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MEMORANDUM

Date: November 9, 2010
To: Parks and Recreation Department Commissioners
From: R.J. Cardin, Director
Re: **Director's Summary of Current Events**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R.J. Cardin".

Listed below are issues that the department has been involved with since the October 12, 2010 Director's Summary.

Budget

General Fund (100) – Agency 300 - On the expenditure side, the General Fund (Fund 100, Agency 300) is currently reporting expenditures 30% or \$50,573 under the year to date (YTD) budget. There are no revenues collected within the General Fund.

Enhancement Fund (241) – Agency 305 - Enhancement Fund (Fund 241, Agency 305) is currently reporting revenue at 33% or \$145,395 over the YTD budget. Enhancement Fund is currently 6% or \$50,465 under the YTD operating budget for expenditures.

Lake Fund (240) – Agency 302 - Lake Fund (Fund 240, Agency 302) is currently reporting revenues at 12% or \$53,047 over the YTD budget. Lake Fund is reporting operating expenditures under budget at 7.5% or \$32,626.

Spur Cross (225) – Agency 306 - Spur Cross (Fund 225, Agency 306) is currently reporting revenues at -5% or \$1,621 under the YTD budget. Spur Cross is reporting operating expenditures under budget at 21% or \$16,865.

Superintendent Report

Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area (SCRCA): The Park offered 21 guided hikes to the delight of park visitors. The cooler temperatures have increased public attendance in the park to over 300 per week.

An open space fundraising event with the town of Cave Creek is scheduled for November 13th. Park staff has been busy planning the logistics for the riding event, as well as performing trail maintenance activities in preparation for the busy season.

Cave Creek Regional Park: The Park offered 19 interpretive programs in October with a total of 260 participants. Some of the programs offered included Sonoran Desert Simplified, Clay Mine Full Moon Hike, Snake Feeding, Hiking 101, Sunset Dog Hike, Campground Sonoran 101, and Tumbleweed Trek: Scat Attack Full Moon Hike along Slate Trail.

On October 30th ARAVAIPA had their first trail run at Cave Creek Park and the activities included a 50 km, 30km, and 10 km course set up on the Overton and Go John trails. There were 75 participants and the promoter anticipates the numbers to increase next year.

Usery Mountain Regional Park: The Park offered 56 interpretive programs that brought in 1,406 participants, of which 752 were repeat attendees. The last scorpion program of the summer was a stinger of a winner with 160 participants!

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At the Ghoully Ghost Walk, the interpretive ranger 'spooked' 137 costumed ghosts at the Nature Center with his haunting ghost stories about night patrols.

The Arizona Science Center this October packed the Nature Center with home schooled students on not one, but two Fridays for *Bats Incredible*. Once a month through February, the Arizona Science Center's MJ Campbell will teach an interactive class in the Nature Center. The Park's interpretive ranger Brennan Basler will then take the class on the Desert Hawk Trail behind the center to teach an experiential environmental class relating to the indoor topic. This program has become so popular that the Science Center has requested a second Friday each month to accommodate more home schooled families.

October has been a busy month at the Usery campground with the public taking advantage of our 'buy one night, get one night free' promotion. The last two weekends of October, both the campground and group camping were full to capacity, while during the week they have been at half-capacity. Not only are the campers appreciative of the promotion, but they are also taking advantage of the interpretive ranger and yoga programs.

McDowell Mountain Regional Park: October was a transition month in many respects at McDowell Mountain Regional Park. The weather began to cool overnight, park hosts migrated south to the park and the fall list of special events started.

The 1st of three races of the Dust Devil Series was held at McDowell Mountain Regional Park and attracted nearly 300 racers. The annual Javelina Jundred began with the largest field ever when 267 runners began a 100-mile run at 6:00 a.m. on October 23rd.

Interpretive Ranger Amy Ford offered 11 programs with 95 park visitors in attendance enjoying her interpretation. Maintenance issues were at a minimum which allowed time to be spent opening all 76 campsites, and putting a new roof on the Group Area restroom.

San Tan Mountain Regional Park: During the month of October, San Tan offered 17 interpretive and entertaining programs which brought in 1,251 participants. The highlights of the month were the Goldmine Mountain scavenger hunt, talk with animals program and our Halloween bash.

San Tan hosted the fourth annual HAUNTED HOWL-O-WEEN BASH on Saturday, October 23rd. There were 875 spooky guests who enjoyed hiking the trick or treat trail while gathering goodies along the way, watching an exciting raptor presentation by Liberty Wildlife and interacting with creepy wildlife critters inside the visitor center.

The 7-Crew has been out working on several projects at the Park. The crew installed two bollards at the trailhead entrance preventing unauthorized vehicles from driving on the trails; they re-enforced the trailhead gravel/parking areas with berms; and they moved a gate location for improved access for park visitors at the Rock Peak Wash Trailhead.

Estrella Mountain Regional Park: The cooler temperatures are increasing the attendance of park visitors in our programs. The Park had 55 visitors enjoy an inspiring sunset hike followed by a campfire sing-a-long and s'mores. Another 75 park visitors gazed at stars with our local expert Jeff Hopkins and another 71 park visitors took part in the Desert Survival and Desert Tracking.

White Tank Mountain Regional Park: The popular 7th Annual Cactus Cha Cha running race took place on Saturday, October 9th and was a success. There were 434 finishers of both the 3 mile and the 7 mile, including a 16 year old girl who won the 3 mile race.

The Park had 19 programs with 946 visitors in attendance and now with volunteers helping with the programs, we expect an increase in turnout.

Both the nature center and the retail displays are at full operation. There are 5 glass displays being arranged with pottery shards, matates, stuffed birds and other artifacts from the park. Some of our best pieces and the new snake display are being saved for the Grand Opening on November 12th and 13th.

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The windmill and nature pond are fully operational with the guard rail, rock fall and plumbing in place. The berm dividing the windmill area from the gravel yard is set with decorative boulders.

Lake Pleasant Regional Park: The National Public Lands Day Volunteer Cleanup brought in 311 volunteers who assisted with trail maintenance, shoreline cleanup, painting, and underwater cleanup. Over 30 bags of trash were collected from the shoreline and various locations throughout the park; over 100 mesh bags were filled with garbage collected underwater by scuba divers; trash barrels were freshly painted and returned for public use; the US Navy assisted with Roadrunner Trail by trimming trees and bushes, pulling weeds, and raking the debris off the trail.

4Peaks Racing held their triathlon on October 9th in the east lot of the 10-Lane boat ramp. The race brought in 318 participants and many spectators.

Preparations are currently underway for the November triathlon to be held at the 10-Lane Spillway. This event is expected to bring approximately 350 participants.

Lake Pleasant and the City of Peoria will be offering a CPR class the first weekend in November to promote water safety. The class will offer a two-year certification in CPR and AED training for all those wishing to participate.

Traffic School 101 is an upcoming event/program for bicyclists interested in learning safe bicycle riding. Preparations are currently underway for this clinic to be taught by certified instructors associated with the Coalition of Arizona Bicyclists. The clinic is free and will offer a two-hour ride through the City of Peoria with a graduation ceremony at the completion.

Introduction to horses will be offered free of charge during the second week of November for those interested in learning more about horses. Participants will have the option to sign-up for a one-hour ride with Betty's Trail Rides which allows them to ride through Lake Pleasant off the beaten path.

Desert Outdoor Center: The Park had 60 women partake in the Lady's Day at the Lake, a venture with the Lake Pleasant Sailing Club to get women interested in sailing.

Tony and Carol Le Conte and the DOC staff were joined by 114 people at the Harvest Moon Stargazing event on October 23rd. The theme was the Harvest Moon and children activities preceded the Stargazing program.

Two October weddings at the DOC kicked off the year for weddings. One is booked for November, and already one for the spring.

Three Kayaking programs with Cabelas are being planned for the remainder of the fall season. We are planning for 9 sessions of 15 people each, so 135 people will be able to take a plunge in the sport in preparation for buying a Christmas kayak!

Coming and Going in Human Resources

The Park Maintenance Supervisor position at Lake Pleasant has been filled effective 10/18/10.

The Park Maintenance Worker position at Usery has been filled effective 11/08/10.

Interviews for the Park Maintenance Worker at Lake Pleasant are currently being scheduled.