

# ***BLM Nevada News***

Southern Nevada District Office

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## **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](mailto:mhamilton@blm.gov).

For more information, please visit [www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/lvfo.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/lvfo.html)