The lands of the Las Vegas Ranger District offer a rather unique resource to the people of southern Nevada. Approximately 62,000 acres of cool mountain forests are encompassed by the District boundary -- a mountain oasis in the middle of the desert. The city of Las Vegas, with nearly 300,000 people, is located only 35 miles to the southeast and is the major user source area. Of equal importance is the fact that 16.5 million people live within an 8- to 10-hour drive of the area. Most of these people live in southern California (see map on next page).

At present, the recreation resource of the Las Vegas District is of high quality. It offers climatic relief and a forested mountain environment. The problem then, is to devise a land use plan to develop and project the limited resources of the District.

In 1969, the Forest Service recognized the probable future demands and impacts on these resources and began a revision of the District Multiple Use Plan to provide new management direction with increased emphasis on the recreation resource. Multiple use plans, in the past, lacked the information base of many specialized skills simply because these skills were not available. The Toiyabe National Forest recognized

COVER PHOTO: This high elevation Weakly Dissected Mountain Slope Land in the Toiyabe National Forest is sensitive to erosion and is important in maintaining the small Charleston Mountain elk herd. Management unit decisions for this area promote stability and maintenance of plant cover.