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Public Lands Initiative Overview

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University of Nevada, Las Vegas
September 29, 2004
UNLV Public Lands Partnership

FEDERAL LAND MANAGERS

UNLV PUBLIC LANDS INITIATIVE
DR. PEG REES

INTERAGENCY TEAMS

DIRECTOR, PUBLIC LANDS INITIATIVE

INDIVIDUAL SNPLMA PROJECT MANAGERS

CURRICULUM COORDINATOR

WEB COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR

ACCOUNTING MANAGER

PUBLIC RELATIONS ADVISOR

RED ROCK DESERT LEARNING CENTER

FOREVER EARTH / WOW ON THE WATER

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION STRATEGY

CULTURAL SITE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

INTERAGENCY VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

INTERAGENCY STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
UNLV Public Lands Initiative

- Created April 2004
- Partnering with four federal land-management agencies
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - National Park Service
  - U.S. Forest Service
  - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
- Projects funded by SNPLMA
  - Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act
Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act

- Enacted in 1998.
- BLM to sell federally owned land around cities.
- ~ 50,000 acres approved for sale in disposal areas.
- Proceeds used for designated purposes.
SNLMA for Public Purposes

- Capital improvement projects
  - Lake Mead
  - Red Rock Canyon
  - Spring Mountain Recreation Area
  - Desert National Wildlife Refuge
  - Other federally managed areas
SNLMA for Public Purposes

- Parks, trails, and natural areas
  - On public lands
  - Within cities
- Conservation Initiatives
  - Education in the Environment
  - Scientific Research
  - Restoration
  - Recreation
  - Preservation
SNLMA for Public Purposes

- Acquisition of environmentally sensitive land in Nevada.
- Multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan.
  - Development & Implementation
  - Clark County wide
SNPLMA for Public Purposes

- Southern Nevada Water Authority (10%)
- State of Nevada General Education Fund (5%)

Other provisions provide for
- Affordable housing
- Convey land McCarran Airport noise zone to Clark County
UNLV Public Lands Initiative

- Engage in selected SNPLMA projects.
  - Compatible with UNLV’s mission
    - Learning, Discovery, and Community Engagement
  - Enhances education and research
  - Draws upon expertise of faculty, staff, & students
Red Rock Desert Learning Center

- To be located on former Oliver Ranch site.
- Environmental assessment is underway.
- Initial programming completed.
- Schematic designs completed December 2004.
- Curriculum currently in development.
Red Rock Desert Learning Center

- Residential outdoor learning environment
  - Integrated science, art, and language facility
- Includes a Wild Horse and Burro Facility
- Targeted to 5th grade students in Clark County
- Will be available for other uses
Red Rock Desert Learning Center
UNLV’s Role

- Help BLM with project coordination
- Develop an integrated curriculum
- Coordinate a business plan
- Provide public outreach and publicity
- Design and maintain website
Forever Earth

- A floating education laboratory and center
  - Docked on Lake Mead
- Designed for K-12 science education
- Available for scientific research

UNLV’s role:
- Designing the curriculum and programming
- Scheduling and operating the vessel
- Teaching and research
WOW on the Water

- Wonderful Outdoor World on the Water
  - An outdoor recreation program for children
    - Fishing, boating, and water safety
    - Bird watching
    - Art
    - Environmental education
  - Targeted to urban, economically disadvantaged youth who have never experienced recreation on the public lands
WOW on the Water
UNLV’s Role

- Develop curriculum
- Implement programs
- Schedule WOW events
- Secure partnerships
  - parks & recreation agencies
  - Boys and Girls Clubs
  - local businesses
  - schools
Outdoor Education Strategy

- Develop 5-year strategic plan for education
  - On public lands & throughout Clark County
    - Visitor Centers
    - Educational programs
    - Interpretive programs
    - Outdoor venues
    - Interpretive trails
    - Museums
  - Provide an integrated implementation plan
Outdoor Education Strategy
UNLV’s Role

- Coordinate projects and partners throughout Southern Nevada

- Integrate curricula and programs
  - Red Rock Desert Learning Center
  - Forever Earth
  - WOW on the Water

- Ensure complementary activities county-wide
Interagency Volunteer Program
UNLV’s Role

- Develop a comprehensive, integrated volunteer database for Southern Nevada’s public lands
- Develop a common training program
- Develop a reward program for volunteers
- Help implement volunteer events
Federal Natural Resources Career Internship Program

UNLV’s Role

- Develop a Student Internship Program
  - High school juniors & seniors participate
  - Provide experience with land management agencies
  - Encourage future employment with federal land-management agencies

- Targeted to ethnically diverse youth

- Encourage college attendance

- Coordinate program with four agencies
Cultural Site Stewardship Program

- Recruit and train volunteers
- Help agencies monitor and protect cultural and natural resources in Southern Nevada
- Modeled after the Arizona Site Stewardship Program
- Coordinated with Interagency Volunteer Program
Pending UNLV SNPLMA Projects

- Take Pride in America Campaign
  - Judicial review and analysis of littering fines
  - Help coordinate volunteers
  - Develop broad-reaching clean-up strategy
  - Develop strategic plan

- Science and Research Strategy
  - Coordinate partnerships
  - Provide written strategy
  - Oversee process

- Habitat Restoration Program
  - Develop database