



ITRC Documents Get Things Moving in Nevada



An abandoned police firing range in Henderson, Nevada is well on its way to being cleaned up, contributing its part to a larger effort to create a regional wetlands park with walking trails. The old firing range lies within a riparian area that feeds into Lake Mead, an area that is part of a national flyway for migrating waterfowl and home to several endangered species. Mike Verchick, Nevada's POC, credits ITRC documents for closing critical information gaps and moving the project along. Mike works in the Las Vegas office of the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection. With only 20 people in his office and being isolated from the larger Carson City office, Mike and his colleagues go to ITRC documents for guidance on the technical and regulatory issues associated with either innovative technologies and methodologies or particular contaminants.

In southern Nevada, Henderson is home for several old sites that formerly produced magnesium, titanium, and pesticides. Townspeople want abandoned sites cleaned and reused to benefit the community and contribute to quality of life; however, local authorities and contractors were unfamiliar with how to proceed on a project to remediate an old police firing range. Mike brought to the attention of the project manager Characterization and Remediation of Soils at Closed Small Arms Firing Ranges (SMART-1). She used the guidance to quickly get up to speed on the problem, saving time and money in devising a work plan. She also used Property Revitalization—Lessons Learned from BRAC and Brownfields (BRNFLD-2) to find out how to obtain EPA brownfields funds to pay for the cleanup. The project is now half finished, with complete cleanup scheduled for next fiscal year. Mike says:

The Henderson Police Department will redevelop the site into a training center for specialized police units in our community—a reuse compatible with the overall plan to develop a wetlands park. Funds to develop the park are coming from federal, state, and local entities. I see the park becoming an environmental jewel in the Las Vegas metroplex over time. Cleaning up and getting the former firing range back into productive use is an important step in the overall plan.