

Nellis Dunes Recreation Area

*“An Opportunity for a
Regional Motorized
Recreation Park”*



Approximate Location in the Las Vegas Valley



Statement on HR 765, The Nellis Dunes National Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area Act of 2009

The Nellis Dunes National Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area is located on BLM land in the northeast area of the Las Vegas valley. It is an area that has been a favorite riding area for off-highway enthusiasts since the early 1970's. With the explosive growth in Southern Nevada, and the need to address encroachment, air quality regulations, public safety and environmental issues, the Board of Clark County Commissioners recognized the need to set aside a dedicated area for local off-highway enthusiast. The challenge has been to balance protection of land, neighborhoods and the environment while promoting safe, appropriate areas for popular recreation activities. HR 765 directs a special designation of 10,902 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) open lands for the purpose of developing a fiscally sustainable federal and county off-highway vehicle area. Of the 10,902 acres, approximately 8,973 acres would receive special designation status for passive off-highway vehicle recreation to be managed by the BLM. Approximately, 1,211 acres would be conveyed to Clark County for development of an active off-highway recreation park. An additional 718 acres would be conveyed to Nellis Air Force base to provide additional protective zones.

BENEFITS

HR 765 provides numerous benefits to southern Nevadans. First, the off-road community as a whole will have a permanent location to ride within the Las Vegas Valley instead of driving several hours to California, Utah or Arizona. This permanent location will also provide relief with the recent closures of off-highway areas and open lands in Nevada. Second, the mission of Nellis Air Force Base will be permanently protected from encroaching development by designating this area as recreation. Safety zones will be created for Nellis Air Force Base to protect both the off-highway community and Nellis Air Force Base pilots as the boundaries of the park were coordinated to correspond to Nellis Air Force Base's Live Ordinance North Departure corridor. Third, the illegal ATV/off-road use on federal and private lands and dust emissions in the Las Vegas Valley will be reduced by having a designated off-highway area. This project will improve air quality by minimizing dust levels with the watering of track facilities and development of hard surfacing on the park trail loop, staging and parking areas. The project also protects the surrounding federally owned lands and sensitive plants and animals. Fourth, the BLM and the County have jointly come up with a creative and innovative sustainable economic development approach to fund Nellis Dunes. Both the BLM and the County can pay for management of the Park through revenues from users of the economic support area.

BENEFITS

Continued

Through a series of meetings over the last three years, the County has formed a stakeholders group with the BLM and Nellis Air Force Base, and other interested parties and has negotiated an inter-local agreement outlining how the Nellis Dunes lands would be managed to protect the mission of Nellis Air Force Base. The County values the working relationship with our stakeholders, residents of Southern Nevada, and is proud of our local citizen's advisory committee for their commitment to reach consensus on the development of Nellis Dunes National Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area.

Clark County residents have devoted hundreds of hours in our efforts to develop the County's proposal for an off-highway vehicle facility. The Nellis Dunes Citizens Advisory Committee, including representatives of Nellis Air Force Base and BLM and the County Commission, have met on a monthly basis over this past year to gather community input, and to build key stakeholder partnerships and refine the recreation area proposal. In addition, Clark County has held dozens of citizen outreach meetings, conducted tours, and spent countless hours with off-road vehicle organizations and associations to educate the public and gain support. To date, the County has received well over 2,000 letters, emails and web page comments in support of the proposed recreation area. I am submitting for the record a copy of the inter-local agreement and the public comments and support letters that the County received throughout its two year public process.

THE LEGISLATION

More specifically, HR 765 conveys to the County 1,000 acres for the construction of a master planned off highway vehicle park which would provide venues for off-road racing activities from motocross, ATV, and truck racing to pit bike, rock crawling, and hare scrambles races to name a few. The County is taking on the role of providing for more active off-highway recreation through a developed and organized motor sport facilities park which would also provide for a variety of race tracks for the more avid off-roader. The County believes the development of these facilities can best be master planned, developed, constructed and maintained by our local Parks and Recreation Department which just dedicated a similar themed park for recreational target shooting on 2,900 acres of land conveyed in 2002 by Public Law 107-350.

Additionally, the County seeks an additional 211 acres for support facilities next to the Las Vegas Motor speedway to provide for overflow parking, repair and maintenance of OHV's (which have a tendency to break quite often), and other economic support services, including facilities for food and fuel. We anticipate that Nellis Dunes will attract thousands of visitors to both the County and BLM off highway areas and will be marketed as a destination by the Las Vegas Convention and Visitor's Bureau. The County is proposing a 50/50 net proceeds partnership with BLM, requesting that any funding generated from the economic support facility area be specifically dedicated for use at Nellis Dunes for maintenance, capital improvements, public safety, education, air quality improvements and to mitigate potential impacts to plants and animals, while protecting nearby environmentally sensitive lands.

THE LEGISLATION

Continued

The County and BLM share common goals and objectives to administer and improve Nellis Dunes for regional off-highway vehicle enthusiasts. Nellis Dunes Recreation has been planned as a joint project. Both the County and BLM share the economic burdens of police, fire, medical response, and policing illegal off highway use in the greater Las Vegas Valley. As a partner with Clark County, BLM will operate and maintain control of the larger areas of the Nellis Dunes Recreation Area by providing opportunities for open, unrestrictive riding of the existing trails and dunes. After recovering costs of infrastructure improvements such as venue facilities, parking and roadways, the County will share the net proceeds with the BLM equally. We request language providing that BLM's share be contributed to a special account to be used by the BLM for the sole benefit of developing and managing its 8,900 acres of the Off-Highway Park.

Since the introduction of HR 765, the map (next slide) identified in the legislation has been modified for the protection of four sensitive security areas to Nellis Air Force Base by creating buffer zones and a clear flight departure corridor that will be void of any permanent buildings. Additionally, the modified map now excludes areas east and southeast including the exclusion of an active mining claim area. These changes are reflected in the map dated October 15, 2009.


Nellis Dunes National Off Highway Vehicle Recreation Area and Clark County Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Park

DRAFT
WORKING COPY

Bureau of Land Management

 Nellis Dunes Boundary

Clark County

 OHV Acres 1000

 Economic Support Area

 Lands Conveyed to NAFB

 Clark County ROW 120 Foot Wide Access Trail Loop

 Master Plan of Streets and Highways of NLV

 Power Lines

Departure Corridor

 Approach/Departure Clearance Surface (50:1)

 Approach/Departure Clearance Surface (Horizontal)

*The Aerial photography used is a mix of flight dates with the most recent available for each area being used.

Map Created On: September 16, 2009

This information is for display purposes only.
No liability is assumed as to the accuracy of the data presented herein.



http://www.blm.gov/pressroom/2009/09/16/09091601.html

Safe Recreational Opportunities at Nellis Dunes Park

Types of Off Road Activities

- **Unrestricted Riding** – Riders would still enjoy the freedom of riding in the open desert and dunes.
- **ATV Trails**- An OHV trail plan could easily be designed for beginners, to expert trails riders by marking certain trails as one-way and identifying the level of skill needed to safely enjoy the trails, while maintaining open and unrestricted riding for all to enjoy.
- **Professional MX/SX Tracks**- The Nellis Dunes area is large enough to build a course to host annual national outdoor MX championship. Several tracks could range from a mile in length set to championship standard to smaller replica track such as the Loretta Lynn's, Endurocross, World Mini and supercross. The watered and groomed tracks would be available for practice throughout the week, with league racing on the weekends. Revenues from the track would be used for maintenance and operations.
- **Beginner/Intermediate MX Tracks**- Smaller home town tracks ranging for the beginners can be designed for the Las Vegas community and avid riders visiting Las Vegas. Levels could range from veteran to mini 50 tracks tailored for young and older riders who need a safe place to practice and improve their riding skills.
- **BMX Track**- Additional BMX tracks for bicycles would provide added relief to the over crowded tracks in the valley. A professional level track would be available for weekend armature racing and professional level competition.
- **Radio Controlled Off-Road hobby trucks/buggies**- The Nellis Dunes is also a very good location that could be home to radio controlled enthusiasts for remote controlled buggies and trucks.
- **Rock Crawling**- 4 x 4 areas specializing in rock crawling for 4-wheel drive enthusiasts that love the mud and hill climbing. An area could be developed as a 4-wheel drive obstacle course providing Hill/Rock climbing, Mud Pits, Gravel Pits, or Dry River Bed. The obstacles could range from very easy to extremely difficult.
- **Desert Racing**- The Nellis Dunes recreation is a perfect area to continue to host off-road truck racing for all racing classifications in a safe environment.

Recreation Examples



Rancho Cordova , California

Hangtown, MX Race Track, Prairie City OHV Park

- **Prairie City** is situated at the base of the Sierra Nevada foothills, 20 miles east of downtown Sacramento. The area offer off-highway vehicle enthusiasts a variety of interesting terrain and trails for motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, and 4-wheel drive vehicles. There are flat, open grasslands, rolling hill with native blue oak trees, and acres of cobbled mine tailings left after gold dredges combed ancient river bed in search of gold during the lat 1800s. Beginners as well as experts find the variety of terrain both challenging and enjoyable.
- **Hangtown Race Track** is owned by Prairie City State Vehicular Recreation Area. Prairie City is situated at the base of the Sierra Nevada foothills, 20 miles east of downtown Sacramento and three miles south of U.S. 50. The area offers off-highway vehicle enthusiasts a variety of interesting terrain and trails for motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, and 4-wheel drive vehicles. Sacramento County purchased the area in 1975 with the assistance of the State Off-Highway Vehicle Grants Program. An additional 401 acres was purchased in 1976 with State Off-Highway Vehicle Funds, bringing the total acreage to 836. Sacramento County managed the site until July 1988 when the operation was turned over to the Off-Highway Vehicle Division of the Department of sites and recreation.
- **Recreational Land Management**
Providing long-term, sustained OHV recreation opportunity is a top priority in SVRA Management. Provisions in California law require actions to stabilize soils and to provide for healthy wildlife populations in OHV recreation areas. Sites exist throughout the SVRA which have become eroded. There are projects ongoing to stabilize eroded areas by reshaping slopes, and by reseeding and replanting bare areas. Vegetation creates wildlife habitat while plant roots help stabilize the soil.

Emergencies

The state site rangers who patrol Prairie City SVRA are trained in first aid. Paramedics are available within 20 minutes.

Safety It is recommended that all ATV operators take part in a formal safety training course under supervision of a certified ATV instructor. **Such training is mandatory for those under 18.** Each ATV rider must wear a helmet and should wear proper protective clothing.

Funding : The Green Sticker Fund is what purchased the land for Prairie City and to operate it. Therefore, we do require all off-road vehicles that are eligible to purchase a Green Sticker or have current street registration. (See Registration)

Staging Area- The staging area is set up for both sighting and picnicking. There are shaded picnic sites spaced throughout the area. Restrooms, drinking water, barbecue grills, and fire pits (bring your own wood) are available.



San Bernardino, California

Glen Helen MX Race Track, OHV Park

- **COUNTY:** San Bernardino County (within 60 miles of Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego Counties)
- **FEATURES:** Motocross Tracks -- Grand Prix, Pee-Wee (Newly Designed), AMA National MX and MX REM/Vintage Track. Also includes fishing, swimming, major outdoor amphitheater, volleyball and camping. Camp, hike, swim, fish, and picnic on 1,340 acres in the rolling hills at the mouth of Cajon Pass.
- **Track:** Glen Helen Raceway is located North of San Bernardino in the area of Devore. This area is against a great mountain side in which Glen Helen Raceway has created it raceway facility, of 256 acres. Glen Helen is on county property and shares its large area with other county facilities, Glen Helen Regional sites, Block Buster Pavilion and the Sheriff Training Center. In 1995 and 1996 two more major events came to Glen Helen Raceway, the Off Road Winter Series and the AMA 125/250 MX Nationals. With these events added to Glen Helen Raceway it had made a climb to that of one of the most seen and raced on tracks in the world.
- **Camping:** All camping is on a first come, first serve basis. No reservations are available. RVs must be fully contained as there are no hook-ups, showers or electricity. Bathrooms are available. Glen Helen has added 11 RV hook-ups, for event only please call 909-880-1733 for pricing and reservation.
- **Gate Hours:** *Open* 6am on race days and 8am on practice days (Thursdays and Saturdays). *Close* 10pm on most race days and dusk on practice days.
- **Prices:** \$20 per motorcycle, spectators are free. Children under 6 are free. Call the 24 Hour Race Information Line at 909-880-3090 for event ticket pricing.
- **MOTOCROSS EVENTS:**
Yamaha AMA California State MX Championship
White Bros. Four-Stroke & World Vet Championships
Chaparral AMA PRO/AM Championships
Loretta Lynn MX Qualifier
- **AMENITIES:**
Grandstand seating for 3000: Festival seating for 8000
Concessions for food, soft drinks & beer.
Permanent rest-room facilities.



Similar OHV
Examples

Thunder Valley, Denver, CO



Similar OHV
Examples

Broome/Tioga, Buchanan, MI



Similar OHV
Examples

Buds Creek, Mechanicsville, MD



Similar OHV
Examples

Competitive Edge, Hesperia CA.



Similar OHV
Examples



Similar OHV
Examples

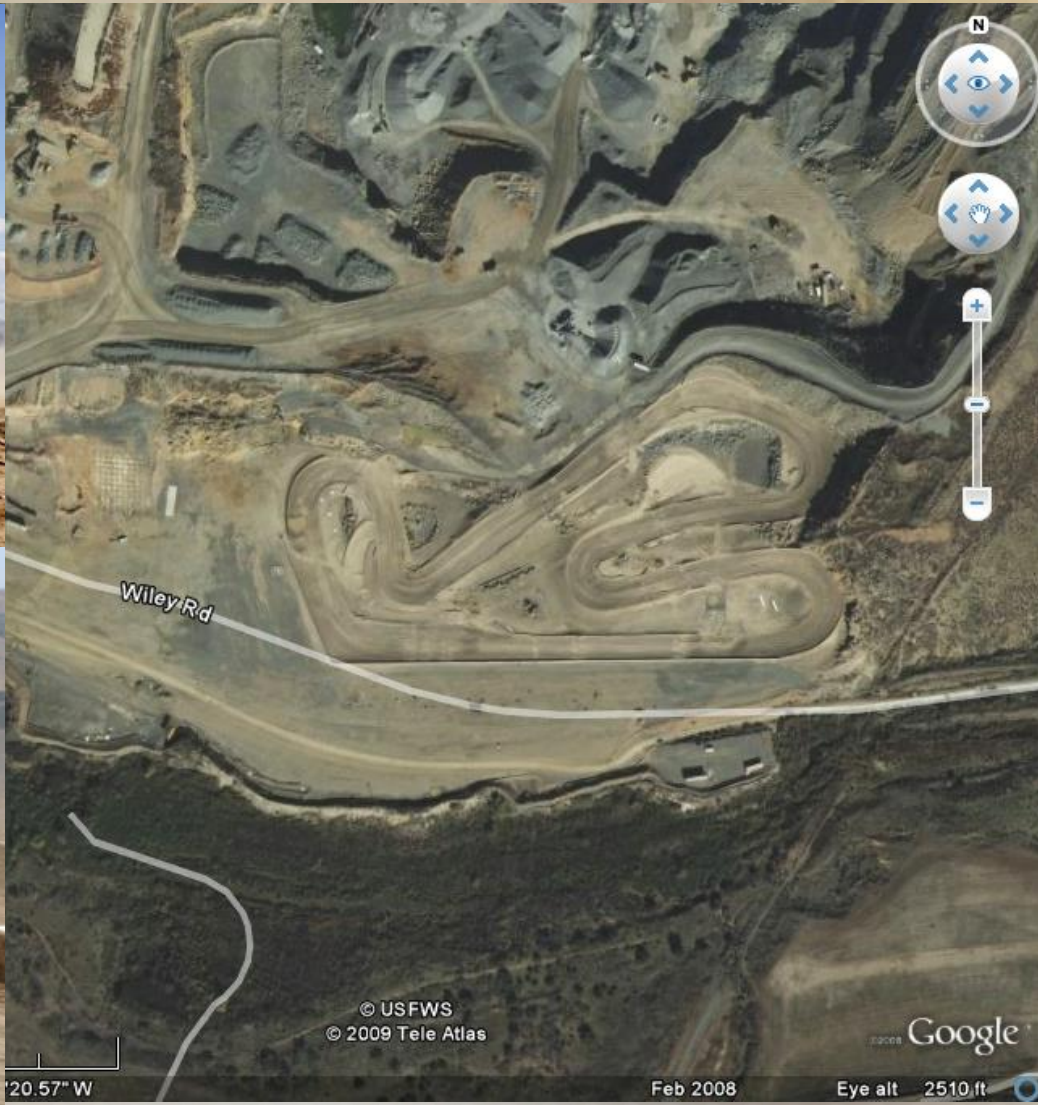


Perris Raceway, CA



Similar OHV
Examples

Chula Vista Raceway



Similar OHV
Examples



Similar OHV
Examples

Chula Vista BMX Track



USOC BMX Training Track
Chula Vista, California

Photo - Trace Mayer/BMXWorld.com



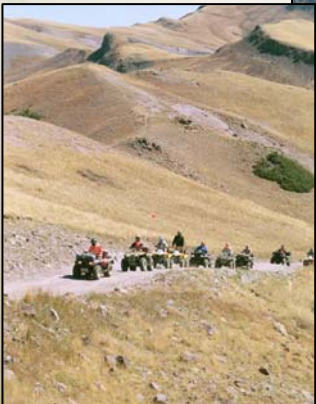
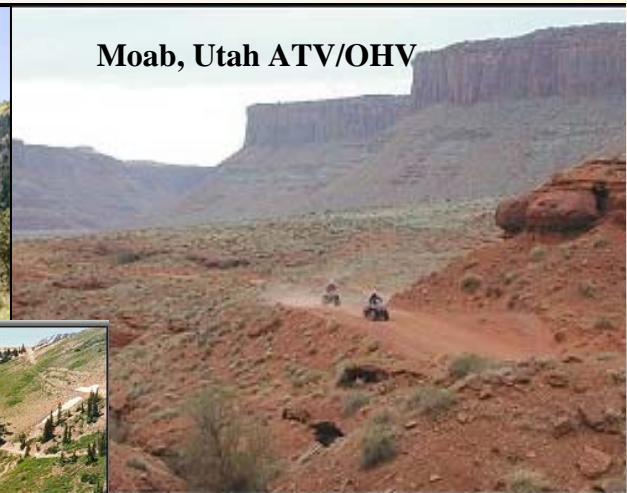
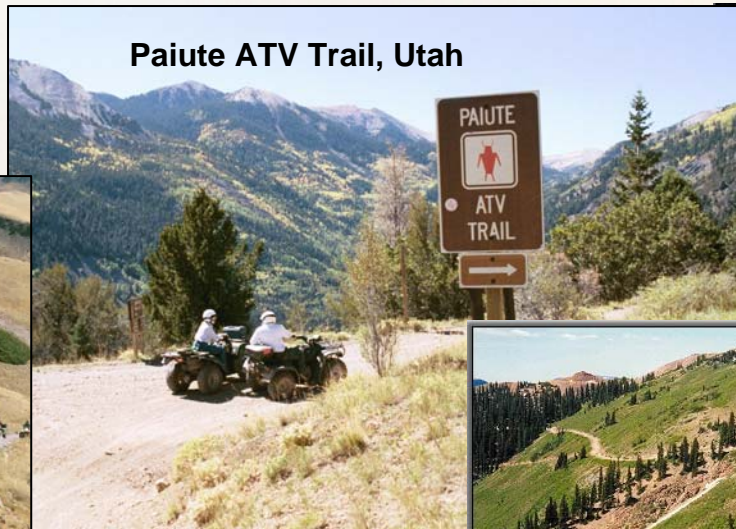
An Opportunity for Family ATV Trail Touring

Many trail riders find their greatest thrill in simply riding along enjoying the blue sky and the opportunity of being out doors with their family. While they don't mind the occasional burst of speed, it is far from their center ambition.

The **majority** of the Nellis Dunes park is anticipated to be dedicated to un-restricted trail riders to enjoy the opportunity of traversing through switch back trails and climbing up a mountain or driving across natural washes. While power is a valuable asset to the trail rider, the power they seek is enjoying the great outdoors.

Age notwithstanding, this aspect of the sport is enjoyed by all age groups. The trail riders are most likely willing to be a part of an ATV organization. The trail rider will have multiple machines and where possible, one for every member of the family. It is anticipated that the avid Trail Riders will come from great distances to enjoy our unique Nevada landscape close up.

With the general aging of our population, motorized recreation is a rapidly increasing recreational pursuit. Utah and California have several fine examples of family-oriented ATV trails leading to previously unrealized economic development.



Fiscal Note

In the summer of 2007, Clark County conducted a fiscal study to determine if a regional motorized recreation park could be sustained in Southern Nevada. The report concluded that the County's vision for a regional OHV facility was feasible and is needed for the area. The build out for the development of this facility is anticipated to cost \$30 million.



Regional Motorized Recreation Park

NELLIS DUNES

Market Analysis: Summary Report

1. Nat'l Outdoor Track
2. Motocross Tracks
3. BMX Track
4. Radio Control Area
5. 4X4 Course
6. Desert Racing
7. Support Facilities
8. Other Similar Uses



10100 W. CHARLESTON BLVD: SUITE 200
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89135
702.967.3333
WWW.APPLIEDANALYSIS.COM

The Need to Address Public Safety Concerns

The current state of affairs gives rise to numerous concerns about providing for public safety:

- Users of the area have constructed features such as race tracks and jumps that ignore standard safe design features;
- Lack of any designation of trails or signage of uses leads to high probabilities of collisions between motorized vehicles, potentially of different sizes and types;
- Unrestricted uses without signage and educating riders leads to many rider operating at excessively high speeds, and riding without standard safety gear such as helmets and protective clothing;
- Dumping resulting in hazardous and unexpected obstacles leading to accidents.



The Need to Address Environmental Protection

The southwestern extent of the Nellis Dunes is within the non-attainment area for PM10 (dust). Due to the unrestricted use of the area under BLM management, currently very little is being done to minimize and mitigate the creation of dust from the area.

There are areas of sensitive soils which currently receive no special protections, and which, in some cases, are the habitat for the Las Vegas Bearpoppy, a species covered under the Clark County MSHCP, and designated by the State of Nevada as Critically Endangered. Desert dumping is another major concern in the Nellis Dunes. OHV trails could be rehabilitated on sensitive soils to minimize dust and to provide protection to the Bearpoppy. Areas of heavy use could be treated to prevent the creation of dust. Dust control practices such as wetting the surfaces of motorized tracks could be implemented. Through management and restricted access, the problem of desert dumping would be minimized.



The Need For Safe Recreation, Clean Air and Restored Lands

From this



To this



Action Item

Clark County
Board of County Commissioners

RESOLUTION

OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CONVEYANCE OF LANDS COMMONLY KNOWN AS NELLIS DUNES FROM THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT TO CLARK COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSES OF CREATING A REGIONAL MOTORIZED RECREATION PARK FOR SOUTHERN NEVADANS.

WHEREAS, the Nellis Dunes area is located in unincorporated Clark County on federal public lands managed by Bureau of Land Management and is situated in the northeast area of the Las Vegas Valley and is approximately 10 miles east of downtown Las Vegas and 1 mile northeast of Las Vegas Motor Speedway; and

WHEREAS, The Nellis Dunes area comprises approximately 10,181 acres of which approximately 8,921 acres are usable recreation space; and

WHEREAS, The Nellis Dunes area offers off-highway vehicle enthusiasts a variety of terrain and trails for motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, desert vehicle racing and 4-wheel drive vehicles; and

WHEREAS, There is a growing population segment in Clark County interested and involved in motorized recreation; and

WHEREAS, Appropriate locations and facilities where motorized recreation is allowed are limited within close proximity to the Las Vegas Valley; and

WHEREAS, Most areas of the Las Vegas Valley have been officially closed to motorized-recreation either by the Bureau of Land Management on federal public lands, or by private landowners.; and

WHEREAS, The Las Vegas Valley is classified in a state of non-compliance for air quality with regard to particulate matter; and partially due to blowing dust from land disturbance caused by off road motorized recreation; and

WHEREAS, The Bureau of Land Management Las Vegas Resource Management Plan designates the Nellis Dunes area as an “open area” where unrestricted motorized recreation is currently allowed.

WHEREAS, An opportunity exists for Clark County to request conveyance of the area to county ownership and management where Clark County could then develop a managed motorized recreation park with suitable and appropriate facilities and managed use; and

WHEREAS, A system of various managed motorized recreation uses would have the potential to prevent safety concerns, improve air quality, protect rare plants and sensitive soils, prevent refuse dumping, and capitalize on potential economic development possibilities; and

WHEREAS, The Nellis Dunes is also recognized in the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition open space plan to protect the natural backdrops and maintain a valley perimeter trail corridor around the Las Vegas Valley; and

WHEREAS, Clark County recognizes a need for economic development along Las Vegas Boulevard that is consistent with the mission of Nellis Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, A feasibility study, previously funded by this Board, evaluated supply and demand considerations, capital and operations and maintenance costs and options for funding them, and likely operational models for a motorized recreation park; and

WHEREAS, The feasibility study concluded that, at a point of stabilization, revenues over expenses are projected at \$1.8 million annually in addition to park-related business development, and projected transactions that can be expected to generate significant additional revenues to support infrastructure and operation and maintenance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Clark County Board of Commissioners reaffirms its belief that the development of a regional motorized recreation park managed by Clark County will benefit Southern Nevadans through promoting safe off-road activities, while implementing environmental protections to air, sensitive soils, and plant species; and

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clark County Board of Commissioners urges the Nevada Congressional Delegation to promulgate legislation for the conveyance of the Nellis Dunes area to Clark County for the purpose of off-road recreation and environmental protection in this the one hundred and tenth session of Congress.

APPROVED on this SIXTH DAY OF MARCH, 2007

RORY J. REID, CHAIR
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

STATE OF NEVADA
Senate Joint Resolution No. 18—Committee
on Government Affairs

May 31, 2007

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION—Urging Congress to support a proposed off-highway vehicle park in Clark County.

WHEREAS, The Nellis Dunes area comprises approximately 10,181 acres located in unincorporated Clark County, Nevada, on federal public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, 8,921 acres of which are usable recreation space, offering a variety of terrain and trails for off-highway vehicle enthusiasts; and

WHEREAS, Most areas of Clark County have been closed to motorized recreation; and

WHEREAS, The Nellis Dunes is recognized in the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition’s open space plan to protect the natural backdrops and maintain a perimeter trail corridor around the Las Vegas Valley; and

WHEREAS, The Bureau of Land Management’s Las Vegas Resource Management Plan designates the Nellis Dunes as an “open area,” allowing unrestricted motorized recreation; and

WHEREAS, An opportunity exists for Clark County to develop and manage a motorized recreation system, consistent with the mission of Nellis Air Force Base, with the potential to prevent safety concerns, improve air quality, protect rare plants and sensitive soils, prevent refuse dumping and capitalize on potential economic development possibilities; and

WHEREAS, A feasibility study, funded by the Board of County Commissioners for Clark County, evaluated supply and demand considerations, capital and operations and maintenance costs and options for funding, and likely operation models for a motorized recreation park; and

WHEREAS, Development of a motorized recreation park managed by Clark County will benefit southern Nevadans through the promotion of safe off-road activities and implementation of environmental protections to air, sensitive soils and native plants; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, JOINTLY, That the members of the Nevada Legislature hereby urge Congress to promulgate legislation for the conveyance of the Nellis Dunes area to Clark County for the purpose of off-road recreation and environmental protection; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Vice President of the United States as the presiding officer of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Board of County Commissioners of Clark County and each member of the Nevada Congressional Delegation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon passage.