

2006

## Red Rock Desert Learning Center & Wild Horse and Burro Facility: Fact Sheet

Red Rock Desert Learning Center

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/  
pli\\_red\\_rock\\_learning\\_center\\_oliver\\_ranch](https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/pli_red_rock_learning_center_oliver_ranch)



Part of the [Desert Ecology Commons](#), [Environmental Sciences Commons](#), and the [Science and Mathematics Education Commons](#)

---

### Repository Citation

Red Rock Desert Learning Center (2006). Red Rock Desert Learning Center & Wild Horse and Burro Facility: Fact Sheet. 1-2.

Available at: [https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/pli\\_red\\_rock\\_learning\\_center\\_oliver\\_ranch/18](https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/pli_red_rock_learning_center_oliver_ranch/18)

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Scholarship@UNLV with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this Article in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/or on the work itself.

This Article has been accepted for inclusion in Oliver Ranch Project by an authorized administrator of Digital Scholarship@UNLV. For more information, please contact [digitalscholarship@unlv.edu](mailto:digitalscholarship@unlv.edu).



### **What is the Red Rock Canyon Desert Learning Center?**

The Red Rock Desert Learning Center is an educational center currently under development by the Bureau of Land Management at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area and is designed to teach participants about the natural world through inquiry-based experiential and interdisciplinary methods in an outdoor setting. The intent is for students, teachers, and researchers to gain an appreciation of desert ecosystems and to begin to apply and connect their knowledge to world ecological systems. Students, primarily at the 5<sup>th</sup>-grade level, will be encouraged to develop their own conclusions about how environmental stewardship fosters the continued existence of the natural world and the sustainability of resources.

The center is designed to be a residential-style science school with indoor and outdoor classroom venues and laboratory facilities, interpretive trails, environmental monitoring stations, dining and kitchen areas, an infirmary, administrative offices, and a wastewater treatment plant.

### **What is the Wild Horse and Burro Facility?**

This facility, which will be located near the science school, is intended as an educational site to inform invited groups about the ecological issues related to these animals and to serve as a customer-friendly adoption center for a small number of gentled horses and burros. Current plans call for the Wild Horse and Burro Facility to feature a resident horse barn; holding corral; animal infirmary; pasture; storage facilities; and an amphitheatre/arena for adoptions.

### **Who will the Red Rock Desert Learning Center serve?**

The science school is currently planned to have accommodations for approximately 105 fifth-grade elementary students from the greater Clark County area, drawing from public, charter, and private schools as well as home-schooled youth. However, the school is conceived to be national in scope, particularly through the use of internet connectivity. Teaching modules can be exported to students in any state via the World Wide Web and videoconferencing. A continuing environmental education program for local classroom teachers is planned. Similarly, in-service teacher training on the Mojave Desert environment may also be delivered to school teachers in other states.

### **Where will the campus be located?**

The campus will be located at the 300-acre former Oliver Ranch property in Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. The property is located east of the Red Rock Canyon Visitor Center along State Route 160. This location in Southern Nevada's crown jewel offers both convenient access and a spectacular learning environment.

### **When will the campus open?**

The current planning timeline calls for construction of the Red Rock Desert Learning Center and the Wild Horse and Burro Facility to be completed by December 2008.

## **RED ROCK DESERT LEARNING CENTER & WILD HORSE AND BURRO FACILITY**

### **Will scholarships be available?**

Current plans call for students to be charged a nominal fee to attend the science school and for scholarships to be offered for low-income families and those with special needs.

### **What will be taught at the school?**

The curriculum for the science school is inquiry-based and hands-on. Teachers will have the option to choose from among “essential questions” in the life and physical sciences, with instruction occurring at outdoor labs and other teaching venues around the property. The curriculum meets all state and national science standards, and will include classroom activities that occur prior to the residential experience as well as follow-up activities when the child returns to the regular classroom setting. Students will also participate in a core curriculum that integrates their scientific studies with the history and culture of the area, astronomy, energy sustainability, the arts, the wild horse and burro program, and conservation ethics and practices.

### **Who is going to operate the facility?**

The Red Rock Desert Learning Center will operate independently of the Clark County School District and is not funded by school district appropriations. In 2005, the Bureau of Land Management plans to publish a request for proposals from organizations with an interest in operating the school.

### **How can I learn more about this project?**

Additional information about the Red Rock Desert Learning Center and the Wild Horse and Burro Facility may be obtained from the Bureau of Land Management at the following address: Michael Reiland, Project Manager, 4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr., Las Vegas NV 89103 Telephone: (702) 515-5026.



**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**