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## Nevada Interagency Volunteer Program: Helping Hands Across Public Lands – Phase II: Quarterly Progress Report, Period Covering October 1 – December 31, 2008

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## **QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT**

University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Period Covering October 1 – December 31, 2008

Cooperative Agreement Number H8R07060001  
Task Agreement Number J8R07070001

Nevada Interagency Volunteer Program: Helping Hands Across Public Lands – Phase II

### **Executive Summary**

- The number of records in the volunteer database increased 8% over last quarter. The database now contains 6,431 records.
- Website activity increased, recording an average of 56,013 hits per month, an increase of 6 % from last quarter, with an average of 5,211 pages viewed per month.
- Volunteer fall training has been completed.
- Three National Public Land Day and National Family Events have been completed.
- Two hundred and five people attended the Volunteer Recognition Event.

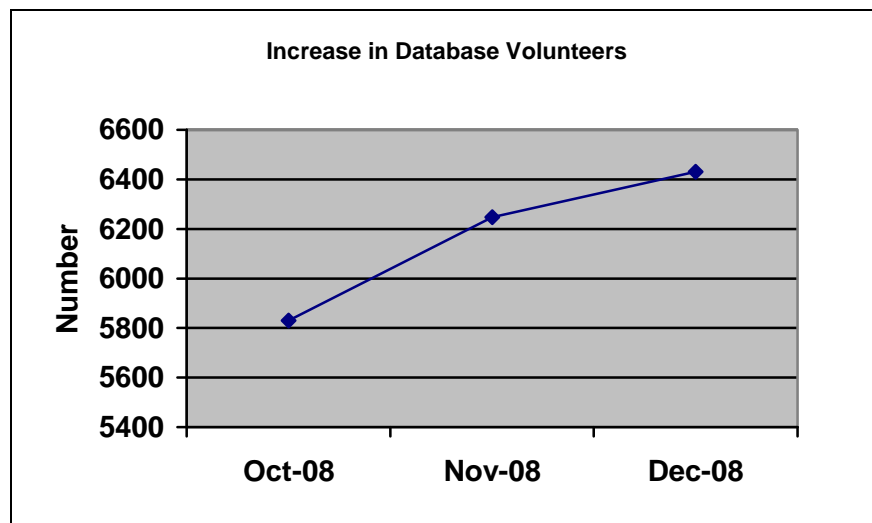
### **Summary of Attachments**

- Spring 2009 volunteer event schedule
- Spring 2009 volunteer training schedule

### **Task 1. Refine and maintain a quality Web-based volunteer database.**

The Volgistics volunteer database is now populated with 6,431 records, representing an increase of 725 individuals from last quarter. (*See Figure 1 on next page*). The number of volunteers will drop on January 1, 2009 due to archiving records and deleting volunteers who signed up more than two years ago and never volunteered.

**Fig. 1**



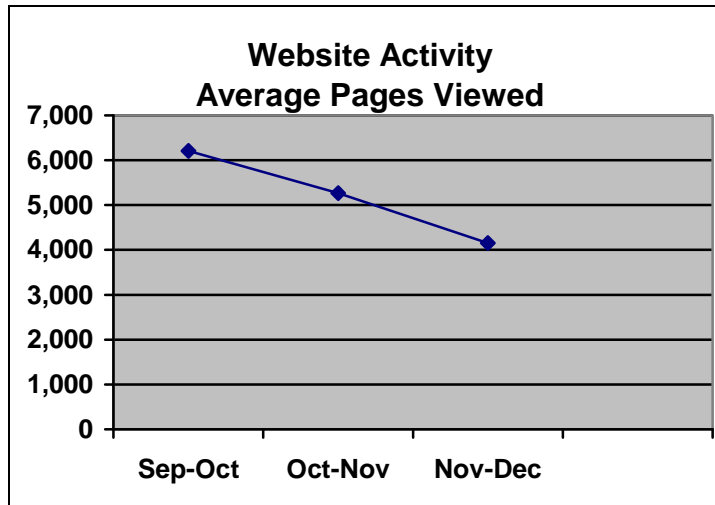
**Fig. 1** above shows increase in number of records in the database of volunteers.

**Task 2. Manage, update, and administer an IVP Website.**

During this quarter, average website activity increased; results are as follows:

- An average of 56,013 hits per month, an increase of 6%.
- An average of 5,211 pages viewed per month, an increase of 5.8%. (See Fig. 2 below.)
- Mirroring a decline that occurred in November and December 2007, website activity decreased in these months of the major holiday season.

**Fig. 2**



**Fig. 2 illustrates activity on the Website.**

**Task 3. Evaluate and revise, as appropriate, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for all areas of interagency volunteer management.**

The Interagency Volunteer Team (IVP) met several times during the quarter, with its primary focus on the Volunteer Recognition Banquet, National Public Lands Day Events, and planning for spring events and training schedule. See the attached appendices for the spring events and trainings.

A revised training evaluation form was approved to gather metrics on the accomplishment of the objectives, the engaging nature of the training and the quality of the trainer. In addition, a training proposal form was developed and approved to assist in ensuring all trainings have measurable objectives and includes strategies for engaging the audience.

**Task 4. Evaluate and update strategies and tools for volunteer recruitment.**

The IVP website, [www.getoutdoorsnevada.org](http://www.getoutdoorsnevada.org), in combination with the Volgistics volunteer database, continues to be a highly effective tool for recruiting and pre-registering volunteers needed for conservation events.

In order to enhance this tool, the final revisions needed prior to launching a graphically enhanced website were identified. The new and improved website features an intuitive navigation system and a streamlined system for volunteers to apply for positions.

To increase the effectiveness of recruitment efforts, the IVP team approved the development of a dynamic HTML template for the monthly electronic newsletter to be based upon the graphics in the revised website. In addition to information on upcoming trainings and events, features under consideration for the enhanced newsletter include:

- A column written by a volunteer or volunteer coordinator
- A volunteer spot light

- Volunteer hour milestones
- Safety tips
- Flora or fauna of the month factoid/interpretation piece
- Most interesting thing found during a litter pick up
- Inspirational quote(s) on volunteerism
- Spotlight of another SNAP team and its projects and accomplishments

Further items approved for development include an electronic thank you note based upon the graphics of the revised website. This thank you will contain details on the accomplishments of the volunteer event. It will also help people see the difference their work made, which should encourage them to participate in future events. In addition, the thank you will include a link to an optional feedback form. The form will provide volunteers with an opportunity to suggest improvements to events, while collecting valuable data on volunteer satisfaction with each event.

**Task 5. Support Agency Departments and SNAP Teams with conservation projects that require volunteer workforce on the public lands.**

The Public Lands Institute provided support for the following events which are summarized in Table 1.

**National Public Lands Day Event:**

**October 4, 2008 -- Lake Mead National Recreation Area – National Park Service**

The Interagency Volunteer Program collaborated with the Take Pride Interagency Program (Don't Trash Nevada) to promote and recruit 134 volunteers for a litter clean-up at the Government Wash Area. Volunteers contributed 670 hours and collected 20 cubic yards of litter and debris. The efforts put forth by the volunteers enhanced the beauty of this significant recreational area. Their hard work made it possible for this area to be more fully enjoyed by all.

**Sunrise Mountain Clean Up**

**October 11, 2008 -- Sunrise Mountain-- Bureau of Land Management**

The Interagency Volunteer Program collaborated with the Take Pride Interagency Program (Don't Trash Nevada) to promote and recruit 23 volunteers for a litter clean up at Sunrise Mountain. Volunteers contributed 115 hours and collected 40 cubic yards of litter and debris. The efforts put forth by the volunteers allowed this significant geographical area to be restored back to its well-kept state.

**National Public Lands Day Event:**

**October 18, 2008--Ash Meadows—U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

The Interagency Volunteer Program collaborated with the Take Pride Interagency Program (Don't Trash Nevada) to promote and recruit five volunteers for a restoration event to help restore Ash Meadows. Volunteers contributed 25 hours and collected 400 pounds of green cattails. The removal of this species provides opportunities for other native species to re-vegetate the area, increasing biodiversity of the refuge.

### **Make a Difference Day Events**

#### **October 25, 2008--Lake Mead National Recreation Area – National Park Service**

The Interagency Volunteer Program collaborated with the Take Pride Interagency Program (Don't Trash Nevada) to promote and recruit twelve volunteers for a litter clean-up event at Crawdad Boxcar. Volunteers contributed 48 hours and collected four cubic yards of litter and debris.

#### **October 25, 2008- Red Rock Canyon Conservation Area - Bureau of Land Management**

Three hundred and twelve volunteers contributed 1,906 hours. Seventeen projects completed include:

- Trail Marking at Grand Circle Trail
- Graffiti removal at Calico Hills and Lost Creek
- Remove benches at Fire Ecology and Dales Trails
- Reconstruction of trails at four locations
- Place posts at White Rock turn around
- Vegetation trimming at Lost Creek, Ice box, Loop Road, and Fire Ecology
- Complete children's projects at the fire station, campground and Red Springs
- Created 3,500 native seed balls

#### **October 25, 2008 --Davis Dam**

The Interagency Volunteer Program collaborated with the Take Pride Interagency Program (Don't Trash Nevada) and the National Park Service to promote and recruit 12 volunteers for a litter and debris clean-up to help restore the Davis Dam area. Volunteers contributed 60 hours and collected 3 cubic yards of litter and debris. The efforts put forth by the volunteers ensured that this significant cultural site will continue to be protected and preserved.

### **National Family Day Events**

#### **November 15, 2008-- Red Rock Canyon Conservation Area - Bureau of Land Management**

The Interagency Volunteer Program collaborated with the SNAP restoration and education teams to promote and recruit 46 volunteers to create black brush seed balls for a restoration project at Red Rock Canyon Conservation Area. Volunteers contributed 230 hours and created 4,500 seed balls. This service learning opportunity attracted curious day use visitors, providing opportunities for educating the public about future volunteer events and the important role of volunteers in caring for the public lands. Some of these visitors signed up for the other black brush events.

**November 22, 2008--Lake Mead National Recreation Area – National Park Service**

The Interagency Volunteer Program collaborated with the SNAP restoration and education teams to promote and recruit 52 volunteers to create native seed balls for a restoration project at Red Rock Canyon Conservation Area. Volunteers contributed 260 hours and created 7,000 seed balls. Volunteers at this event spontaneously broke out in song as they worked together to help restore this native plant that has been devastated by recent wildfires. The volunteers' hard work will allow for easy re-vegetation of disturbed areas in the Red Rock Canyon Conservation Area.

**December 6, 2008-- Red Rock Canyon Conservation Area - Bureau of Land Management**

The Interagency Volunteer Program collaborated with the SNAP restoration and education teams to promote and recruit 31 volunteers to disperse native seed balls to help restore burned areas in the Red Rock Canyon. Volunteers of all ages contributed 155 hours and dispersed 15,000 seed balls over three acres of land. Using GPS coordinates seeds were dispersed in a grid pattern to enable the restoration team to monitor the effectiveness of this seed ball method for native re-vegetation projects. Volunteers expressed interest in continuing their restoration work by serving as monitors for the restoration team.

## 2008 Fall Events

**Table 1.**

<u>Date/ Time</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Event Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Nature of Work</u>
<b>2008</b>				
<b>Saturday, Oct. 4</b> 8:30 am – 12:00 pm	National Park Service	National Public Lands Day	Lake Mead NRA	
<b>Saturday, Oct. 11</b> 8:45 am – 12:00	Bureau of Land Management	Litter Clean-up	Sunrise	Litter/Debris Clean-up
<b>Saturday, Oct. 18</b> 8:30 am – 12:00pm	U.S Fish and Wildlife Service	National Public Lands Day	Ash Meadows	Planting native vegetation
<b>Saturday, Oct. 25</b> <b>8:00 – 11:30</b>	NPS	Make a Difference Day/ Crawdad Boxcar Clean-up	Lake Mead NRA	Litter/Debris Clean-up
<b>Saturday, Oct. 25</b> 8:00 am – 1:00 pm	Bureau of Land Management	Make a Difference Day	Red Rock Canyon NCA	Trail Maintenance Installing trail markers/Restoration plus children's program
<b>Saturday, Oct. 25</b> <b>8:30 – 11:30</b>	National Park Service	Crawdad Boxcar Litter Clean-up	Lake Mead NRA	Litter/Debris Clean-up
<b>Saturday, Oct. 25</b> <b>8:30 – 11:30</b>	BOR/NPS	Davis Dam Litter Clean-up	Laughlin	Litter/Debris Clean-up
<b>Saturday, Nov.15</b> 8:30 -12:00pm	Bureau of Land Management	National Family Day-Native seed balls	Red Rock Canyon NCA	Come join in as we mix clay, soil, and water to create seed balls. The balls protect the seeds and are an easy way to re-vegetate disturbed areas.
<b>Saturday, Nov. 22</b> 8:30 -12:00pm	National Park Service	National Family Day-Native seed balls	Lake Mead NRA	Come join in as we mix clay, soil, and water to create seed balls. The balls



<u>Date/ Time</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Event Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Nature of Work</u>
				protect the seeds and are an easy way to re-vegetate disturbed areas.
<b>Saturday, Dec. 6 8:30-12:00pm</b>	Bureau of Land Management	Restoration event Native seed ball Dispersal	Lake Mead NRA	Dispersal of native seed balls to help restore burned areas in the Red Rock National Canyon.

**Table 1 shows the details of the types of events that were scheduled by agencies in the fall.**

**Task 6. Evaluate, refine, enhance, and deliver interagency volunteer orientation and training program.**

Eight trainings were completed this fall.

- One volunteer completed the Fall Colors training on October 3, 2008
- One volunteer completed the Graffiti Removal training on October 14, 2008
- Two volunteers completed the Interagency Orientation training on October 18, 2008
- Two volunteers completed the Cultural History Brownstone training on October 28, 2008
- Four volunteers completed the Bird training on November 6, 2008
- Six volunteers completed the Cultural History of Brownstone training on November 11, 2008
- One volunteer completed the Christmas Bird Count training on November 21, 2008
- Five volunteers completed the History of Southern Nevada training on November 22, 2008

**Task 7. Identify possible grant and donation opportunities to help support and sustain the program.**

Public relations and outreach activities, as well as opportunities to develop new collaborative community partnerships and relationships included the following:

- Used media release flyer, newspaper advertising and mass e-mail to promote National Public Lands Day.
- Initiated development of a National Science Foundation grant to promote informal science education on public lands through the use of volunteers.

**Task 8. Plan and implement volunteer recognition initiatives and events.**

Two hundred and five volunteers attended the fourth annual Volunteer Recognition Awards Ceremony on November 1, 2008 at the Renaissance Hotel in Las Vegas. The Recognition banquet is the Interagency Volunteer Program's way of honoring and thanking volunteers for all of their service and dedication to Nevada's public lands.

- Ten undergraduate students from the College of Hotel Administration coordinated logistics with IVP Volunteer Program Associate Tammy Gerber.
- Feedback from volunteers and federal land managers was positive.
- Mr. Douglas Blankinship, Volunter.gov Portal Manger and Partnership Associate Director for Take Pride in America, traveled from Washington D.C. to be the guest speaker. With a lifelong passion for volunteerism and over 40 years of professional experience, he was an inspiration to the volunteers, as well as to the staff members. Mr. Blankinship quoted statistical data pertaining to Nevada's low numbers in volunteerism and pointed out that the overwhelming majority of the state's volunteer hours come from service on SNAP lands. He emphasized how important and instrumental each and every one of our volunteers are to supporting Nevada's public lands.
- Seven awards were presented in the following categories:
  - This year's Volunteer of the Year Award winner was Joseph Betzler. Mr. Betzler received this award for his direct support in the Interagency Blackbrush Seed Collection project.
  - This year's Cultural Site Steward of the Year winner was Chuck Williams. Mr. Williams received this award for his contribution to the protection or archaeological and natural resources in Clark County.
  - This year's Volunteer Group of the Year Award winner went to The Area 52s. The Area 52s received this award for volunteering over 600 hours to help support and maintain Nevada's public lands.
  - This year's Lifetime Achievement Award was Bob Kinsler. Mr. Kinsler received this award for his outstanding dedication to the Interagency Volunteer Program. With over 9,000 volunteer hours Mr. Kinsler is the epitome of volunteerism.
  - This year's Volunteer Supervisor of the Year Award winner was Dan Rose. Mr. Rose received this award for his excellent leadership abilities at Boulder Beach, Callville Bay, and Boulder Campground at Lake Mead National Recreation.
  - This year's Special Service Award winner was Bailey Middle School. Bailey Middle School received this award for its service – in education, containment activities, and research – related to invasion of Lake Mead by non-native mussels.
  - This year's Sponsor of the Year winner was Saxby's Coffee. Saxby's Coffee received this award for their donations to the Interagency Volunteer Program. This organization lives by its mission, "All owners and employees to become active in their communities and to help in any way they can."
- Take Pride in an America Project Manager, Doug Joslin was also recognized for his contributions to the program.

Submitted by:

Margaret N. Rees, Principal Investigator

Date: Dec. 31, 2008

# **Appendix A**

## 2009 Event Schedule

<u>Date/ Time</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Event Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Brief Description</u>
Saturday, Jan. 10	FWS	Cattail Cutting	Ash Meadows	REV Targeting teachers
Thurs., Jan. 22	BLM	Litter clean-up	Great Unconformity	Bailey Middle School
Saturday, Feb. 7	BLM	Litter clean-up	Sloane	TPIA and REV
Saturday, Feb. 21	NPS	Litter clean-up	Placer Cove	TPIA and LE
Fri. Feb. 27	BLM	Litter clean-up	Great Unconformity	Bailey Middle School
Saturday, Feb. 28	BLM	TBD		
Fri-Sun Mar. 6-8	FWS	Sierra Club weekend	Ash Meadows and Devils Hole	Might need crew leaders
Saturday, Mar. 28	BLM	Red Rock Days	Red Rock	General Work Day 2-3 Projects
Thurs – Sun, Apr. 9-12	IVP	Clark County Rodeo	Logandale	Fair
Saturday, Apr. 4	NPS	Great American Cleanup	Govt Wash	TPIA
Friday, Apr. 17	USFS	Earth Day Planting	TBD	REV
Saturday, Apr. 18	IVP	Earth Day Fair	Summerlin	Fair
Saturday, Apr. 18	IVP	Fair	Pahrump	Town Clean Up too
Mon- Sat, Apr. 20-25	IVP	UNLV Earth Week	UNLV	Fair
Saturday, Apr. 25	BLM	Earth Day Litter clean-up	Sloane	TPIA and LE
Sunday, Apr. 26	IVP	Volunteer		

Appreciation Week				
<b>Mon. Apr. 27</b>	BLM	Litter clean-up	Great Unconformity	Bailey Middle School
<b>April TBD</b>	REV	Seed Collection	TBD	REV
<b>Saturday, May 2</b>	FWS	25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary	Ash Meadows	Open House (Logistics, Booth)
<b>Saturday May 2</b>	FWS	Litter clean-up	The Rock	LE
<b>Saturday, May 16</b>	USFS	General clean-up and Litter removal	Spring Mountain	TPIA & contractor
<b>May TBD</b>	BLM	TBD		
<b>May TBD</b>	REV	Seed Collection	TBD	REV
<b>Friday, June 5</b>	IVP	HSBC Days	TBD	Fair
<b>Saturday, June 6</b>	USFS	National Trails Day	TBD	
<b>Saturday, June 13</b>	FWS	Cattail Cutting	Ash Meadows	REV targeting locals
<b>Saturday, June 20</b>	USFS	Litter clean-up	TBD	LE
<b>June TBD</b>	REV	Seed Collection	TBD	REV
<b>July TBD</b>	REV	Seed Collection	TBD	REV
<b>Aug. TBD</b>	IVP	Open House	TBD	All interested teams
<b>Aug. TBD</b>	IVP	CCSD New teacher orientation	TBD	Fair
<b>Saturday, Sept. 19</b>	BLM	National Public Lands Day	TBD	
<b>Thursday – Sunday, Sept. 24-27</b>	VIP	Fall Festival	Pahrump	Fair
<b>Saturday, Sept. 26</b>	NPS	National Public Lands Day	TBD	
<b>Saturday, Oct. 3</b>	USFS	National Public Lands Day	TBD	REV
<b>Saturday, Oct. 10</b>	BLM	Litter clean-up	Sunrise Mtn	LE
<b>Saturday, Oct. 17</b>	FWS	National Public Lands Day /	TBD	

National Wildlife Week				
Saturday, Oct. 17	IVP	National Trails Day	Henderson	Fair
Saturday, Oct. 24	NPS	Make a Difference Day	TBD	
Saturday, Oct. 31	BLM	Make a Difference Day	TBD	Friends of Red Rock
Saturday, Nov. 7	IVP	1 <sup>st</sup> Choice for Banquet		
Saturday, Nov. 14	IVP	Back up Choice for Banquet		
Saturday, Nov. 21	BLM	National Family Day	TBD	Seed ball making?
Nov. TBD		Seed Ball Making	TBD	REV
Dec. TBD		Seed Dispersal	TBD	REV

## **Appendix B**



## 2009 Training Schedule

<u>Date/ Time</u>	<u>Teams</u>	<u>Training Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Brief Description</u>
<b>Wed Feb. 4</b>	IVP	Orientation	Interagency Office or Red Rock	
<b>Sat Feb. 7</b>	IVP	Orientation	LAME	
<b>W/Th March 4-5</b>	IVP	Volunteer Supervision	TBD	
<b>Sat March 7 9-4</b>	IVP	First aid & CPR training	Red Rock	
<b>Sat March 14 9-3</b>	IVP/REV	Native Plant training and wildflower hike	LAME	
<b>Sat March 21 9-12</b>	IVP	Graffiti removal	Red Rock	
<b>Sat May 9 8:30-4</b>	USFS	Leading Interpretive Hikes	Mt Charleston	
<b>Wed May 13 9-4</b>	IVP	First aid & CPR training	Interagency	
<b>May 22</b>	IVP	Bus Tour		
<b>August TBD</b>	IVP	Teacher Training	UNLV	How to use the public lands in service learning
<b>Wed August 26 6:30-8:30</b>	IVP	Leave No Trace training	REI/UNLV	
<b>Sat Sept 13 9-12</b>	IVP/ Restor/ GIS	GPS use	TBD	How to use GPS units for navigation and for science, include map reading too
<b>Tues Oct. 20 4-6</b>	IVP	Geology	Red Rock	