



**2007 Service First Award Nomination**  
**Southern Nevada Agency Partnership – Law Enforcement Team**  
*Pioneers of interagency resource protection*

The Southern Nevada Agency Partnership (SNAP) Law Enforcement Team was established to address increasing impacts to federal lands in Southern Nevada, including increasing illegal off-highway vehicle use, litter, dumping, and destruction of cultural and natural resources. The team includes a member from each of the federal land managing agencies in Southern Nevada: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), US Forest Service (USFS), and National Park Service (NPS). The team oversees interagency field staff and special agents. **The team has demonstrated excellence in improved customer service and increased protection of natural and cultural resources through interagency innovation.**

**Accomplishments**

Improved customer service:

1. Implemented and validated new Interagency Dispatch Center processes to improve response to agency and officer needs.
2. Initiated upgrades to communications equipment and officer database system. The first phase, software uploading and beta testing, was completed in January of 2008. This is the foundation for new mobile data terminals planned for installation in the next phase. This will be the first federal land management program using this technology on a daily basis.
3. Reduced coverage lapses on agency lands through shared use of officers. Officers also regularly provide back-up for each other.

Increased operational efficiency:

1. *Pioneering* the first national interagency local Memorandum of Understanding. This document allows officers freedom to work across agency jurisdictions and take action for observed violations within policy while assuring legal protections for both them and the agencies. This has been one of the most requested documents by other federal agencies interested in implementing Service First law enforcement management.
2. Conducted more than 30 interagency two officer patrols in 2007. These patrols develop working geographical knowledge and understanding of partner agency policies. This was important in the timely response of SNAP officers during and after

an officer involved shooting in February 2007 on the Desert National Wildlife Refuge.

3. Shared investigative services, which has resulted in better coordination and response, cooperative case collaboration, and improved intelligence sharing. SNAP Special Agents investigated a very large archeological theft case in 2007 that will likely result in additional leads.
4. District Court approved a unified bail schedule with matching fines on “like” infractions for all agencies, which has made the application of laws uniform on public lands, thus removing an incentive to choose one agency’s lands over another for the purpose of committing a crime.
5. Accomplished six saturation patrols in 2007 consisting of at least six and sometimes as many as 13 officers. These patrols are successful in combating resource damage in areas of concern through shared use of personnel over several days.
6. Funded and hired a Special Assistant US Attorney (SAUSA) for Nevada. The primary focus of this position is prosecution of cultural and natural resource crimes on public lands. This is the only interagency dedicated SAUSA assigned to a US Attorney office in the country.

#### Enhancing natural and cultural resource management:

1. Exponential awareness of public land regulations and ethics through thousands of user contacts and positive media stories in newspapers and television segments highlighting officer efforts in resource protection.
2. Improved communications with SNAP cultural site stewards to develop timely reporting procedures, which have helped in the surveillance of recently looted cultural sites. This has resulted in suspect leads, search warrants and the recovery of hundreds of artifacts.
3. A unified approach to reduce illegal off-highway vehicle activity in the desert also resulted in fewer dumped and stolen vehicles. In addition, dozens of stolen vehicles were identified within hours of their theft rather than weeks or months.
4. Conducted the first fireworks task force with Las Vegas Metro Police. Enough illegal fireworks were seized to fill three semi-tractor trailers. The result was no human caused wild land fires on public lands within the Las Vegas Valley.

#### Use of creative solutions and efforts to achieve significant savings or increase efficiencies:

1. Conducted annual cross-delegation training for all officers locally, enabling them to work across agency boundaries.

2. Collaboration on the purchase of a computerized, laser simulations training system. This allowed the team to obtain state of the art training equipment that individual agencies would not have been able to afford. This system provides officers with simulated interactions in a real-life setting and the ability to enhance skills in a safe environment.

## **Team Members**

Mary Hinson, Chief Ranger  
National Park Service, Lake Mead National  
Recreation Area

David Leveille, Patrol Captain  
USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Regional  
Office  
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

Erika Schumacher, Chief Ranger  
Las Vegas Field Office  
Bureau of Land Management

Kevin DesRoberts, Deputy Project Leader  
Desert National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
US Fish and Wildlife Service

John Tesar, Supervisory SNAP Liaison/Park  
Ranger  
National Park Service, Lake Mead National  
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