

U.S FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE



Conservation in Action

A New Century of Conservation



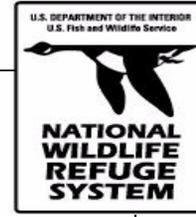
EXHIBIT B Treasures

Document consists of 39 pages.

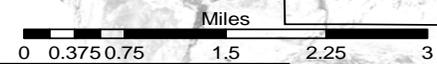
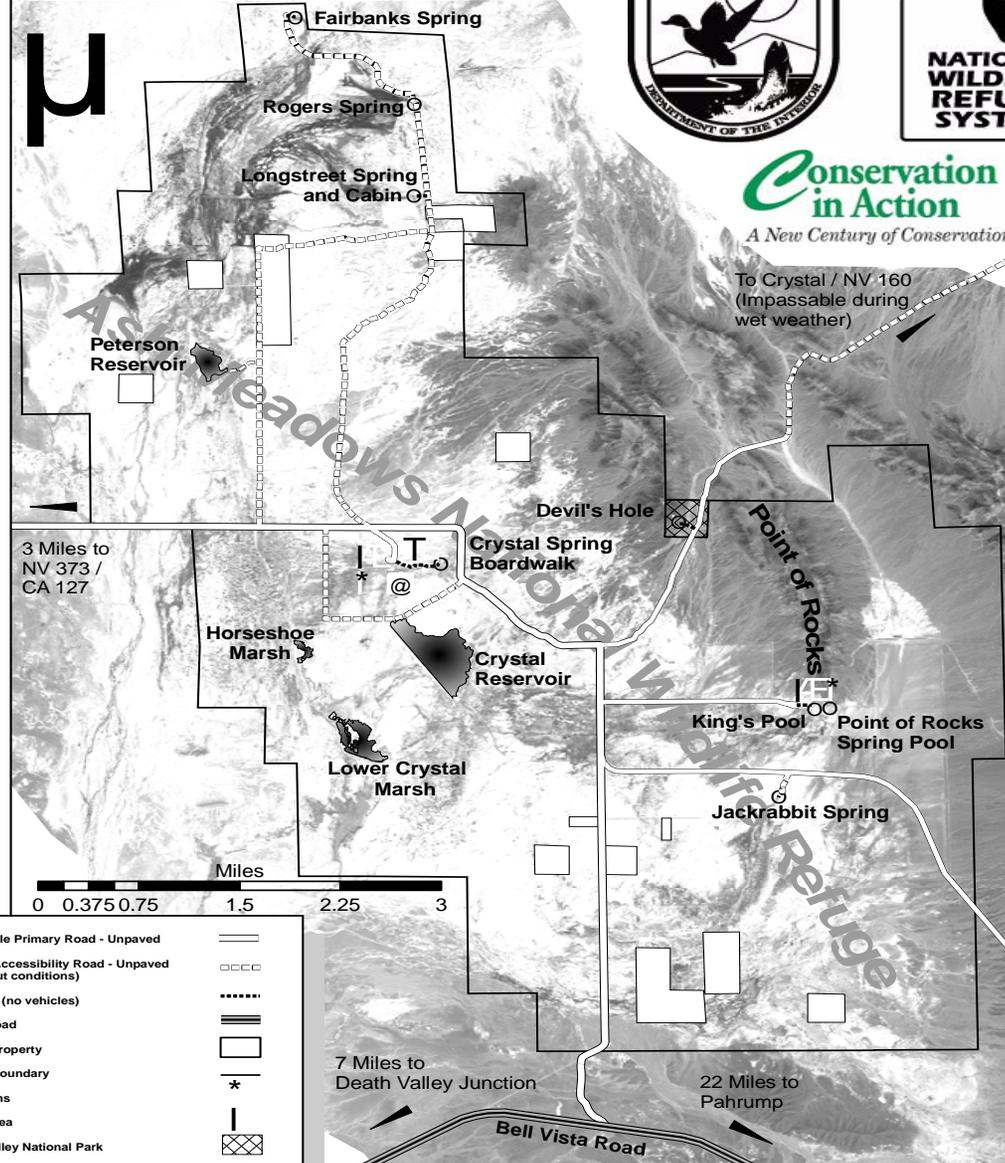
- Entire document provided
- Due to size limitations, pages _____ provided. A copy of the complete document is available through the Research Library (775/684-6827) or e-mail library@lcb.state.nv.us.

Meeting Date 2/10/06

Ash Meadows



**Conservation
in Action**
A New Century of Conservation



Accessible Primary Road - Unpaved	—
Limited Accessibility Road - Unpaved (ask about conditions)	- - - -
Footpath (no vehicles)
Paved Road	====
Private Property	□
Refuge Boundary	—
Restrooms	*
Picnic Area	
Death Valley National Park	⊠
Refuge Headquarters	@
Handicapped Accessible	t

National Wildlife Refuge

“The Mission of the Refuge System is to administer a National network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the U.S. for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.”



➤ Primary Purpose of Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge:
“To provide for the protection and recovery of endangered fish and plants.”



- Ash Meadows NWR was established in June 1984 after a tumultuous decade involving science, politics, and precedent-setting water law.
- (An excellent accounting can be found in *Ash Meadows and the Legacy of the Devils Hole Pupfish* by James E. Deacon and Cindy Deacon Williams, in [Battle Against Extinction: Fish Conservation in the West.](#))



“A Wetland of International Importance”

➤ One of the first four wetlands in the U.S. to be designated a “Wetland of International Importance” by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

➤ “A true oasis, this...refuge embraces the type of spring-fed wetlands and alkaline desert uplands that development has rendered rarer than usual in the arid Southwest.” (Audubon, June 2003)



At least 25 plants and animals found nowhere else distinguishing Ash Meadows as having the greatest concentration of endemic species of any area in the U.S. and second greatest in all of North America.



Thirteen threatened and endangered species and another 50 species of plants and animals considered sensitive.



The abundance of native vegetation found in Ash Meadows has made the Refuge a valuable source of seeds for restoration projects occurring throughout southern Nevada.

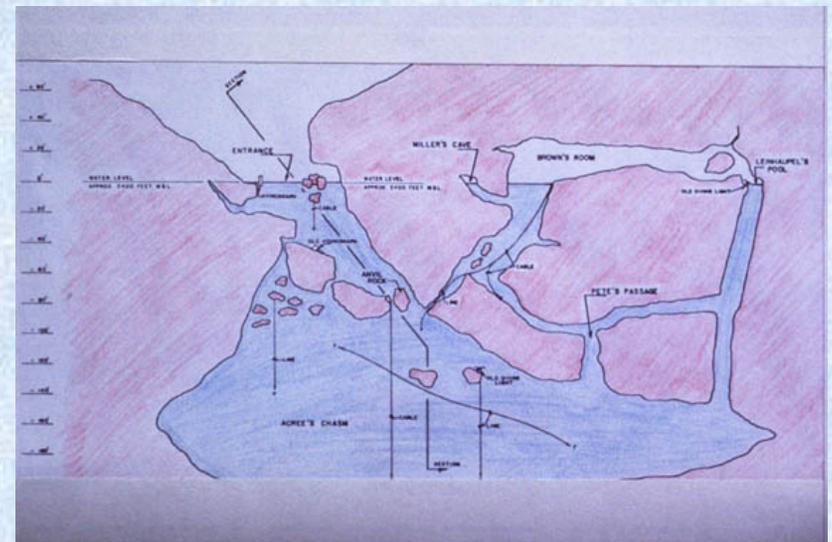


And...Ash Meadows is known as the birthplace of the movement to save desert springs and the native fish of the American southwest.

Our most famous resident –



the Devils Hole pupfish



We have a great wealth of Cultural and Historical Resources



Laws and Policy unique to the Refuge System

Refuge Improvement Act of 1997

- **Management Emphasis:** Each refuge is to be managed to achieve its purpose (s) & NWRS mission.
- **NWRS Mission Vs. Refuge Purpose (s):** When in conflict, refuge purpose (s) takes precedence.
- **Management as a System:** We are to direct & manage the NWRS in a consistent manner, as a National System devoted to wildlife conservation & Management.
- We are to provide increased opportunities in NWRS for safe, compatible, wildlife-dependent public uses for families, including children.



Political controversy.....

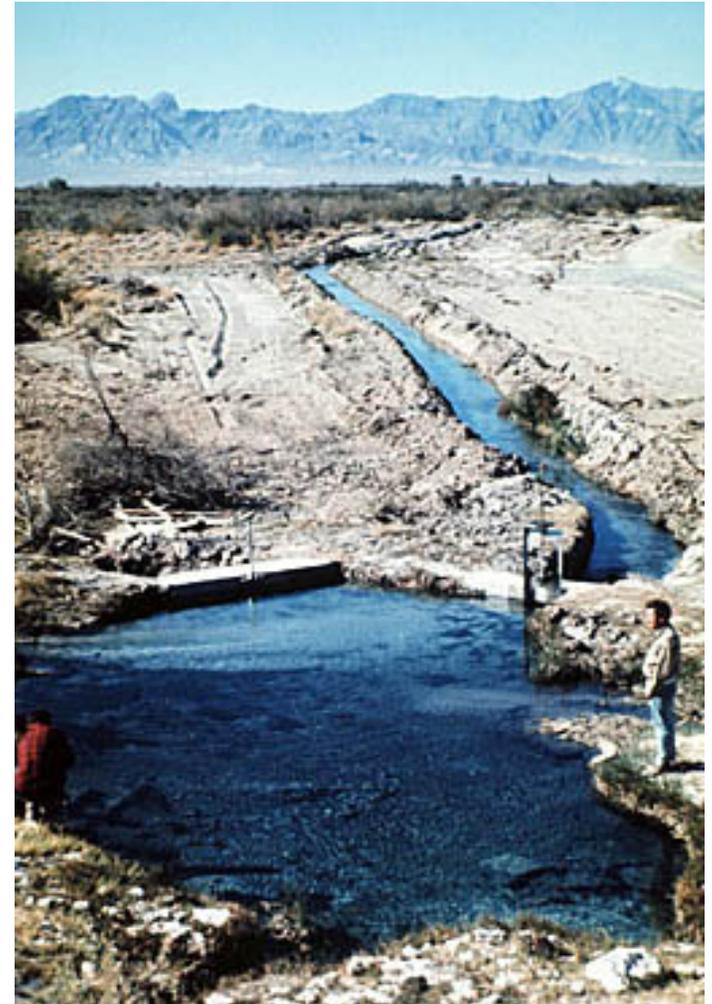




Beginning development on
Calvada Lakes, 1982



Burros,
1972



Spring Meadows, Inc.,
beginning agricultural
development for cattle
ranching operation, 1969



Jackrabbit Spring
1969

A fish out of water.....

Jackrabbit Spring today





Disturbed lands – old agricultural fields are susceptible to invasive,

non-native plants



Invasive, non-native aquatic species – bass, green sunfish, crayfish, bullfrogs, convict cichlids, sailfin mollies, and gambusia (aka mosquitofish)...



threaten the endangered native fish of Ash Meadows.

Restoration of Ash Meadows:



First step -
restoring the hydrological
system of Ash Meadows

Big Spring



Ash Meadows pupfish

Kings Pool, 1939



Kings Pool, 1966



Kings Pool outflow diverted into irrigation ditch, 1972



Kings Pool and outflow irrigation ditch, 1972

Kings Pool outflow, 1997



Kings Pool, 2004



Kings Pool outflow, 2000



Kings Pool outflow, 2004



Point of Rocks





Beginning work on the Point of Rocks spring pool, 2001.

Point of Rocks spring pool today.



With the help of volunteers...



2004





What's happening at the Refuge?

- Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP)
- Refuge-wide hydro-geomorphic Plan and biological assessment.
- Interpretive Plan
- Burned Area Emergency Restoration (BAER) for 3 fires.
- Invasive Weed Mapping
- Longstreet boardwalk
- Point of Rocks boardwalk
- Crystal Springs Contact Station improvements and exhibits

Completed Jack Longstreet's Cabin Restoration Project funded by SNPLMA



We had our open house during Refuge Week in October



Currently working on three fire restoration projects totaling 2,200 acres.





Non-native aquatic species removal



Visitors



Youth Conservation Corps



Volunteer Days

Cutting cattails is hard work, but it is the only time people are allowed in the spring pools.



The next volunteer day is February 25th.

















**Come see us at
Ash Meadows
National Wildlife Refuge!**