


9-29-2004

# Public Lands Initiative Overview

Public Lands Institute

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## Repository Citation

Public Lands Institute (2004, September). Public Lands Initiative Overview. Presentation at Public Lands Initiative Overview, University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

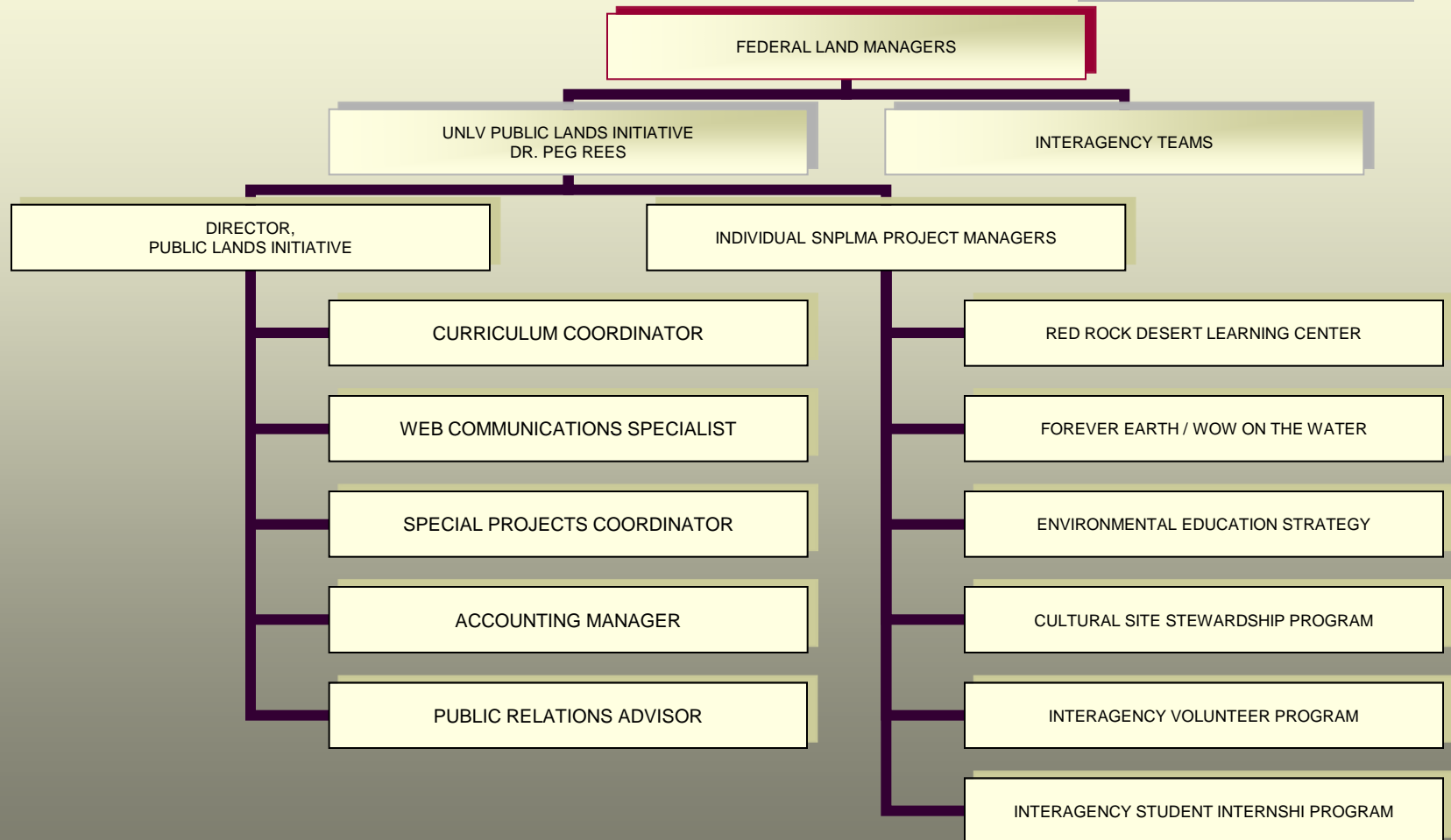
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University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
September 29, 2004

# UNLV Public Lands Partnership



# UNLV Public Lands Initiative

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- 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

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- 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

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

# SNLMA for Public Purposes

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- 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

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





# SNPLMA for Public Purposes

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- Residential outdoor learning environment
  - Integrated science, art, and language facility
- Includes a Wild Horse and Burro Facility
- Targeted to 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in Clark County
- Will be available for other uses

# Red Rock Desert Learning Center

## UNLV's Role

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- 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

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- 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

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



# Outdoor Education Strategy

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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