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Nevada Interagency Volunteer Program: Helping Hands Across Public Lands – Phase II: Quarterly Progress Report, Period Covering January 1, 2009 – March 31, 2009

Margaret N. Rees
University of Nevada, Las Vegas, peg.rees@unlv.edu

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QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Period Covering January 1, 2009 – March 31, 2009

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 by 3.5%.
- A total of 1,676 database records were archived due to inactivity resulting in a reduction of 26% in the number of current records in the database. The database currently contains 4,957 records.
- Website activity increased, recording an average of 68,086 hits per month, an increase of 22 % from last quarter, with an average of 5,228 pages viewed per month.
- The new website design was launched along with the release of a monthly electronic newsletter.
- How to *Succeed with Volunteers* training was conducted for SNAP teams and well received by all.
- Four SNAP teams identified opportunities for working with volunteers to enhance sustainability of their programs.

Summary of Attachments

- IVP team meeting agendas
- How to *Succeed with Volunteers Interagency* Training Evaluation

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

The Volgistics volunteer database is now populated with 4,957 records. (See Figure 1 on next page). The number of volunteers in the database increased 3.5% over the quarter, but had an overall decrease of 26% due to the archiving and deletion of volunteers who signed up more than two years ago and never volunteered.

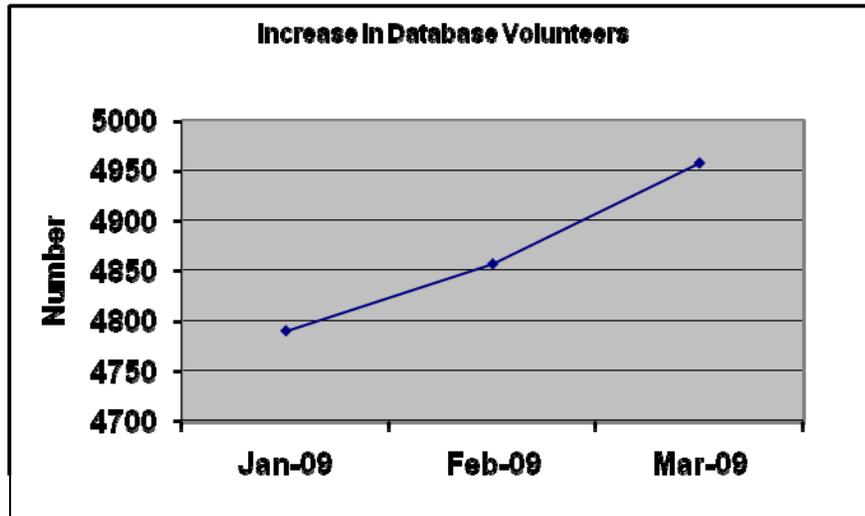


Fig. 1 above shows increase in number of records in the database of volunteers.

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

During this quarter, a new web design was launched and average website activity increased; results are as follows:

- An average of 68,086 hits per month, an increase of 22% over last quarter.
- An average of 5,211 pages viewed per month, an increase of less than 1% over the average for the previous quarter. (See Fig. 2 below.)

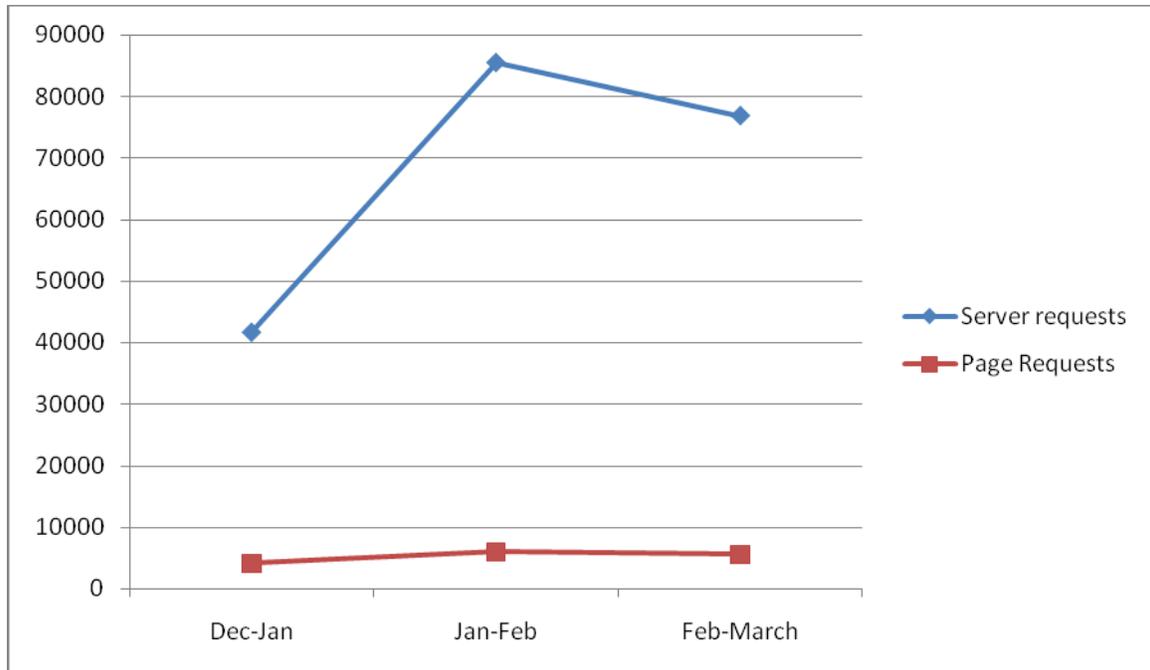


Fig. 2 Get Outdoors Nevada Website Activity

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

The Interagency Volunteer Team (IVP) met three times during the quarter to further develop the trainings and events scheduled for the quarter and to continue strategic development of a sustainability plan (see attachments for meeting agendas).

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

The IVP team launched a new website at the beginning of February 2009 in conjunction with delivering the first Get Outdoors Nevada electronic newsletter. The e-newsletter replaces the monthly text-only email updates, which all active volunteers and mailing list recipients receive. It is a dynamic HTML based newsletter that is archived at the Get Outdoors Nevada blog spot, and accessible from the home page of the website. The newsletter compliments the website and contains the following sections:

- Upcoming events
- Current volunteer positions
- Current trainings
- A volunteer spotlight
- A list of work accomplished by volunteers in the previous month
- A safety tip
- A SNAP conservation project spotlight
- A desert ecosystem spotlight

The format of the newsletter was well received as evidenced by the increase in website activity immediately following the release of the inaugural edition.

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

To empower other SNAP teams to enhance the sustainability of their programs through volunteerism, the IVP team conducted a two-day training entitled *How to Succeed with Volunteers*. Fourteen individuals representing all four agencies attended the training. Evaluations of the course indicated all the sessions of the training were useful and applicable to team members’ jobs (see Attachment 2 for summary).

Prior to this training a representative from the IVP team requested a short amount of time at each SNAP team meeting to re-acquaint the teams with the volunteer resources available to them as they look to the sustainability of their programs. Table 1 contains a summary of these meetings. Due to calendaring variability in the meetings of the SNAP teams, an IVP representative was not able to meet with every team. As the fiscal year continues the IVP team will make every effort to meet with the remaining SNAP teams to ensure all teams are aware of the assistance in recruiting, registering, retaining and recognizing what the IVP team can provide.

Table 1. Summary of SNAP team meeting attendance

Date	SNAP team	Outcomes
Jan. 13, 2009	GIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Assistance requested in recruiting volunteers for scanning of aerial imagery -GPS training topics discussed
Jan. 16, 2009	Science and Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Brainstormed list of seven volunteer position possibilities and identified development of position descriptions as next step
Jan. 22, 2009	Restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Identified general needs: seed collection, removing tamarisk, equipment operators, palm tree trimmers, big horn sheep monitoring, cacti monitoring -Identified potential challenges: need for professionals to volunteer time (e.g., heavy equipment operators, tree trimmers), remote and rugged locations, liability in use of volunteers own equipment (e.g., vehicles), confidentiality requirements -Identified potential opportunities: adopt a stream volunteers could collect additional information while monitoring streams, Cultural Site Stewards serve as a model for vegetation monitoring
Feb. 11, 2009	Recreation/OHV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Brainstormed list of potential positions: grant writing, GPS trail route inventory assistants, RAMP implementation assistants, air quality monitors -Request made to collaborate on development of a regional volunteer trail watch system in conjunction with the Regional Open Space and Trails workgroup consisting of multiple

Table 1 contains a summary of meeting accomplishments

The Public Lands Institute provided support for the following events which are described and summarized in Table 2 below.

Restoration Event

January 24, 2009 – Ash Meadows Wildlife Refuge– 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 35 volunteers for a habitat restoration event in the Ash Meadows Wildlife Refuge Area. Volunteers contributed 255 hours and removed 15 cubic yards of cattails from the area. The removal of this species provides opportunities for other native species to re-vegetate the area, increasing biodiversity of the refuge. The efforts put forth by the volunteers improved the pupfish habitat and helped to secure the ecological health of a 670 foot stretch of the outflow of the Kings Pool.

Placer Cove Clean Up

February 21, 2009 – Placer Cove—National Public Lands Institute

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 Placer Cove in the Lake Mead NRA. Volunteers contributed 69 hours and removed over 1200 pounds or 7 cubic yards of litter and debris. The efforts put forth by the volunteers allowed this significant recreational area to be restored back to its well-kept state.

Bunkerville Clean up:

February 21, 2009—Bunkerville- Bureau of Land Management

The Interagency Volunteer Program collaborated with the Take Pride Interagency Program (Don't Trash Nevada) to promote and recruit 15 volunteers for a restoration event to help restore Ash Meadows. Volunteers contributed 75 hours and removed 100 cubic yards of trash. The efforts put forth by the volunteers allowed this significant geographical area to be restored back to its well-kept state.

Red Rock Days Clean up and Restoration Event:

March 28, 2009—Red Rock Canyon- Bureau of Land Management

The Interagency Volunteer Program collaborated with the Take Pride Interagency Program (Don't Trash Nevada) to promote and recruit 57 volunteers for a cleanup and restoration event in the Red Rock Canyon NCA. Volunteers contributed 228 hours and removed 10 cubic yards of trash. Volunteers also assisted in the mending of a gate and the removal of dangerous ropes. The efforts put forth by the volunteers allowed this significant conservation area to be restored back to its well-kept state.

Table 2. 2009 Spring Events

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Nature of Work</u>
Saturday, Jan. 24 8:30 am – 12:00 pm	US Fish and Wildlife Service	Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge	Removal of Cattails
Saturday, Feb. 21 8:30 am- 12:00 pm	National Park Service	Placer Cove, Lake Mead NRA	Litter/Debris Clean-up
Saturday, Feb. 21 8:30 am- 12:00 pm	Bureau of Land Management	Bunkerville, NV	Litter/Debris Clean-up
Saturday, Mar. 28 8:30 am – 12:00 pm	Bureau of Land Management	Red Rock Canyon NCA	Liter/Debris Clean up and restoration

Table 2 shows the details of the types of events that were scheduled by agencies in the spring of 2009.

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

Five trainings were held this quarter. Table 2 summarizes the trainings offered.

- 14 volunteers completed the Interagency Orientation training on March 4-5, 2009
- 15 volunteers completed the First Aid and CPR training on March 14, 2009
- 22 volunteers completed the Native Plant training and Wildflower hike on March 14, 2009
- 4 volunteers completed the IVP orientation training on March 19, 2009
- 13 volunteers completed the Graffiti Removal training on March 21, 2009

Table 3. 2009 Spring Trainings

<u>Date/ Time</u>	<u>Event Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>
Wed./ Thurs, Mar. 4-5 9:00 am – 4:00 pm	Volunteer Supervision Training	Desert Research Institute	Employee training
Saturday, Mar. 14 9:00 am- 4:00 pm	First Aid and CPR Training	Red Rock Canyon NCA	First Aid and CPR Training
Saturday, Mar. 14 9:00 am- 1:00 pm	Native Plant Training and Wildflower Hike	Lake Mead NRA	Identification of native plant species
Saturday, Mar. 21 9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Graffiti Removal Training	Red Rock Canyon NCA	Graffiti removal and cover up training.

Table 3 shows the details of the types of trainings that were scheduled by agencies in the spring of 2009.

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:

- Began development of the 2009 media campaign, which will target specific markets to meet the various SNAP team needs.
- Examined possibilities of service learning grants.

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

Beginning in January 2009, thank you messages were sent out following each volunteer event. The messages included details on the accomplishments of the volunteer event, helping people see the difference their work made, which should encourage them to participate in future events. After the system for sending out thank you messages becomes solidified in the next quarter, it 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.

Planning was started for the second bus tour which provides volunteers with a chance to interact and learn from SNAP personnel they may otherwise not have a chance to meet. This training is a popular recognition and retention tool providing volunteers with enhanced opportunities to feel part of the federal land management team.

A contract was signed with the Renaissance Hotel to serve as the site for the 2009 Volunteer Recognition Banquet. The banquet will take place on Saturday October 31, 2009 from 9 am to 11 am.

Submitted by:

Date:

Margaret N. Rees, Principal Investigator

IVP Meeting Agenda

Date: January 8, 2009
Location: NPS Conference Room
Meeting Called By: Nancy Bernard (NPS) & Beth Barrie (PLI)
Attendees: Jim Cribbs (BLM), Amy Nichols (USFS), Christina Nalen (USF&WS)

9:00 – 9:30	Round Table All Share what has been happening in the last few weeks regarding the Interagency Volunteer Program
9:30-9:35	Request from the Board: Nancy Team will have the following products completed by the end of the 3 morning sessions. <i>“They have also asked for the goals to include the following:</i> - any anticipated outreach products - the development of a sustainability plan. <i>Tami Lucero needs the 2009 annual goals for our team no later than January 16.”</i>
9:35 - 9:50	Update Annual Goals Nancy Review annual goals and update if necessary. This was done last fall and should only take a few minutes.
9:50 – 10:30	Anticipated Outreach Products Nancy Team will determine if we have any outreach products needs for 2009. Brainstorm ideas and complete the worksheet.
10:30 -10:45	Break
10:45 – 11:00	Events and Event Profile Beth Review upcoming events for Jan/Feb. Have event profile filled out and give back to Beth by COB Thursday.
11:00 – 11:30	Meetup.com Beth Discuss the possibility of utilizing meetup.com to connect volunteers and carpooling. Team to decide if this is a possibility.
11:30 – 12:00	Carpooling announcement in confirmation email Beth Discuss and decide what is best for the program regarding confirmation email to volunteers and time frame of email to go out.
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 2:30	Development of Program Sustainability Nancy Discuss and develop with the team a plan for sustainability. What are we doing to develop a sustainable program for the future? Some of the past discussion we have had regarding “what is core to our program?” will be utilized.

IVP Meeting Agenda

2:30 – 3:00

Bus Tour

Beth

Status of bus tour logistics and have FS/FWS begin planning the tour. Generate ideas/suggestions.

Action Items:

IVP Meeting Agenda

Date: February 12, 2009
Location: NPS Conference Room
Meeting Called By: Nancy Bernard (NPS) & Beth Barrie (PLI)
Attendees: Jim Cribbs (BLM), Amy Nichols (USFS),
Christina Nalen (USF&WS)

9:00 – 9:30 Round Table
All
Share what has been happening in the last few weeks regarding the Interagency Volunteer Program

9:30-9:45 Purging Volgistics – Zero Hours
Nancy & Beth
Review list of volunteers with zero hours in the last 3 years and other recommendations from Chuck.

9:45 – 10:30 Volunteer.gov
Nancy & Beth

- Discuss what needs to be in the announcement so Beth can include in newsletter
- Demonstration: How volunteer.gov works if people have not used it before

10:30-10:45 Break

10:45 – 11:15 Food at Events
Nancy & Beth
Discuss and agree on food at events vs. snacks

11:15 – 11:25 Meeting date request from Federal Managers
Nancy
See request from our Federal Manager - attachment

11:25 – 11:45 Newsletter – How do we recognize our operational volunteers?
Beth
Discuss and agree on how we will recognize our operational volunteers

11:45 – 12:00 Bus Tour
Beth, Amy, and Christina/Angelina
Status of bus tour logistics and have FS/FWS begin planning the tour.

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

IVP Meeting Agenda

1:00 – 3:00 How to Succeed Training

Nancy

- **Discuss and delegate tasks that to team members**
 - **Who does what session?**
 - **Goals of each session discussion**
-
-

Action Items:

IVP Meeting Agenda

Date: February 26, 2009
Location: FWS Conference Room
Meeting Called By: Nancy Bernard (NPS) & Beth Barrie (PLI)
Attendees: Jim Cribbs (BLM), Amy Nichols (USFS),
Angelina Yost (USF&WS)

9:00 – 10:00 **Marketing Report Briefing and Exhibit Discuss**
Beth and LaNelda
Brief team on 2008 Marketing Success for IVO and Discuss
what we want regarding exhibit.

10:00 – **Round Table**
10:30 **All**
Share what has been happening in the last few weeks
regarding the Interagency Volunteer Program

10:30 - **Break**
10:45

10:45 – **Bus Tour**
11:00 **Beth**
Update team on the status of the bus tour

11:00 – **March Newsletter**
11:30 **Beth**
Team provides Beth with information for the March
newsletter

11:30 – **Update on How to Succeed Training**
12:00 **Nancy**
Update team on the students, books, etc... Do we have
enough students? Which manager will come to talk to group?
Or do we need one?

12:00 – 1:00 **Lunch**

1:00 – 2:00 **Orientation Training**
Nancy
Make assignments?

2:00 – 2:30 **Training**
Beth
Do we provide more training opportunities to volunteers
since we have cancelled a few classes

2:30 – 3:00 **SNAP Board – Questions (See below)**
Nancy and Beth

IVP Meeting Agenda

Look at strategy of how to present the answers to the questions with the SNAP Board

Action Items:

How to Succeed with Volunteers

Interagency Training Evaluation

March 4-5, 2009

Usefulness and application of training to SNAP team members' jobs

5= Very Useful
3 = Moderately Useful
1 = Not Useful

