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MEMORANDUM

Date: July 30, 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.C.", written over a horizontal line.

Listed below are issues that the department has been involved with since the July 13, 2010 Director's Summary.

Superintendent Report

McDowell Mountain Regional Park: The July Full Moon Hike attracted 60 hikers on a night that threatened to hide the moon all together. The Interpretive Ranger is offering a full slate of programs and increasing her attendance as the months roll on and her following grows.

Work continues on the Pump Track. Interest remains high but the heat and time of year are making it difficult to attract volunteers in sufficient numbers to get the project done in one weekend. So, smaller numbers of devoting riders are working most weekend mornings and continue to make progress. Work continues on the Tortoise Habitat begun as an Eagle Scout project. It is anticipated that work will be completed by the end of August or early September.

San Tan Mountain Regional Park: San Tan offered 11 programs during the month of July to 507 program attendees. The highlights of the month were the full moon hikes (one of which brought in 210 people), wacky wildlife water games for kids, and the moonlight bike ride. Special thanks to Uesery and their Interpretive Ranger for the continued support, as the evening "Brown Bag-It" series is becoming quite the draw, with over 50 participants at the last program on Gila Monsters.

Estrella Mountain Regional Park: A total of 35 interpretive programs were held with attendance of 617 individuals. Night hikes were the favorites. There were 3 of these with attendance of 62, 23 and 42 participants.

During the month repairs have been made to the lighting and electrical wiring at the ball fields which were vandalized in June. We are awaiting the installation of 6 lights to complete testing. The fields have also been reseeded and fertilized.

Estrella is fortunate to have two young ladies now working in the Nature Center as part of a 2010 Summer Youth Employment Program under the Workforce Investment Act.

We also have an additional summer host who is assisting with maintenance and programming.

The park is gearing up for a busy fall as several of our previous Special Use Permit holders have contacted us for scheduling fall and spring events. These will include the Junior High School State Cross Country Meet, St. Joseph's Hike for the Homeless, Boy Scout Camp Digalus, and Phoenix Faerie Festival.

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White Tank Mountain Regional Park: There were seven interpretive programs in the park with a total of 266 attendees. In addition there were 3 outreaches, with 2 programs each, with a total of 322 attendees.

Lake Pleasant Regional Park: Preparations for the 4th of July weekend paid off, as things went very smoothly. Camping, day use and boating activities were all steady and strong.

Staff is currently planning a car show for October 16th at the 10-Lane Boat Ramp east parking lot. Also they are making contacts with local museums and musicians for the beginning stages of Native American Celebration; location is to be determined.

Business plans were submitted for a Get Healthy Series, which includes kayaking, hiking, biking, and trail workouts and Stand Up Paddle Board program.

Planning for the National Public Lands Day event is in full swing. This event will be held on Saturday, September 25th. Lake Pleasant will feature a shoreline cleanup, a campground painting party, and an underwater cleanup for divers. Last year we saw hundreds of volunteers help the park at this yearly event.

The full moon paddles are still big hits with our visitors, with the last one having 57 people in attendance.

Desert Outdoor Center (DOC): Aquatics Camp this year ended on July 15th. Here's the breakdown (A&N = Aquatics and Nature Merit Badge classes, of which there are five 4-day sessions; TTE = Trail to Eagle, of which there is one 7-day and night session):

YEAR	Total Scouts	A&N	TTE	Staff
2006	229	190	39	42
2007	227	180	47	41
2008	262	201	61	38
2009	278	255	23	42
2010	250	223	27	34

This is a 10% overall decrease from last year, and a 13% decrease in the number of A&N attendees. There was a 17% increase in the TTE attendance. Scout camps throughout the state were down this year, thought to be due to the economy and the upcoming BSA 100-year jamboree in Virginia in August. Also, some decrease in attendance could be due to yet another increase in the camp fee (from \$195 to 215 for Aquatics and \$295 to 345 for TTE – as set by BSA) in these economic times.

Merit Badge Summary:	Complete MBs	Incomplete MBs	Total MBs
Lake Pleasant A & N			
Camp	588	77	665
Trail to Eagle	110	57	167
Summer Total	698	134	832

DOC and Lake staff have once again coordinated with Cabela's to conduct three Saturday kayak training sessions in August. After an introductory classroom program on Friday (August 6th) the following three Saturdays will involve hands-on experience in a kayak on the lake.

Cave Creek Regional Park: There were seven interpretive ranger programs for July, which included the following: Reptile Feeding, (2) Fitness Focus Hikes, (2) Sonoran Desert 101 hikes, Movies in the Park "Charlotte's Web" at the Nature Center, and What's a Javelina.

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Coming and Going in Human Resources

Interviews for the Park Maintenance Supervisor at Lake Pleasant were held. A candidate has been chosen and we are currently waiting for fingerprint/ background check results to continue with the hiring process.

Interviews for the Interpretive Ranger at San Tan were held. Department is currently waiting for a decision.

Second interviews for the Executive Assistant at Headquarters were held on July 26th.

A Trails Technician with the Trails Crew has transferred to Flood Control effective July 12th. There will be a request for an internal department transfer to replace the position. If no one applies for transfer, a hiring freeze exemption will be requested to recruit internal-county-wide.