

Community Focus Statement F: Create greater recreational and educational opportunities within Lucerne Valley.

F3

Action Statement F.3: Enhance appreciation for the desert in school age children by partnering with local organizations and land trusts to develop a desert education program that studies the natural environment, geology, history, etc. and incorporates field trips.

Benchmark: Yearly volunteer and educational opportunities are created and continue to operate and improve.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: \$500–\$1,000 – Create a group of community members to facilitate the program.

Lucerne Valley is located in the Mojave Desert, and the community would benefit from youth programs which promote appreciation, preservation, and conservation of the desert. Early educational opportunities that actively engage school-aged children are a way to foster this appreciation. Many educational opportunities currently exist that will help achieve this objective, and an educational program can be developed specifically for the Lucerne Valley community. The following is a list of organizations and volunteer opportunities available.

- Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District – The agency is committed to the development of a land stewardship ethic that promotes long-term sustainability of the region’s rich and diverse natural resource heritage. The agency may be a good resource to educate school-aged children on different aspects of desert conservation.
- California Desert Conservation Area (Bureau of Land Management) – The CDCA is a 25-million-acre expanse of land in Southern California. The CDCA, managed by the Bureau of Land Management, provides educational programs and utilizes volunteers. The following are two CDCA programs that may be of interest to the Lucerne Valley community:
 - Take It Outside – A program designed to get kids outdoors and connected to nature. BLM staff host a variety of programs and activities on BLM lands ranging from archaeology field tours to whitewater rafting and camping.
 - National Public Lands Day (NPLD) – The largest volunteer event for America’s public lands. NPLD is held on a Saturday in late September when thousands of Americans volunteer to improve and enhance our nation’s public lands.
- Mojave Desert Land Trust (MDLT) – The organization works to protect the Mojave Desert ecosystem and its scenic and cultural resource values. The following are volunteer programs that may be of interest to the Lucerne Valley community:
 - Land Stewardship Volunteers – Land stewards assist with restoration, monitoring, and property cleanup.
 - Desert Salvage Team – The salvage team travels to local and remote locations to clean up the land and collect desert treasures.

- Native Plant and Seeds – Volunteers help with native plant seed-gathering and cleaning excursions on MDLT properties.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Create a Volunteer Group of Volunteers	Champion		Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District
2. Contact the Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District to provide educational opportunities on different aspects of desert conservation.	Group with Lucerne Valley Unified School District	Year 1 - ongoing	http://www.mojavedesertccd.org/ Mojave Desert Land Trust https://www.mdlt.org/involved/
3. Contact the California Desert Conservation Area (Bureau of Land Management) to participate in the Take It Outside program and/or National Public Lands Day.	Group with Lucerne Valley Unified School District	Year 1 - ongoing	California Desert Conservation Area (Bureau of Land Management) Take It Outside http://www.blm.gov/publish/content/wo/en/prog/more/Children_and_Nature.html
4. Contact the Mojave Desert Land Trust to volunteer for the following programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Stewardship Volunteers • Desert Salvage Team • Native Plant and Seeds 	Group with Lucerne Valley Unified School District	Year 1 - ongoing	National Public Lands Day https://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/res/national_public_lands.html
5. Schedule a meeting with the school district to present educational opportunities for local school kids.	Group with Lucerne Valley Unified School District	Year 1 - ongoing	