
Margaret N. Rees
University of Nevada, Las Vegas, peg.rees@unlv.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/pli_cultural_stewardship

Part of the Archaeological Anthropology Commons, Civic and Community Engagement Commons, Community-based Learning Commons, Cultural Resource Management and Policy Analysis Commons, and the Historic Preservation and Conservation Commons

Repository Citation
Available at: http://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/pli_cultural_stewardship/4

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Public Lands Institute at Digital Scholarship@UNLV. It has been accepted for inclusion in Cultural Site Stewardship Program by an authorized administrator of Digital Scholarship@UNLV. For more information, please contact digitalscholarship@unlv.edu.
QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Period Ending June 30, 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 completed
- Outline for recruiting and training site stewards completed
- Protocol for response to site impact/destruction completed
- Field Manual complete and available on CD
- Database set up with 150 site stewards, 144 of whom are currently active
- Identification Card designed and accepted by Interagency Team
- Training manual completed
- Training classes initiated
- Educational program for elementary students in planning stages

Collaboration with Interagency Team

The seven-member Clark County Heritage Resources Team (CCoHRT) led by Steve Daron, Archaeologist for the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, assembled on May 3, 2005, with George Phillips, Project Manager for the Cultural Heritage Site Stewardship Program (CSSP) to review the new Site Steward Training Manual. The team approved the manual with minor changes in preparation for training classes scheduled for May 21, 2005.

Interagency project managers met with Bobbie Antonich, Conservation Initiatives Program Manager, Alan O’Neill, Executive Director of Outside Las Vegas Foundation, and Dr. Margaret Rees, Executive Director of the UNLV Public Lands Institute, to discuss mutual support for Public Lands programs. A follow-up meeting was held on June 1, 2005, to clarify specific financial needs. The CSSP requested special funding for hosting day-long classes and for a recognition ceremony being planned for October 2005.
Program Development Activities

All Year One deliverables for the CCSP program have been 100% completed as of June 30, 2004. These include completion of the list of cultural resource sites and locations for monitoring, an outline for recruiting and training site stewards, development of a protocol for response to site impact/destruction, a Field Manual now available on CD, a database set up with 150 site stewards, 144 of whom are currently active, and an Identification Card designed and accepted by the federal managers and Interagency Team. Copies of these materials were provided with the university’s March 31, 2005, quarterly report.

In the current reporting period, a Training Manual was approved by the CCoHRT members and, after minor modifications, was made available on May 6, 2005 (see attached). A training package was presented to volunteers during a subsequent training class consisting of the following:

- Training Manual – hardbound copy
- Field Manual – hardbound copy
- Disc with all report forms adapted for manual or computer use containing the following:
  1. Where and to whom reports are to be filed
  2. Site Monitor Report
  3. Site Impact Report for damaged sites
  4. Protocol outline for impacted sites
  5. Emergency contact information
  6. Safety checklists
  7. New Site Discovery forms
  8. Photo log
  9. Site maps
- Site Steward ID card presented upon completion of program
- Photography color card

A new video identifying poisonous reptiles and newly recommended safety precautions was obtained through the Nevada Department of Wildlife to supplement safety instruction.

On April 18, 2005, Steve Daron and George Phillips met with Dr. Karen Harry, UNLV Associate Professor of Anthropology, to discuss hiring an archaeology graduate student to assist in training site stewards. The CSSP subsequently hired Jim Watson, a Ph.D. in bio-archaeology, to assist as needed in three areas: 1) field training for new and existing site stewards; 2) optional classroom presentations covering subject matter of interest to stewards, such as artifact identification, history of prehistoric movement and habitation, and GPS navigation. This is to foster steward enthusiasm and encourage individual interests in prehistoric and historic culture of Clark County; 3) and additional instruction for benefit of site coordinators. Dr. Watson has eight years’ field experience and has agreed to provide several hours’ instruction each quarter as needed.
The first CSSP training class was given on May 21, 2005, (see attached agenda) and produced 26 new stewards, all of whom have been assigned sites. Fourteen of these stewards were assigned to the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area by request of Charlie Carroll, BLM Archaeologist and Manager of Sloan Canyon NCA. One hundred fifty site stewards have now been recruited and assigned in Clark County and are listed in the CSSP Volgistics database. An evaluation conducted at the conclusion of the training class (see attached form) confirmed that participants were pleased with the overall quality of the instruction and content. As additional training classes are scheduled, the university will continue to evaluate the level of satisfaction and make adjustments to the program as needed.

To date, results of monitoring activities have found eight major cultural site impacts resulting in measurable damages since December 2004. These damages include bullet holes in major petroglyph panels, graffiti, and potting. Eight additional impacts with lesser significance were also reported; these included off-road vehicle damage, excessive trash accumulation, disturbances to ingress-egress, and spalling from weather-related causes. All 16 reports were presented to appropriate land managers. Several additional minor impacts were noted on monitor reports. These include higher-than-usual visitor volume, fire pits, road deterioration, and very minor trash piles. These did not significantly affect cultural sites but were reported to land managers for general information.

In collaboration with Dr. Allison Brody, Project Manager for the interagency Environmental Education Strategy, the university is developing an activities-based program designed to communicate the history and value of local prehistoric and historic cultural sites to fifth grade students by trained site steward volunteers. While this activity is not a specific deliverable of the CSSP program, we believe it will complement the goals of the program by reaching local youth at an early age.

The concept is based on the Junior Achievement Program in Las Vegas, which has a history of volunteer instruction to elementary and intermediate level classes. Materials for use are being modified from those already developed by the Bureau of Land Management through its nationwide program, “Intrigues of the Past.” The idea is being adopted as a component of a larger environmental education strategy throughout Southern Nevada. The CSSP participated in an organizational meeting conducted by Dr. Brody for all interagency teams on May 4, 2005, followed by a more focused planning session on June 7, 2005. The goal for implementing a working program is January 2006.

Public Relations, Partnerships & Outreach

The Nevada Oasis Conference was held April 5-7, 2005, in Carson City, Nevada, to discuss the impact of diversity, technology, and the economy on the cultural community. In a committee on site stewardship led by Eva Jensen, archaeologist for the Lost City Museum, George Phillips presented an overview of the CSSP
development and progress. The presentation was followed by a discussion of a need for stewardship programs in the rural and north areas of Nevada.

George Phillips attended a site steward training class organized by Eva Jensen at the Lost City Museum on Saturday, April 9, 2005, in support of monitors needed for Lincoln County. The class was offered under the support of the Nevada Archaeological Association (NAA).

A statewide site steward coordinator’s meeting sponsored by the NAA was held on April 15, 2005, in Overton, Nevada. CSSP had four coordinators of the seven present. The group voted to adopt reporting forms and protocols used by the CSSP.

The annual meeting for the NAA was held in Tonopah, Nevada, on Saturday, April 16, 2005, at which George Phillips was invited to make a presentation about the CSSP Program. A discussion following the presentation focused on the need for site stewards and professional archaeologists to work closely in tandem to ensure maintaining strict professional standards.

On May 7, 2005, George Phillips hosted a booth at the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Day sponsored by the Las Vegas Springs Preserve. Promotional postcards about the CSSP Program were distributed to visitors (see attached). As a result of this effort, five new volunteers registered for site stewardship classes, two of whom subsequently attended the May 21 training class.

On June 1, 2005, Bobbie Antonich, Conservation Initiatives Program Manager, conducted a meeting with Stanley Rolf, acting Assistant Field Manager for the BLM, Susanne Rowe, acting Lead Archaeologist for the BLM, and George Phillips to review expectations for stewardship by the BLM. Site designations and steward reporting procedures were significantly clarified, and responses by the BLM to reported site impacts were addressed. George Phillips provided a list of those sites being monitored by the BLM, and Susanne Rowe supplied maps clarifying BLM management areas.

The BLM Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) met in Ely, Nevada, on June 22, 2005, where George Phillips presented the status-to-date of the CSSP. Of the 16 significant impacts to cultural sites reported by site stewards since December 2004, 14 were reported from Gold Butte. Concern was expressed by the committee that follow-up by the BLM is imperative. Subsequent results of the presentation and discussion were as follows:

- Juan Palma, the BLM Las Vegas Field Office Manager, stated he would become more familiar with Gold Butte before the next RAC meeting.
- Mr. Palma offered to arrange for the entire RAC to tour Gold Butte over a two-day period beginning October 7, 2005. Lodging and transportation will be arranged by the BLM from Mesquite, Nevada. George Phillips has been invited to attend.
• Mr. Palma requested that, at the termination of the tour, the RAC present an assessment and action plan for the entire Gold Butte area.

This is a significant accomplishment and a direct result of the Cultural Site Stewardship Program.

All told, the Cultural Site Stewardship Program is quickly becoming known as a model program throughout the state and is well on its way to reaching the original goals set forth by the federal land managers.

Submitted by:

___________________________________ June 30, 2005
Margaret N. Rees, Principal Investigator Date