

Reclamation Recognized as Major Partner in Truckee River Restoration at McCarran Ranch Preserve

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View of the Truckee River as it winds through McCarran Ranch Preserve.

RENO, Nev. – Reclamation’s Mid-Pacific Region has been recognized by The Nature Conservancy for its major contributions to restoration work on the lower Truckee River in the McCarran Ranch Preserve, which embodies President Obama’s America’s Great Outdoors Initiative.

The Region provided grant funds through its Desert Terminal Lakes (DTL) Program for the restoration at McCarran Ranch, which is owned by The Nature Conservancy. The

DTL Program, created under legislation sponsored by U.S. Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, has provided grant funding through Reclamation for support of five large scale river restoration projects on the Truckee River including McCarran Ranch. Other contributors include neighboring landowners, state agencies and other federal government agencies.

The 305-acre preserve, which was officially opened to the public during a May 5 ceremony, encompasses more than four miles of the lower Truckee River. The restoration, which began a decade ago, has included construction of a new river bend, creation of riffle sections, removal of nonnative vegetation, and planting of native vegetation. Due to the restoration, the populations of fish and wildlife species in the area have increased.



Crowd gathers for McCarran Ranch Preserve ceremony.

Congress has allocated a total of \$375 million for the DTL Program, which has funded numerous projects such as acquisition of land surrounding a unique lake ecosystem in the Sierra Nevada; federal agency and university research related to watershed health issues; title transfers of Reclamation acquired land; and lake and river fishery and fish hatchery improvements. Overall during 2011 alone, the program obligated \$129 million for multiple watershed restoration projects in eastern California and western Nevada.

RECLAMATION

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The opening of the preserve to the public for the first time in the property's history also expands recreation opportunities, an action that embodies the America's Great Outdoors Initiative, including expansive ecological restoration of river processes and fish and wildlife habitat.

President Obama launched the initiative in 2010, calling on the Secretary of the Interior and other federal officials to develop a 21st century conservation agenda that will protect America's natural and cultural resources, and connect people to the outdoors through jobs, education, recreation and service.



Attending the ceremony were Lisa Donalson, of The Nature Conservancy, and Caryn Hunt DeCarlo, manager of the Desert Terminal Lakes Program for Reclamation.



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