

Red Cliff Desert Reserve Monitoring Proposed Project Charter Fall 2015 and Spring 2016

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Submitted to Cameron Rogan and the RCDR Technical Committee

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Introduction

What problem needs solving? Who will be involved? What will be done?

“The Red Cliffs Desert Reserve (RCDR) is a 61,000-acre scenic desert area largely north of St. George, Utah dedicated to the protection of the threatened Mojave desert tortoise and other rare or sensitive species of wildlife (Red Cliffs Desert Reserve Public Use Plan, 2000).” The reserve’s public use plan allows for recreation throughout the reserve. Hiking, camping, bicycling, equestrian use, rock climbing, rappelling, rock scrambling, hunting, and other miscellaneous sports and activities are accessed at trail heads across the reserve and are managed by Washington County, the Bureau of Land Management, Utah State Parks, and State Institutional Trust Lands Administration. As the reserve borders the city of St. George many residents seek recreation opportunities throughout the reserve.

For over a decade Red Cliff Desert Reserve has been monitoring recreation impacts, and impacts have been found to be beyond acceptable limits across the reserve as defined by the reserve’s Technical Committee. The reserve’s Technical Committee is interested in continuing to monitor these impacts, specifically capturing off trail impacts, but also wants to begin to address the impacts through restoration efforts. The purpose of this project is to continue the partnership with the Technical Committee, allowing SUU to continue a monitoring program that includes identifying treatment areas and restoration work on a yearly basis.

Organizations Involved

RCDR, Washington County Habitat Conservation Plan

SUU as an education partner, to use as a laboratory to monitor, teach and solve problems.

Project’s benefits to the organization

- Understanding of recreation use on the reserve
- Understanding of recreation impacts on the reserve
- Trail quality
- Allow for quality recreation

Brief description of the objectives and timeframe

- Monitor an agreed upon area once/year – each fall in late October, early November
 - o Snow Canyon area (Fall 2014)
 - o Snow Canyon to Grapevine area (Fall 2015)
 - o Grapevine to Leed’s area (Fall 2016)

- Report to the Technical Committee at their December meeting
- Problem solve each spring by selecting a high impact area and treating it to restore or improve the site to be within desired conditions
- Proposal to be submitted two weeks before the Technical Committee meets in March for work to be done in May or early June
- A contract will be agreed upon each year by October

Monitoring, Restoration Work and Reporting Cycle

September 2015	October 2015	December 2015	March 2016	May 2016	June 2016	July 2016
Proposal negotiation	Monitoring Plan Submitted and Monitoring	Report on Monitoring	Restoration Project Proposal Submitted	Restoration Project	Project completed if weather does not cooperate in May	Report to Technical Committee on work completed

All reports and proposal will be submitted to the Technical Committee by their monthly meeting time

Monitoring Plan for October 2015

October 24 and 31 (with a rain day of November 1 or 7) 8 volunteers and 1 project manager will monitor for recreation impact from SR-18 to the Grapevine area. High impact areas identified in Snow Canyon in October 2014 will be revisited, including the Chuckwalla trail restoration project. Another high impact area will be proposed to restore in the Spring. Results will be presented to the Technical Committee during their December meeting.

Budget and resources available

Proposed Budget for Fall 2015

Item	Cost Rate	#hours or units anticipated	#days anticipated	Cost for Fall 2014
GIS Assistant	\$9.00/hour + 10% benefits	8.00	-	\$ 72.00
Dr. Eastep	\$283/day + 42% benefits		4.00	\$ 1,607.44
Dr. Goonan	\$216/day + 42% benefits		2.00	\$ 613.44
Mr. Maxwell*	\$52/hour + .42% benefits	4.00	-	\$ 295.36
GIS Lab Fee*	\$5.00/hour for up to 10 hours	8.00		\$ 40.00
Juno rental fee*	\$26.00/unit/day	8 Junos for 2 days		\$ 416.00
Travel	\$30/day + \$0.25/mile	2 days + 260 miles		\$ 120.00
TOTAL Direct Costs				\$ 3,164.24