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Nevada Interagency Volunteer Program: Helping Hands Across Public Lands – Phase II: Quarterly Progress Report, Period Covering January 1, 2012 to March 31, 2012

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QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Period Covering January 1, 2012 to March 31, 2012

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 4.96% over the last quarter. The database now contains 7,423 records.
- Results show an average of 1,259 visits per month, and with an average of 3,015 pages viewed per month.
- Get Outdoors Nevada supported 14 volunteer events in a variety of ways. These events utilized 364 volunteers whom contributed approximately 2,414 hours of service.
- Three community outreach events were attended, resulting in 293 direct contacts with 50 names added to the database.
- The automated volunteer orientation training project has been completed and disks have been delivered to the 4 agencies.
- Five volunteer trainings were conducted.

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

The Volgistics volunteer database is now populated with 7,423 records. (See Figure 1 below). The number of volunteers in the database increased by 4.96% over the quarter.

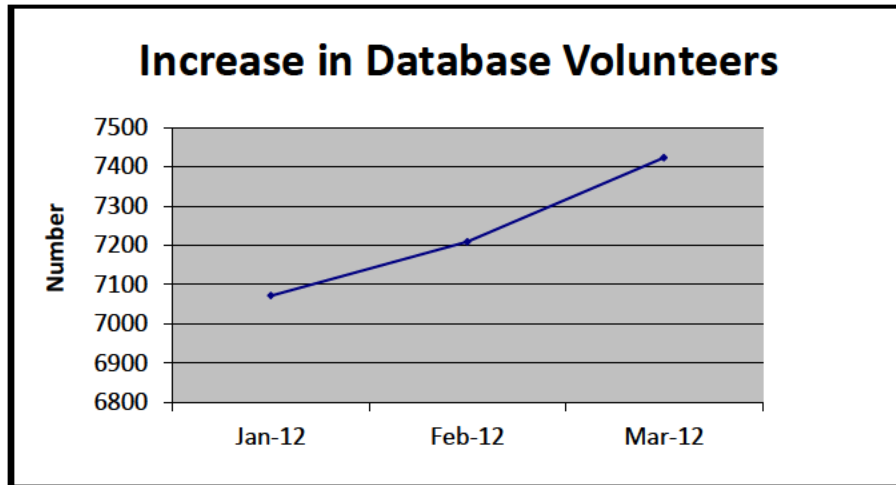


Fig. 1 above shows the number of records in the database of volunteers.

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

Average website activity increased; results are as follows:

- An average of 1,259 visits per month, an increase from an average of 1,080 visits per month last quarter.
- An average of 3,015 pages viewed per month, an increase from an average of 2,328 visits per month last quarter (See Fig. 2 below.)

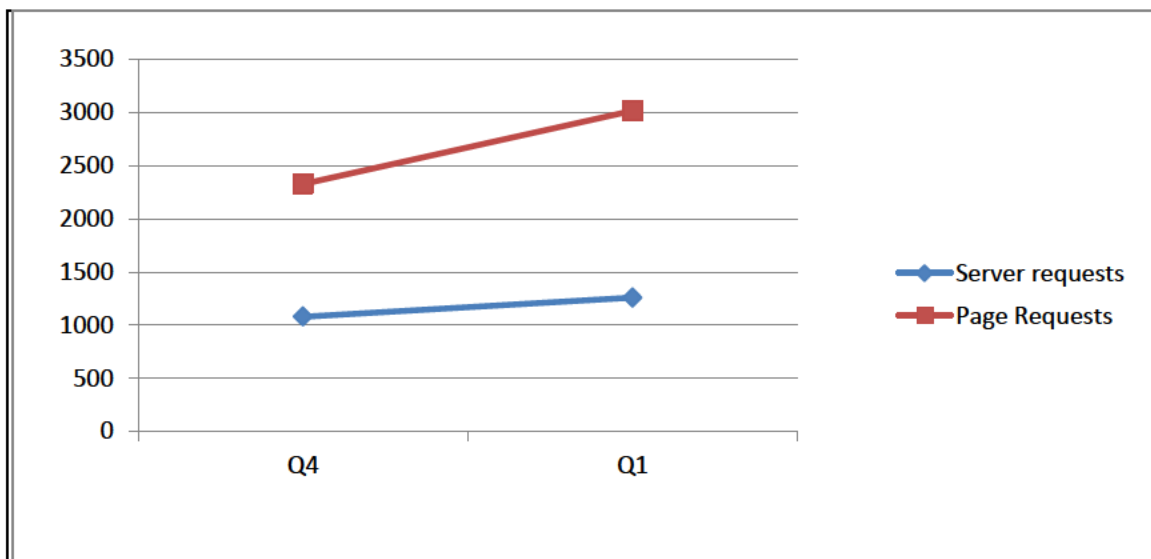


Fig. 2 Get Outdoors Nevada Website Activity

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 National Volunteer Week, Make-A-Difference Day Events, updating their workplan, 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, three 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 September 2011-December 2011

Event Name	Number of Direct Contacts	Number added to Mailing List
Winter EdFest	74	5
UNLV Spring Involvement Fair	104	33
Inside Out	115	12

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 14 events which are summarized in Table 2.

Greenway Clean-Up

January 28, 2012- South end of Greenway- BLM
56 yds were removed by 18 volunteers putting in 5 hours each

Cottonwood Cove East Restoration

January 28, 2012- Cottonwood Cove- NPS
6 volunteers raked and flattened over 100 feet of berm formed on both sides of a decommissioned road. Approximately 1,000 seedballs were distributed afterwards to promote native plant growth.

Eldorado Canyon Graffiti Removal

February 4, 2012- Eldorado Canyon- NPS
This was a combination of graffiti and litter removal due to the number of volunteers and needs of Lake Mead NRA. The 15 volunteers were divided into two groups to focus on different job duties. Approximately 400 pounds of litter was removed from the Nelson's Landing area and approximately 80 square feet of graffiti was removed from rock surface. This included several boulders and canyon walls in the Nelson's Land area. Volunteers donated 60 hours to the cause.

Kellogg and Money Clean-up

February 11, 2012- Pahrump- BLM

34 volunteers removed 140 cubic yards of trash.

Van Allen and Eldora Clean-up

February 25, 2012- Van Allen and Eldora- BLM

8 volunteers removed 20 cubic yards of trash

Enclosure Ridge Fence Removal Project

February 28- March 3, 2012- Desert Wildlife Refuge- USFWS

Event still took place. No volunteers because of bad weather. The crew worked in the Desert NWR near Pahranaagat NWR, to remove fencing materials of a fence dubbed “Enclosure Ridge” (UTM 11 S 665139 4116421). A lot of the fence was taken down in 2011 during Alternative Spring Break with UNR students but a pile of materials were still left 2 miles away from any nearby road. In all, 1,322 lbs of fencing material was hauled out on the backs and shoulders of the determined crew, hiking over 28 miles during the project. The breakdown of the materials is as follows: 78 t-posts, 27 wood stakes, 8 rolls of fencing, 10 rolls of barbed wire and 5 fencing pipes.

National Wildlife Week: Habitat Planting

March 10, 2012-Desert Wildlife Refuge- USFWS

On a beautiful day for conservation on the Desert NWR, 59 volunteers split into teams led by FWS staff, Friends of Nevada Wilderness, and SNAP SCAs for safety and work briefings then eagerly planted trees and other native plants. The groups consisted of volunteers from the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Junior Master Gardeners Club, Cub Scout Pack 835, and local citizens. During the event at Corn Creek Station, 470 plants and deep pipes were installed covering 3.5 acres near trails, outwash channels, the new pond and Headquarters.

Save the Desert Eco-walk

March 10, 2012- Cottonwood Cove- NPS

128 Volunteers removed litter from 1.5 linear miles along each side of the road to the Cottonwood Cove marina, as well as, cleaning 1 mile in each direction of the marina of beach area. Approximately 20 cubic yards of litter was removed which included several feet of sheet metal along the road.

Native Seed Collecting Event

March 10, 2012- Lake Mead- NPS

Cancelled due to native flowers in seed.

Stewardship Saturday: Endangered Species Habitat Improvement

March 17, 2012- Ash Meadows- USFWS

On a beautiful day for habitat improvement work on Ash Meadow NWR, 16 volunteers split into teams and then gingerly used hedge clippers to trim cattails down to the base. Clearing the cattail overgrowth provides a more habitable environment for the endangered Ash Meadows Amargosa pupfish.

Spring Break on Desert National Wildlife Refuge

March 19, 2012 – March 23, 2012- DNWR- USFWS

A snowy Sunday evening welcomed volunteers who camped out on Desert NWR for University of Nevada at Reno’s Alternative Spring Break. The group camped for a total of 6 nights. Nine

UNR students, 4 Southern Nevada Agency Partnership Student Conservation Association Interns, 5 members of the Friends of Nevada Wilderness and 3 Las Vegas citizens spent the week working and camping on the Refuge. Together they decommissioned .62 miles of back country two track road, planted 139 native trees and brush, and dispersed 100 native species seedballs.

Great American Clean-up

March 24, 2012- Government Wash- NPS

Sixty-eight volunteers assisted in removing 10 cubic yards of trash from a one square mile area. They managed to fill the 30 cubic yard dumpster 1/3 full with trash left by visitors, a bowling ball, a tire, propeller, a piece of carpet and many assorted shoes. Volunteers had a great time and the weather cooperated. Seven Lake Mead employees assisted with the event and 1 PLI employee.

Table 2. IVP Volunteer Events – January 1 – March 31, 2012

Date	Agency	Location	Nature of Work	Number of Volunteers	Accomplishments	Total Volunteer Hours
1/28/12	BLM	Greenway	Clean-up	18	56 yds of trash removed	90
1/28/12	NPS	Cottonwood	Restoration	6	raked and flattened over 100 feet of berm formed on both sides of a decommissioned road. Approximately 1,000 seedballs were distributed afterwards to promote native plant growth.	24
02/04/12	NPS	Eldorado Caynon	Graffiti Removal	15	Approximately 400 pounds of litter was removed from the Nelson’s Landing area and approximately 80 square feet of graffiti was removed from rock surface. This included several boulders and canyon walls in	60

					the Nelson's Land area.	
02/11/12	BLM	Pahrump	Clean-up	34	Removed 140 cubic yards of trash	136
02/25/12	BLM	Van Allen and Eldora	Clean-up	8	Removed 20 cubic yards of trash	32
2/28/12	FWS	Desert National Wildlife Refuge	Restoration	0		0
03/10/2012	FWS	Desert National Wildlife Refuge	Planting	59	Planted 470 plants and installed deep pipes covering 3.5 acres near trails, outwash channels, the new pond and Headquarters.	236
3/10/12	NPS	Lake Mead	Seed Collection	0		0
03/10/2012	NPS	Lake Mead National Recreation Area	Clean-up	128	removed litter from 1.5 linear miles along each side of the road to the Cottonwood Cove marina, as well as, cleaning 1 mile in each direction of the marina of beach area. Approximately 20 cubic yards of litter was removed which included several feet of sheet metal along the road.	648

03/17/2012	FWS	Ash Meadows	Restoration	16	On a beautiful day for habitat improvement work on Ash Meadow NWR, 16 volunteers split into teams and then gingerly used hedge clippers to trim cattails down to the base.	96
03/19/2012-03/23/2012	FWS	Desert National Wildlife Refuge	Restoration and Planting	12	Decommissioned .62 miles of back country two track road, planted 139 native trees and brush, and dispersed 100 native species seedballs.	820
03/24/2012	NPS	Lake Mead National Recreation Area	Clean-up	68	Removed 10 cubic yards of trash from a one square mile area. They managed to fill the 30 cubic yard dumpster 1/3 full with trash left by visitors, a bowling ball, a tire, propeller, a piece of carpet and many assorted shoes.	272
TOTALS	14 Events			<u>364</u>		<u>2,414</u>

Table 2 shows the details of the types of events that were conducted with the assistance of the IVP team from January thru March, 2012

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 final version was completed in February 2012. The IVP team will resume orientation training using the newly created DVD’s.

In addition five trainings were held this quarter. The following table highlights the training.

Table 3. January- March 2012 Trainings

<u>Date/ Time</u>	<u>Event Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Number of Volunteers Attended</u>
January 21, 2012 9:00 AM	First Aid/CPR	Lake Mead Water Safety Training Building	Volunteer Enrichment	14
February 18, 2012 9:00 AM	First Aid/CPR	Lake Mead Water Safety Training Building	Volunteer Enrichment	13
February 24, 2012 8:00 AM	First Aid/ CPR	Red Rock Caynon Visitor Center Classroom	Volunteer Enrichment	13
March 3, 2012 8:00 AM	First Aid/CPR	Red Rock Canyon Vistitor Center Classroom	Volunteer Enrichment	17
March 17, 2012 9:00 AM	First Aid/CPR	Lake Mead Water Safety Training	Volunteer Enrichment	10

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:

- Reached out to several for-profit businesses seeking donations for event snacks and water
- 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.

- In honor of National Volunteer Week the IVP team decided to craft a thank you card to be sent to all volunteers. The appreciation card has been crafted and will be sent out on April 15th
- The IVP team is considering a variety of options for a “get to know your public lands” bus tour. The team is in early discussions and should arrive at an answer witin the next meeting.

Submitted by:



Date: March 31, 2012

Margaret N. Rees, Principal Investigator