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Archaeological Inventory, Site Assessment, and Data Management, Lake Mead National Recreation Area and Parashant National Monument: Quarterly Progress Report, Period Ending December 31, 2006

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QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Period Ending December 31, 2006

Cooperative Agreement Number H8R07060001
Task Agreement Number J8R07060013
**Archaeological Inventory, Site Assessment, and Data Management, Lake Mead National
Recreation Area and Parashant National Monument**

Executive Summary

- Organized data from 129 features at St. Thomas into a comprehensive site record
- Reviewed more than 800 site records in ASMIS
- Completed Class 1 inventories for Capital Improvement and Lost City Projects
- Surveyed 585 acres for the NPS Andrus Burn Unit on the Shivwits Plateau
- Surveyed 330 acres for the Lost City Project
- Conducted an assessment of recent flood damage at the Willow Beach site

Summary of Attachments

- LAME Cultural Resources website outline, historic period review, and Boulder Basin report
- St. Thomas Monitoring Form

Program Activities

Preserve American Project 1A: Saint Thomas

Existing site data have been organized sequentially by feature into large three-ring binders. To date, 129 features have been documented, and each feature contains a two-page data sheet. The first page contains a feature description and relevant spatial data (orientation, shape, dimensions, etc.). The second page contains a photograph and a sketch map or scale drawing. A feature monitoring form (*see attached*) was designed in order to document the current condition of each feature and the impacts of fluctuating water levels. Field work at St. Thomas is scheduled for January 2007.

(Report and form delivered as scheduled by November 30, 2006).

Preserve American Project 1B: Lake Mead Website Cultural Resource Information Review and Update

A web format and historic period outline for the Lake Mead Cultural Resource website was designed by PLI Research Assistant Elizabeth (Lisa) Gioia-Acres, in close cooperation with Park Archaeologist Steve Daron and LAME web designer Leslie Paige. (*Website outline delivered as scheduled by October 27, 2006*).

A report that outlines the broad history of the Boulder Basin was also developed by Ms. Gioia-Acres. Copies of both the historic period outline and the history of the Boulder Basin are included with this report. Although the actual website for the Boulder Basin has not yet been posted, initial web-based testing took place on December 13, 2006.

(Product delivered as scheduled by December 15, 2006).

Preserve America Project 1C: Evaluation of Site 26Ck4943

A condition assessment of site 26Ck4943, along with further site documentation, was conducted by PLI research assistants on October 9 and November 1, 2006. The condition assessment information was inputted into ASMIS as stipulated by the NPS. A memorandum describing the results of field work and a tentative outline for the subsurface testing program was also prepared by UNLV Post-doctoral Scholar Dr. Gregory Haynes.

(Site condition assessment report delivered as scheduled by November 17, 2006).

Project 2: Site Condition Assessments

The CESU Task Agreement requires baseline condition assessments to be completed for 60 sites per year, including 30 sites at LAME and 30 sites at PARA. This quarter, condition assessments were made at two LAME sites, Grapevine Cave (26Ck7561) and Willow Beach (AZ F:2:2). While this number is low, on quarterly average, site condition assessments are typically combined with other field work. As field work increases over the next few months, so too will the number of condition assessments.

A review of more than 800 site records in ASMIS has been completed by PLI Research Assistant Leah Bonstead. Locational data was ensured for each record, and all sites without any spatial or locational referent, or which were outside of LAME or PARA boundaries, were designated as a "Local Resource Type," per NPS stipulations. The Site Form Directory was updated as well.

(Site record review and updated site forms directory delivered as scheduled by September 30, 2006).

Project 3: Fire Management Projects

During October 2006, PLI research assistants under the supervision of Stef Velasquez surveyed 585 acres on the Andrus Burn Unit on PARA. As a result of this survey, 18 archaeological sites were identified, and 11 sites and 14 isolated finds were recorded. A formal Class 1 inventory for the Andrus Burn project scheduled for NPS and BLM lands will be written in Spring 2007.

Project 4A: UNLV Archaeological Field School on the Shivwits Plateau

All of the necessary administrative paperwork for the 2007 UNLV Archaeological Field School is complete, and the course is scheduled for June 4 through July 9, 2007. Aerial photography of inaccessible locations on the Shivwitz Plateau is being discussed with Mr. Bob Carter of Flying Sensors.

Both ceramic and lithic artifacts obtained from the 2006 field school at site #AZ A:14:50 are currently being analyzed by UNLV students. Graduate student Sharlyn Benito is analyzing the ceramic artifacts, while undergraduate student Charles Burkley is analyzing the lithic artifacts.

Project 4B: Settlement Pattern Study

UNLV graduate student Glendee Ane Osborne will use this project as the basis for her M.A. thesis at UNLV. Last month, Ms Osborne received a \$550 grant from the Graduate and Professional Student Association at UNLV to support upcoming data collection activities. Moreover, digital elevation data for the GIS-based model has been obtained. Finally, over the course of Fall Semester 2006, Ms Osborne completed a draft thesis prospectus that has been reviewed by Principal Investigator Dr. Karen Harry.

Project 5: SNPLMA Capital Improvement Projects

LAME Park Archaeologist Steve Daron, with help from various NPS personnel, identified three potential locations for capital improvement surveys that total nearly 900 acres. Selected inventory parcels include: (1) 165 terrestrial acres northeast of Boulder City, Nevada; (2) 340 terrestrial acres southeast of Boulder City, Nevada; and, (3) 390 previously submerged acres at Stewarts Point near Overton, Nevada. The result of a Class 1 Inventory for these survey parcels was written by Dr. Greg Haynes and NPS intern Andres Diaz. (*Inventory report delivered as scheduled by December 1, 2006*).

Project 6: Lost City Project and Inventory

A Class 1 Inventory was prepared for the Lost City project by Dr. Greg Haynes. This report includes a summary of the project and its setting, a review of previous research on the Lost City, a record or file search at local records repositories (LAME, Southern Nevada Archaeological Records Repository at the UNLV Harry Reid Center), and the identification of at least 400 acres of new survey for the immediate area.

(*Inventory report scheduled for completion on December 21, 2006*).

In consultation with LAME Park Archaeologist Steve Daron and others, as stipulated in the Task Agreement, five parcels covering more than 400 acres have been identified for survey in and around the Lost City. The primary intent of this effort is “re-documenting previously recorded sites and areas where undocumented sites are known to be located” (Task Agreement p. 11). The following criteria guided the selection process:

1. Survey in both submerged and terrestrial locations;
2. Survey for Harrington’s House 47 and Chuckwalla Cave;
3. Survey along ridge sides to see if artifacts and features are eroding downslope;
4. Survey on ridge tops to relocate previously recorded house clusters;
5. Survey on Mormon Mesa;
6. Survey on the west side of the Muddy River.

To date, approximately 330 acres have been surveyed and 20 archaeological sites have been found, some of which were recorded by Mark Harrington in the 1920s and 30s. Most of these sites are culturally affiliated with the Anasazi and contain household architecture or are cobble reduction loci. Completion of fieldwork is scheduled for late January 2007.

Project 7: BLM Andrus Burn Unit

The BLM has identified a 900-acre parcel for archaeological inventory on PARA lands just north of the NPS-BLM boundary. This parcel is contiguous with on-going inventories on NPS held lands in the same general area (Project 3, above). Previous survey reports and site records have been requested by PLI from BLM PARA Archaeologist John Herron. A Class 1 inventory report for this project is scheduled for completion Spring 2007.

Personnel and Hiring

The current task agreement contains funds to hire two archaeological research assistants during FY2007. Ms. Lynn Geoghegan, who worked with the PLI archaeological crew throughout much of Summer 2006, was hired as a full-time research assistant under a one-year contract. While a number of people have expressed interest in the second position, an appropriate candidate has not yet been found.

Other Activities

On October 14, 2006, the Willow Beach Developed Area experienced a flash flood caused by heavy rainfall. As a result of this flood, a prehistoric site with both surficial and buried archaeological components was damaged (Site No. AZ F:02:02). At the request of LAME Archaeologist Steve Daron, PLI research assistants were asked to assess the nature and extent of flood damage to the site (Bonstead 2006). This work was conducted by Leah Bonstead and Dr. Greg Haynes and NPS intern Andres Diaz. A total of 23 erosional channels were documented across the site. These channels exposed several hearth-like features in their cut-bank, as well as some lithic and groundstone artifacts. An extended memorandum describing the results of the damage assessment was written by Ms. Bonstead.

A large number of historic photographs taken at Lost City by Mark Raymond Harrington, and then more recently by Margaret Lyneis in the 1980s, were scanned for Dr. Karen Harry. These photographs were used by the 2006 UNLV Lost City Field Class to assess the current condition of prehistoric Anasazi houses and house clusters on Main Ridge (Site No. 26Ck2148). In related work, Research Assistant Leah Bonstead spent three days at the Western Archaeological and Conservation Center scanning old site records and project photographs from Lake Mead, including 518 black-and-white photos.

Over the last decade, large-scale wildland fires across the western United States have become a national concern. Research Assistant Stef Velasquez has, on her own time and at no cost or detriment to PLI projects, supported fire suppression activities for a variety of federal agencies, including NPS, BLM, and USFS. During the last quarter, Ms. Velasquez served as the Fire Archaeologist for the Day Fire in California (Los Padres National Forest) and assisted with the post-burn transition from fire suppression activities to the Burn Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) team. She also acted as a Fire Effects Monitor for the NPS and completed several prescribed burn monitoring reports for the BLM and NPS.

Ms. Velasquez continues to compile, update, and maintain the LAME GIS archaeological database. All of the survey and site information, electronic or otherwise, obtained through PLI efforts for the NPS goes through rigorous post-processing after fieldwork. Ms. Velasquez ensures that these data conform to existing protocols, incorporates the new data into existing GIS databases, and makes sure that all of these files are continually backed-up. The GIS archaeological database is also periodically reviewed for errors. The long-term goal is to manage all GPS and GIS spatial data through one person in order to reduce data errors, enhance accuracy, and allow for easier overall access to corporate spatial data.

Scholarly Activity

PLI research assistants attended the October 2006 Great Basin Anthropological Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. Principal Investigator Dr. Karen Harry, along with Drs. Jennifer Thompson and Debra Martin from the UNLV Department of Anthropology, presented a paper on the demographic composition and health of Anasazi populations at Lost City. Dr. Greg Haynes presented two papers, both of which were related to previous work he had conducted in the Great Basin.

Research Assistant Lisa Gioia-Acres continues to work on her Masters degree at UNLV. Lisa completed two courses this fall semester including Historiography of the Nevada West, 1845-1895 (Historiography 740) and Oral History (Historiography 754). For her oral history paper, Ms Gioia-Acres interviewed long-time Lake Mead National Recreation Area employees. Research Assistant Elizabeth Roycraft also completed a UNLV graduate course titled Prehistoric Hunter-Gatherers (Anthropology 680).

In October 2006, Research Assistants Leah Bonstead and Elizabeth Roycraft took a two-day rock art training course conducted by the Nevada Rock Art Foundation at Little Red Rocks, located on the west side of the Las Vegas valley. In December 2006, Research Assistants Stef Velasquez, Elizabeth Roycraft, Lisa Gioia-Acres and Lynn Goeghan, along with Principal Investigator Dr. Karen Harry, attended a

prehistoric ceramic workshop conducted by Bureau of Reclamation archaeologists in Boulder City, Nevada.

Unpublished Archaeological Resources Reports

Bonstead, Leah.

Willow Beach Powerline Survey, South of Willow Beach Road, Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LAME), Mohave County, Arizona. Western Archaeological and Conservation Center Project No. LAME 2006 B (LAME CRP No. 06-038). Report on file at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Boulder City, Nevada.

Echo Bay Parking Lot Construction and Marina Expansion Survey, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Clark County, Nevada. Western Archaeological and Conservation Center Project No. LAME 2005 M (LAME CRP No. 05-011, 06-42). Report on file at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Boulder City, Nevada.

An Archaeological Inventory of Saint Thomas Road (AR 109) and Muddy River Road (AR 11), Overton Arm, LAME, Clark County, Nevada. Western Archaeological and Conservation Center Project No. LAME 2005 K-L (LAME CRP No. 06-004, 06-005). Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Boulder City, Nevada.

Road 8.0 Restoration Survey near Government Wash, LAME, Clark County, Nevada. Western Archaeological and Conservation Center Project No. LAME 2006 D (LAME CRP No. 06-025). Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Boulder City, Nevada.

Arizona Bay Fire and Restoration Survey, Cottonwood East, LAME, Mohave County, Arizona. Western Archaeological and Conservation Center Project No. LAME 2005 H (LAME CRP No. 05-052). Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Boulder City, Nevada. (Scheduled for completion on 12/22/2006.)

Memorandum: Willow Beach Site (AZ F:02:02 (ASM)) Flood Assessment, Willow Beach Developed Area, Mohave County, Arizona. Western Archaeological and Conservation Center Project No. LAME 2006 G (LAME CRP No. 07-010). Memorandum on file at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Boulder City, Nevada.

Haynes, Gregory M.

A Literature and Archival Review (Class I Inventory) for the Lost City Survey, Clark County, Nevada. Lake Mead CRP Project No. 07-021. Report on file at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Boulder City, Nevada.

Memorandum: LAME CRP #07-006 Christmas Tree Bend Site (26Ck4943) Condition Assessment and Preliminary Testing Plan, and LAME CRP #07-013 Grapevine Cave Condition Assessment, Newberry Mountains, Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LAME), Clark County, Nevada. Western Archaeological and Conservation Center Project No. LAME 2006 F (LAME CRP No. 07-006, 07-013). Memorandum on file at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Boulder City, Nevada

Haynes, Gregory M. and Andres Diaz

Memorandum: Class I Cultural Resources Inventory of Selected Areas for Lake Mead Capital Improvement Projects in FY2007. LAME CRP No. 07-021. Memorandum on file at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Boulder City, Nevada.

Roycraft, Elizabeth.

A Section 110 Archaeological Inventory from South of Lakeshore Road to the Basin Magnesium Incorporated (BMI) Aqueduct, Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LMNRA), Clark County, Nevada. Western Archaeological and Conservation Center Project No. LAME 2005 N. (LAME CRP Project No. 05-063). Report on file at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Boulder City, Nevada.

A Section 106 Survey South of Lakeshore Road to Basin Magnesium Incorporated (BMI) Adqueduct, Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LMNRA), Clark County, Nevada. Western Archaeological and Conservation Center Project No. LAME 2005 N (LAME CRP Project No. 05-066). Report on file at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Boulder City, Nevada.


Velasquez, Steph.

Pine Well Post-Burn Survey near Lake Flat, PARA, Mohave County, Arizona. Arizona Bureau of Land Management Report No. 130-2007-022 (LAME CRP No. 06-029). Bureau of Land Management, Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, St. George, Utah.

Shivwits Fuels Project, Twin Point, PARA, Mohave County, Arizona. Western Archaeological and Conservation Center Project No. PARA A (LAME CRP No. 06-027). Bureau of Land Management, Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, St. George, Utah. (Scheduled for completion on 12/22/2006.)

Memorandum: Horse Valley Meadow and Yellow John East Burn Units Prescribed Fire Monitoring 2006, Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, Mohave County, Arizona. LAME CRP Project No. 06-044. Memorandum on file at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Boulder City, Nevada.

Submitted by:



Margaret N. Rees, Project Administrator

December 31, 2006

Date