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Public Lands Initiative Overview

Public Lands Institute

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University of Nevada, Las Vegas
September 29, 2004
UNLV Public Lands Initiative

- Created April 2004
- Partnering with four federal land-management agencies
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - National Park Service
  - U.S. Forest Service
  - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Projects funded by SNPLMA
  - Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act
Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act

- Enacted in 1998.
- BLM to sell federally owned land around cities.
- ~ 50,000 acres approved for sale in disposal areas.
- Proceeds used for designated purposes.
SNLMA for Public Purposes

- Capital improvement projects
  - Lake Mead
  - Red Rock Canyon
  - Spring Mountain Recreation Area
  - Desert National Wildlife Refuge
  - Other federally managed areas
SNLMA for Public Purposes

- Parks, trails, and natural areas
  - On public lands
  - Within cities
- Conservation Initiatives
  - Education in the Environment
  - Scientific Research
  - Restoration
  - Recreation
  - Preservation
SNLMA for Public Purposes

- Acquisition of environmentally sensitive land in Nevada.
- Multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan.
  - Development & Implementation
  - Clark County wide
SNPLMA for Public Purposes

- Southern Nevada Water Authority (10%)
- State of Nevada General Education Fund (5%)

Other provisions provide for
- Affordable housing
- Convey land McCarran Airport noise zone to Clark County
UNLV Public Lands Initiative

- Engage in selected SNPLMA projects.
  - Compatible with UNLV’s mission
    - Learning, Discovery, and Community Engagement
  - Enhances education and research
  - Draws upon expertise of faculty, staff, & students
Red Rock Desert Learning Center

- To be located on former Oliver Ranch site.
- Environmental assessment is underway.
- Initial programming completed.
- Schematic designs completed December 2004.
- Curriculum currently in development.
Red Rock Desert Learning Center

- Residential outdoor learning environment
  - Integrated science, art, and language facility

- Includes a Wild Horse and Burro Facility

- Targeted to 5th grade students in Clark County

- Will be available for other uses
Red Rock Desert Learning Center
UNLV’s Role

- Help BLM with project coordination
- Develop an integrated curriculum
- Coordinate a business plan
- Provide public outreach and publicity
- Design and maintain website
Forever Earth

- A floating education laboratory and center
  - Docked on Lake Mead
- Designed for K-12 science education
- Available for scientific research

UNLV’s role:
- Designing the curriculum and programming
- Scheduling and operating the vessel
- Teaching and research
WOW on the Water

- Wonderful Outdoor World on the Water
  - An outdoor recreation program for children
    - Fishing, boating, and water safety
    - Bird watching
    - Art
    - Environmental education
  - Targeted to urban, economically disadvantaged youth who have never experienced recreation on the public lands
WOW on the Water
UNLV’s Role

- Develop curriculum
- Implement programs
- Schedule WOW events
- Secure partnerships
  - parks & recreation agencies
  - Boys and Girls Clubs
  - local businesses
  - schools
Outdoor Education Strategy

- Develop 5-year strategic plan for education

- On public lands & throughout Clark County
  - Visitor Centers
  - Educational programs
  - Interpretive programs
  - Outdoor venues
  - Interpretive trails
  - Museums

- Provide an integrated implementation plan
Outdoor Education Strategy
UNLV’s Role

- Coordinate projects and partners throughout Southern Nevada

- Integrate curricula and programs
  - Red Rock Desert Learning Center
  - Forever Earth
  - WOW on the Water

- Ensure complementary activities county-wide
Interagency Volunteer Program
UNLV’s Role

- Develop a comprehensive, integrated volunteer database for Southern Nevada’s public lands
- Develop a common training program
- Develop a reward program for volunteers
- Help implement volunteer events
Federal Natural Resources Career Internship Program

UNLV’s Role

- Develop a Student Internship Program
  - High school juniors & seniors participate
  - Provide experience with land management agencies
  - Encourage future employment with federal land-management agencies

- Targeted to ethnically diverse youth

- Encourage college attendance

- Coordinate program with four agencies
Cultural Site Stewardship Program

- Recruit and train volunteers
- Help agencies monitor and protect cultural and natural resources in Southern Nevada
- Modeled after the Arizona Site Stewardship Program
- Coordinated with Interagency Volunteer Program
Pending UNLV SNPLMA Projects

- Take Pride in America Campaign
  - Judicial review and analysis of littering fines
  - Help coordinate volunteers
  - Develop broad-reaching clean-up strategy
  - Develop strategic plan

- Science and Research Strategy
  - Coordinate partnerships
  - Provide written strategy
  - Oversee process

- Habitat Restoration Program
  - Develop database
UNLV Public Lands Initiative

More Information:
Nancy Flagg, Director
895-4678
nancy.flag@ccmail.nevada.edu