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Public Lands Initiative Overview

Public Lands Institute

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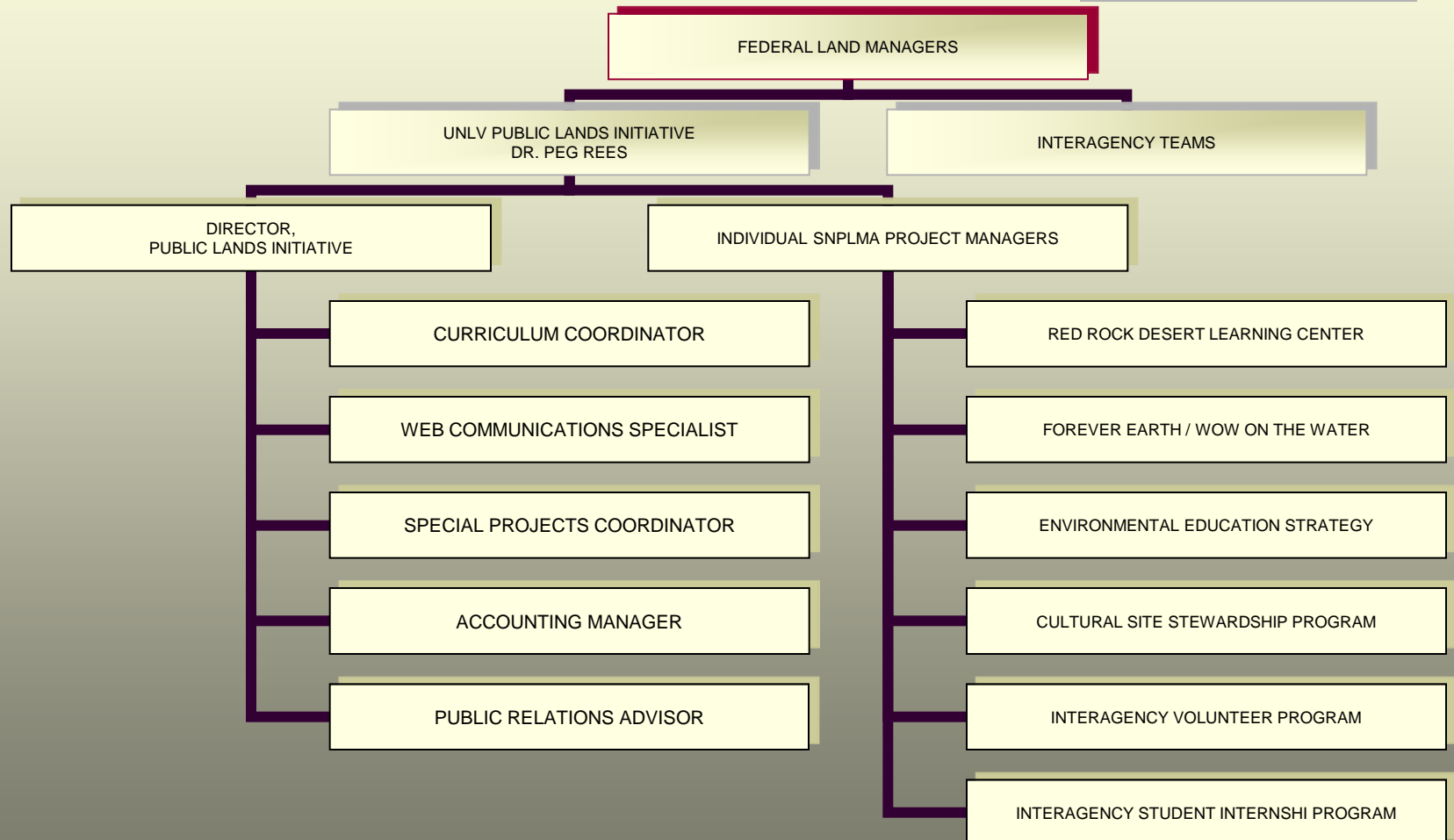
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University of Nevada, Las Vegas
September 29, 2004

UNLV Public Lands Partnership



UNLV Public Lands Initiative

- 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

- 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

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

SNLMA for Public Purposes

- 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

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



SNPLMA for Public Purposes

- 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

- 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

- 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

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

Red Rock Desert Learning Center

UNLV's Role

- 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

- 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

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

Outdoor Education Strategy

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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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