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Nevada Interagency Volunteer Program: Helping Hands Across Public Lands – Phase II: Annual Progress Report, Period Covering July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011

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ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Period Covering July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011

Cooperative Agreement Number H8R07060001
Task Agreement Number J8R07070001

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

Executive Summary

- From July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 the Volgistics database has increased the number of records from 6,536 to a total of 8,460 records at the end of this period.
- Website activity this year averaged 1,110 hits per month, with an average of 2,347 pages viewed per month.
- The team attended 11 community outreach events resulting in 2,455 direct contacts and 393 new mailing list records.
- The Interagency Volunteer Program (IVP) completed a total of 71 volunteer events contributing a total of 17,784 volunteer hours.
- A total of 131 volunteers completed orientations and trainings with the IVP.
- A total of 134 volunteers attended the recognition banquet.
- The IVP team filed a no-cost extension to SNPLMA.
- The project manager has submitted the CESU extension request to UNLV Office of Sponsored Programs.
- The IVP team revised and updated the Interagency Volunteer Team Standard Operating Procedures manual.
- The IVP is in the review process of the volunteer orientation training class

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

- The Volgistics volunteer database is now populated with 8,460 records, representing an increase of 1,924 individuals from July 1, 2010.

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

Website activity tends to fluctuate depending on the time of year. Website averages for July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 are as follows:

- An average of 1,110 hits per month.
- An average of 2,347 pages viewed per month.

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

The Interagency Volunteer Team (IVP) met at least once each month to coordinate volunteer events, develop training agendas, establish recruitment strategies, plan the recognition event and coordinate support for other SNAP teams.

The Interagency Volunteer Team conducted a thorough view of the current SOP's and updated them as needed.

- During Q1 the Interagency Volunteer Team (IVP) met three times, with its primary focus on the Carp Rodeo, Volunteer Recognition Banquet, NAI Conference Presentation, and planning for spring events and training schedule.
- During Q2 the Interagency Volunteer Team (IVP) met twice, with its primary focus on the NAI Conference Presentation, Advanced Supervisor Training, Orientation Automation Project, and planning for spring events and training schedule.
- The IVP team filed a no-cost extension to SNPLMA. The team asked for an extension until 2013 with the understanding that the NPS and USFS would likely close out in 2012. This extension was approved by the SNAP board and has been sent to SNPLMA for review.
- The IVP project manager has submitted a request for a CESU extension between National Park Service and the Public Lands Institute. The goal is to have the CESU extension mirror that of the SNPLMA extension request. The project manager has submitted the CESU extension request to UNLV Office of Sponsored Programs.
- The IVP team revised and updated the Interagency Volunteer Team Standard Operating Procedures manual as needed.
- PLI has contracted with the University of Nevada Las Vegas Distance Education program to complete this web-based, interactive training delivery system by August 2011. The IVP is in the review process of the volunteer orientation training class

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

The IVP team continues to deliver the 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 monthly newsletter continues to be well received. The newsletter is not only being sent to volunteers in the Volgistics database, it is also being forwarded to many other organizations. For example, the newsletter is now distributed to the City of Las Vegas, Bailey Middle School staff, faculty and students at UNLV, and to a number of Clark County commissioners.

The Get Outdoors Nevada Website continues to receive many compliments about the newsletter. It continues to be a great recruitment tool.

In addition, 11 community outreach events were attended. Staffed by the Public Lands Institute, these events are an opportunity to personally meet and recruit new people to volunteering with Get Outdoors Nevada. Table 1 contains a summary of the contacts made.

Table 1. Community Outreach Attendance July 1, 2010- June 30, 2011

Event Name	Number of Direct Contacts	Number added to Mailing List
Carp Rodeo	176	78
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement National Convention	150	50
Volunteer Recognition Banquet	134	
National Trails Day	534	62
UNLV Spring Involvement Fair	56	35
PEP Summit Geocaching	43	0
Party for the Planet 2011	335	32
Green Fest	601	61
Science Expo	100	24
UNLV Festival of Communities		23

Spring Celebration Family Festival	251	28
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Table 1 shows the number of contacts made at community outreach events and the mailing list sign ups that resulted from these contacts.

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

The Interagency Volunteer Program (IVP) supported a number of SNAP teams in a variety of ways (i.e., recruiting, staffing, and advertising). In their efforts, IVP supported a total of 71 volunteer events, wherein volunteers contributed a total of 17,784 volunteer hours.

The following is a compilation of all volunteer events from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011:

Pahrnagat Valley Carp Rodeo Event

July 17, 2010 – Pahrnagat National Wildlife Refuge - USFWS

A total of 108 youth and 184 adults participated in the 1st annual Pahrnagat Carp Rodeo, initial planning for the 2nd annual carp rodeo is underway.

Conservation Transfer Area Clean Up Event

August 21, 2010- Conservation Transfer Area – BLM

Forty volunteers, including Shadow Ridge HS students and staff, contributed 200 hours of service assisting the BLM in removing trash and debris from the Conservation Transfer Area.

National Public Lands Day – Lucky Strike Canyon

September 25, 2010 – Red Rock Canyon NCA - BLM

A total of 78 volunteers assisted the BLM in successfully removed 35 cu. yards of debris and installed 25 feet of post and cable.

National Public Lands Day – Great Unconformity

September 25, 2010– Great Unconformity – BLM

Fifteen volunteers contributed 60 hours of service assisting the BLM in removing trash and debris from the Great Unconformity.

National Public Lands Day – Moapa Valley

September 25, 2010 – Moapa Valley - USFWS

Ten volunteers contributed 28 hours of service assisting the USFWS in planting 290 one-gallon pots of native grasses, aquatic plants, and ash trees adjacent to the newly reconstructed Fairbanks spring outwash channel.

National Public Lands Day – Lake Mead

September 25, 2010 – Boulder Harbor - NPS

A total of 113 volunteers contributed 452 hours assisting the NPS in successfully removing 9 cubic yards of garbage and 1200 lbs of glass. This project helped to prepare the Boulder Harbor area for the Bridging America Event parking.

Stewardship Saturday – Fairbanks Native Planting

September 25, 2010- Ash Meadows - USFWS

A total of 43 volunteers salvaged 117 plants in 1 gallon pots from the proposed Birdsong Loop trail and also cleared overgrown brush and other obstacles around 3000 feet of existing trail.

Desert Oasis HS Clean-up

September 25, 2010- Desert Oasis HS - BLM

Forty volunteers from Desert Oasis HS removed 20 cubic yards of debris from the vacant BLM parcel adjacent to their school.

Moapa Valley NWR Tidy-up

October 2, 2010-Moapa Valley NWR- USFWS

Fourteen volunteers cleared three acres of construction debris, dead plant matter, and weeds.

Upper Lake Seed Sowing

October 9, 2010- Pahrangat NWR- USFWS

Two volunteers hand-tilled and planted native seeds about ½ acre of Upper Lake bank.

Cottonwood Cove Beach Clean-Up and Eco-Drive

October 9, 2010- Cottonwood Cove-NPS

A total of 223 volunteers participated.

**Recruitment through getoutdoorsnevada.org and newsletter, reservations taken by NPS.

Bridging America – Celebration Event

October 14 and 16, 2010- NPS Over 600 volunteers donated approximately 4000 hours.

**Various recruitment methods used by NPS, including getoutdoorsnevada.org and newsletter, all reservations taken by NPS.

Birdsong rail Construction

October 23, 2010 – Corn Creek – USFWS A total of 34 volunteers completed the construction of 1300 feet of trail.

Fairbanks Native Planting

October 23, 2010 – Ash Meadows – USFWS

Eleven volunteers planted 212 - 1 gallon plants along 500 feet of the Fairbanks outwash channel.

Step Ladder

October 23, 2010 – Middle Kyle – USFS

Three volunteers finished the project of establishing 75 ft. of out-slope of tread, contouring backslope, etc.

Sunrise Mountain Clean Up

October 25– Sunrise Mountain – BLM

Seventeen volunteers removed 250 cubic yards of trash

Las Vegas Boat Harbor Clean-up & Eco-Dive

October 30, 2010- NPS

Thirty volunteers donated 120 hours.

**Recruitment through getoutdoorsnevada.org and newsletter, reservations taken by NPS.

Make a Difference Day

October 30, 2010- Red Rock Canyon- BLM

A total of 109 volunteers contributed 606 hours completing 8 projects including; painting kiosks, replacing signs spreading landscaping stones, building concrete pads for BBQ's, planting native vegetation, repairing ¼ mile of trails at Red Springs, ½ mile of trail at Turtle Head Peak Trail, and ¼ mile of trail around the fee station.

Birdsong Trail Construction

October 30, 2010 – Corn Creek - USFWS

Fourteen volunteers completed the construction of 1000 feet of trail.

Sloan Canyon – Clean Up

November 5, 2010 – Sloan Canyon- BLM

A total of 6 Volunteers worked with NDOT and Southwest tactical to remove 140 cubic yards of trash from the shooting area of Sloan Canyon.

Sloan Canyon- Clean Up

November 6, 2010 – Sloan Canyon- BLM

Nine volunteers removed 100 cubic yards of trash from the shooting area of Sloan Canyon.

Cattail Cutting

November 6, 2010– Ash Meadows-USFWS

This event was cancelled. Not enough people signed up.

Birdsong Trail Construction

November 6, 2010- Corn Creek- BLM

A total of 34 volunteers completed the construction of 1200 feet of trail.

America Recycles Day

November 13, 2010- Lake Mead NRA- NPS

Callville Bay Marina

Forty volunteers donated 160 hours.

**Recruitment through getoutdoorsnevada.org and newsletter, reservations taken by NPS.

Weed Removal and Plant

November 20, 2010- Moapa Valley National Wildlife Refuge- USFWS

A total of 35 volunteers removed thousands of palm tree sprouts and cleared 1/3 of an acre of overgrown weeds. Two large empty planters were filled with soil and planted with native species.

Stewardship Saturday

December 4, 2010- Ash Meadows- USFWS

Fourteen volunteers cleared about 200 feet of overgrown vegetation along the Crystal stream channel.

Lovell Canyon Clean-Up

December 11, 2010- Lovell Canyon-USFS

Schylar Brown and members from troop # 624, along with two volunteers from Get Outdoors Nevada removed 35 cubic yards of debris from a shooting area off of Lovell Canyon road

Bailey Middle School Field Trip

December 14, 2010- The Great Unconformity- BLM

A total of 28 Bailey Middle School students cleaned up 10 cubic yards of trash as part of a service-learning based field trip to the Great Unconformity

Lovell Canyon Clean-Up

January 8, 2011- Lovell Canyon- USFS

Sixteen volunteers removed 32 bags of trash (512lbs), 150' of barbed wire, seven one-gallon buckets of glass, one pickup truck load of wood, signs, miscellaneous trash and one large campfire ring.

Route Restoration Project

January 15, 2011- Lovell Canyon- USFS

Seventeen volunteers restored 239 ft of a 15 ft wide user created route and removed one bag of trash.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Project – Route Restoration

January 17, 2011- Lovell Canyon- USFS

A total of 24 volunteers restored 249 ft. of a 15 ft wide user created route and 1 bag of trash.

Cattail Cutting

January 22, 2011- Ash Meadows NWR- USFWS

Ten volunteers removed one dump-truck load of cattails along approximately 200 yards of Crystal Spring outflow.

Mesquite Groves Clean-Up

January 22, 2011-Parump- BLM

With the efforts of the Nevada Conservation Corps (10-person crew, 1-18 thru 1-21 & 200 cu yards) and the community volunteers (7-BLM, 15-volunteers, 1-22 & 80 cu yards), a total of 280 cubic yards of trash were removed and there was participation in one on camera news interview on KPVM-TV Channel 41.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/KPVM41#p/search/0/o-OoiB-0dtU>

South Hollywood Clean-Up

January 29, 2011-Hollywood and Vegas Valley- BLM

Eighty volunteers removed 140 yards of trash.

Road Decommissioning

January 29, 2011- Desert Wildlife Refuge- USFWS

This event was cancelled.

Pick Up Your Shoot

February 5, 2011- Sloan Canyon- BLM

A total of 109 volunteers removed 40 cu yards of recyclables and 60 cu yards of other garbage and debris.

Bailey Middle School Field Trip

February 15, 2011- The Great Unconformity- BLM

Seventy students removed two cubic yards of trash.

Weed Pull

February 19, 2011- Corn Creek- USFWS

Due to inclement weather and lower than expected turn-out, focus of event was changed to plant salvage. Seven volunteers salvaged salt grass from an area which is to become a staging area for the upcoming pond dredging. Volunteers helped save a lot of salt grass from being trampled under digging equipment tires. The salt grass is now at CSN nursery for propagation to use at the new visitor center. A total of 142 one-gallon pots and 37 - 2' x 4' flats of salt grass were salvaged.

Cattail Cutting

February 26, 2011- Ash Meadows- USFWS

Five volunteers from Las Vegas and Amargosa removed cattails along 40 linear meters of Kings Pool outflow.

Family Day

February 26, 2011- Lake Mead- NPS

A total of 42 volunteers donated 168 hours despite the rainy weather. Volunteers trimmed 40 oleander trees and filled one and a half six yard dumpsters. After completing the project, 30 volunteers attended an interpretive program on the desert tortoise and leave no trace principles.

Alpha Epsilon Delta Clean-Up

February 26, 2011- Iron Mountain and Decatur- BLM
A total of 49 volunteers removed 55 cubic yards of trash.

Road Decommissioning

March 5, 2011- Corn Creek- USFWS

Eleven volunteers turned 300 meters of road from two tracks to one track by use of vertical mulch and slash. Six cubic yards of trash removed for proper disposal.

Sahara Mustard Pull

March 5, 2011- Lake Mead- NPS

Twelve volunteers contributed 60 hours to pull invasive Sahara Mustard weed on 1/3 of an acre of beach at Sandy Cove or approximately 120 pounds of plant material.

Tropical and Ann Clean-Up

March 17, 2011- Tropical and Ann- BLM

Twelve volunteers removed 32 cubic yards of trash.

Placer Cove Clean-Up

March 19, 2011- Placer Cove –NPS

A total of 37 divers and 55 volunteers assisted with the removal of 12 cubic yards of trash, plus 2400 lb of glass.

Native Planting at Tubb's Spring

March 19, 2011- Ash Meadows NWR- USFWS

Twelve volunteers planted 275 one-gallon pots of native grasses and ash trees around Tubb's Spring.

Boy Scout Eagle Project

March 19, 2011- Vegas Valley Drive- BLM

A total of 59 volunteers removed 40 cubic yards of trash.

Willow Tree Planting

March 19, 2011- Pahrangat NWR- USFWS

To increase bird habitat, nine volunteers planted 243 one-gallons pots of vegetation including trees, shrubs, forbs and graminoids into an area covering 1.2 acres at the northwest corner of the refuge above Upper Marsh.

Nelson Rd. Clean-Up

March 26, 2011- Nelson RD- BLM

A total of 23 volunteers removed 35 cubic yards of litter from the Nelson road shooting area.

Boy Scout Project

March 26, 2011- Greenway RD- BLM

A total of 48 volunteers removed 63 cubic yards of trash.

Great American Clean-Up

April 2, 2011- 33 Hole Overlook, Lake Mead- NPS

175 Volunteers filled a twenty-cubic yard dumpster with trash collected from the 33 Hole overlook and along the lakeshore. Volunteers also picked up an estimated 2400 pounds of broken glass, five tires, and one Smith's grocery cart.

Ash Tree Planting

April 2, 2011- Desert Wildlife Refuge- USFWS

20 volunteers from Four Seasons Hotel planted 20 Ash Trees along the stream banks at Corn Creek.

Bailey Middle School Clean-up

April 5, 2011- Great Unconformity- BLM & NPS

70 students removed 2 cubic yards of trash.

Starbucks Clean-up

April 20, 2011- Hollywood and Vegas Valley- BLM

82 volunteers removed 70 cubic yards of trash.

Hollywood Clean-up

April 22, 2011- Hollywood and Vegas Valley- BLM

45 volunteers removed 50 cubic yards of trash.

Red Rock Days

April 23, 2011- Red Rock- BLM

86 volunteers removed dead and invasive plants from the parking area, planted new vegetation around the parking area, picked up trash and debris, painted one bathroom and information kiosk, placed posts to prevent parking alongside the road, Repaired gate and fencing, installed post and cable fencing around the parking area, and repaired entry road

Native Planting

April 23, 2011- Ash Meadow- USFWS

12 volunteers planted 181 one-gallon pots of native grasses and ash trees at Point of Rocks.

Graffiti Removal

April 23, 2011- Spring Mountains- USFS

20 volunteers restored 355 feet of user-created trail, removed 554 square feet of graffiti, and picked up 2 cubic yards of litter.

Big Dune Clean-up

April 23, 2011- BLM

60 volunteers removed 10 cubic yards of trash.

Native Planting

April 30, 2011- Moapa Valley NWR- USFWS

20 volunteers planted 120 plants in the Apcar section.

Willow Tree Planting

April 30, 2011- Pahrnagat NWR- USFWS

3 Volunteers and staff planted 241 plants and 180 willow tree cuttings

Seed Collection

April 30, 2011- Lake Mead NRA- NPS

17 volunteers collected 95 gallons of Cheese bush seeds. They donated 51 hours to the program.

Spring Cleaning

May 7, 2011- Spring Mountains- USFS

304 volunteers removed 3940 lbs. of litter throughout Kyle Canyon, Lee Canyon, and Deer Creek Highway. Volunteers were treated to a barbeque sponsored by the Mt. Charleston Resort.

West CTA Cove Clean-up

May 11, 2011- Lake Mead NRA- NPS

24 volunteers, including 20 9th and 10th grade students from West CTA school removed 2 cubic yards of trash from a cove on Boulder Island.

Bird Count

May 14, 2011- Pahrnagat NWR- USFWS

7 volunteers assisted the refuge biologist in a statistical assessment of bird nesting activities. Volunteers and staff obtained the number and type of bird nests throughout ½ acre of habitat.

Whispering Plant Salvage/Trail Construction

May 16, 2011- Desert NWR- USFWS

4 volunteers donated 28 hours to preserve genetic stability at Corn Creek Station by salvaging 30 desert plants. Afterwards, the crew began construction of the 126 meter Whispering Ben trail spur.

Whispering Plant Salvage/Trail Construction

May 17, 2011- Desert NWR- USFWS

2 Volunteers donated time to the completion of the newly constructed 126 meter Whispering Ben trail spur. Afterwards, volunteers cleared brush and obstructions from other trails at Corn Creek Station.

West CTA Cove Clean-up

May 19, 2011- Lake Mead NRA- NPS

19 volunteers, including 16 9th and 10th grade students from West CTA School removed 2 cubic yards of trash from Boulder Island

West CTA Cove Clean-up

22 volunteers, including 19 9th and 10th grade students from West CTA School removed 2 cubic yards of trash from Boulder Island.

West CTA Cove Clean-up

May 25, 2011- Lake Mead NRA- NPS

18 volunteers, including 15 9th and 10th grade students from West CTA School removed 2 cubic yards of trash from Boulder Island

National Trails Day

June 04, 2011- Spring Mountains- USFS

25 volunteers, 2 Friends of Nevada Wilderness Staff, 2 Forest Service Staff and 4 SCA Interns cleared and maintained the first mile of the Bonanza Trail which included: Clearing 13 down trees, pruning numerous branches that blocked the trail, rehabilitated 4 switch back cuts, dug out 4 water bars, cleared 6 drainage ditches, and reinforced 1 switchback corner

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

Volunteer training sessions composed of numerous educational events are offered three times each year: fall, winter and spring. The IVP team completed a total of 9 successful training events. The trainings are as follows:

- 30 volunteers attended the small mammals, birds, and fossils training on October 23
- The CPR/First Aid training on November 6, 2011 was cancelled
- 8 volunteers attended small mammals, birds, and fossils training on November 13
- 23 volunteers attended the CPR/First Aid training on November 13
- 16 volunteers attended the waterfowl identification training on January 15
- 12 volunteers attended the waterfowl identification training on February 5
- 21 volunteers attended the CPR/First Aid training on February 12
- 23 volunteers attended the CPR/First Aid training on February 23
- 18 volunteers attended the natural educator training on June 18
- 18 volunteers attended the natural educator training on June 25

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

The IVP project manager has been searching for appropriate donations and grants to help support and sustain the program. While no grants have been identified, the project manager has partnered with West CTA to help implement youth stewardship projects. In addition, the project manager has partnered with the City of Las Vegas Neighborhood Services to implement youth leadership projects. These youth projects are designed to help underserved youth populations get acquainted with our public lands and be motivated to give back through service learning.

The IVP project manager and the IVP team lead have submitted a time only extension to SNPLMA.

In addition, the project manager is working with UNLV OSP to submit a request for a one year CESU extension with the National Park Service.

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

The Volunteer Recognition Banquet was attended by 134 volunteers. Nate Tannenbaum, local celebrity, was the guest of honor and his talk was appreciated by all. The banquet was also highlighted in the November/December issue of the Get Outdoors Nevada newsletter.

The IVP team held their first *Volunteer Appreciation Week Barbeque*. Two barbeque socials were planned; however, the threat of a government shutdown caused the cancellation of one. The social was attended by 112 volunteers and considered by the team as a “*Huge Success*”. The team has tentatively agreed to holding a similar event next year.

Discussions have started regarding another bus tour. This bus tour 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. The team has also started discussions about alternative bus tours. For instance, instead of the traditional bus tour, the idea of bringing a group down the Black Canyon was suggested. All bus tour planning is in the formative stages.

The team has started the initial planning stages for the next volunteer appreciation banquet. Based on the success of last year’s banquet, the team has tentatively agreed to hold it at UNLV again.

Submitted by:

Date: June 30, 2011

Margaret N. Rees, Principal Investigator