7-20-2004

Oliver Ranch Core Group Meeting: July 20, 2004

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OLIVER RANCH CORE GROUP MEETING
Bureau of Land Management Offices
4701 North Torrey Pines Drive
(North Rancho @ Torrey Pines)
Tuesday, July 20, 2004
8:30 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Introductions (5 minutes)

2. Approval of Minutes from June 15 Meeting (5 minutes)

3. Review of Draft Talking Points/FAQ – Nancy Flagg (30 min)

4. Discussion of Wild Horse and Burro Facility – Billie Young (30 min.)

5. Standing Reports (30 minutes)
   A. Line and Space Update – Les Wallach/Henry Tom
   B. UNLV/CESU Update – Peg Rees/Nancy Flagg
   C. RRCNRA Capital Improvements Update – Mark Morse/Michael Reiland

6. ORSS Committee Reports (15 minutes)
   A. Design Oversight – David Frommer
   B. Educational Programs – Paul Buck
   C. Fund-Raising & Partnerships – Blaine Benedict
   D. NEPA – Charles Carroll
   E. Operations – Jack Ramsey
   F. Other Uses – Pat Williams
   G. Wild Horse & Burro – Billie Young
   H. (New) Building – Michael Reiland

7. Open Discussion / New Business (5 minutes)

Next Meeting:
Tuesday, August 17, 2004
8:30-10:30 a.m.
UNLV Paradise Campus, Room 401 (Tropicana & Swenson)

Oliver Ranch Core Group meetings are open to any interested member of the public. Attendance by new individuals is always welcomed. Reasonable efforts will be made to assist and accommodate physically handicapped persons attending the meeting. Please call the UNLV Public Lands Initiative Office (702-895-5148) in advance so that arrangements may be made.
Meeting Minutes

OLIVER RANCH CORE GROUP
Bureau of Land Management Offices
Tuesday, July 20, 2004

The meeting commenced at 8:35 a.m. with the following persons in attendance:
Loretta Asay, Kathy August, Bruce Beierle, Paul Buck, Dale Etheridge, Nancy Flagg, Pat Fleming, David Frommer, Laurie Howard, John McCarty, Mark Morse, Helen Mortenson, Alan O’Neill, Jackson Ramsey, Michael Reiland, Sharon Shafer, Ben Tocci, Henry Tom, Les Wallach, Pat Williams, Billie Young.

1. Introductions
The group welcomed new attendees Ben Tocci, Laurie Howard, and Sharon Shafer.

2. Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the June 15, 2004, meeting were approved with no changes.

3. Review of Draft Talking Points/FAQ
Nancy Flagg distributed a draft of potential talking points for the science school, which can also be used as an FAQ on the future Oliver Ranch website (on file in UNLV Public Lands Initiative office and BLM office). She invited core group members to provide her with feedback and corrections, as well as to offer additional questions that might commonly be asked about the school. The following additional questions were suggested:

- Why a residential facility?
- Will scholarships be available?
- What will be taught there?
- Who is going to operate the facility?
- Will there be public access?
- How will safety and security be handled?
- Is this a Clark County School District project?
- Will this project cost the school district or taxpayers?
- What operations are going to take place at the Wild Horse and Burro facility?
- What is the source of the water that will supply the school?
- Was there public input into the design of the school?

Helen Mortenson asked if there is an intention to revisit what is known about the history of Red Rock Canyon. John McCarty replied that part of the environmental analysis will be from a historical perspective. Additional information about the history of the area may be provided on the science school website.

4. School Name
Michael Reiland announced that the BLM has decided upon a preliminary name for the school: the Red Rock National Desert Learning Center. This title is preliminary, pending further research into whether the word “national” may properly be used.

Helen Mortenson commented that including the word “Mojave” in the title had originally been discussed. When at the Oliver Ranch site, visitors do not naturally think of the desert. Michael replied that the BLM hopes, through this learning center, to export themes to other school-age...
children around the country. By keeping the title generic, it allows it to be viewed as a national center.

Henry Tom asked if the Wild Horse and Burro facility will have a separate name. Billie Young noted that there is the potential for numerous subtitles to the overall name, such as the Wild Horse and Burro Facility at Red Rock National Desert Learning Center. This will allow a focus on numerous themes.

5. Overview of Wild Horse and Burro Facility
Billie Young, chair of the Wild Horse and Burro Committee, provided the group with general information about the need for the facility and how the idea for it came about (on file in UNLV Public Lands Initiative office and BLM office). She encouraged anyone wanting more in-depth information to contact her. Billie provided a brief history of the origins of the 1959 Wild Horse Annie Act, the establishment of the Nevada Wild Horse Range in 1961, and the Wild and Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971.

There are wild horses in 10 states, but Nevada has more than 60% of the total population as well as 97 of the 187 herd management areas. The maintenance of wild horses and burros has resulted in large management issues and budget issues. It is also an emotionally and politically charged issue. Some 14,000 horses are currently in long-term holding and are typically held for 5 to 10 years, at a cost of approximately $1.25 per animal, per day. There is little awareness among the public about the rules and regulations related to wild horses.

Billie indicated that, in Nevada, the estimated appropriate management level is around 14,000 horses, which equates to the carrying capacity of the land – meaning the animals are in balance with all of the wildlife on the range. If Nevada were at this optimal number, there would be approximately 6,000 excess animals per year going into the adoption program or a sanctuary. If the numbers are not reduced to this level, the land suffers and the animals suffer.

An education center is needed to promote public awareness about wild horses and the adoption program and to teach the public about how the management of herds relates to the larger ecosystem. This center would also provide a network of support for people who choose to adopt as well as provide a venue for research on genetics, diet, hoof issues, contraception, and social behavior. The Red Rock Herd Management area covers two-thirds of the conservation area. Approximately 2.3 million visitors could potentially be reached, as well as the school children visiting the science school and the visitor center.

Alan O’Neill pointed out that nationally there is no wild horse and burro facility dedicated to education. Since Nevada has more horses than any other state, it is a logical place for a national educational program, especially because of the number of visitors. Billie noted that the current concept calls for educating people at the visitor center, and those interested in adopting could then visit the horse and burro facility to view animals ready for adoption. Mark Morse emphasized that it is not planned to be another long-term holding facility, but rather a location for holding approximately 25-30 horses specifically for adoptions.

Paul Buck asked what other states have successful adoption programs and how they are structured. Billie replied that, across the board, the adoption programs are rather weak, especially in the western states. She noted 75% of the horses from the West are actually adopted into eastern states. The current adoption program is not user friendly. Adoptions are either scheduled by appointment or at the BLM’s convenience, which doesn’t always meet the needs of those interested in adopting, and there is no process for returning horses. She sees the facility as
a user-friendly, “storefront” operation that can serve to promote partnerships among the BLM, the National Wild Horse and Burro Association, the Friends of Red Rock Canyon, and the Red Rock Interpretive Association.

6. **Standing Reports**

A. **Line and Space Architects**

Henry Tom and Les Wallach of Line and Space Architects provided an update on recent activities *(on file in UNLV Public Lands Initiative office and BLM office)*. Representatives of the firm toured the Las Vegas Springs Preserve on June 14. The visitor center there is 25,000 s.f., budgeted at $45 million, and expected to attract 600,000 visitors per year. There may be opportunities to coordinate with this facility to carry general messages about water in a desert environment, whereas the Red Rock Visitor Center could focus more specifically on the desert itself. To further this potential collaboration, Henry noted the importance of inviting the Springs Preserve people to attend the upcoming focus sessions on the Red Rock Visitor Center.

On June 26, Les Wallach visited the Campbell Creek Science Center in Alaska. It is about 8 years old, on the edge of urban development with access to a lot of wild country. The planners initially hoped to have a residential facility, but with budget cutting that feature was lost. The facility was originally run by the Alaska Natural History Association but is now run by the BLM. It is used as a field trip location only for day trips, focused primarily on 6th graders, and is not fully tied into the local school district. The center is staffed with four permanent BLM employees, but many volunteers and hourly employees supplement the staff. Jackson Ramsey also noted that this center is funded with appropriated money. Campbell Creek costs are close to $600,000 per year, with $100,000 in fee income, $70,000 in in-kind contributions, and approximately $50,000 per year in grants. The remainder is provided by the BLM.

In an update on the Oliver Ranch programming document, Les Wallach reported that the architects received comments back from BLM and have made those revisions. A final document will be provided to the BLM this week.

The architects noted that representatives of the firm will attend a tour of four wild horse and burro facilities in July. They will also be on site at Oliver Ranch on July 27-29 doing site analysis and will visit the Ethel M factory to look at its waste treatment facility.

Henry Tom provided an update on the overall project schedule *(on file in UNLV Public Lands Initiative office and BLM office)*. Three master plan concepts will be developed. As soon as schematic design is complete on Oliver Ranch, Line and Space will immediately begin on the programming of the Red Rock visitor center, which should occur around Dec. 10 for approximately a week. Line and Space is looking to schedule a kick-off meeting for the visitor center sometime around the end of September. This will allow the environmental analysis to begin, allow confirmation of the existing site location, and set the direction for writing agendas for the December planning sessions. Henry noted that a lot of preliminary work on the visitor center has already been accomplished. Two shifts may include more emphasis on the wild horse and burro facility and tying into the bigger picture of other facilities like the Las Vegas Springs Preserve.

Alan O’Neill suggested that Line and Space interact with Shapins Associates, which has been contracted by the U.S. Forest Service to design the Lower Kyle Canyon improvements. The work of both firms should be connected. Michael Reiland said he would provide the contact information to Line and Space.
B. **UNLV**

Nancy Flagg provided an update on UNLV’s activities related to Oliver Ranch. A web coordinator, Megan Iudice, has been hired and begins August 2. She will begin work on an Oliver Ranch web site and will determine the logistics and federal requirements in collaboration with Michael Reiland.

UNLV will work with the Fund-Raising and Partnerships Committee to identify foundations, organizations, and businesses to approach for private funds and in-kind contributions. Only initial feelers are planned at this time, since, in some cases, it may take sustained contact over several years to encourage gifts.

Work is continuing on efforts to update committee rosters, review committee mission statements, and determine committee charges.

Nancy reminded attendees that she welcomes input about issues that need to be handled, outreach that should occur, and keeping communication lines open. She is especially interested in reconnecting with people who have not recently attended core group meetings. The meetings are open to any interested person.

C. **Red Rock Canyon National Recreation Area**

John McCarty provided an update on the environmental assessment (EA). There are two phases to the study – a discovery phase and the actual assessment. The purpose is to develop the EA in conjunction with the conceptual design. A survey is being conducted of rare species for all 320 acres. This will allow Line and Space to be sensitive in their design of building footprints and will feed into the conceptual design. A cultural survey was completed last week, and work is continuing on a study of the animals and plants. Final reports should be completed by October, with interim reports provided to BLM as well. John noted that the scope of the EA will be revisited as it proceeds, because new things are learned which can lead to additional study.

Helen Mortenson asked about the hydrology study. John replied that it is not part of the EA per se. Michael Reiland added that the BLM is conducting the hydrology study. The wells continue to be delayed because the U.S. Geological Survey team has been detained on another project in Montana. Helen asked if there was a deadline and noted her concerns with the delays. The hydrology report is of paramount concern to the entire project.

Paul Buck asked if the EA will identify structures for the national historic register. John replied that an assessment of the main structures was conducted in 1999. Paul asked about 2 other outlying structures. John said they are being surveyed and a literature search is underway.

7. **Committee Reports**

A. **Design Oversight Committee**

Chair David Frommer said the committee met yesterday (July 19). They are collecting a variety of reference documents and summaries and will create a binder for use by Line and Space and the BLM. The committee plans to develop a document with a broad overview of all the processes going on, so that a flexible, broad picture can be provided to everyone on the core group. The committee generated a proposal to establish a building committee, which will be chaired by Angie Lara of the BLM. The committee determined that, on an as-needed basis, members of the committee will make themselves available for public presentations. The
committee provided some guidance to Billie Young on questions they would like answered regarding the Wild Horse and Burro facility on the upcoming facility tours.

B. **Educational Programs Committee**
Chair Paul Buck reported that the committee held one meeting to go through the FOSS kits currently used in the Clark County School District. These kits address the topics of water, mixtures and solutions, landforms, environment, variables, and solar. The committee is meeting again tomorrow (July 21) to begin the detailed process of developing individual curricula/programs that will meet the school district’s needs and the major themes they want the 5th graders to study. The committee is considering having students choose a question they would like to study, rather than providing a menu of activities.

C. **Fund-Raising and Partnerships Committee**
Michael Reiland reported on behalf of Chair Blaine Benedict that the committee has not met, but plans to set a new meeting soon.

D. **NEPA Committee**
No report beyond the update provided by John McCarty.

E. **Operations Committee**
Chair Jackson Ramsey reported that the committee hasn’t met, but plans to set a new meeting soon.

F. **Other Uses Committee**
Chair Patricia Williams reported that the committee will most likely not meet until after schematic designs are provided, at which time other uses can be reviewed in terms of whether they should be mission driven or revenue driven.

G. **Wild Horse and Burro Committee**
Chair Billie Young reported that committee members will be visiting 4 facilities in the region: Ridgecrest, Hurricane, Susanville/Litchfield, and Palomino. A report will be provided at the next core group meeting.

H. **Building Committee**
Michael Reiland reported that this new committee will be chaired by Angie Lara. A copy of the mission statement was provided by email to the core group (on file in UNLV Public Lands Initiative office and BLM office). Meetings will be held immediately after each core group meeting.

Helen Mortenson asked to clarify if all committees are open to everyone. Michael assured her that they are and, as meeting dates are determined, he passes along the information to the core group list.

8. **New Business**
On August 19 the BLM has invited 8 people from other science schools located on government land to talk about issues they ran into, how they handled them, and what they’ve learned. This will be an open discussion, all-day meeting at the BLM headquarters.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.
Oliver Ranch Design Oversight Subcommittee  
Meeting Minutes  
June 16, 2004  

Attendees:  
David Frommer, Les Wallach, Henry Tom, Billie Young, Michael Reiland (partial), Jackson Ramsey (partial), Pat Fleming  

Minutes:  

1. The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:30AM  

2. Discussion occurred regarding the future of the DOC, with BLM’s approval of the establishment of the Building Advisory Committee (BAC). Most DOC members were in favor of continuing the committee, to maintain the input of DOC members for both general project involvement and to provide input to the DOC representative who will be serving on the BAC. Concern was noted that since several DOC members also will be serving in different roles on the BAC, that these two committees may have some redundancy.

The final determination was that it was of value to the project to continue to DOC meeting, to provide input to the BAC, and to provide general and broad input to assist in keeping the project and its design focused on the core mission and purpose. For information, the DOC Mission statement is listed below:

“To provide guidance and knowledge of facilities to protect the integrity of the site ecology and to guide the development of the Oliver Ranch Science School and the Wild Horse and Burro Facility to meet the Core Missions.”

3. Discussion occurred regarding future DOC meetings. To coordinate with the Core Meetings and travel schedules, all agreed it would be best to hold the DOC meetings the day prior to the Core Meeting. The DOC schedule for the next 4 months is as follows:

July 19, 2004 – 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM, UNLV Campus Services Building Room 102  
August 16, 2004 – 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM, UNLV Campus Services Building Room 102  
September 20, 2004 – 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM, UNLV Campus Services Building Room 102  
October 18, 2004 – 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM, UNLV Campus Services Building Room 102

4. Line and Space commenced with their agenda items for preliminary program document review. Review of the ORSS portion proceeded up to parking. More review is required from the DOC, and Line and Space are noting all comments and changes and tracking accordingly for inclusion in the final program review document.

5. Discussion was tabled on on-going tasks for each member of the DOC. The next DOC meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2004 – 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM, UNLV Campus Services Building Room 102.

6. Meeting was adjourned at 1:20 PM.
Minutes
Education Programs Subcommittee
June 22, 2004

Attendees:

Paul Buck  DRI   Kathy August  BLM
Nancy Elder  CCSD   Mary Weisenmiller  CCSD
Mary Sowder  CCSD   Kim Blanc  DRI
Dave DuBois  DRI   Jin Xi  DRI
Vic Etyemeziun  DRI   Laura Flynn  CCSD
Michael Young  DRI   Loretta Asay  CCSD
Gary Alan Flood  CCSD   Carron Haggerty  CCSD

Purpose of this meeting:
This meeting brought together the Clark County School District (CCSD) employees, Desert Research Institute (DRI) employees, and other interested agencies for the purpose of developing a document that would combine research and curriculum into an education plan for the Oliver Ranch Science School.

Meeting Report:
This group of individuals or team of experts has identified many of the resources that will be used as an aid in developing curriculum for the Oliver Ranch Science School. Resources such as the FOSS Kits currently used in the Clark County School District. Another topic discussed was the Oliver Ranch site and what it has to offer for curriculum in the field as well as other nationwide programs such as the Globe program and how they can be linked to the curriculum.

This team’s goal is to develop links that can be made between the FOSS kits, current research, and other related programs to create this resource to be as an education plan for the Oliver Ranch Science School.

It was identified that the FOSS Kits are broken into separate subjects:
1) Water Kit (4th grade)
2) Mixtures & Solutions (5th grade)
3) Landforms (5th grade)
4) Environment (5th grade)
5) Variables (5th grade)
6) Solar (5th grade)

These kits were identified specifically because they have many curriculum possibilities with the DRI researchers and Oliver Ranch site.

It was decided that instead of breaking into small sub-groups to work on one subject area or Foss Kit that the team brainstormed that we would come back together with “Big Ideas” or “Questions” to be our starting point for fleshing through the curriculum and research.
The team identified a framework to start this process:

Pre-classroom activities → Big Ideas → Activities → Post-classroom activities
- connected to FOSS
- description (blow by blow)
- resources (where, what…)
- protocols

It was mentioned that it was important to integrate cultural activities, art related activities amongst other subjects into the curriculum at the Oliver Ranch Science School.

It was decided that at the next meeting there would be a crash course of the FOSS Kit – Environments for the non-CCSD professionals. This will help the non-CCSD professionals to understand what the Clark County School District 5th graders as well as other grades are currently using in the classroom.

Next meeting will review the Foss kits:
Tuesday June 22, 2004 at DRI in room 352 from 9:00am-Noon
Fund-Raising and Partnerships Subcommittee
July 7, 2004

The Fundraising and Partnership committee has not met since the last Core Committee meeting. There is no report at this time.

Submitted by Blaine Benedict

____________________________________________________________________________

Operations Subcommittee
July 7, 2004

The Operations Committee has not met since the last Core Committee meeting. There is no report at this time.

Submitted by Jackson Ramsey

_______________________________________________________________________

Other Uses Subcommittee
July 1, 2004

The Other Uses Committee has not met since September 2003 for several reasons:

1. Undetermined size and structure of the facility.
2. Undefined availability of the facility.

I would anticipate reorganizing the committee after the an operator is selected, a business plan is complete and, the preliminary architect renderings are submitted.

Some questions to be resolved:

1. Revenue producing uses: ‘mission driven’ or revenue driven’?
2. Commitment to schedules – when will the ORESS be available? Is this an operator issue or BLM issue?
3. Expected revenue stream?

Submitted by P. Williams
Proposed Guidelines for Building Committee
Design Oversight Committee Proposal
FINAL: 6/16/04

The Oliver Ranch Science School and Wild Horse and Burro Facility (ORSS & WHB) Design Oversight Committee (DOC) proposes the establishment of a Building Committee for the ORSS & WHB facility design and construction process.

A Building Committee is needed to provide BLM a decision-making mechanism with advisory input, to make design and construction decisions in an informed, efficient, timely and authorized manner. The Building Committee will be comprised of individuals with the expertise to adequately advise prior to BLM decisions.

The Building Committee’s main point of interface will be with design consultants, BLM contracting officer representatives, the ORSS & WHB Core Committee and the ORSS & WHB Chair Committee. However, the Building Committee may be called upon to interface with other committees and organizations.

The Building Committee will be needed to attend monthly meetings and may need to attend additional meetings on an as-needed basis. The Building Committee representatives need to be available to participate in decisions relative to the design and construction of the ORSS & WHB facility.

The Building Committee will have a BLM representative acting as the Building Committee Decision Maker. All decisions and determinations on project issues and direction to be given to consultants and contractors will come from this representative. BLM Contracting Representatives and consultants or contractors will only take direction from this individual or other appropriate BLM Officials.

All other Building Committee members will serve in an advisory role to assist BLM in reviewing project issues. These members have no decision-making authority and are not permitted to give direction to BLM consultants and contractors.

At the discretion of the BLM Building Committee Decision Maker, select issues where Building Committee has been received may be reviewed outside of the Building Committee for additional BLM input. The Building Committee will be informed of the outcome of these select issues.

The specific Building Committee proposed members are:

BLM Building Committee Decision Maker: Angie Lara
BLM Contracting Representative: Pat Fleming
BLM Project Coordinator representative: Michael Reiland
External Project Management representative: Bill Cates
Wild Horse and Burro representative: Billie Young
Facility Operator representative: TBD
Clark County School District representative: Loretta Asay
DOC Committee Chair representative: David Frommer
Core Committee at-large representative: Blaine Benedict
Agenda
Oliver Ranch School - CORE Meeting
Line and Space, LLC.
July 20, 2004

1.) Meeting Reports
   - Las Vegas Springs Preserve – Yellow Sheets
   - Campbell Creek Science Center – Purple Sheet

2.) Programming Document Update

3.) Other Items
   - Tour of Wild Horse and Burro Facilities July 21-23
   - Site Analysis for ORS/WHB Site July 27-29

4.) Overall Project Schedule Review
   - Key dates – Blue Sheet

5.) Other Key Dates
   Visitor Center Kick Off Meeting and Site Review
   - September 30 – October 1, 2004
Trip Summary
Las Vegas Springs Preserve

Monday, June 14th

10:00am – 12:00pm
Tour of Las Vegas Springs Preserve

Attendees
Michael Reiland, RRCNCA Project Manager
Jackson Ramsey, RRCIA
Blaine Benedict, OLVF
Les Wallach, Line and Space,llc
Henry Tom, Line and Space,llc
Greg Seymour, Las Vegas Springs Preserve
John Tenner. Las Vegas Springs Preserve

Summary of visit
• A tour of the Las Vegas Spring Preserve (LVSP) Project was given by Greg Seymour, and John Tenner. Michael Reiland organized the trip. The LVSP project is located at Valley View Boulevard and US Highway 95, approximately 3 miles from downtown Las Vegas.
• The LVSP project encompasses 180 acres and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
• Completion of the 166 million dollar facility is scheduled for 2006. The project will include a Visitor Center, Desert Living Center, Desert Trails, Gardens, the Nevada State Museum and Water Works.
  - The Visitor Center, which will convey the natural and cultural history of Las Vegas, will include an interactive museum gallery, theater, a photo gallery and an outdoor amphitheater. The budget for the 25,000 square feet visitor center is 45 million dollars.
  - The Desert Living Center, a 35 million dollar facility, will showcase living in the Desert Southwest. The building will be LEED certified. The facility will focus on sustainable living and will have a dialogue center, a public interface area and a design/lab technical training area.
  - Trails, will take visitors to a cienega wetlands, historic spring mounds, historic structures, an ongoing archeological dig and historic well derricks.
  - The Gardens, will demonstrate water efficient and energy saving design solutions for the home garden setting. There will be over 8 acres of demonstration gardens.
  - The Nevada State Museum and Historical Society, will relocate from their current location and provide a statewide context for the preserve.
  - The Water Works, will house a pump station and also include a lab for students to perform experiments.
• The Water District has set up an endowment to provide maintenance funds for the facilities.
• Projected yearly visitation to LVSP is 600,000 people.
• Funding for the LVSP project comes partly from the Water District and SNPLMA.
• Discussed the "string of pearls" idea with Greg Seymour and John Tenner. Both Greg and John were not familiar with the concept, but were interested in knowing more about it. They were informed that a new Visitor Center was planned for the Red Rock National Conservation Area and that they along with other LVSP personnel would be invited to participate in the planning process.

End of Report.
Trip Summary
Campbell Creek Science Center

Saturday, June 26th

9:00am – 10:30am
Tour of Campbell Creek Science Center, Anchorage, Alaska

Attendees
Les Wallach, Line and Space, llc
Susan Wallach, Line and Space, llc
Brian R. Lax, Education Specialist, BLM, phone: (907) 267-1249,
e-mail:blax@ak.blm.gov

Summary of visit
• Received excellent briefing and tour of facility by Brian Lax

• Completed in October 1996, the 10,500sf, Campbell Creek Science Center (CCSC) owned and operated by the US Bureau of Land Management, is located on the urban edge of Anchorage, Alaska, within a beautiful natural setting. The center was created "as a result of a special appropriation by Senator Ted Stevens. The Anchorage Committee for Resource Education, the Anchorage School Districts and other Community Groups advocated for such a facility within Anchorage that would meet their needs."

• Facility:
  - First class construction and grounds. Adjacent to trails.
  - Single building configured in a "U" shape with entry/ mud room/lobby/ reception area and public bathrooms in the center (also, admin and library tucked behind).
  - One wing consists of multi- purpose room seating 100 at tables along with adjacent commercial kitchen and live in quarters.
  - The other leg of the "U" is a large classroom with 2 attached storage rooms and a greenhouse. The storage rooms are quite large; one for program materials and the other for gear.
  - Additionally, two "garage type" out buildings provide storage for maintenance and recreation equipment.
  - Originally conceived as a sleep over facility; Prior to construction congress mandated across the board funding cut and dormitories were eliminated.
  - A challenge course has been provided and has proven to be an excellent team building tool for teachers as well as BLM staff.
  - Added note Per Brian: "REI is ..one of many, many local businesses and organizations who have donated services or materials. We actually have an MOU with several non-profit and governmental organizations who work with us as partners. (We also have a separate MOU with several other organizations to cooperatively administer the Interpretive Naturalist Certification Program of Alaska.) This past year, REI has actually been a major partner with us in, specifically, our Winter Trails Day and our local event within National Trails Day. It looks like they will be involved in the upcoming National Public Lands Day and/or other similar events."
Trip Summary
Campbell Creek Science Center

- Management:
  - Brian related, "Through a three year assistance agreement with BLM, ANHA (Alaska Natural History Association) collected fees, hired instructors and a director through a task order from BLM. (BLM paid for the salaries plus a certain percentage as an administrative fee.) At the end of that period, BLM decided not to continue the agreement and instead, currently manages the facility as a fee demonstration site. We still have an agreement with ANHA to manage our bookstore."
  - Brian feels that the current management system works well

- Staffing:
  - A combination of full time and intermittent employees supported by a strong volunteer program. Brian sees this as ideal.
  - Full time BLM employees currently total 4: Science Center Mgr (Reports to Field Office Mgr.), Wild Life Biologist, Recreation Planner and an Education Specialist (the Ed Specialist is also the volunteer coordinator).
  - Intermittent: They have the flexibility under the "intermittent" status to recruit employees (for example, retired teachers) who receive no pay when not actually working but still remain on "staff". These intermittent employees receive no benefits, may work a maximum of 1039 hours per year and can be assigned work on an as needed basis.
  - Environmental Careers Organization (ECO). Furnishes recent graduates to BLM. BLM pays the ECO employee's salary, limited benefits and a 25% admin. fee to ECO. BLM work months are not used for these positions. ECO placements stay for up to 2 years. Currently 3 on staff.
  - ECO caretaker/educator who also does light maintenance.
  - BLM performs general maintenance

- Curriculum/programs
  - The Anchorage Field Office BLM team follows "the BLM Environmental Education Strategy which was developed in 1995...... For instance, the goals are: 1) Stewardship: to educate and motivate the public to sustain the health and productivity of ecosystems on public and private lands; 2) Education: use the public land resources to provide opportunities to all citizens for lifelong learning; 3) Community: strengthen communities by providing opportunities for citizens to "experience" the outdoors and invest in their surroundings; and 4) Partnerships: expand environmental education partnerships to increase effectiveness and maximize use of resources.

As you can see, these goals (and other parts of the document, such as the vision and themes) do provide us with direction, but do not dictate program topics and such. In fact, the emphasis within the BLM on customer service encourages us to go to the community for direction for specific programs rather than have that decided internally. However, and here's what I feel is an important ingredient for success for a center such as ours, we here at the CCSC regard the BLM as internal customers. Therefore we most certainly do have programs tied to specific management objectives (wild land fires, energy, weeds, etc.) within the BLM and our Anchorage Field Office just as
Trip Summary
Campbell Creek Science Center

we do for the local school district, etc. In this way, we serve both the BLM and the larger community."

- Coordinated with school district. The Earth Ranger Academy started with a 4th and 5th grade audience and now primarily focused on 6th graders. Since then, they have developed several standards-based programs for elementary grades, avalanche awareness and outdoor survival programs for kids, teambuilding programs and numerous custom programs for all ages that they refer to collectively as "Design-a-Science Days." They also have many public programs.

- Teachers bring their classroom along with an appropriate number of chaperones (1:15 max) and are given subject choices. Programs are typically half or full day
  - Earth Ranger Academy
  - Standards-Based Program
  - Design-A-Science-Day (half or full day)

- Subjects include: Tracking and Animal Evidence, Bones and Skeletons, Artic Survival, Creek Investigation, Ecosystems, Entomology, Mammals, Geology, Botany, Adaptations, Energy, etc.

- Outdoor week. Billed as an “Alaskan 6th grade tradition! Each May specialists from local agencies and organizations conduct this FREE one-day adventure...." Activities mirror those mentioned above. This program is very successful with up to 2,000 in attendance.

- Programs that include BLM instructor led activities are offered in conjunction with retreats and other fee based adult use.

• Capacity
  - 100 students (they are stretched with this many). Utilize 1:15 instructor ratio but prefer 1:10 or 1:12

• Schedule:
  - The school operates on a variable schedule. Brian states, "......... we book programs for groups as they contact us. We actually operate year round. Traditionally, we have had busy seasons such as during the fall and spring and sometimes in January and February. Traditionally, our slower months have been Nov./Dec. and the summer. We are able to rent the whole building to an outdoor science camp for the summer which keeps it busy with education programs—even if they’re not ours. Some years, though, don’t follow this pattern at all—except for April and May being always heavily booked. Remember, too, that these busy and slow periods only apply to group-based fee programs. We tend to have slightly more free and fee-based public programs (those programs open to the general public) in the summer. Also, our times of rental activity are different. In fact, since Trailside rents the entire building for the entire summer (mostly on weekdays, but some weekends as well), one could say we are pretty “busy” then as well!!"
Trip Summary
Campbell Creek Science Center

• Budget:
  - Project Budget Approximately $4.5M (VERIFY project or construction??). The 1995 Recession Bill withdrew approximately $1.5 million from a total of about $6M.
  - Annual budget when factoring in all costs is close to $600,000 per year. Earn about $100,000 in fees. Also, benefit from approximately $70,000 per year in contributed labor, in kind donations, etc. They have been awarded on the order of $300,000 in grants over the years.
  - The facility is available for rentals. Based upon the October, 2002 rate sheet typical rental rates are as follows:
    o Full day – weekday: Multi-purpose - $400, Classroom-$200, Kitchen -$125 or Entire Building - $675
    o Full Day – weekend: Multi-purpose - $600, Classroom-$400, Kitchen -$125 or Entire Building - $1075
    o Program rates – Full day $12/student

• Critical Issues/observations per Brian:
  - On site Housing is desired, “It attracts the right type of employees, ie an ECO
  - Experience has proven that charging students/schools was crucial in creating a sense of worth for the program. “The parents see this as an investment.” For children who can not afford the normal fees, schools/kids get scholarship grants but CCSC requires kids to pay at least half (4 hour session is $6 and so a minimum of $3 is required to be paid by the student). They tried certain free programs and last minute cancellations increased dramatically). School lunch programs allows easy identification of who should qualify for scholarships

  - Successful over night programs (sleeping bags on floor, etc.) were eliminated due to lack of fire sprinklers (even though this is a Federal Facility and they are not legally required). School districts were prohibited from participating by the Fire Marshall. Note: A sprinkler system is slated to be installed

  - “Dorms would make a huge difference. Overnight immersion in a natural ecosystem can have a far greater impact on understanding of ecosystem process and, of course, on nature awareness. Also, they would allow us to develop programs for rural communities who might be interested in traveling to Anchorage.”

  - Facility is seen as the “Public Face” for the BLM. Often have walk-ins.

End of Report.
Key Dates
RRCNCA Oliver Ranch School/Wild Horse and Burro
Line and Space, LLC
July 13, 2004

All dates listed are tentative and are subject to change and approval.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Phase of Work</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2004</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 18</td>
<td>Program Draft Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 19</td>
<td>Final Program Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2</td>
<td>BLM Review and Approval of Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 20-August 2</td>
<td>Site Analysis and Document Existing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept 27</td>
<td>Master Plan and Concept Development Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 13</td>
<td>BLM Concept Selection and Approval</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 10</td>
<td>Schematic Design Complete</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2005</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 6</td>
<td>Schematic Design Value Analysis Complete</td>
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<td>Jan 20</td>
<td>BLM Schematic Review and Approval</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 24</td>
<td>Design Development Complete</td>
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<td>July 27</td>
<td>BLM Design Development Review and Approval</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 30</td>
<td>Environmental Assessment Complete</td>
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<td><strong>2006</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>March 3</td>
<td>Contract Document Complete</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 17</td>
<td>BLM Contract Documents Review and Approval</td>
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<tr>
<td>March -July</td>
<td>Advertise, Bid &amp; Negotiate</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Construction Begins</td>
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<td><strong>2007</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Construction Complete</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct -Nov</td>
<td>Commissioning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov - Dec</td>
<td>Move In</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>Oliver Ranch School and Wild Horse and Burro Facilities Open</td>
</tr>
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