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Executive Summary

- The Cultural Site Stewardship Program now has 269 enrolled site stewards, an increase of 24% since March of 2006.
- Two training classes were held in 2007, adding 53 new stewards.
- Site Stewards reported 31 significant impacts during fiscal year 2007 compared to 25 impacts during the same period last year.

Summary of Attachments

- Regional Coordinators’ Meeting Agenda
- “Train the Trainers” Agenda

Collaboration with Interagency Team

The Clark County Heritage Resources Team (CCoHRT) met twice during this quarter. On January 12, 2007 agenda items included review and modification of the new team charter. CCoHRT will now be referred to as the Interagency Cultural Site Stewardship Team (ICSST).

A new U.S. Forest Service archaeologist, Kelly Turner, was introduced during a second meeting of the ICSST on February 2, 2007. Changes to the team included Shawn Gibson to succeed both Mark Boatwright and Susanne Rowe, Bureau of Land Management Archaeologists. The team reviewed both its revised Draft Charter and the Round 6 Task Agreement with minor modifications.

Site-Steward Training Manual and Standard Operating Procedures for the CSSP

Results for the Cultural Site Stewardship Program (CSSP) Training Assessment as reported last quarter were reviewed by the team for training procedure modifications. It was agreed that classes will include selected Regional Coordinators as trainers to provide added perspectives on
overall stewardship. CSSP Program Manager, George Phillips, will train volunteer coordinators to assist in teaching classes beginning in April of this year.

CSSP Implementation

Fourteen new sites vulnerable to impacts were added to the CSSP list of several hundred for monitoring as part of CSSP implementation. Twelve of these sites are part of the Red Rock National Conservation Area and two are on the periphery of the Las Vegas alluvial. These sites will be monitored by volunteers who successfully complete the associated April 2007 training class.

Area Site Monitoring Activities and Impacts

Gold Butte (Area 1 of 5)
On March 31, 2006, the CSSP recorded the following impacts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FYTD</th>
<th>Impacts in Gold Butte</th>
<th>Total impacts in Clark County</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/2006</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/2007</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A decline in severe impacts was observed in spite of increased visitation in Gold Butte. Stewards estimate that more than twice the number of people visited Gold Butte during 2006-2007 than did in 2005-2006. Over this period, the number of assigned stewards remained static at 45 and reporting activity was steady. However, law enforcement officers were temporarily reassigned to other areas for several months during the fiscal year 2005-2006 when a greater number of malicious acts and vandalism were common. The return of law enforcement patrols in combination with timely monitoring appears to have offset many site impacts. Reports from site steward data provide the following observations and were reported to the Resource Advisory Committee and the Bureau of Land Management for Gold Butte:

► Biggest problem — visitation volume (200% increase over 2006)
► Deterioration of cultural sites from OHV incursions
► Signage for road incursion is working. Must be maintained by stewards and Law Enforcement Officers.
► Rest room facilities are badly needed in primary camping areas. Stewards are picking up used toilet paper at major, unmarked camping areas.

Moapa Valley (Area 2 of 5)
Logandale Trails continues to host increasingly extreme visitation by OHV users. Graffiti is reported on critical petroglyph sites in all areas. Site monitoring reports indicate heavily
increasing visitation in the Arrow Canyon wilderness. Graffiti appears on petroglyphs while OHV’s continue incursions into the wilderness. The CSSP reports stewards’ findings to the BLM archaeologist, law enforcement officer, and wilderness planner who are preparing barriers, signs, and road closures in response. The BLM archaeologist has requested the CSSP provide additional site stewards to monitor Arrow Canyon and surrounding cultural sites. Areas surrounding the Overton Arm of Lake Mead report few damages.

Las Vegas Alluvial (Area 3 of 5)
Brownstone Canyon received reports of continued illegal OHV incursions. Additionally, paintball activity was initially reported but sites were unaffected and no damages occurred. Two weeks later, stewards reported paint ball impacts directly on petroglyphs signaling increased activity. Concern was expressed by stewards that the Howard Hughes residential development expanding to the Red Rock NCA border is threatening Brownstone. The NCA archaeologist is creating a plan for its protection and two additional stewards were assigned to Brownstone. Lightning fires are reported to have caused significant spalling of petroglyphs on cliff faces near Goodsprings. The U.S. Forest Service installed a newly hired archaeologist to guide monitoring activities in the Spring Mountain Range. Stewards report infrequent road incursions and illegal camp fires, but few other human-caused impacts to cultural sites on Forest Service-managed land. Stewards for Gypsum Cave report active graffiti and vandalism to the cave entrance and immediate interior. Much of the graffiti references drugs.

Sloan NCA (Area 4 of 5)
The Sloan NCA is operating under a proposed Resource Management Plan (RMP) which is delayed. Residential construction has expanded to the northern boundary of the NCA. Construction of a retention basin is an impediment to stewards accessing their assigned sites. Reports normally sent in once weekly are averaging once every 2 weeks until construction is completed. There have been no significant impacts reported by the 35 assigned stewards.

Laughlin (Area 5 of 5)
Although sites in the southern area are assigned for monitoring, training classes are planned to draw stewards from the greater Laughlin area. Regional coordinators will be chosen from local residents to assist with communication with the stewards.

Overall Impacts

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

- Spalling of petroglyphs on rock face due to 2006 wildfires
- Illegal collection of lithics
- Graffiti and digging at cave entrance
- OHV damage to middens
- Numerous ATV incursions
- Illegal fire rings and pits on cultural sites
- Post and cable barriers torn down
- Paintball impacts on petroglyphs
- Illegal removal of artifacts (medicine bottles and cans)
- Fence torn down
- Excessive trash dumping
- Used toilet paper consistently appearing in camping areas surrounding sites with no restroom facilities
- Illegally burned insulation from (stolen) copper cable

Site Monitor Reports indicate accelerating site impacts consistent with population increases. As reported in previous quarters, a by-product of off-road vehicle popularity is site degradation. The following chart shows the increase in significant impacts to fragile cultural sites and does not reflect data from reports of minor effects. Minor impacts including trash accumulation and illegal desert off-roading are reported to agency representatives to indicate visitation pressure, but they do not affect the site itself.

Changes in reported impacts above are a result of varying desert temperatures.
Site stewards

The CSSP database contains 269 site stewards, an increase of 53 over the same month last year.

Site Steward Training

The first of at least three site-steward mandatory training classes for Year 3 of the CSSP was held on January 27, 2007 on the UNLV campus; 16 new volunteers and 4 veteran stewards (who updated their training) attended. The class provides instruction on site steward procedures, reporting, federal land law, safety, and law enforcement protocols. The second year-3 training class is scheduled for next quarter (April 14, 2007).

CSSP Project Manager is working with the UNLV Department of Anthropology and Ethnic studies to set a date for the first of at least four site-steward optional training classes for Year 3. This optional class will cover local prehistory. Planning for a GPS navigation course is also underway.

Confidential Relational Database

From its inception in December, 2004, the CSSP has expanded to more than 250 stable volunteers who steward several hundred cultural sites. Reports of site impacts during the second year have more than doubled from reports submitted the previous year. Data collected by site stewards are reported to agency archaeologists and then stored on paper in locked files within UNLV for annual reporting. Photographs, baseline data, and information from site monitoring activities have been gathered into a substantial information base.

Volunteer steward information is stored on the Interagency Volunteer Program database. However, because privileged site-related information is not secure on this system, it is preserved
on paper and stored in locked cabinets. As the stewardship program expands, the current system of record keeping becomes cumbersome and retards data retrieval. The solution is to assimilate already existing information into a secure system, managed by the ICSST members. The system will create a relationship among the following three groups:

1. Site steward information, hours and documentation
2. Agency site designation and reports
3. Site information for monitoring and agency reports

In collaboration with the PLI Research Team, this new hybrid relational database is being designed and should be implemented by the summer of 2007. In conjunction, a secure web site is being created by the PLI web specialist for secure computer-generated reports and general communication. The website is tentatively schedule for completion by mid-summer. Content of the database system is cumulative and maintained in perpetuity. With the newer system, data retrieval would become more fluid and offer several benefits:

- Site identification either by number, name, or location
- Archived site monitoring results
- Long-term site visitation trends
- Names of site stewards assignments by site and by agency
- Photographs from baseline visits by site stewards accessible over a long period
- Hours spent monitoring, training
- Secure website reporting
- Agency reports compiling numbers of volunteer hours and stewardship visits
- Administrative documentation

The secured database is designed for UNLV's supercomputer and operations will be overseen by the federal ICSST members representing the agencies. Links among the sites, the agencies, and the site stewards become meaningful over a long-term basis. Funds are being sought through Clark County’s Out of Agency funding source to enhance this system.

Public Relations, Outreach, and Partnerships

Regional Coordinators
CSSP Regional Coordinators met on January 5 (agenda attached). The ICSST charter was reviewed for comments. Reporting methods and follow-up for Volunteer Agreements were planned. Training for Regional Coordinators and their involvement with site introductions were reviewed. The coordinators emphasized the growing importance of accurate site photographs and concluded that new site photographs should be taken by each stewards annually. On March 10, the Moapa Coordinators, Al and Linda Faas, held an ice-cream social in Overton, NV to introduce new stewards to each other.

Local Civic and Educational Groups
CSSP Program Manager Phillips presented the status of the site stewardship program and effects to sites in Clark County to the Archaeo-Nevada Society meeting (January 11, 2007). A similar presentation was given to the Mojave Rock Art Workshop (MORAW; January 13, 2007) held at USC’s Granite Mt. Research Center. On January 20, Phillips visited the Logandale Trails area with Diane Winslow, Cultural Resources Program Director for the Harry Reid Center for Environmental Studies, to review additional sites for monitoring.
Phillips and six CSSP Site Stewards attended an Arrow Canyon scoping meeting given by the Bureau of Land Management in Las Vegas (March 9, 2007). No other citizens attended. The CSSP members stated their concerns about the invasive weed infestation and ATV incursions into the Arrow Canyon Wilderness. Agency archaeologists and the BLM wilderness planner will begin closing access into the area. The weed specialist will solicit methods to control the tamarisk and thistle inundating the canyon.

Nevada Archaeological Meeting
A quarterly meeting of the Nevada Site Stewardship was conducted in Beatty, NV (February 2, 2007). Phillips reported the current status of the CSSP and assisted in planning for a “Train the Trainers” meeting.

Train the Trainers
A two-day “Train-the-Trainers” meeting (agenda attached) was held for cultural site coordinators and managers throughout Nevada at the State Historical Preservation Office in the Nevada Historical Museum. Phillips and Six CSSP coordinators attended. Phillips gave a presentation and conducted a discussion on methods of site introductions. This was a collaboration of all coordinators and advisors presented through the Nevada Archaeological Association.

Resource Advisory Committee
During a Resource Advisory meeting (March 9, 2007) Phillips updated the committee on the status of the CSSP and activities in Gold Butte. This was a follow-up visit from a CSSP report given on June 22, 2005 outlining severe degradation of the area. Since that report, the BLM contracted Far West Archaeology to survey a portion of Gold Butte and a roads designation project is being completed.

Submitted by:

Margaret N. Rees, Principal Investigator  
03/31/2007  Date
Attachments
CSSP REGIONAL COORDINATORS MEETING  
January 5, 2007  

AGENDA

1. ICSST (Previously CCoHRT) Charter.  
   • Volunteer Site Steward Representative  
   • Copies of Charter

2. Reports  
   • Volunteer Agreements  
   • Site Monitoring Reports  
   • Quarterly Logs

3. Training  
   • How much training involvement for RC’s  
   • Site Introductions and RC’s  
   • Suggestions (See outline from Sali)  
   • Training materials, modifications, equipment, procedures  
     Protocol  
   • Photographing sites

4. Questions:  
   • When/why is the BLM changing from NAD 27 to NAD 83  
   • Workers’ Comp. When and how does it apply to SStewards?  
   • What about lawsuits and plans for the BLM? What and why?  
   • The Friends of Nevada Wilderness has a Wilderness Monitoring program for volunteers. Does this conflict with the site steward program? Can a site steward also be a wilderness monitor person?  
   • Different SStewards monitored the same site on the same weekend. Are we wasting resources?  
   • I would like as-it-happens notification of when a site has been monitored. That way, if a site has not been monitored on a timely basis, we can check it out ourselves. Would it be practical to request that site stewards always submit their site monitoring reports to you within a few days of their site visitation? And to ask them to always cc: the info to us? A fly in the ointment would be those reports that you get by fax and snail mail.  
   • May we talk freely with Don Miller about any & all sites in Gold Butte?  
   • Where are our Emergency Cards with the magnet on the back?

5. How does each Regional Coordinator envision his/her job (in detail)?  
   • How would you like to receive training?  
   • Would actual training sessions help us all?  
   • What problems do you have that we need to address?

Upcoming events – Training class Jan. 27
Day 1 – March 15

12:00 Welcome introductions Eva

12:15 – 2:30 (break at 1:15) Review the updated training manual and training material including power points. Sali, Liz, George

2:30 – 2:45 Training Quiz: What needs improvement? George P.

2:45 – 3:00 Break

3:00 to 3:30 Laws: Brainstorm session
What can we do to make this more interesting?

3:30 to 4:00 Clark County Cultural Resource video. Eva

4:00 to 4:15 Wrap up, review tomorrow schedule.

Day 2 – March 16

8:30- 9:15 How to conduct a Baseline Visit: Site questionnaire
Should this be a second day of basic training?
Accompanied by Archaeologist? George

9:15 – 9:45 Snakes and safety videos

9:45 – 10:15 Expanding Partnerships: Can we use the ATV and off road groups as cultural site stewards? Jill Jensen

10:15 – 10:30 Break

10:30 – 11:00 After the fire: Site Stewardship in the new “red brome” West.
Kurt Braun, BLM Ely

11:00 – 11:30 ARPA Inside story
Dave Valentine

11:30 – 12:00 Site Stewards and Education
Hands: Presentation from Utah Site Stewards education program developed by Utah Site Steward committee Penny and Jeff Feldman for 7th grade presentation.

11:30 - 12:00 Review – directions – what would you like this workshop to be?