

2005

Oliver Ranch Science School Complex & Wild Horse and Burro Facility: Quarterly Progress Report, Period Ending December 31, 2005

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Rees, M. N. (2005). Oliver Ranch Science School Complex & Wild Horse and Burro Facility: Quarterly Progress Report, Period Ending December 31, 2005. 1-6.

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QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Period Ending December 31, 2005

Assistance Agreement Number FAA010017
Task Order Number FAF040019

Oliver Ranch Science School Complex & Wild Horse and Burro Facility

Executive Summary

Activity highlights during the first quarter of Year Two include the following actions toward task agreement deliverables:

- Agenda and minutes prepared and distributed for two core group meetings
- Historical curriculum 100% completed
- Cultural curriculum 100% completed
- Night sky curriculum 50% completed
- Green Building curriculum 25% completed
- Communications/Outreach Plan revised and prioritized
- RRDLCL newsletter under final review by BLM state office

Task 1: Project Coordination

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 DECEMBER 31, 2005

Over the past quarter, the Red Rock Desert Learning Center Core Group has met two times: October 18 and December 6, 2005 (the previously scheduled November meeting was cancelled at the request of BLM). For each of these meetings, the university assembled and distributed the agenda, handouts, and minutes. For those persons who are unable to attend the Core Group meetings, electronic copies of the minutes and handouts are provided via e-mail.

In addition to the Core Group meetings, Public Lands Institute Director Nancy Flagg also attends the monthly meetings of the RRDLCL Committee Chairs. At these meetings, which are typically held 5 days' prior to the Core Group, the participants share new information and prepare for the Core Group meeting. The Committee Chairs met on October 13 and December 1, 2005.

The majority of the core group committees – with the exception of the Building Committee – are not actively meeting at this time while design development continues. The Building Committee has been active during this period and met on October 18 and December 13-14, 2005. The Educational Programs

Committee met informally via email during this period to review the Historical curriculum and Cultural curriculum, which is explained in more detail under Task 2. The Wild Horse and Burro Committee hosted a brainstorming session to get input on interpretive exhibits for both the RRDLC project and the Red Rock Canyon Visitor Center project.

Task 2: Educational Curricular Coordination

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 DECEMBER 31, 2005

Core Curriculum

In our last quarterly report, we noted that Curriculum Coordinator Jeanne Klockow had begun forming small working groups, composed of agency personnel and community members, to develop core curriculum strands in 5 areas:

- Wild Horse & Burro
- Historical
- Cultural
- Night Sky
- Green Building Technology

The Wild Horse & Burro curriculum was completed and provided with our last quarterly report. During the current quarter, the Historical curriculum was completed and went through several revisions and reviews from both the Core Group and the Educational Programs Committee. The final draft curriculum was shared with the Core Group on October 18, 2005 and was then forwarded to the Educational Programs Committee and the UNLV Curriculum Advisory Team for feedback by Clark County School District teachers and other constituencies. No substantive changes were made to the proposed curriculum, and it is now 100 percent complete.

The Cultural curriculum was also completed during the quarter and went through several revisions and reviews from both the Core Group and the Educational Programs Committee. The final draft curriculum was shared with the Core Group on December 6, 2005, and was then forwarded to the Educational Programs Committee and the UNLV Curriculum Advisory Team for feedback by Clark County School District teachers and other constituencies. No substantive changes were made to the curriculum as proposed, and it is now 100 percent complete.

Dr. Klockow met with Native American representatives on November 14, 2005, regarding the correlation and integration of Native American culture into the curricular strands. The meeting was very productive and informative. Agreement was reached to integrate Native American correlations throughout all of the curricular strands so the knowledge is approached in a holistic rather than fragmented manner for students. As a result, the completed Science curriculum was emailed November 18, 2005, to the Native American representatives for feedback and integration of Native American themes. Likewise, the Wild Horse and Burro curriculum was emailed December 2, 2005, for feedback and integration of Native American themes.

Also during the last quarter, Dr. Klockow began meeting with a working group to develop the Night Sky curriculum. Five “essential questions” that form the basis of the proposed curriculum have been determined. The working group will now be completing drafts of lesson plans, or strands, for each essential question. Overall, the work on the night sky curriculum is 50% complete to date and the drafts of the strands will be presented to the Core Group and Educational Programs Committee at the February 21, 2006, meeting. The final working group to develop Green Building Technology curriculum was formed and began meeting in December 2005.

Teacher Training and Curriculum Piloting

During the past quarter, Dr. Klockow began assembling another working group to develop piloting modules of the Science and Historical curricula for local schoolteachers. That group began meeting November 7, 2005, to brainstorm training modules and develop a timeline and logistics checklist for conducting piloting sessions for both pre-service and novice teachers at UNLV and Clark County School District, which the university hopes to conduct in Spring 2006 at Spring Mountain Ranch State Park adjacent to the Oliver Ranch property and at other nearby locations. A template of three training schedules was also developed, two focusing on Science and one on History. Further meetings will take place during the next quarter to finalize the training modules, work on the training materials, and ensure collaboration with all appropriate stakeholders.

Task 3: Operational Analysis

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 DECEMBER 31, 2005

As reported in prior quarterly reports, the university is taking no formal action on Task #3 at this time per the request of the BLM project coordinator. Given this situation, in November 2005 the university submitted a Year 2 budget modification request to the Las Vegas Field Office to allow Subtask 3 funding to be transferred to Subtask 2 and used for teacher piloting of the RRDLIC curriculum. Our request is still pending as of the date of this report.

Task 4: Community Coordination

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 DECEMBER 31, 2005

Project Website

The official RRDLIC project website the university developed in 2004 that links through the Las Vegas Bureau of Land Management website has been inaccessible for most of the calendar year due to legal challenges at the national level. This has prevented the university from uploading new information and improving the site overall as we had hoped to do on a monthly basis.

Public Relations and Outreach

Work on the following outreach activities was commenced and/or completed during the past quarter:

Informational Brochure

One of the first items called for in the approved outreach plan was a basic information piece about the RRDLCL project. Once schematic drawings became available in May, the university began working on an RRDLCL newsletter – intended as a handout at public presentations and community events. Drafts of the text were provided to the BLM project coordinator and public affairs officer on July 12, 2005. As noted in our last quarterly report, the university has struggled to gain BLM approval of this publication, which does not bode well for completing other outreach activities in a timely manner.

It may be instructive to review a timeline of the development of the RRDLCL newsletter. Despite six months of work and follow-up since July 2005, we are closing out the calendar year without this first formal outreach piece published.

Newsletter Development Timeline

JULY 2005

- 7/12 – Draft copy for initial newsletter/brochure emailed to Michael Reiland and Kirsten Cannon for review and changes.
- 7/13 – Notified that Kirsten Cannon was out of office and unavailable to review copy until 7/18. Advised copywriter Joy Drohan to begin discussing possible newsletter designs and artwork with UNLV Reprographics.
- 7/18 – Kirsten Cannon emailed Nancy Flagg to confirm receipt of newsletter copy and to advise that she hoped to complete her review that week. Changes/edits never received.

AUGUST 2005

- 8/1 – LaNelda Rolley hired as Public Lands Institute marketing specialist.
- 8/10 – LaNelda made introductory call to Kirsten Cannon. Discussed projects, including newsletter.
- 8/14 – Initial newsletter layout/design developed by UNLV Reprographics.
- 8/19 – University staff reviewed newsletter layout, suggested minor changes, discussed color options and worked to secure better quality site map.
- 8/26 – University staff worked on draft Juan Palma column for newsletter, decided on newsletter ink colors, worked on site map.

SEPTEMBER 2005

- 9/2 – LaNelda revised draft Palma column.
- 9/8 – Received revised site map from Bob Clements with Line and Space. Forwarded to UNLV Reprographics.
- 9/9 – Received revised newsletter proof from Reprographics.
- 9/15 – Emailed initial newsletter proof to Michael Reiland and Kirsten Cannon.
- 9/19 – Called Kirsten Cannon to check on newsletter status and set meeting date. Left message; Kirsten out until 9/26.
- 9/28 and 9/29 – Called Kirsten Cannon to check on the status of newsletter review. Set meeting date to discuss newsletter and outreach/communications plan.

OCTOBER 2005

- 10/6 – Meeting with Michael, Kirsten, Keith Sheldon, Nancy and LaNelda. Michael provided his newsletter edits. Kirsten said to go with Michael's changes. UNLV advised by Kirsten that newsletter would not require state office review, per agency policy.
- 10/12 – Michael's edits provided to UNLV Reprographics.
- 10/19 – Printing order for 500 copies processed through Reprographics.
- 10/25 – Received blueline proof from printer. Faxed copy to Kirsten for review.
- 10/26 – Kirsten called and asked to have proof emailed for Associate Field Manager Angie Lara to review. Faxed copy not readable. Advised Kirsten proof is not available in electronic format. New Xerox copy hand-delivered to Kirsten on 10/27.

NOVEMBER 2005

- 11/1 – Meeting with Michael, Keith and LaNelda (Kirsten ill). Michael provided additional copy edits but advised that additional edits by Field Office Manager Juan Palma would be forthcoming. Michael also informed UNLV that newsletter must be sent to State BLM Office for review and approval, with response anticipated within one week.
- 11/8 – Michael called for update on sending an electronic proof to the state office. Michael was advised PLI was waiting to receive Juan Palma edits before providing updated proof.
- 11/15 – LaNelda called Michael to check on status of final copy edits. Left message.
- 11/18 – Michael emailed Juan Palma's editorial changes. LaNelda out of office 11/17-11/27.
- 11/28 – Final BLM edits provided to Reprographics.

DECEMBER 2005

- 12/1 – LaNelda emailed final proof to Kirsten and Michael to send to State BLM Office. Kirsten out of office until 12/5.
- 12/12 – Kirsten Cannon called to say that newsletter was under review by state BLM director rather than public affairs staff. Juan Palma to follow-up on status on 12/15/05.

Public Presentations

Clark County School District K-12 Science and Health Coordinator Loretta Asay provided an overview of the Red Rock Desert Learning Center to approximately 75 high school science teachers on October 15, 2005.

Community Outreach

The Public Lands Institute held meetings with Michael Reiland and Kirsten Cannon on October 6 and November 1, 2005, to review and revise the Communications/Outreach Plan and timeline. They reached consensus on more concise key messages, revisions to the key audiences to prioritize them into primary and secondary audiences, and prioritization of outreach activities by category.

A major portion of the discussion centered upon the need for clarification from the Las Vegas Field Office Manager on the desired scope of outreach activities to key audiences, as well as direction on the project logo. On October 26, 2005, the university provided Michael Reiland and Kirsten Cannon (at their request) with talking points on these issues to assist them in presenting key points to Field Office Manager Juan Palma. No response on these issues has been received by the university to date, which greatly inhibits our ability to proceed with the revised outreach timeline. In the meantime, however, major categories and specific activities on the outreach timeline have been prioritized for action in the first quarter of 2006:

Priority I -- Publications

- Single-sheet flyer completed.
- Newsletter in final stages of approval for printing.
- Michael Reiland to consult with Kirsten Cannon to discuss Angie Lara's desires prior to developing the "Project-at-a-Glance" postcard.

Priority II -- Public Speaking Activities

- List of civic groups completed in November 2005.
- Michael to review the Line & Space PowerPoint presentation to see what should be added to the presentation previously prepared for the Clark County School District Board of Trustees.
- LaNelda to review and update the talking points prepared for the Clark County School District Board of Trustees for future presentations.
- Michael Reiland to be the primary speaker for all public speaking engagements with Juan Palma and Angie Lara being secondary, based on their availability.
- With direction from Juan Palma on key audiences, develop a proposed schedule of speaking engagements. Initial plans called for that activity to occur in January/February 2006.
- Public open houses tentatively planned for March/April 2006 to coincide with the operator selection. However, the activity may need to be delayed pending status of operator selection process.

Priority III -- Media Relations

- Media contacts list completed in October 2005.
- List of targeted environmental groups completed in November 2005.
- Develop media relations plan in first quarter to coincide with project milestones.
- Develop media kit in first quarter.

Priority IV -- Website Development

- Site currently inoperable due to court ruling.
- Michael to work with PLI Web Communications Specialist Megan Iudice on site improvements, including the addition of games and interactive components.

Priority V -- Community Relations / Special Events / Promotional Items

- Awaiting further direction from Field Office Manager Juan Palma on logo development and outreach to key audiences.

Submitted by: _____

Margaret Rees, Ph.D., Principal Investigator