-Arizona state line to the confluence with Lake Mead. The riparian vegetation in the floodplain is dominated by the invasive tamarisk with some areas of native species such as cottonwood and willow. The USDA biocontrol tamarisk beetle has recently spread along the Virgin River in Nevada.

The goal of the proposed restoration plan is to describe the methods that will be used to reduce invasive tamarisk and restore native vegetation that is resistant to future invasion by non-native species.

A programmatic environmental assessment will be prepared and scoping comments will be accepted from June 3 through July 3. The most helpful public scoping comments would focus on suggested methods to remove invasive species and restore native vegetation along with suggested priority restoration areas on BLM or NPS managed portions of the floodplain.

The environmental assessment is expected for public comment in fall 2013.

If you have questions, but are unable to attend the public meeting, please contact Mathew Hamilton at 702-515-5157 or mhamilton@blm.gov.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, recreational and other activities on BLM-managed land contributed more than \$130 billion to the U.S. economy and supported more than 600,000 American jobs. The Bureau is also one of a handful of agencies that collects more revenue than it spends. In FY 2012, nearly \$5.7 billion will be generated on lands managed by the BLM, which operates on a \$1.1 billion budget. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

--BLM--

Last updated: 05-31-2013

[USA.GOV](#) | [No Fear Act](#) | [DOI](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [About BLM](#) | [Notices](#) | [Social Media Policy](#)
[Privacy Policy](#) | [FOIA](#) | [Kids Policy](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Accessibility](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Home](#)