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Nevada Interagency Volunteer Program: Helping Hands Across Public Lands – Phase II: Quarterly Progress Report, Period Covering October 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011

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QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Period Covering October 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011

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 decreased by 20.7% over the last quarter. The database now contains 7,072 records.
- Results show an average of 1,080 visits per month, and with an average of 2,328 pages viewed per month.
- Get Outdoors Nevada supported 22 volunteer events in a variety of ways. These events utilized 867 volunteers whom contributed approximately 3,774.5 hours of service.
- Two community outreach events were attended, resulting in 476 direct contacts with 50 names added to the database.
- The 7th Annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet was held on 11/5/11 with 156 volunteers in attendance.
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Task 1. Refine and maintain a quality Web-based volunteer database.

The Volgistics volunteer database is now populated with 7,072 records. (See Figure 1 below). The number of volunteers in the database decreased by 20.7% over the quarter. The percentage of decrease is due to the deletion of 683 mailing list volunteers who have not volunteered in over two years and 1941 archived volunteers who had volunteer hours, but had no hours for the past two years.

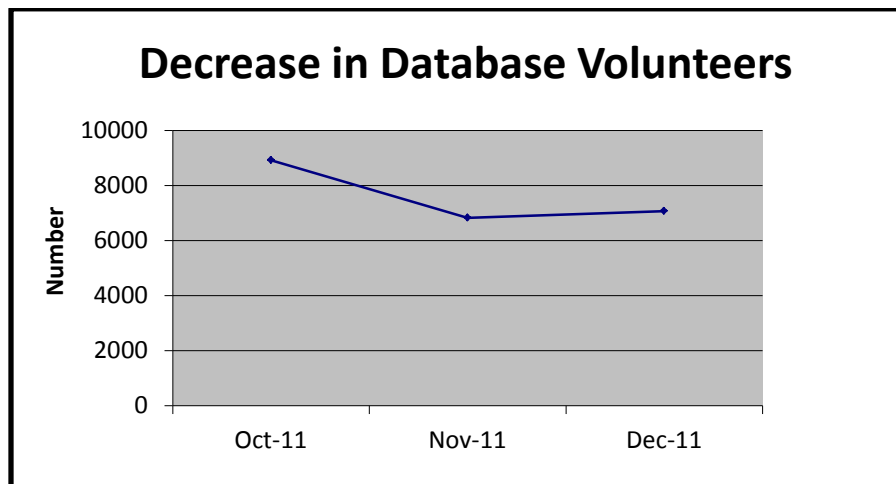


Fig. 1 above shows the number of records in the database of volunteers.

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

Average website activity increased; results are as follows:

- An average of 1,080 visits per month, a decrease from an average of 1,170 visits per month last quarter.
- An average of 2,328 pages viewed per month, a decrease from an average of 2,681 visits per month last quarter (See Fig. 2 below.)

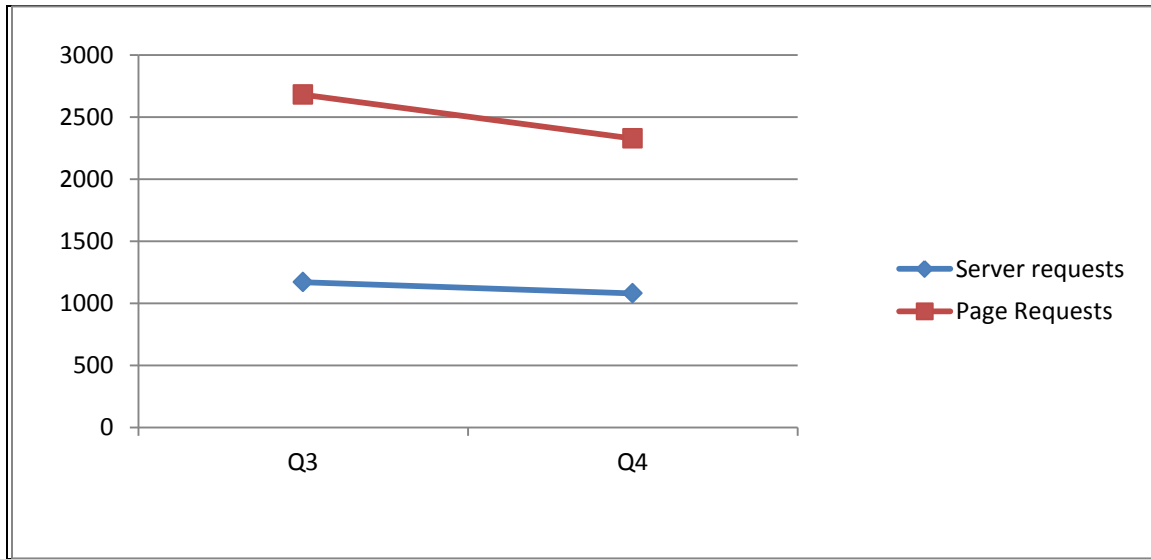


Fig. 2 Get Outdoors Nevada Website Activity

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

The Interagency Volunteer Team (IVP) met four times during the quarter, with its primary focus on the Volunteer Recognition Banquet, Make-A-Difference Day Events, and planning for spring events and training schedule.

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

The IVP team continues to create and send out a monthly newsletter, which includes information on how to volunteer for upcoming volunteer opportunities. These opportunities include episodic volunteer opportunities, as well as operation volunteer opportunities. The IVP team also continues to recruit volunteers through *volunteer.gov* and their own agency websites.

In addition, two 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 2 contains a summary of the contacts made.

Table 2. Community Outreach Attendance September 2011-December 2011

Event Name	Number of Direct Contacts	Number added to Mailing List
National Trails Day	321	45
UNLV day at the Galleria	152	5

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

The IVP team continues to work with other SNAP teams to provide logistical support for volunteer events. The Public Lands Institute provided support for the following 22 events which are summarized in Table 3 below.

Moapa Valley NWR Overlook Trailday

October 1, 2011- Moapa Valley NWR- USFWS
Cancelled

Be the Change Day

October 1, 2011- Placer Cove-Lake Mead- NPS
Twenty volunteers worked for six hours each (120 hours) to clean-up the Placer Cove area. This event was a partnership between the NPS and Gr8divin, who adopted Placer Cove, to do a dive event as well. Volunteers removed a total of 67 bags of litter from the area. This equates to 1675 pounds or 4.5 cubic yards of litter and glass.

Alexander Dawson NJHS Cleanup

October 5, 2011- Desert Tortoise Conservation Center- BLM
44 volunteers from Alexander Dawson High school removed 3 cubic yards of trash.

Cottonwood Cove Eco Dive & Beach Cleanup

October 8, 2011- Cottonwood Cove- Lake Mead- NPS
This event was a co-sponsored event with Lake Mead's Concessioner, Forever Resorts. We had 174 land volunteers and 43 divers participate in the event. Volunteers removed approximately 7,140 pounds or 19.8 cubic yards of litter. Land volunteers scoured a 2 square miles area, which mainly concentrated on the shoreline/ beach area and subsurface of the marina. This event was Forever Resort's 15th year to hold the annual cleanup.

Trailtoberfest

October 8, 2011- Desert National Wildlife Refuge- USFWS
45 volunteers created water bars, a length of traction/erosion control surface, and cleared overgrowth along 300 meters of the Bird Song Loop trail.

Stewardship Saturday - Planting

October 15, 2011- Ash Meadows NWR- USFWS
Cancelled

Make a Difference Day

October 22, 2011- Red Rock Canyon- BLM
55 volunteers participated in weeding, trimming and watering plants in the exterior exhibit area of the visitor's center, in the front of the visitor's center, including around the solar panels, the entrance fee station and in the tortoise habitat. Other accomplishments included a seed ball making project which was done by children, and installed new pavers to create a new walkway to connect the admin and visitor center buildings on the backside of the buildings.

Sandy Valley Cleanup

October 22, 2011- Sandy Valley- BLM
20 volunteers removed 70 cubic yards of trash

Las Vegas Boat Harbor Eco Dive and Beach Clean-up

October 29, 2011- Las Vegas Boat Harbor Launch Ramp- Lake Mead- NPS
Fifty-five land volunteers picked up 600 pounds of trash, and one 30 gallon bucket of glass. Twenty dive volunteers picked up 100 pounds of trash from underwater. All volunteers contributed over 300 hours to the clean-up. This event was a co-sponsored event with our concessioner, Las Vegas Boat Harbor.

Callville Bay Beach Cleanup

November 5, 2011- Callville Bay- Lake Mead- NPS
Thirty-five volunteers collected 4940 pounds of trash from the wash, shoreline and marina area. They contributed 140 hours to the cause. This event was a co-sponsored event with our concessioner at Forever Resorts, Callville Bay.

Stewardship Saturday - Cattail cutting

November 5, 2011- Ash Meadows NWR- USFWS
Cancelled

KOA Cleanup

November 6, 2011- CTA-North end of Durango- BLM
120 Volunteers removed 28 cubic yards of trash

Placer Cove Beach Cleanup

November 12, 2011- Placer Cove- Lake Mead- NPS
Once again, the National Park Service and Gr8Div'n partnered to clean up the Placer Cove area. Twenty-five volunteers assisting with a shoreline litter removal donating over 125 hours. GR8DIV'N provided 21 divers who assisted with subsurface cleanup donating over 126 hours. Volunteers removed approximately 1,600 pounds of litter. Items removed by the divers included two chairs, two inflatable pool rafts, one tarp, one grill and one patio umbrella.

Stewardship Saturday - Corn Creek

November 12, 2011- Desert NWR- USFWS
In an effort to enhance refuge habitat for a variety of avian species and other wildlife, 26 volunteers contributed to the fight against invasive and exotic species, and helped stabilize disturbed soils. Using various means, including a huge slingshot, participants sowed over 700 previously crafted seed balls that consisted of local native grasses and shrubs.

Stewardship Saturday – Pahrnagat

November 12, 2011- Pahrnagat NWR- USFWS
In an effort to enhance endangered southwestern willow flycatcher habitat on the refuge, 2 Volunteers assisted the refuge Restoration Specialist to plant 120-1 gallon containers of native plants.

Wetland Wonderland

November 19, 2011- Desert NWR- USFWS

66 Volunteers spent a beautiful Saturday morning contributing to the restoration of wetland habitat on Desert NWR at Corn Creek Station. Participants included as many youths as parents and expertly planted a total of 632 - 1 and 2 gallon, and 3” pots, of wetland vegetation that included willows shrubs and grasses.

National Family Day

November 19, 2011- Lake Mead NRA- Boulder Beach- NPS

Twenty-seven volunteers worked for 4 hours each donating a total of 108 hours to the park. Volunteers raked, shoveled and bagged debris from two loops in the Boulder Beach Campground. Approximately 32 cubic yards of debris was removed.

Gardening Gone Wild

November 19, 2011- Moapa NWR- USFWS

4 Volunteers planted a total of 140 1-gallon pots of native trees bushes and grasses

Steward Saturday

December 3, 2011- Ash Meadows- USFWS

42 volunteers strategically removed cattails (bulrush was left uncut along the outflow). The volunteer group was composed of volunteers from the UNLV Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and citizens from Las Vegas, Henderson, Amargosa Valley, Shoshone, and Pahrump. During the event, 27 cubic yards of cattail were removed from approximately 117 linear meters (384 feet) of Crystal Spring outflow.

North East Lamb Clean-Up

December 10, 2011- North East Lamb and Centennial- BLM

29 volunteers removed 50 cubic yards of trash.

Foothill Eagle Scout Project

December 17, 2011- College Drive- BLM

35 volunteers removed 60 cubic yards of trash.

Christmas Bird Count

December 28, 2011- Red Rock NCA- BLM

Table 3. 2010 IVP Volunteer Events – September 1 to December 31, 2011

Date	Agency	Location	Nature of Work	Number of Volunteers	Accomplishments	Total Volunteer Hours
10/1/11	FWS	Moapa valley	Trail work	0	cancelled	0

10/1/11	NPS	Placer Cove	Clean-up	20	Removed a total of 4.5 cubic yards of litter and glass. This clean-up was a partner ship between NPS and Gr8Divin.	120
10/5/11	BLM	Desert Tortoise Conservation Center	Clean-up	44	Removed 3 cubic yards of trash	176
10/8/11	NPS	Cottonwood Cove	Clean-up	174 land volunteers and 43 divers	Removed approximately 7,140 pounds or 19.8 cubic yards of litter	696
10/8/11	USFWS	Desert NWR	Trail Restoration	45	Created water bars, a length of traction/erosion control surface, and cleared overgrowth along 300 meters of the Bird Song Loop trail	180
10/15/11	FWS	Ash Meadows	Planting	0	Cancelled	0
10/22/11	BLM	Red Rock Canyon	Make a Difference Day	55	Weeding, trimming and watering plants in the exterior exhibit area of the visitor's center, in the front of the visitor's center, including around the solar panels, the entrance fee station and in the tortoise habitat.	330
10/22/11	BLM	Sandy Valley	Clean up	20	70 cubic yards of trash removed	80
10/29/11	NPS	Las Vegas Boat Harbor Launch Ramp	Beach Clean-up	55 land volunteers and 20 dive volunteers	Picked up 600 pounds of trash, and one 30 gallon buckets of glass. Divers picked up 100 pounds of trash from underwater.	300
11/5/11	NPS	Callville Bay	Clean-up	35	Collected 4,940 pounds of trash from the wash, shoreline, and marina area.	140
11/5/11	FWS	Ash Meadows	Cutting	0	Cancelled	0

11/6/11	BLM	Durango	Clean-up	120	Removed 28 cubic yards of trash	480
11/12/11	NPS	Placer Cove	Beach Clean-up	25	Removed approximately 1,600 lbs of litter	125
11/12/11	USFWS	Desert NWR	Planting	26	Sowed over 700 previously crafted seed balls that consisted of local native grasses shrubs	104
11/12/11	USFWS	Pahranagat	Planting	2	Assisted the refuge restoration specialist to plant 120-1 gallon containers of native plants	8
11/19/11	USFWS	Desert NWR	Planting	66	planted a total of 632 - 1 and 2 gallon, and 3" pots, of wetland vegetation that included willows shrubs and grasses.	449
11/19/11	NPS	Boulder Beach, Lake Mead	Clean-up	27	Volunteers raked, shoveled and bagged debris from two loops in the Boulder Beach Campground. Approximately 32 cubic yards of debris was removed.	108
11/19/11	USFWS	Moapa NWR		4	Volunteers planted a total of 140 1-gallon pots of native trees bushes and grasses	24
12/3/11	USFWS	Ash Meadows	Cattail Cutting	42	strategically removed cattails (bulrush was left uncut along the outflow). During the event, 27 cubic yards of cattail were removed from approximately 117 linear meters (384 feet) of Crystal Spring outflow.	198.5

12/10/11	BLM	North end of Lamb and Centennial	Clean-up	29	Removed 50 cubic yards of trash	116
12/17/2011	BLM	College Drive	Clean-Up	35	Removed 60 cubic yards of trash.	140
12/28/11	BLM	Red Rock Canyon	Bird Count			None reported
TOTALS		<u>22 events</u> <u>4 cancelled</u>		<u>887</u>		<u>3774.5</u>

Table 3 shows the details of the types of events that were conducted with the assistance of the IVP team from September to December, 2011

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

The IVP team has contracted UNLV’s Division of Educational Outreach, Office of Distance Education to create an automated version of the IVP volunteer orientation training. This project will allow the IVP team to deliver the orientation training to a wider audience using fewer staff. The first draft of the automation project is complete and currently under review by the IVP team. The final version will be completed in February 2012. Upon completion the IVP team will resume orientation trainings using the newly created DVD’s.

In addition one training was held this quarter. The following table highlights the training.

Table 4. October- December 2010 Trainings

<u>Date/ Time</u>	<u>Event Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Number of Volunteers Attended</u>
December	Christmas Bird Training	Red Rock Canyon		None reported

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:

- Partnered with Roy Martin Middle School administration to develop and implement an afterschool leadership program focused on caring for public lands
- Reached out to several for-profit businesses seeking donations for the annual recognition banquet. The following businesses have donated:
 - Fremont Flightline Experience: 4 free admissions

- REI: combination of \$15 gift cards and equipment (value less than \$200)
- Whole Foods: 1 \$20 gift card
- Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf: free coffee coupons
- Chipotle: 5 dinner for two coupons
- Paddles to the core: 2 free paddle lessons
- Bootleg canyon zipline: 2 free passes
- Researched various leads on possible grant opportunities based on innovative environmental programs and neighborhood builders.

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

The 7th Annual Interagency Volunteer Program Recognition Banquet was held in the UNLV Grand Ballroom on 11/5/11. More than 150 volunteers attended the banquet. The following is a list of award winners:

- Bruce Lund – volunteer of the year
- Wanda Alexander – lifetime achievement award
- Amelia Savage – Supervisor of the year
- Red Rock Canyon Natural Resource Team – group of the year
- GR8 DIVIN – sponsor of the year
- Patty Conant – special award

Submitted by:

Margaret N. Rees, Principal Investigator

Date: December 31, 2011