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## Cooperative Conservation: Increasing Capacity through Community Partnerships: Cultural Site Stewardship Program: Quarterly Progress Report, Period Ending September 30, 2005

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## QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Period Ending September 30, 2005

Cooperative Agreement Number H8R07010001

Task Agreement Number J8R07040007

Cooperative Conservation: Increasing Capacity through Community  
Partnerships: Cultural Site Stewardship Program

### Executive Summary

- 17 new site stewards trained during the quarter. Active stewards in the program now total 167, up from 150 in last quarter.
- Three Desert National Wildlife Refuge sites added to monitoring schedule.
- Comprehensive monitoring plan for Sloan Canyon NCA implemented.
- New training classes offered in GPS navigation and Clark County pre-history.
- 3 additional major cultural site impacts resulting in measurable damages reported this quarter. Four additional impacts with somewhat lesser significance also reported in the quarter. Total impacts since December 2004 total 11 major and 12 less significant.
- Federal land managers authorized site stewards to place signage and construct barriers at sites requiring immediate action.
- Plans finalized for site steward recognition picnic on November 5, 2005.

### 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, met on July 21, 2005, with Project Manager George Phillips to review the status of the Cultural Site Stewardship Program. The team met again on September 27, 2005, to review annual reports and discuss plans for the second year (*see attached agenda*). The program has grown to 167 active site stewards since its inception on December 1, 2004. An agenda for this meeting is attached.

On July 7, 2005, Amy Sprunger-Allworth, Refuge Manager for the Desert National Wildlife Range, met with George Phillips to review proposals for site stewardship on land managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They agreed that three sites should be considered prospects for monitoring due to increasing visitation. Because the USFWS

archaeologist is located in Portland, Oregon, monitoring activities and reporting will be submitted to Ms. Sprunger-Allworth.

## **Program Development Activities**

### Site Steward Recruitment

The CSSP database now contains information on 178 site stewards in Clark County; of these, 167 are active and 11 are currently inactive. A total of three stewards moved from Clark County and formally resigned this calendar year.

### Training Classes

An introductory site steward training class was presented to 17 new volunteers on August 13, 2005 (*see attached agenda*), expanding the total number of trained site stewards to the current base.

In response to questions from site stewards about cultural resources in Southern Nevada, the project manager and interagency team have designed several optional classes for additional training. The first class on GPS navigation was presented August 13, 2005, in Las Vegas and again on August 24, 2005, in Mesquite, Nevada. The classes were presented by Dr. Jim Watson, a bioarchaeologist from the UNLV anthropology department hired to support the CSSP program. Twenty-seven site stewards attended these classes and expressed their appreciation for the additional training opportunities.

The next class has been scheduled for October 2005 and will cover pre-historic people in Clark County. The classes foster steward enthusiasm and encourage individual interests in prehistoric and historic culture of Clark County. They also provide additional instruction for the benefit of site coordinators. Dr. Watson has eight years' field experience and has agreed to provide several hours' instruction each quarter as needed.

CSSP training materials reviewed for content and accuracy last quarter were adopted by the Nevada Archaeological Association and have been recommended for site steward training throughout Nevada. Minor adjustments were made to reporting forms to accommodate requests from the BLM office in Ely, Nevada. The forms continue to receive small adjustments in the on-going effort to conform to regional scrutiny.

### Monitoring Activities

The CSSP created a unique arrangement to monitor the Sloan National Conservation Area managed by Charles Carroll, Manager. A regional coordinator was chosen to oversee five groups of seven stewards, each assigned specific weekends to monitor the NCA. Thirty-five stewards will provide more intensive monitoring during weekends for the BLM due to the high visitation and publicity Sloan Canyon is receiving.

Results of monitoring activities to date report 11 major cultural site impacts resulting in measurable damages since December 2004. These damages include bullet holes in major petroglyph panels, graffiti, and potting. Twelve additional impacts with somewhat lesser significance were also reported. These included off-road vehicle damage, fire, excessive

trash accumulation, disturbances to ingress-egress, and spalling from weather-related causes. All reports were presented to appropriate land managers. Several additional minor impacts were reflected on monitor reports including 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 response, the land managers and archaeologists mitigated damage in two sites and cleaned major trash from two other sites. Additionally, managers requested that several damaged sites be recorded by the Nevada Rock Art Foundation. The BLM Resource Advisory Committee is scheduled to tour the Gold Butte area with the BLM during the first week of October to prepare a plan for its protection. This is a direct result of reports from CSSP monitoring.

### **Site Steward Recognition**

A recognition picnic for Clark County site stewards is planned for November 5, 2005, at Valley of Fire State Park. Funding for the meals is being provided by the Southern Nevada Interpretive Association. Invitations will be sent to all stewards, land managers, law enforcement rangers, and agency officials. Certificates of appreciation, stewardship lapel pins, and new annual identification cards will be given to all stewards. Plaques and framed certificates will be awarded to specific stewards for special merit. The CCoHRT team and the four area coordinators will assist with every aspect of the recognition program (*see attached outline*).

### **Elementary School Program**

Toward further development of an education component of CSSP, Project Manager George Phillips met with Allan Diskin, President of Junior Achievement of Las Vegas, on September 1, 2005, to outline a process for an elementary school program. The concept is based upon success of the Junior Achievement volunteer program throughout the United States. This information, along with other materials from BLM, were provided to Dr. Allison Brody, Project Manager of the Environmental Education Strategy, who is assisting with development of the education program. Dr. Brody will meet with the CCoHRT team in October 2005 to outline the process and materials prepared to date.

### **Program Meetings**

George Phillips presented an update on CSSP program accomplishments to the federal land managers on July 8, 2005. He requested that additional sites be released by the agencies for monitoring, because the program now has the capacity to monitor more locations. He also requested authorization from the land managers to allow site stewards to place signage or construct vehicle barriers in response to severe impacts affecting cultural resources, which allows a quicker response in remote locations and allows agency personnel to focus on other duties.

On July 8, 2005, Project Manager George Phillips met with Mark Henderson, BLM Lead Archaeologist for Lincoln County, and his site steward trainers, Terri and Darrell Wade, to discuss consistency in site stewardship procedures among the rural and Clark counties. Discussions focused on efforts to standardize reporting forms.

During a visit to Las Vegas on September 29, Alice Baldrice, Deputy State Historical Preservation Officer, met with George Phillips to assess procedures used in the site monitoring process. She anticipates opening a SHPO office in Las Vegas before the end of 2005 to create a stronger state presence for site stewardship in Southern Nevada. The CSSP and SHPO continue to work closely together on mutual goals.

### **Public Relations, Partnerships & Outreach**

In a meeting of the Friends of Gold Butte in Mesquite, Nevada, George Phillips showed slides of fire (lightning) damage and human destruction to cultural sites, stressing the importance of site stewardship in remote areas. A similar presentation was made to the Southern Nevada Rock Art Association (SNRAA) on August 18, 2005. George was also invited to the SNRAA board meeting on August 26, 2005, where three new stewards were recruited for the Cultural Site Stewardship Program.

On September 17, 2005, the project manager participated in the Sloan Canyon clean-up for National Public Lands Day (NPLD). He also helped with registration and other duties at the NPLD event held at Cottonwood Valley in Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area on September 24, 2005.

The CSSP continues work on a plan to create a website to communicate training and non-confidential information to existing and potential site steward volunteers. The site will be a resource for current events in archaeology, blank reporting forms, contact information, and other items of interest.

Submitted by:

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Margaret N. Rees, Principal Investigator

September 30, 2005