Factors Contributing to Dust Emissions in Clark County, Nevada Quarterly Progress Report: Period Ending April 15, 2006

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Executive Summary

- Search for post-doctoral scholar underway
- Modification to task agreement currently being drafted.

Hiring

As noted in our last quarterly report, the search for a post-doctoral scholar to direct the dust emissions research commenced in December 2005, and until that position is filled there has been no substantive activity toward the deliverables, to date.

The review of applications began on February 15, 2006. A total of 18 candidates applied for the position, but of those only 12 met the minimum qualifications. The search committee reviewed the application materials of these candidates and determined that only 3 applicants had the desired background for the nature of this specific research. The search committee has identified one preferred candidate, but in order to move forward with a hiring recommendation, the UNLV Department of Human Resources must complete a review of the search process to ensure it has been EEO/AA guidelines. At the present time, we are awaiting a decision by that office.

The preferred candidate currently lives in Belgium and will require a visa in order to work in the United States. If the university grants authority for an offer to be made to this individual, he would not be able to start until December 1, 2006. The potential delay in hiring has been discussed with Lisa Christianson, the appointed BLM project inspector. She has recommended that a formal modification be submitted by the university through BLM to amend the ending date of the task agreement in order to accommodate the hiring of this individual, based on his considerable qualifications. The university is in the process of preparing a modification for consideration by BLM authorities.
Should there be difficulties in hiring the preferred candidate due to visa issues, the Public Lands Institute will continue searching for other potential candidates.

Submitted by:

_______________________  April 3, 2005
Project Administrator  Date

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Position Announcement
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Post-Doctoral Scholar, Soils – Department of Geoscience

The Public Lands Institute at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas seeks a post-doctoral scholar for a one-year appointment (possibly to be extended depending on funding), commencing May 1, 2006, or later in the Department of Geoscience, to conduct research to assess the effects on air quality of dust emissions from soils disturbed on public lands in areas of Clark County, Nevada.

Responsibilities: The successful candidate will assess factors contributing to dust generation and transport within the Nellis Dunes area of Clark County, Nevada. Besides conducting basic research with UNLV faculty (Department of Geoscience Pedology Laboratory), the applicant will work in collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management to provide scientific advice and technical assistance needed by BLM to develop and assess best management practices for reducing dust emissions from vacant public lands, prioritize dust mitigation activities, and implement and improve the BLM’s Dust Management Plan and Clean Air Program. As such, the position presents an excellent opportunity to establish and carry out research that draws upon the candidate’s strengths, interests, and background.

Required Qualifications: The successful candidate must have the Ph.D. completed (or letter from the University registrar and advisor saying degree requirements have been completed) prior to start date. Applicants with a Ph.D. from an accredited college or university in soil science or geoscience or other relevant backgrounds will be given preference.

Position contingent upon funding. Salary will be commensurate with local job market and experience. Review of applications will commence on February 1, 2006, and will continue until the position is closed.

Applications: Application materials must include a current vita, detailed cover letter, and the name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of three professional references. Applicants should fully describe qualifications and experience, since the initial review will serve to evaluate applicants based on documented, relevant qualifications and work experience. Materials should be addressed to Dr. Patrick Drohan, Search Committee Chair, and are to be submitted via on-line application only at https://hrsearch.unlv.edu. For assistance with UNLV’s on-line applicant portal, contact Bob Sitts at (702) 895-1655 or email hrsearch@ccmail.nevada.edu. For more information, see the UNLV World Wide Web site at: http://www.unlv.edu. Women and minority post-docs are encouraged to apply. UNLV is an equal opportunity / affirmative action employer committed to achieving excellence through diversity.