9-30-2006


Margaret N. Rees
University of Nevada, Las Vegas, peg.rees@unlv.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/pli_interagency_science_research_strategy

Part of the Environmental Sciences Commons, and the Other Public Affairs, Public Policy and Public Administration Commons

Repository Citation

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Educational Programs (PLI) at Digital Scholarship@UNLV. It has been accepted for inclusion in Interagency Science and Research Strategy by an authorized administrator of Digital Scholarship@UNLV. For more information, please contact digitalscholarship@unlv.edu.
Executive Summary

- Desert Research Institute completed two Mojave Desert Ecosystem Health Assessment (i.e., Vital Signs) workshops in August 2006. Public Lands Institute assisted in preparing the workshop opening presentation on behalf of the interagency team.
- Round 7 beta-test of the Phase I strategy delayed to the next quarter.

Summary of Attachments

- Team meeting agendas and notes

Program Activities

Team Facilitation
Project Manager Dr. Debra Dandridge, with the assistance of PLI employees, has continued to organize and facilitate meetings for the Science and Research Team in coordination with Team Lead Kent Turner (NPS). Three meetings with the Interagency Science and Research Team (S&R Team) were coordinated and facilitated on July 20, August 2, September 14, and September 25, 2006 (see attached agendas and meeting summaries). The primary emphasis during this quarter was successful completion of the second Mojave Desert Ecosystem Health Assessment workshop, which was organized and sponsored by the Desert Research Institute with input from the S&R Team, the SNAP Board, and the Public Lands Institute. The workshops were designed to evaluate the state-of-knowledge of the Mojave Ecosystem research relative to management needs of the SNAP cooperating agencies. Two meetings with the SNAP Board were held on June 30 and September 22, 2006, to review workshop progress. Prior to meeting with SNAP Board members, representatives from DRI presented proposals for workshop implementation at S&R Team meetings, at which the team offered suggestions for improving the proposed workshop organization. The SNAP Board also offered recommendations that DRI incorporated into the workshop format.

DRI has proposed a list of potential products that could be derived as a result of both the May and August workshops. Staff from DRI presented a timeline for completing work to both the S&R Team on September 14, 2006, and to the SNAP Board on September 22, 2006. DRI will present
a draft report to Dr. Dandridge in November 2006, a more comprehensive draft to the S&R Team in December 2006, and a final report to the SNAP Board in March 2007.

**Phase I Strategy**

The short-term management and science evaluation reviews – which were targeted to be beta-tested in Round 7 on a voluntary basis by project proponents who are interested in having research project nominations subjected to review – was delayed due to the unexpected call for nominations in August as opposed to later in the Fall as originally anticipated. Seven nominations that potentially meet S&R Team science and research criteria were discussed by the S&R Team at a September 25, 2006, meeting. After this meeting, Team Lead Kent Turner requested Dr. Dandridge to seek members of a peer review panel to evaluate the scientific merit of four proposals (selected by the S&R Team) to be submitted for peer review with the understanding that it being conducted solely to beta-test the process. Results from the peer review will not influence the selection process for Round 7.

In addition, the S&R Team will conduct a test Management Review of all seven eligible science nominations using criteria established in the Phase I strategy. Due to the shortfall of available funds for Round 7 proposals, the SNAP Board requested the S&R Team to attempt to assess the potential of each proposal for phased funding rather than in toto.

**Steering Committee**

The Science and Research Team will continue to address the mission for a Science and Research Steering Committee in the fourth quarter. The possible formation of a steering committee is called for in the task agreement but has not been a primary focus of the team to date.

**Review of Multi-agency Initiatives**

As part of the development of the Phase II strategy during Year 2, the task agreement calls for an analysis of other multi-agency initiatives that were undertaken in other parts of the country, with the goal of ascertaining what worked and what did not. Appropriate documentation on five such initiatives is currently being analyzed by the project manager:

- Strategic Research Plan to Support Ecosystem Management Research in the Northwest Forest Plan Area,
- The Southern Forest Resource Assessment: Summary Report,
- South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force: Plan for Coordinating Science and Coordination Success: Strategy for Restoration of the South Florida Ecosystem,
- EPA Ecological Research Program Review, and

The ultimate goal of this research is to engender a global model addressing the Mojave Desert Ecosystem with shared research results that will aid in advancing knowledge and management practices.

Submitted by:

[Redacted]

Margaret N. Rees, Principal Investigator

[Redacted]

Date

10/12/06