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Cooperative Conservation: Increasing Capacity through Community Partnerships: Cultural Site Stewardship Program: Quarterly Progress Report, Period Ending March 31, 2006

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QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Period Ending March 31, 2006

Cooperative Agreement Number H8R07010001

Task Agreement Number J8R07040007

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

Executive Summary

- Active stewards in the program now total 210, an increase of 22% over last quarter and 618% since program inception.
- Nine additional cultural site impacts resulting in measurable damages were reported this quarter. Site stewards reported 25 cultural site impacts for 6 months beginning 10/1/05 compared with 25 impacts reported for 12 months ending 9/30/05.
- Monitoring program for Red Rock Canyon NCA adopted and implemented.
- Two site steward training classes presented this quarter, producing 41 new stewards.
- Optional training class on Archaeological Record of Southern Nevada presented to 28 site stewards.

Collaboration with Interagency Team

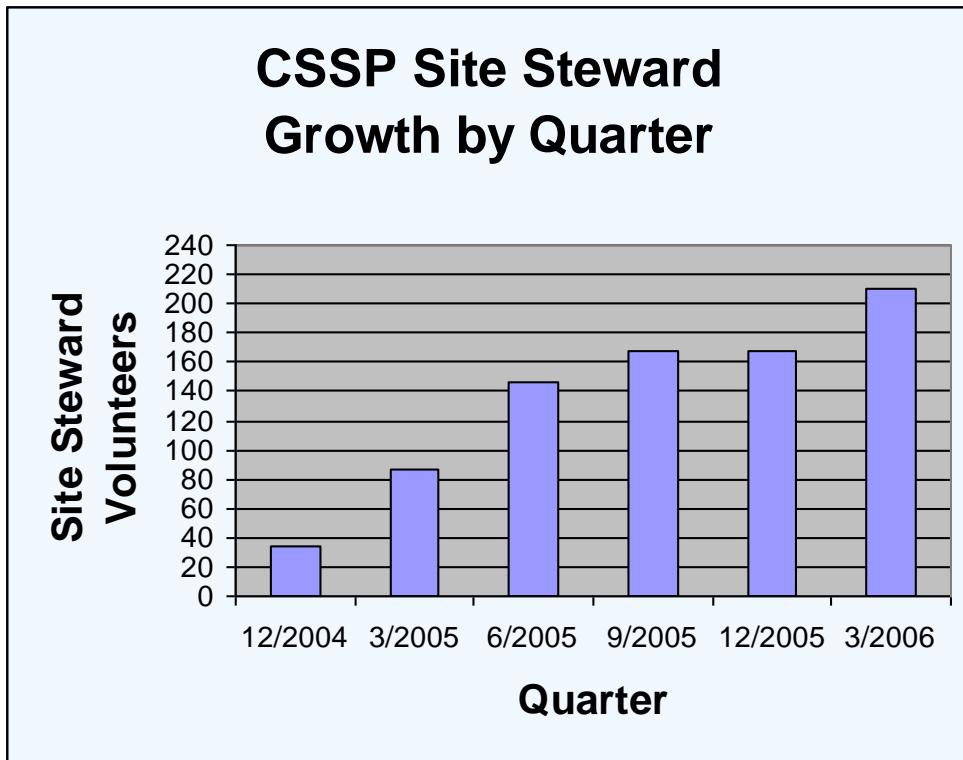
Project Manager George Phillips met with the Clark County Heritage Resources Team (CCoHRT) during the quarter on February 28 and March 28, 2006 (*see attached agendas and meeting notes*). Agenda items focused on modifying the team organization under a formal charter, which is currently being reviewed by the team for submission.

The team invited Sali Underwood, archaeologist and newly appointed Site Steward Manager for the Nevada State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO), to become an ex-officio member of CCoHRT. Mark Boatwright, Bureau of Land Management archaeologist for Red Rock Canyon NCA and Sloan Canyon NCA, was also invited to attend the meetings. These additions will provide stronger communication with the Cultural Site Stewardship Program (CSSP) and help ensure that Clark County site stewardship procedures are being integrated into the state stewardship program under SHPO.

Site Steward Recruitment

The CSSP currently has 216 site stewards in the CSSP database (6 are presently inactive). Project Manager George Phillips conducted two training classes this quarter on January 21 and March 18, 2006. Recruitment and growth since program inception has been steady, with a 22%

increase this quarter and an overall increase of 618% since program inception as indicated in the following table:



Number of CSSP volunteers since program inception

Because of the rapid growth in the program, discussions continue within the CCoHRT Team to consider capping the program at approximately 240 volunteers. A decision is not final and will be reviewed from month to month.

Gold Butte Protection

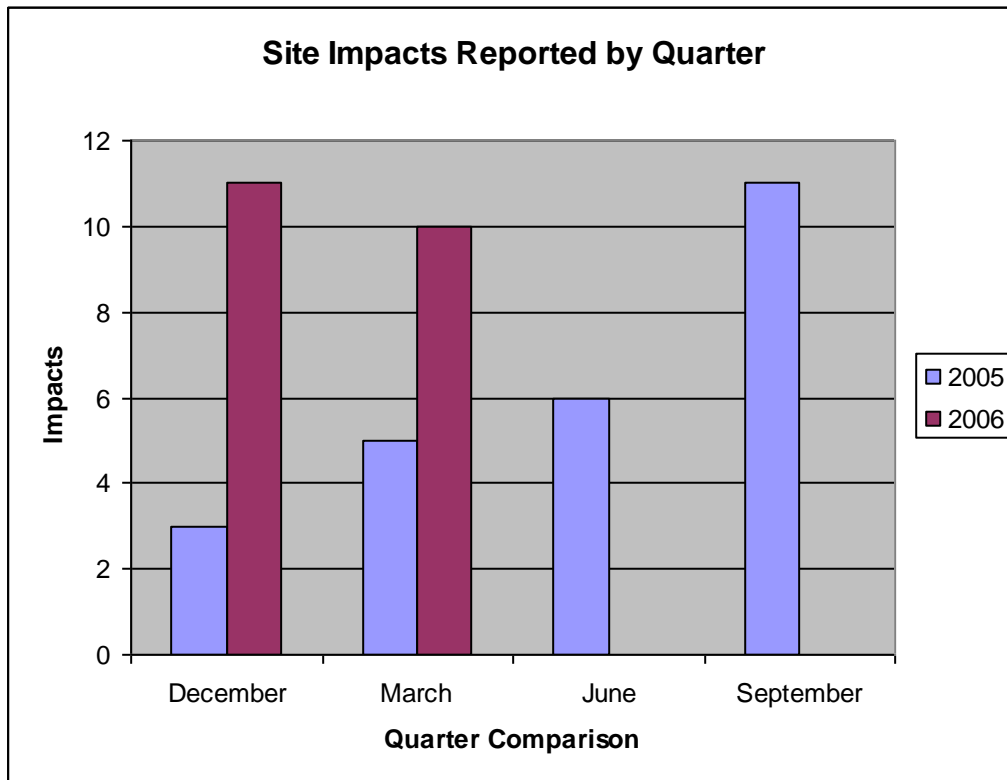
The Gold Butte area continues to receive leading attention by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as a result of data amassed by CSSP site stewards. As reported in our last quarterly report, Gold Butte was assigned “first priority” for protective action by the BLM. Scoping meetings for roads designation integral to creating off-road protection are scheduled for late spring 2006. A \$3.5 million contract for survey of cultural sites in Gold Butte, awarded to Far West Inc. in early March, is scheduled to begin May 1, 2006. Members of the Interagency CSSP Team are completing recommendations for interim vehicle barriers to protect highly impacted cultural sites during the survey period. CSSP stewards alerted land managers and the BLM’s Resource Advisory Committee of destructive activity in the 350,000 acres comprising Gold Butte. They have been active in clean-ups, monitoring, and vehicle barrier construction throughout the past year.

Monitoring Activities

Growth of the Cultural Site Stewardship Program to 210 active stewards reflects an equivalent growth in reported impacts significant to cultural sites. Coordination and communication is augmented by six regional coordinators, who are volunteers selected for their organizational

ability, enthusiasm, and dedication to the CSSP program. The coordinators are strategically located throughout the county to assist stewards in physical proximity to the sites being monitored, and they oversee an average of 35 stewards in their areas. They serve to help collect reports and documentation from their stewards and to communicate information distinct to their area.

Reports of damage to sites indicate a direct relationship between increased off-road accessibility and remote site damages. Stewards report encountering groups of off-road vehicles numbering 20 or more in one group in relatively remote locations. Increase in impacts as shown below are a measure of both greater numbers of stewards and increased off-road traffic.



Significant Impacts

Significant impacts during this quarter included human-caused damages – such as bullet-holes, graffiti and potting – as well as damage from animals, water, and fire. Reports of damage include the following:

- ATV tracks through roasting pits.
- Motorbike ridden through site. Signs torn down and destroyed.
- Major graffiti damage and new fire pits.
- Water/mineral damage.
- Restricted entry signs torn down and 2 major punch-ins. Major OHV tracks through canyon.
- New fire pit in shelter. Extensive ATV traffic over midden.
- Multiple ATV tracks into wilderness, bypassing sign.

- Wilderness sign shot up, excess trash, and burned camper shell.
- Numerous gunshots on archaic panel.
- Graffiti in upper shelter.

Five impact reports (not included above) submitted during the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, remain without corrective action to date. They include:

- Access by vehicles and major degradation of a large midden.
- Graffiti and two potting episodes on one major site.
- Major graffiti on archaic petroglyphs due primarily to a punched-in road allowing ease of access.
- Major trash accumulation and burned out camper shell on a site next to a wilderness.
- Consistent accumulation of graffiti and gunshots.

Although numerous other impacts were reported, these are manageable through corrective action. Generally, restricted access or limiting vehicle access by 50-100 feet with added signage would reduce or discourage further degradation. A new BLM Assistant Field Manager has expressed her commitment to reduce the effects of these impacts through both signage and vehicle barriers, where possible and appropriate. The CCoHRT Team will continue to monitor these developments and make recommendations to the federal land managers as necessary.

Site Steward Training

Site steward training classes were presented on January 21 and March 18, 2006, on the UNLV campus, adding 41 new stewards to the program. Enrollment at these classes continues to exceed expectations and room capacity, indicating the popularity of the CSSP with the local community. Approximately one-half of the volunteers in both classes were from the professional community, with the other half drawn from environmental groups and the retirement community throughout Clark County. Due to concern for off-road vehicle damage, two leaders in the OHV community were recruited to attend the most recent classes.

An optional continuing education class for site stewards, “Archaeological Record of the Southwest; Sites, Features and Artifacts,” was presented by UNLV bio-archaeologist Jim Watson on March 1, 2006, and drew 28 stewards.

Additional site steward training classes are currently scheduled for May 27, August 19, and October 2, 2006, with another four optional continuing education classes planned.

Public Relations, Outreach, and Partnerships

A statewide site steward coordinator’s meeting sponsored by the Nevada Archaeological Association (NAA) was held on January 20, 2006, in Pahrump, Nevada. George Phillips and all Clark County site coordinators attended. The group reviewed training films and I.D. cards used by the CSSP and adopted a modification of both to be used statewide. George Phillips brought up his concern that site identification numbers and some essential site information is difficult to obtain in Clark County. The NAA and SHPO officers offered to assist in influencing those who could release the data. It was further decided that the NAA would investigate the possibility of encouraging “Archaeological Advisors” from among the professional pool, who could assist in statewide stewardship.

On March 2, 2006, Project Manager George Phillips gave a Powerpoint presentation on Clark County cultural resources monitoring to 45 BLM employees from across the U.S. and to members of the Arthur Carhart Wilderness Training Center out of Missoula, Montana. The two-hour presentation was followed by a four-hour tour of Brownstone Canyon led by Phillips and the site stewards assigned to that area. BLM archaeologist Mark Boatwright accompanied the group. The purpose of the tour was to relate what stewards look for at a large site and how they report their findings.

On March 9, 2006, George Phillips presented an informational program about the Clark County Site Stewardship Program to the Boulder City Rotary Club. More than 50 members attended, and two additional speaking engagements were tentatively arranged.

A meeting for the Friends of Gold Butte occurred on March 21, 2006, at the Moapa Valley Tribal Plaza (Smoke Shop). George Phillips helped organize a clean-up along the Gold Butte Byway. A second meeting was held on March 21, 2006, at the Interagency Headquarters in Las Vegas. It was attended by Karla Norris, Assistant Field Manager of the BLM, and by representatives of Friends of Nevada Wilderness, the Acting Chief BLM Law Enforcement Officer, officers from Partners in Conservation, and numerous interested citizens. Ms. Norris agreed to allow post and cable constructions in selected at-risk areas in Gold Butte. Several CSSP site stewards were given the task of recommending specific site areas to construct the barriers and to provide mapping and UTM coordinates to the BLM. The recommendations and preparations were completed on March 27, with final decisions about construction to be made by the BLM.

In early March 2006, George Phillips and SHPO Site Stewardship Manager Sali Underwood were interviewed for an article in *City Life* magazine about county and state site stewardship efforts. The article focused upon the growth of site stewardship in Clark County and the expansion of similar efforts throughout the state.

George Phillips met with Allison Brody, Project Manager for the Education in the Environment Strategy, and Sharon Carter, Project Facilitator for Teaching American History, to discuss creating an education component for cultural site awareness. The nature of the project assumes a much greater demand for time and funds than originally projected. Ms. Carter will prepare a preliminary proposition for consideration this spring.

A "Train the Trainers" meeting for site steward coordinators and managers statewide was conducted by the NAA on March 23 and 24, 2006, to begin standardizing training procedures throughout the state. The program focused on standardizing procedures, safety issues, and archaeological content for trainers. Much of the material used was adapted from the CSSP training classes. The meeting was attended by archaeologists, representatives of land managers and site stewards throughout the state.

Submitted by:

Margaret N. Rees, Principal Investigator

March 31, 2006

Agendas and Meeting Notes

AGENDA
CCOVRT MEETING
February 28, 2006

1. FACA issue
2. SNAP Board discussion – need for charter, vision, mission statement
3. Program specifics
 - Status of the CSSP
 - Upcoming classes
 - Site information questionnaire – Critique
 - Archaeological Advisors
 - Site Visits
4. Set next meeting

**Meeting Notes
CCoHRT Meeting
February 28, 2006**

Location Parks and Rec Building at 900 Arizona St., Boulder City

Time 9:00 a.m.

Present:

Jennifer Haley	Nancy Flagg
Mark Boatwright	Sali Underwood
George Phillips	Elaine Holmes
Steve Daron	Laurie Perry
Eva Jensen	Susanne Rowe

Absent: Kathleen Sprowl

1. Steve Daron discussed aspects of FACA and its impact on CCoHRT.

Affects voting members. Non-SNAP federal employees will have no vote on CCoHRT. These members to date are: George Phillips, Elaine Holmes, Eva Jensen and Sali Underwood.

- A. Question - what about Elaine Holmes role ? Decision is that since she represents site stewards, she is acting as an integral part of the CCoHRT process. Her presence alone does not prompt FACA requirements regarding attendance from outside CCoHRT. However, it was emphasized that the group will remain open to suggestions and comments.
- C. Jennifer Haley mentioned that we must create a charter to confirm our intentions and substantiate our approach as a team. It was decided that George would draft a charter for presentation to CCoHRT at its next meeting.
- D. Discussion arose regarding having 2 members of one agency – Suzanne Rowe and Mark Boatwright – on CCoHRT and what the implications for voting were. It was tentatively concluded that each agency should have only one vote. Since Sali Underwood is a state employee, she will be an ex officio member and not have a vote.
- E. Question arose regarding SHPO representative. Since all decisions involving CCoHRT are made on federal lands, federal agency representatives would be the decision makers.

2. Jennifer pointed out that information to the SNAP Board should follow a pathway, that it must go through her (Jennifer). She offered to be a facilitator if necessary. The team should document procedures at all levels and pass them through her to sign off.

Nancy Flagg emphasized the need for information to be placed on GroveSite. Quarterly reports will be put in as well (they are now) and the Calendar Features are to be used for team meetings.

Jennifer suggesting beginning to draft the charter. George Phillips will prepare a draft and email it to CCoHRT for revisions one week prior to next meeting.

3. George Phillips discussed the following program issues:
Status of the CSSP – there are 210 current members, approx.195 are active.

Classes – We had a site steward training class on 1/21/06. Over 30 participated. An optional class on 3/1/06 had 28 attendees. Another site steward training class is scheduled for 3/18/06. We anticipate 24 attendees.

Site Information Questionnaire was discussed. Concept is to establish a file system based on sites rather than just on site stewards. Questionnaire standardizes information to relate to land managers.

Archaeological Advisors. Question brought forward by Sali that advisors might play an integral part of monitoring and training site stewards in the field. She will send questionnaire statewide to research.

The next meeting will be held on March 28 at the SHPO Office – 9:00 a.m.
Meeting ended at 11:30 a.m.

AGENDA
CCOVRT MEETING
March 28, 2006

1. Review CCoVHRT Charter proposal
2. Managing the documentation process
3. Documentation retention
4. Setting “Objective Hierarchy” through “Decision Analysis”
5. Discussion of topics proposed by Program Manager

MEETING NOTES FOR CCOHRT MEETING
March 28, 2006

Meeting held at SHPO conference office, Lorenzi Park, Las Vegas.

Begin: 9:00 a.m.

Present:

Steve Daron
Mark Boatwright
Sali Underwood
George Phillips
Kathleen Sprowl
Elaine Holmes

Absent:

Eva Jensen
Susanne Rowe
Laurie Perry

1. A draft of the newly created charter was presented by George Phillips. Voting rights were determined to be for federal land manager representatives only and each agency would receive one vote only. This issue was decided in the event there are more than one representative for an agency qualified under terms of the charter to vote. Additionally, the title of the non-archaeologist, Elaine Holmes, was amended from "Senior Site Steward" to "Master Site Steward." In the future, her position as site steward representative on CCoHRT will be recommended by Clark County Regional Coordinators (representing five areas) and final decision would be by vote of CCoHRT members.

The charter presented open and lengthy discussion on the team's need to focus on strategy. Phillips wants plan to certify site stewards with approval of managers to recognize "levels," e.g. those stewards taught and certified for recording, surveys, excavations and, ultimately, as archaeological advisors. The team will assist during the summer months to promote this idea further. Phillips was concerned about the lack of site numbers and essential data from some agencies to communicate effectively regarding the change in site status. CCoHRT will address the issue immediately.

Mark Boatwright suggested a process of "Decision Analysis" to begin a new strategic planning for the CSSP. This is to clarify goals and the means to rank priorities to arrive at target goals. He will prepare the process for the next CCoHRT meeting.

The team recommended adding a definition of the “role of stewards” to the charter. We will make the charter a “defining document” and include answers to Phillips’ considerations. These considerations are:

- How can growth essential to maintaining interest and production of the individual steward be integrated into agency efforts?
- What should be indicators of effectiveness to the public that the CCoHRT, PLI and SNAP are effectively producing protective conservation measures to cultural sites?
- What data and equipment should be provided to site stewards to support and optimize cultural site monitoring capabilities?
- What strategic considerations should be made for growth and expansion of CSSP effectiveness?

It was decided that more effort will be taken to define our strategy and specify goals. We will continue with the process at the next meeting scheduled for April 20th at the Interagency Office at 9:00 am.