



TULE SPRINGS FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT



Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument was designated as a national monument in 2014. Protectors of Tule Springs was founded in 2006 with a mission to preserve the land, and now assists the National Park Service in the protection of resources and with public education outreach.

The primary geological feature in the Tule Springs Fossil Beds is the Las Vegas Wash which is the only drainage system in the Las Vegas Hydrologic Basin. All waters in the basin eventually flow to the wash and then into Lake Mead and the Colorado River.

The area contains the single largest assemblage of ice age fossils in the Southwest, spanning geologic history from 7,000 to 200,000 years before present. It is a continuous record found nowhere else.

The area has been studied since the early 1900's. However, a four-month intensive study of the area in 1962, chronicled by *National Geographic*, catalogued thousands of ice age mammal fossils including Columbian mammoth, ground sloth, American lion, ancient camel, dire wolf, saber-toothed cat, bison, and three ancient species of horse.

The almost 23,000 acres of the national monument support four unique and imperiled plants, the Las Vegas buckwheat, Merriam's bearpoppy, Las Vegas bearpoppy, and halfring milkvetch. The area also supports Joshua trees and several species of cacti.

Tule Springs provides important habitat for the threatened desert tortoise, burrowing owls, kit foxes, and several other wildlife species that are recognized for protection under the Clark County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan. Also, four species of raptors utilize the wash for meeting their habitat needs – kestrels, barn owls, burrowing owls, and great horned owls.

Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument demonstrates a model of cooperation between Clark County, City of Las Vegas, City of North Las Vegas, Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, National Park Service, State of Nevada, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Air Force, Clark County School District, and other educational institutions, tourism-generating initiatives, and citizen groups.

Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument will provide educational opportunities, especially first-hand experience of several fields of earth science, for our school children. The area is also supported by state higher education institutions and is expected to be a significant educational and research resource far into the future.

Currently, the area and its ecosystem are facing threats posed by urban encroachment, ongoing or increased recreation demand, and the illegal dumping of residential and industrial waste. Vandalism and looting of the irreplaceable paleontological resources is occurring and this fundraising effort will help clean, protect, and develop this important national monument.

For more information, please visit nps.gov/tusk or tulespringslv.com.