

CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA ITEM

Petitioner: Marci Henson, Director, Department of Air Quality

Recommendation:

That the Board of County Commissioners receive a report from the Clark County Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Committee; approve and adopt a resolution supporting the designation of three off-highway vehicle recreation areas on Bureau of Land Management land through federal legislation; and direct staff accordingly. (For possible action)

FISCAL IMPACT:

Fund #: N/A

Fund Center: N/A

Description: N/A

Added Comments: N/A

Fund Name: N/A

Funded Program/Grants: N/A

Amount: N/A

BACKGROUND:

Commissioner Kirkpatrick has requested an agenda item to receive a report from the Clark County Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Committee and for the Board of County Commissioners to consider adopting a resolution supporting the designation of three off-highway vehicle recreation areas on Bureau of Land Management land through federal legislation. These areas are generally described on the attached map as Laughlin, Nelson Hills and Sandy Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Areas.

Respectfully submitted,

MARCI HENSON, DIRECTOR
Department of Air Quality

Cleared for Agenda

Agenda Item #

**CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE DESIGNATION OF THE THREE OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE
RECREATION AREAS ON BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LAND THROUGH FEDERAL
LEGISLATION**

WHEREAS, off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation is an important recreational amenity in southern Nevada; and

WHEREAS, Clark County recognizes the value of protecting and enhancing OHV recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Clark County also recognizes the positive economic impact of casual and organized OHV recreation to our local economy; and

WHEREAS, Clark County seeks to promote responsible OHV recreation; and

WHEREAS, land available for OHV use has been reduced by wilderness designations, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land disposal, and large-scale solar development;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Clark County, Nevada, to support the establishment of three off-highway vehicle recreation areas, generally depicted on the attached map as the Laughlin, Nelson Hills and Sandy Valley Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Areas, on BLM land in Clark County through federal legislation; and require that the BLM complete travel and transportation planning and recreation management plans for the newly designated OHV recreation areas within two years of the date the bill is signed into law.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Clark County Commission, Nevada, on this

_____ DAY OF _____, 2019.

MARILYN KIRKPATRICK, CHAIR
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

ATTEST:

LYNN GOYA, COUNTY CLERK

CLARK COUNTY OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATION TO URGE THE DESIGNATION OF THREE OFF-
HIGHWAY VEHICLE AREAS THROUGH FEDERAL LEGISLATION

February 19, 2019

Background

- 6/19/18 BCC established the OHV Recreation Advisory Committee
- Committee has met 1 x month since August 2018
- Open public process; all meetings have been conducted under NV Open Meeting Law

Clark County / Air Quality / AQ Forms / CCOHV

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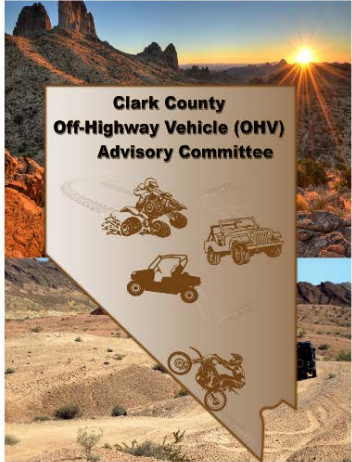
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Air Quality : Clark County OHV Advisory Committee



Announcements:

[Off-Highway \(OHV\) Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled](#)
Wednesday, February 27th, 2019 from 4 - 6 PM

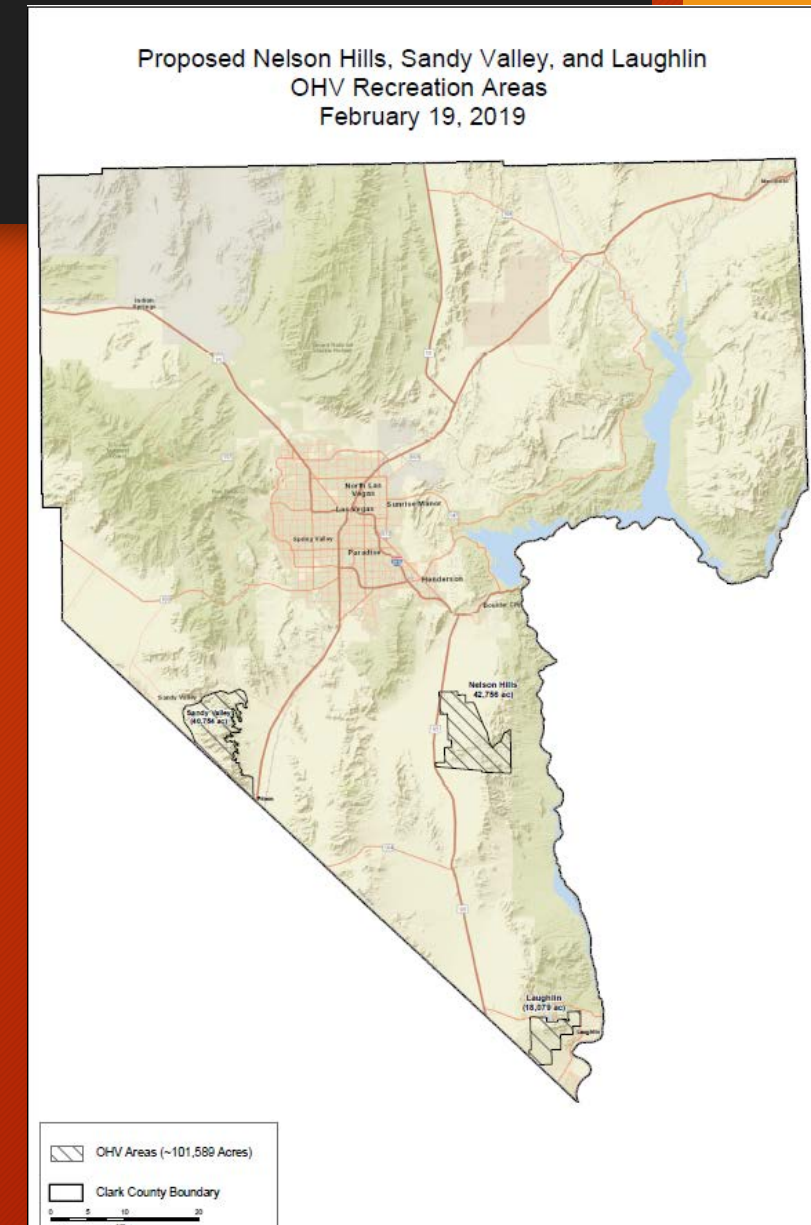
Clark County Government Center
1st Floor, Pueblo Room
500 S. Grand Central Pkwy
Las Vegas, NV 89155

Background

- Purpose of the committee is to make recommendations to BCC regarding OHV recreation in Clark County.
- Committee is comprised of 10 members representing OHV interests.
- Recommendation presented today was unanimously approved by the OHV Advisory Committee at its January 16, 2019 meeting.
- Committee deliberations have included:
 - Desire to protect existing OHV areas in federal legislation & offer parity with disposal, wilderness, ACECs, and other designations
 - Desire to identify new areas that can offset the loss of access due to other designations

Recommendation

- Support the establishment of three OHV Recreation Areas near Nelson Hills, Laughlin and Sandy Valley through federal legislation
- Require BLM travel and transportation planning and recreation management planning be completed within two years of the date the bill is signed into law

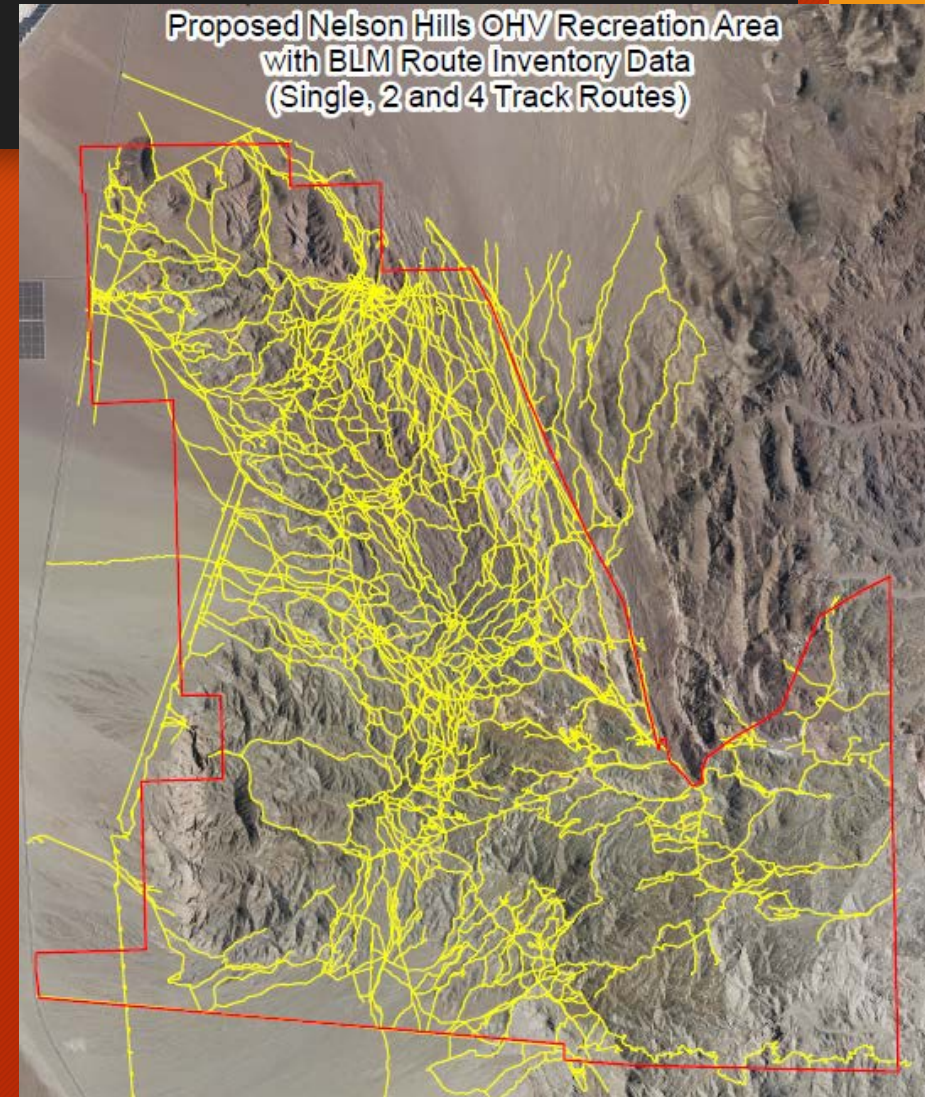


Nelson Hills

- 1998 – BLM designated Nelson Hills/Eldorado Valley as a Special Recreation Management Area by BLM in '98 Resource Management Plan
 - For competitive off-road events subject to FWS Biological Opinions to protect desert tortoise habitat
 - Maximum of nine events per year on existing courses between 11/1 – 2/28 within parts of the recreation area that are designated critical habitat

Nelson Hills

- Heavily used for casual and organized OHV events for decades
- BLM existing route inventory



Nelson Hills

Concerns we've heard:

- This area was designated by the FWS as desert tortoise critical habitat in 1994
 - Correct and in 1998 the BLM designated the Nelson Hills/Eldorado Valley as a Special Recreation Management Area for competitive off-road events in accordance with applicable FWS Biological Opinions to protect desert tortoise habitat
 - Area has been used extensively for casual and organized OHV recreation since 1998
 - The proposed designation through federal legislation would make permanent its current use as an OHV area.
 - The designation would be subject to NEPA & ESA consultation and applicable FWS Biological Opinions
- This area includes lands with wilderness characteristics and proposed Eldorado Wilderness expansion
 - This was a BLM planning analysis and desk top exercise
 - The planning exercise was not intended to result in de facto wilderness areas; wilderness can only be designated through an act of Congress
 - This area was proposed by BLM to be managed at a Prescription Level Three - management to emphasize other multiple uses over wilderness characteristics
 - Potential Remedy: remove lands with wilderness characteristics/proposed Eldorado Wilderness from the proposed Nelson Hills OHV Recreation Area

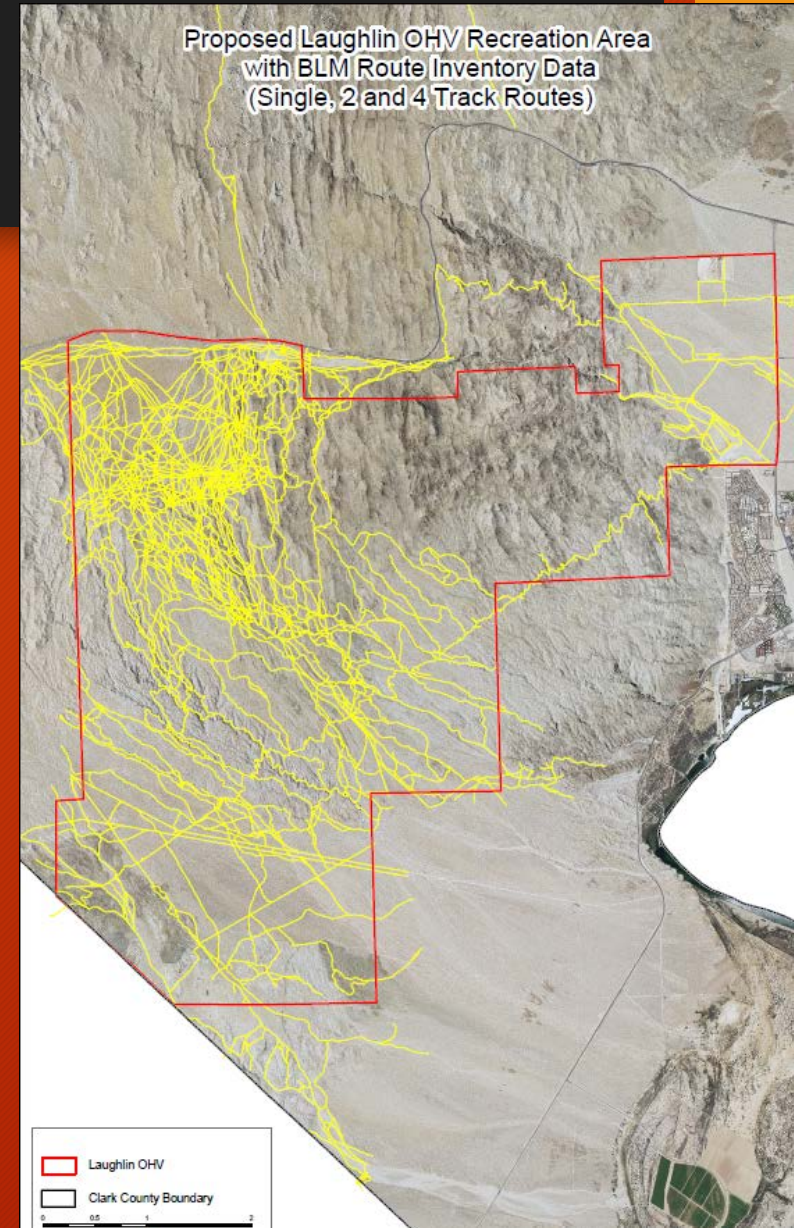
Nelson Hills

Concerns we've heard:

- This area includes Keyhole Canyon ACEC
 - Area of significant natural and cultural significance
 - Potential remedy: remove lands designated as Keyhole Canyon ACEC from the proposed Nelson Hills OHV Recreation Area
- This area is too close to Irebeta Peaks & Eldorado Wilderness
 - Wilderness designations do include a buffer area
 - BLM travel and transportation planning and recreation management plans will minimize impacts

Laughlin

- 1998 – BLM designated as a Special Recreation Management Area
- Heavily utilized for casual and organized OHV use
- July 2018 Laughlin Race and Event Environmental Assessment
 - Finding of No Significant Impact



Laughlin

Concerns we've heard:

- This area includes proposed Hiko Canyon ACEC
 - Identified in the 2018 Draft BLM Resource Management Plan amendment; never completed
 - Proposed remedy: remove the proposed Hiko Canyon ACEC from proposed Laughlin OHV Recreation Area
- This area includes proposed Granite Springs ACEC
 - Identified in the 2018 Draft BLM Resource Management Plan amendment; never completed
 - Proposed remedy: remove the proposed Granite Springs ACEC from the proposed Laughlin OHV Recreation Area
- This area is close to Proposed Bridge Canyon Wilderness
 - Wilderness designations do include a buffer area
 - BLM travel and transportation planning and recreation management plans will minimize impacts

Sandy Valley

- New area for permanent OHV recreation; currently multiple use
- 40,754 acres

Concerns We've Heard:

- This area is too close to the desert tortoise large scale desert translocation site
 - ❖ Translocation area is currently protected and not directly impacted by this proposal
 - ❖ Existing geological barrier why the western edge of the LSTS has not been fenced
 - ❖ Designation as an OHV Recreation Area will require various environmental planning processes and will result in protective measures that will ensure various biological and cultural resources are protected, when necessary

Additional Review

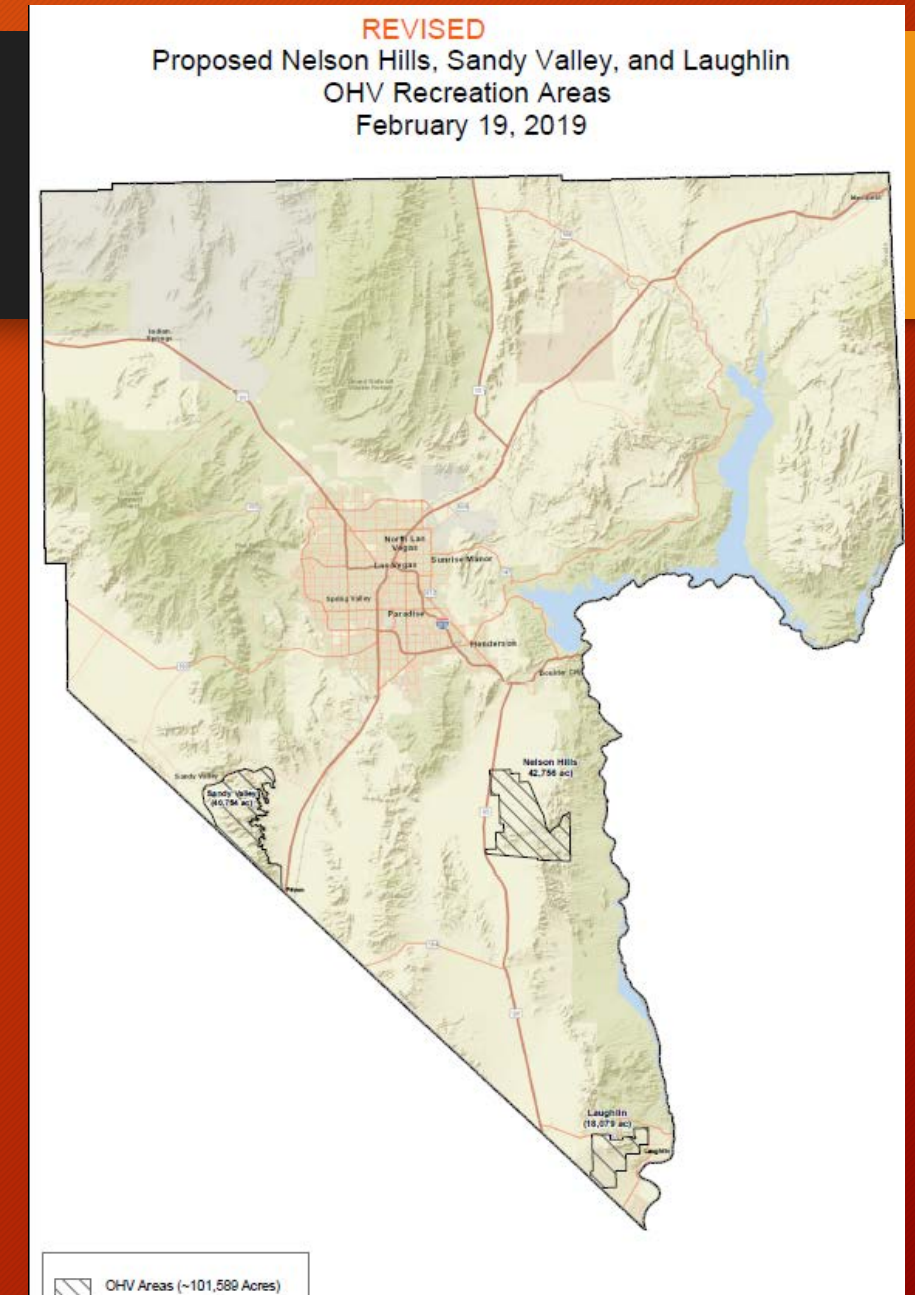
- Proposed Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Areas would remain BLM-administered lands
- Designation action would be subject to:
 - National Environmental Policy Act
 - Endangered Species Act
 - National Historic Preservation Act
 - Archeological and Historic Preservation Act
 - Archeological Resources Protect Act
 - Many of these laws require consultation with other resource agencies; Native American Tribes; and cooperating agencies through a legally-required public process

Additional Review

- BLM Recreation Management Plan
 - Public process
 - Subject to NEPA & FWS Consultation
- BLM Travel and Transportation Planning
 - Public process
 - Subject to NEPA and FWS Consultation
 - Will result in designate routes for OHV use
- BLM Special Recreation Permits for organized events

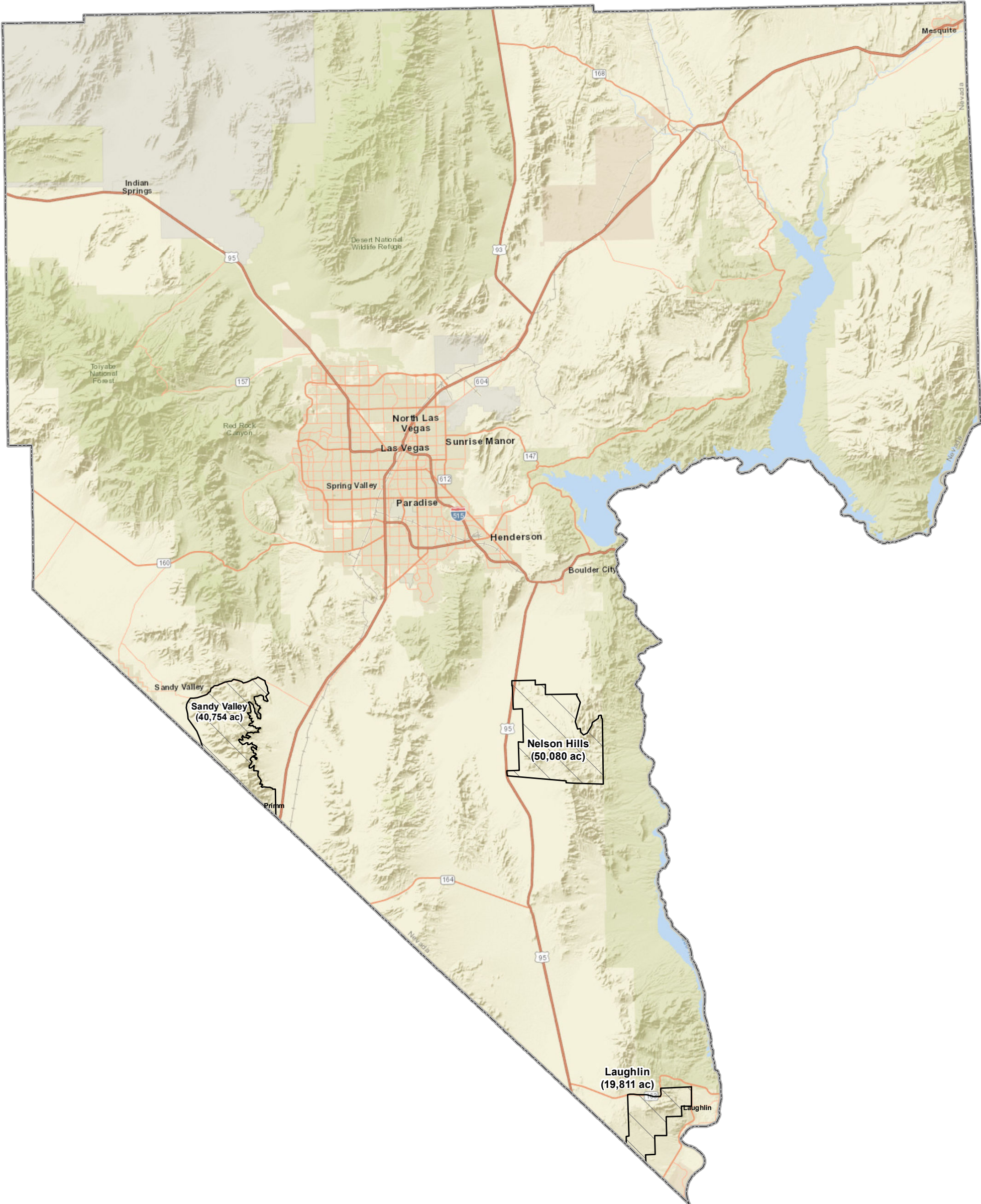
Revised Map


- Remove lands designated as Keyhole Canyon ACEC from the proposed Nelson Hills OHV Recreation Area
- Remove lands with wilderness characteristics/proposed Eldorado Wilderness from the proposed Nelson Hills OHV Recreation Area
- Remove the proposed Hiko Canyon ACEC from proposed Laughlin OHV Recreation Area
- Remove the proposed Granite Springs ACEC from the proposed Laughlin OHV Recreation Area




Questions

Proposed Nelson Hills, Sandy Valley, and Laughlin
OHV Recreation Areas
February 19, 2019



 OHV Areas (~110,645 Acres)

 Clark County Boundary

051020

Miles

REVISED

Proposed Nelson Hills, Sandy Valley, and Laughlin
OHV Recreation Areas
February 19, 2019

