

2004

Oliver Ranch Science School Complex & Wild Horse and Burro Facility: Quarterly Progress Report, Period Ending June 30, 2004

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QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Period Ending June 30, 2004

Assistance Agreement Number FAA010017

Task Order Number FAF040019

Oliver Ranch Science School Complex & Wild Horse and Burro Facility

Task 1: Project Coordination

Assist in project coordination between numerous stakeholders such as the Clark County School System, Desert Research Institute, Community College of Southern Nevada, UNR Cooperative Extension, Nevada State College, local museums, state parks, non-profit organizations, federal agencies, and the public to ensure appropriate educational curricular activities and venues are provided for in the conceptual design of the School and the Wild Horse and Burro facility where appropriate as well as assist in the NEPA process as needed. The activities will be conducted at least in part by university faculty, staff and students as part of the university's research, teaching, and service mission.

Deliverables: The project coordinator will meet regularly with the Oliver Ranch committees, the Line and Space design team and NEPA team to assure modifications in design or curriculum that are necessary and appropriate are incorporated throughout the process of developing the facility. These activities will be recorded and provided to BLM in quarterly reports.

PROGRESS AS OF JUNE 30, 2004

The task agreement was signed on June 10, 2004. For the allowable 90-day pre-award period, as well as for the period June 10-30, 2004, the following activities have taken place:

- Nancy Flagg, Director of the Public Lands Institute at UNLV, attended the Design Oversight Committee meeting on May 17, 2004, to learn about the progress to date on the design of the Oliver Ranch project.
- Nancy Flagg attended the Oliver Ranch Core Group meeting on May 18, 2004, chaired by BLM Project Manager Michael Reiland. On May 21, Ms. Flagg provided minutes of that meeting to Michael Reiland.
- On May 24, 2004, Nancy Flagg provided Michael Reiland a draft template for the quarterly reports and requested his feedback.
- On May 27, 2004, at the request of Angie Lara, Assistant BLM Field Office Manager, Nancy Flagg drafted a letter to the Oliver Ranch Core Group to go out

under the signature of Ms. Lara and Dr. Margaret Rees. The letter was ultimately not sent.

- On June 4, 2004, Ms. Flagg developed the agenda for the next Core Group meeting set for June 15 in consultation with Mr. Reiland.
- On June 4, 2004, Nancy Flagg shared a copy of the draft historical timeline with Mr. Blaine Benedict to seek his input and changes.
- On June 9, 2004, Nancy Flagg and Margaret Rees met with Scott Hauger, Vice President for Research and Business Development at Desert Research Institute, to discuss DRI's potential involvement in the curriculum and operation of Oliver Ranch Science School.
- On June 10, 2004, Nancy Flagg attended the Oliver Ranch Committee Chairs meeting to introduce herself to the committee chairs and to share information about UNLV's involvement in the project.
- On June 11, 2004, the agenda for the June 15 Oliver Ranch Core Group was distributed by e-mail. The minutes of the May 18 meeting were distributed electronically on June 14, 2004.
- On June 15, Nancy Flagg attended the Oliver Ranch Core Group meeting. At the meeting, she provided information about the UNLV CESU agreement and progress to date.
- On June 18, 2004, Nancy Flagg met with Blaine Benedict, Chair of the Fund-Raising and Partnerships Committee, to discuss the history of the Oliver Ranch project and the mission and charge of the Fund-Raising and Partnerships Committee.
- On June 21, 2004, Nancy Flagg sent the Oliver Ranch Core Group an electronic link to a KNPR radio interview on the Oliver Ranch project, which featured BLM and community representatives.
- On June 23, 2004, Nancy Flagg distributed draft minutes of the June 15 Core Group meeting and requested any corrections from attendees. She also provided electronic copies of handouts from the meeting for those who were unable to attend.

Thus far, there has been positive feedback from the Core Group on the university's communication and coordination efforts. Two examples include:

"There sure has been a huge improvement in the quality of the notes and communications since your arrival!"

"Oh, kudos and 'wow!' re: your notes, minutes, comments about the Oliver Ranch facility. I've seen more write-ups from you in the last two weeks than in the years that the project has been underway. Fabulous. Absolutely fabulous. Please continue this practice."

Task 2: Educational Curricular Coordination

Provide educational thematic and curricular coordination between numerous stakeholders such as the Clark County School System, Desert Research Institute, Community College of Southern Nevada, UNR Cooperative Extension, Nevada State College, local museums, state parks, non-profit organizations, federal agencies, and the public and help develop a written curriculum that synthesizes the input of these stakeholders. In addition, suggest other compatible uses for the School including but not limited to science and educational research. The activities will be conducted at least in part by university faculty, staff and students as part of the university's research, teaching, and service mission.

Deliverables: The Educational Curricular Coordinator will provide educational themes and activities for 5th grade outdoor environmental curriculum appropriate for the School in quarterly progress reports. The coordinator will collate the curricular contributions of the stakeholders identified for this subtask and attempt to synthesize these into an overall curriculum for 5th grade environmental sciences to be based at the school. Visitation to other similar outdoor schools will be included and their curriculum incorporated into the reports as appropriate.

PROGRESS AS OF JUNE 30, 2004

As of June 30, 2004, work has not yet begun on this subtask. The chair of the Oliver Ranch Educational Programs Committee, Dr. Paul Buck, has been out of town since mid-June and, thus, has not been available for discussions about the current status of the school's curriculum.

In the interim, however, the university has arranged for UNLV faculty members John Farley and Kent Crippen to join the Educational Programs Committee. These professors are co-directors of UNLV's new Center for Science and Math Education and will begin attending the Educational Programs Committee meetings in mid-July.

Task 3: Operational Analysis

Provide coordination for the business model with curriculum development to elucidate the potential operations and maintenance cost and projected revenues for the School as the design evolves and potential funding sources are more predictable. The activities will be conducted at least in part by university faculty, staff and students as part of the university's research, teaching, and service mission.

Deliverables: The tasked coordination will be developed as the curriculum and design evolves. These plans will include estimated operational and maintenance costs and projected revenues. Progress on these business plans will be submitted in quarterly reports to BLM and will be prepared at least in part by university faculty, staff and graduate and undergraduate students.

PROGRESS AS OF JUNE 30, 2004

As of June 30, 2004, work has not yet begun on this subtask. Further activity in this area will be conducted in collaboration with BLM project manager Michael Reiland, the Oliver Ranch Operations Committee, and the Oliver Ranch Other Uses Committee.

Task 4: Community Coordination

Provide community outreach coordination to the public and facilitate collaborative processes with the Oliver Ranch committees including but not limited to the core committee and its designated subcommittees as outlined in the current BLM Oliver Ranch minutes. This role will include the calling of meetings, development of meeting agenda, recording and distribution of minutes, meeting facilitation, and other communication and coordination as needed for the smooth functioning of the Oliver Ranch committees. This service will be provided at least in part by university faculty, staff and students as part of the university's research and service mission.

Deliverables: Community outreach activities will be recorded and reported quarterly. These may include over the two years public Web page development, printed brochures, public forums, radio and television spots, school visitations, and establishing a mechanism for accepting donations.

PROGRESS AS OF JUNE 30, 2004

- In April 2004, the university began recruitment for a Technical Administrator in its Public Lands Institute office, with an anticipated hire date of August 1, 2004. The duties of this position include development of the Oliver Ranch web site. On June 22, 23, June 28, and July 9, the search committee and Nancy Flagg interviewed finalists for this position. The finalists were provided with information about Oliver Ranch and were asked to develop a beta website as part of the interview process. The beta website created by one of the applicants led to an inquiry from Mr. Markus Tracy of the City of LV, who runs an artist-in-residence program. Mr. Tracy is interested in learning more about the Oliver Ranch project and possible tie-ins to his program. He will attend the September Core Group meeting. The anticipated hire date is August 2, 2004.
- On May 27 and June 16, 2004, Nancy Flagg met with Earnest Phillips, UNLV Director of Marketing and Public Relations, regarding website development. The discussion centered around best practices, common templates, and management and oversight of the eventual website.
- On June 10, 2004, Nancy Flagg inquired about federal website guidelines with Michael Reiland and asked for direction on whether the Oliver Ranch website would need to sit on a federal server. Michael Reiland responded on June 29 with information about the federal guidelines that must be followed. When UNLV's web coordinator is hired, further work will continue on complying with federal requirements.
- On June 15, 2004, Nancy Flagg provided a draft of an Oliver Ranch historical timeline for review by the Core Group. The timeline was developed for use on the eventual Oliver Ranch web page as well as for background information for public speaking engagements. The draft has been reviewed by Michael Reiland, Blaine Benedict, and Core Group. Refinements and additions will continue to be made to the project history as new developments occur.
- On June 18, 2004, Nancy Flagg met with Blaine Benedict to discuss potential fundraising mechanisms for the Oliver Ranch Science School. Tentatively, the discussion centered around using an existing 501-3-c organization – such as the Red Rock

Interpretive Association – as a receiving organization for Oliver Ranch donations. Additional discussions on this subject will be held with the Fund-Raising and Partnership Committee.

- On June 26, Nancy Flagg discussed potential fund-raising contacts with Dr. Merlinda Gallegos of the Tang Foundation. Dr. Gallegos has extensive contacts within the non-profit community in Nevada. The information she provided was used to download information, surveys, and sample vision statements from local and regional foundations that could be contacted for Oliver Ranch donations. This information will be shared with the Fund-Raising and Partnership Committee at its next meeting.

Submitted by: _____

Margaret Rees, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator