

**Bio:**

Nick Rice is an Environmental Biologist for the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA). Nick has worked for SNWA for 6.5 years working on the Las Vegas Wash Project Team. His work is on the biological resources and the native plant revegetation along the Las Vegas Wash. Nick holds a B.A. in Geography from the University of Oregon.

Abstract of my presentation:

**Las Vegas Wash: Providing a Ecosystem Service to the Las Vegas Valley**

The Las Vegas Wash is the most substantial riparian area in the Las Vegas Valley and is the primary drainage channel for the 1,600 square-mile watershed. Historically, the Las Vegas Wash was an ephemeral channel carrying the vast majority of stormwater flows through the valley. Today, base flow of approximately 170 million gallons per day comes from a combination of highly treated wastewater, urban runoff, stormwater and groundwater seepage. This increased flow caused by population growth over time has altered the system in such a way as to increase erosion, decrease water quality and degrade habitat. The Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee since 1998 has been working hard to provide ecosystem services such as erosion control, water quality monitoring, revegetation, biological resources and educational outreach. These ecosystem services have provided a better quality of life for wildlife and the community of the Las Vegas Valley.