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## MEMORANDUM

Date: October 2, 2009  
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 September 8, 2009 Director's Summary.

### Superintendent Report

**Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area (SCRCA):** Park staff assisted the Town of Cave Creek with "Taste Cave Creek Nights" per a special request from the Town Manager. Staff is continuing to assist with the Town's Open Space committee and other fund raising activities.

There were nine guided hikes conducted with over 30 participants.

**Usery Mountain Regional Park:** There were 42 interpretive programs performed with a total of 682 participants with 228 being repeat attendees. Scorpions stung the books with high numbers this month. There is lots of interest for any and everything to do with scorpions including hikes and Brown-bags lectures.

The new partnership with Inner Vision Yoga studio is steadily increasing attendance each month. Students are purchasing class packages, enjoying the instructors and Usery Park as their yoga connection with nature.

**McDowell Mountain Regional Park:** The 8<sup>th</sup> Mountain Bike by the Moon Light ride of the summer was held and the event attracted a record 148 riders that evening. The record turnout on the last ride of the summer prompted the park and several of the regular participants to begin a search for sponsors to help pay to have medical services on site for a 9<sup>th</sup> summer night ride. MBAA has met and agreed to sponsor two more night rides, each costing \$375 to pay for emergency medical services.

The renovation of the visitor center continues with the planting of 10 new trees. The front of the Visitor Center was painted a slightly darker color along with installation of a false front to extend the roofline, giving the building a western appearance. Asbestos testing of the interior ceiling tiles will be conducted for the possible removal of the dropped ceiling, clearing the way for a more open feel inside the building.

Over the past several months, a herd of horses has been roaming around the park. Using hay, water, and a little ingenuity, 12 of the horses were caught. Ten of the horses were taken by the State of Arizona and will be held for a 7-day quarantine and then sold at auction. The last two were picked up by a nearby rancher who claimed the horses as his and removed them from the park.

**San Tan Mountain Regional Park:** The Park offered 10 interpretive programs to the delight of 341 program participants. This is a 120% increase in attendance from September 2008. The program highlights of the month were Monsoon Mayhem (water games for kids), Discovering Desert Dwellers

and Nathan Marten's Candlelit Memorial Service.

The San Tan Park Supervisor took part in the Town of Queen Creek's Enrichment Day and highlighted the park at the event. It was a great opportunity to reach potential users with a heavy emphasis for the family oriented demographic in the Queen Creek area.

**Estrella Mountain Regional Park:** During September, 24 programs were conducted with 424 participants. One of the programs involved making humming bird feeders with 38 happy builders. Another program was "Julia and Julio" – a take-off on the movie "Julie and Julia." During the month more than half of the program participants were repeat customers.

Outreach programs continue to be well attended with presentations at Buckeye, Avondale, Surprise and Goodyear schools and libraries as well as Senior Centers.

Two high school cross country meets were held and a State Invitational Jr. High School meet is scheduled for October.

**White Tank Mountain Regional Park:** The programs are doing well for the month; 16 programs were held. There were approximately 406 participants, along with three outreach programs that were seen by 142! The interpretive ranger also assisted on three programs at other parks.

**Lake Pleasant Regional Park:** Starting in November, the Visitor Center will be open 7 days a week. In addition, hours on the weekends have already been extended.

A shoreline clean-up day was held on September 19 and the National Public Lands day clean up on September 26.

A book about Lake Pleasant has been completed and the Visitor Center is planning a book signing event with the author.

Drop by the Visitor Center to see the new fish display. It is quite the catch for the park, thanks to Arizona Game and Fish and some hard working Boy Scouts.

**Desert Outdoor Center (DOC):** A total of 65 people attended the Stargazing Event on September 19.

In cooperation with the County's Office of Communications, the DOC staff is happy to announce the completion of a promotional DVD. The DVD was produced to increase marketing opportunities and visibility of the facility. Staff is already started to conduct visits to schools and a contact list of all schools organized by district has been completed to facilitate their marketing efforts.

The field trip brochure coordination with the Friends of the DOC is complete. The new brochure is posted on the Friends new website, including information about the DOC:  
[www.desertoutdoorcenter.org](http://www.desertoutdoorcenter.org)

Staff met with Wet N' Wild Water Park to discuss the possibility of developing and implementing a water conservation program that can be used in County Parks and at the water park. Possibilities of a partnership are being looked in to.

Workshops are being set up with all Interpretive Rangers to conduct training on establishing Arizona academic standards for interpretive materials presented in the parks and during outreaches for students in K-12 grades.

**Cave Creek Regional Park:** Night interpretive programs continue to be popular during the warm weather months. The best-attended program in September was the "Corny Full Moon Hike" which attracted 47 participants.

An outreach program on Venomous Creatures at the Fireside Community near Desert Ridge attracted 100 participants. This has created an ongoing relationship with the Fireside communities and additional outreaches are being scheduled.

Program attendance increased to 189 participants which is an increase of 155% from September 2008.

**Vulture Mountain:** Department staff, along with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) personnel, attended a Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce Quarterly luncheon which presented the general concept of Vulture Park and the BLM Trails Plan to the community. During the presentation there were no negative comments. October 30 is the Planning Summit for the stakeholders.

**Buckeye Hills:** Planning continues as staff drafts the Memorandum of Understanding which will be reviewed in October.

### **Coming and Going in Human Resources**

A Park Maintenance Worker from Lake Pleasant was transferred to White Tank Park to fill the vacant position, effective September 7.

A cert list was received for the vacant Electrician position with the Trails/Construction Crew and interviews will soon be scheduled.