Cooperative Conservation: Increasing Capacity through Community Partnerships: Cultural Site Stewardship Program: Quarterly Progress Report, Period Ending March 31, 2005

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QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Period Ending March 31, 2005

Cooperative Agreement Number H8R07010001
Task Agreement Number J8R07040007
Cooperative Conservation: Increasing Capacity through Community Partnerships: Cultural Site Stewardship Program

Executive Summary
- List of cultural resource sites and locations for monitoring is 100% complete
- Outline for recruiting and training site stewards is now complete
- Law enforcement protocol for response to site impact/destruction has been established
- Field manual has been completed and computerized
- Training manual 90% complete and awaiting team approval
- Database loaded with 122 site steward records, of whom 88 are active
- Site steward identification card designed and approved by Cultural Resources Team; NCA and NRA fee waivers for site stewards approved by BLM and NPS
- Open house held March 19, 2005, to introduce program to site stewards

Collaboration with Interagency Team

A progress review of products and deliverables was held at an interagency team meeting on January 13, 2005, between the seven-member Clark County Heritage Resources Team (CCoHRT) led by Steve Daron, Archaeologist for the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, and George Phillips, Project Manager for the Cultural Heritage Site Stewardship Program. A second team meeting on March 4, 2005, was held to approve a new site steward field manual, ID card, and site impact protocol. Interagency Law Enforcement Officer John Tesar attended and reinforced approval for the site impact protocol.

On February 2, 2005, Conservation Initiatives Program Manager Bobbie Antonich and Alan O’Neill, Executive Director of Outside Las Vegas Foundation, met with interagency project managers to discuss mutual support for UNLV Public Land Initiative programs. This meeting will be held every month to keep SNPLMA officials and community partners informed about the progress on conservation initiative projects. In a meeting on March 10, 2005, Alice Baldrica, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Alice Baldrica, UNLV Public Lands Initiative Director Nancy Flagg, Bobbie Antonich, Steve Daron, and George Phillips met to discuss coordination of UNLV’s Round 4 CSSP
initiative with the Round 5 CSSP project that will be managed by the state historic preservation office.

Program Development Activities

During the first quarter of 2005, many program development activities got underway or were completed. A list of cultural sites and locations for monitoring is complete. More than 200 site areas are prepared, with 164 specific sites generally considered priority by land managers. A map program, National Geographic Topo!, was purchased to support site steward activity. Fifteen site stewards trained by the Nevada Heritage Site Stewardship Program and known by trainers and by project manager George Phillips were assigned sites in Clark County in response to site impacts deemed “urgent.”

A field manual was completed and approved by the CCoHRT team with minor modifications and became available March 19, 2005 (see attached). The hardbound manual contains copies of all reporting forms, where and to whom reports are to be filed, protocol for site damage or impact, emergency contact information, safety checklists, new site discovery forms, a photo log, and a map of the site. A compact disc with all forms is included for future copies, protected and adapted for computer or manual use.

Project manager George Phillips completed a class at the Interagency Office in Las Vegas February 14-18, 2005, on the Archaeological Resource Protection Act, taught by the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. A licensed copy of ABC’s “A Thief of Time” narrated by Ted Koppel was purchased for training purposes.

Site Steward identification cards were designed and approved (see attached) and became available for distribution to Clark County Site Stewards on March 19, 2005. Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service representatives agreed to allow designated Site Stewards free access to fee-area sites when they show the ID card.

A protocol for responding to looted sites was prepared with assistance of Chief BLM Ranger Scott Stevens, Interagency Law Enforcement Ranger John Tesar, and Don Miller, Law Enforcement Ranger for the BLM in Gold Butte. The procedure (provided in attached field manual) was critiqued and adopted by CCoHRT on March 4, 2005, and has been included in the newly prepared field manual.

Standard operating procedures are prepared for recruitment and training. A complete training manual, separate from the field manual, is in progress and will be completed by the beginning of April 2005 for interagency team approval. Efforts are being made by Steve Daron and George Phillips to arrange for a UNLV archaeology graduate student to provide more technical training for Clark County Site Stewards once monthly and to provide assistance with individual baseline site data accumulation.

An introductory “open house” was held at the Interagency Center on March 19, 2005, to introduce the Cultural Site Stewardship Program to interested and involved participants. Approximately 50 people attended the open house, which was sponsored by CCoHRT.
and UNLV’s Public Lands Initiative. A copy of the program invitation, as well as a copy of the Powerpoint presentation made at this event, are enclosed.

Public Outreach

During the last quarter, several presentations about the Cultural Site Stewardship Program were made to community and state stakeholder groups. George Phillips outlined the goals of the CSSP Program with principals of the Southern Nevada Rock Art Association at a board meeting on January 7, 2005. On January 15, 2005, Mr. Phillips gave a Powerpoint presentation on the program to the Mojave Rock Art Workshop at USC’s Mojave Research Station in the Granite Mountains of Southern California. On January 20, 2005, George Phillips and BLM archaeologist Susanne Rowe presented the CSSP program to BLM’s Resource Advisory Committee at the Red Rock Canyon NCA Visitor Center. Following this, a similar presentation was made to the quarterly meeting of the Nevada Heritage Site Stewardship Coordinators in Overton, Nevada, which included all regional site steward coordinators throughout the State of Nevada. On January 22, 2005, George Phillips attended the quarterly board meeting of the Nevada Archaeological Association to represent the site stewardship program and was elected ex-officio member.

During the month of February 2005, UNLV Senior Public Affairs Specialist Gian Galassi met with George Phillips to assist with preparation for an interview about the CSSP on a local television station. Given the status of the program at that time, UNLV decided that the interview should ideally occur closer to April 2005, when the project will be more fully implemented.

Summary

Since the project manager’s arrival on December 1, 2004, tremendous progress has been made in establishing an active and viable Site Steward program on Clark County public lands. It is anticipated that all Year One deliverable for the program will be completed by June 30, 2005.

Submitted by:

Signed ________________________________ Date: March 31, 2005
Margaret N. Rees
Principal Investigator