

## Biography-

Nathan M. Coleman's fifteen years of logistics and project management experience encompass projects ranging from warehousing to wireless telecommunication network deployments to natural resource and environmental protection. As the Mojave Desert Cleanup Program Lead Research Associate assigned by the not-for-profit Great Basin Institute (GBI) through a cooperative agreement to the Southern Nevada District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), he diligently serves by leading a team that provides technical expertise, recommendations, coordination and assistance in the implementation of the District's Desert Cleanup Program. Trained in logistics and management while serving in the United States Coast Guard, he first brought the skills learned to the wireless telecommunication industry, and after ten years decided to refocus his time and energy towards conserving, protecting and preserving something he could be more passionate about- the Mojave and Sonoran desert environments. In the spring of 2008 Nathan moved to the Las Vegas area as an AmeriCorps volunteer to serve as a Nevada Conservation Corps (NCC) Trail Restoration Crew Member performing duties assigned by the BLM, U.S. Forest Service (FS), National Park Service (NPS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) that included trail restoration and construction, wildlife and habitat conservation, invasive species removal and endangered species protection throughout Southern Nevada and Death Valley National Park. After completing his volunteer obligations to AmeriCorps with NCC, he was asked by GBI to be a Mojave Desert Cleanup Coordinator Research Associate with assignment to the BLM's Southern Nevada District. In the late summer of 2009 Nathan was asked by GBI and the BLM to be the Mojave Desert Cleanup Program Lead Research Associate, a position that was gladly and enthusiastically accepted. When not doing his part to cleanup, educate and stop illegal dumping, you can find Nathan pursuing his other passion of flying airplanes and helicopters in the sky above many of the states he grew up in West of the Continental Divide. Eventually, he will combine his two passions of aviation and the environment to make this planet a better place for generations to come.

## Abstract-

Las Vegas has substantial illegal dumping problems inside and along its boundaries, so too do most small towns within Clark and southern Nye counties. The majority of illegal dump sites are brought to the attention of the Southern Nevada District of the BLM by local residents, BLM staff and law enforcement, Southern Nevada Health District, Clark County Code Enforcement and Department of Air Quality and Environmental Management. Our presentation will give an overview of the District's Desert Cleanup Program- the elements involved with implementing it in a safe, efficient, compliant and cost effective manner; our recent accomplishments; the challenges we are faced with and what opportunities are available to get involved with the cleanup of public land in the local communities to improve public and environmental health, restore scenic and ecological land values, and most importantly be fostered with a sense of empowerment and responsibility that will help curb illegal dumping at its source. Curb, you ask? Yes, because stopping it would need to be a whole different presentation on changing a human behavior that is as old as humankind.