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UNLV Public Lands Initiative

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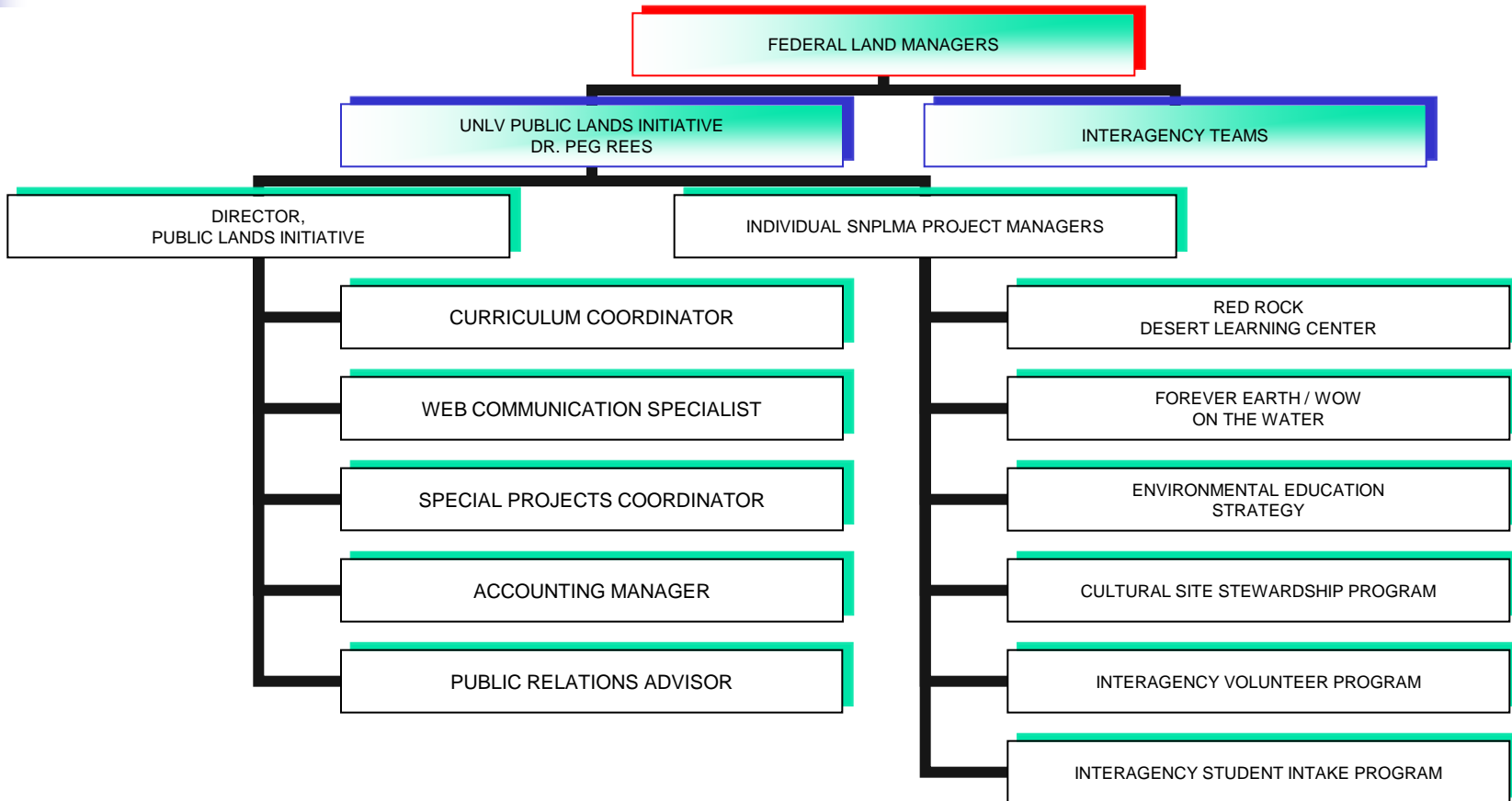


UNLV Public Lands Initiative

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

September 29, 2004

UNLV Public Lands Partnership





UNLV Public Lands Initiative

- New unit created in April 2004 to work with the four federal land-management agencies on projects funded by the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA).
- Agencies include Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.



Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act

- Enacted in 1998.
- Allows the Bureau of Land Management to sell federally owned land in a defined disposal boundary around Las Vegas.
- Approximately 50,000 acres approved for sale.
- Under the terms of the Act, proceeds from the land sales can be used for projects in several areas:



Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act

- Capital improvement projects at Lake Mead, Red Rock Canyon, Spring Mountain Recreation Area, Desert National Wildlife Refuge, and other areas managed by the four land-management agencies.
- Parks, trails, and natural areas on public lands and within the surrounding cities.
- Conservation/environmental education initiatives.
- Acquisition of environmentally sensitive land in Nevada.
- Development of a Clark County Multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan.



Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act

- Portions of the proceeds also benefit the Southern Nevada Water Authority (10%) and the State of Nevada General Education Fund (5%).
- Other provisions in the Act direct the BLM to provide for the sale of land for:
 - Affordable housing and
 - To convey title to land in the McCarran Airport noise zone to Clark County.



UNLV Public Lands Initiative

- The Public Lands Initiative is providing management and oversight for selected SNPLMA projects that fit UNLV's educational and research strengths and which are suitable for drawing upon the expertise of university faculty, staff, and students.
- Current projects being undertaken by the Public Lands Initiative include the following:

Red Rock

Desert Learning Center

- Residential science school targeted to 5th grade students in Clark County.
- Also includes a Wild Horse and Burro Facility.
- Located in Red Rock Canyon on the site of the former Oliver Ranch.
- Architects have completed initial programming for the school. Project currently in conceptual design phase, with schematic designs due by early December.
- Environmental assessment is currently underway.

Red Rock

Desert Learning Center

- UNLV's role is to help the Bureau of Land Management with the overall coordination of this project.
- We specifically are tasked with developing the curriculum, coordinating the business plan, and providing public outreach and publicity.
- Website for the project is nearly ready to go live.



Forever Earth

- Forever Earth is a floating environmental science laboratory and learning center at Lake Mead.
- Specially outfitted houseboat that will be targeted to science education for school children.
- Vessel can also be used by university researchers and students.
- UNLV is tasked with managing, scheduling, and operating the vessel as well as developing the Forever Earth curriculum.



WOW on the Water

- Wonderful Outdoor World on the Water is a recreation program for urban, economically disadvantaged youth to introduce them to outdoor recreation, environmental education, fishing and boating, and water safety.
- UNLV is charged with implementing the overall program, including writing the curriculum, scheduling WOW events, and securing partnerships with parks & rec agencies and local businesses.



Outdoor Education Strategy

- Project calls for the development of an area-wide Outdoor Environmental Education Strategy to produce a 5-year strategic plan and an implementation plan for environmental education in Clark County.
- UNLV is coordinating this project, which includes ensuring that the curriculum for projects like the Red Rock Desert Learning Center, Forever Earth, and WOW on the Water are complementary to the overall strategy.



Interagency Volunteer Program

- Currently, each of the land-management agencies has its own separate volunteer program. This project calls for the development of a comprehensive, integrated volunteer database for Southern Nevada public lands.
- Also includes development of a common training program and reward program for volunteers on the public lands, as well as the implementation of several volunteer events.



Interagency Student Internship Program

- Calls for the development of a Student Internship Program for high school juniors, allowing them to gain on-the-job experience in conservation careers with the land-management agencies.
- Targeted to ethnically diverse youth with a goal of encouraging college attendance.
- UNLV will implement and manage the internship program on behalf of the four agencies.



Cultural Site Stewardship Program

- The intent of this program is to recruit and train volunteers to help the agencies monitor and protect cultural and natural resources in Southern Nevada.
- Will be modeled after the Arizona Site Stewardship Program.
- This program will also benefit from the development of the coordinated Interagency Volunteer Program.



Other UNLV SNPLMA Projects

PENDING

- Take Pride In America Campaign
 - A portion of this agreement calls for a judicial review and analysis of littering fines, along with development of a proposal to allow the agencies to retain some of the monetary restitution in order to fund future clean-up efforts.
- Science and Research Strategy
- Habitat Restoration Program



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