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IALC Approves Nearly \$400K for Research and Demonstration Projects By Arid Land Researchers at American and Middle East Universities

July 8, 2005 - Tucson, AZ and Washington, DC - Nearly \$400,000 was approved by the International Arid Lands Consortium to fund three research proposals and one demonstration project proposed by collaborating arid land researchers from American universities, Jordan and Israel.

The proposals (see list of approved proposals and investigators below) were recommended by scientists from the IALC Research and Demonstration Advisory Committee, which reviewed 46 proposals submitted from Arizona, Illinois, Israel, Jordan, Nevada, New Mexico, South Dakota and Texas. The vast majority of proposals were collaborations between two or more principal investigators. Funding of all IALC projects is contingent upon receipt of federal funding.

“The research that we were able to fund today offers the prospect of results that will have an important impact on arid land management and the world we live in,” said Dr. Colin Kaltenbach, President of the IALC Board of Directors. “However, we would not have been able to support such work without the generous assistance of the USDA CSREES.”

The approved research proposals are:

1. Financing Wastewater Treatment: US-Mexico & Israel-Palestine Borders - Christopher Brown (principal investigator), New Mexico State University and Itay Fischhendler, Hebrew University - The study will identify cost sharing arrangements and their effects for the operation and construction of wastewater treatment facilities under a system of asymmetrical relations between parties.
2. Implications of Prehistoric Burning for Management of Southwestern Forests - Vance Holliday (principal investigator), University of Arizona, Christopher Roos, University of Arizona; Barbara Mills, University of Arizona; Jeffrey Dean, University of Arizona; Paul Goldberg, Boston University; Steve Weiner, Weitzman Institute of Science, Israel - The study involves the use of a multidisciplinary approach to the study of Southwestern forest fighting so as to offer decision makers insight into forest management.
3. Keystone Indicator: A Tool for Semidesert Grassland Conservation - Jennifer Frey (principal investigator), New Mexico State University; Gary Roemer, New Mexico State University; Eli Geffen, Tel Aviv University, Israel - The study proposes the development of a method for identifying and prioritizing semidesert grassland regions for conservation based on the health of certain keystone species.

The approved demonstration project is:

1. Resource Conservation Using Native Turfgrasses in the Northern Plains - Leo Schleicher, South Dakota State University (principal investigator); Carter Johnson, South Dakota State University - The

project will attempt to demonstrate the benefits of using native turfgrasses, as opposed to traditional cool-season turfgrasses, to homeowners and other residential turf owners for the purpose of effecting a change in consumer habits in order to promote the conservation of scarce resources.