Interagency Science and Research: Quarterly Progress Report, Period Ending September 30, 2005

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Executive Summary

- Search for project manager was successfully completed in September 2005
- Project manager Debra Dandridge will start half-time (telecommuting) on November 1, 2005, and begins in Las Vegas full-time on January 1, 2006

Program Activities

Since the task agreement was awarded, the university’s primary focus has been to successfully complete a search for the project manager. With the departure of Bob Boyd – the team lead of the Interagency Science and Research Team – the university called upon other members of the team and related federal staff to assist in completing the selection process. After the committee’s initial choice for the position ultimately turned it down, the committee continued to review the pool of applicants in late summer/early fall and interviewed two additional candidates. Those deliberations resulted in a recommendation to the federal managers to hire Debra Dandridge from Texas A&M University. She brings to the position more than 25 years of experience working with the federal land-management agencies. The federal managers endorsed the recommendation on 9/29/05, and Ms. Dandridge is scheduled to begin on a half-time basis from Texas as of November 1, 2005, assuming full-time duties after relocating to Las Vegas as of January 1, 2006.

The university has asked Ms. Dandridge to begin working immediately with Dr. Paul Buck at the Desert Research Institute, who is tasked with holding science and research vital signs workshops during Fall 2005. Having these two scientists coordinate their efforts at an early stage should be beneficial to the overall science and research strategy.

Until the project manager is on board, there have been no substantive activities toward the deliverables to date. The federal liaisons are aware of the need to appoint a new lead for the interagency team, as no replacement of Bob Boyd has yet been named by the Bureau of Land Management. When the membership of the interagency team is settled, the university will task the project manager with holding a team meeting as quickly as possible.

Submitted by:

Margaret N. Rees, Principal Investigator

September 30, 2005

Date