
Margaret N. Rees

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

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Executive Summary

- Stewards have been assigned sites in the Desert National Wildlife Range for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- The CSSP has expanded into the Laughlin area, the southernmost region of Nevada, the last stage of five designated stewardship areas in Clark County.
- Two basic training classes were conducted, adding 33 new site stewards.
- Stewards reported a total of 63 significant site impacts for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, as opposed to 51 significant impacts for the same period last year.
- Creation of a CSSP relational database is underway.
- Annual reports are being prepared for federal agencies.

Summary of Attachments

- Interagency meeting notes
- Laughlin Times Article – interview on July 25, 2007
- Notice of training published by Laughlin Chamber of Commerce

Project 1 – Recruitment, Training, and Retention of Volunteer Site Stewards

Database

In collaboration with the PLI Research Team and as reported in the CSSP Final Project Report dated May 31, 2007, a relational database has been designed for the CSSP. It creates relationships among the following three data groups: site steward information, hours, and documentation; agency site designation; and site information for monitoring and agency reports. In conjunction, a secure Web site is being created by the PLI web specialist for secure computer-generated reports and general communication. Content of the database system is cumulative and maintained in perpetuity.
This system offers the following benefits:

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

The newly designed and secured database should be operable before the end of December, 2007. It will be overseen by federal ICSST members representing the agencies. Information will be organized and shared among the sites and the agencies; professional relationships among the site stewards become more meaningful over a long-term basis and will add value to the program. Funds were obtained through Clark County’s Out of Agency funding source.

Collaboration with Interagency Team

The Interagency Cultural Site Stewardship Team met on August 1, 2007 (see attached meeting notes). Agenda items included discussing budget and reporting processes, direction for CSSP under Round 6 funding, discussion of the status of the newly developing CSSP database and ATV training for stewards who must use them to monitor their sites.

Under the team charter, change of leadership from Steve Daron of the National Park Service to Mark Boatwright, archaeologist for the Bureau of Land Management is scheduled to occur on October 1. Each term as team lead lasts 2 years.

Site Stewardship Growth

Two basic CSSP training classes were conducted this quarter. The first was held at the Boyd Law School Building at UNLV where 21 volunteers were trained. The second was held at the Laughlin Library on September 22 where 12 volunteers were trained and a temporary Regional Coordinator was assigned. Among the new stewards in Laughlin was a cultural committee member of the Fort Mojave Indian tribe who expressed interest in helping evaluate cultural sites for assignment. This will occur in collaboration with the Interagency Cultural Site Stewardship Team (ICSST) members.

Training for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, produced 83 new volunteers for a total of 320 site stewards, an increase of 35% over those trained through FYI 2006. CSSP is required to show an expansion of 10% annually.

Figure 1 on the next page illustrates the increase in numbers of site stewards over time.
Fig. 1. shows the increase in numbers of site stewards since the program began.

**Project 2 – Monitoring of Cultural Resource Sites and Reporting Results**

**Desert National Wildlife Range**
The Desert National Wildlife Range managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service operated several years without a local archaeologist and subsequently without benefit of site stewards. During this quarter, a recently assigned archaeologist, Kathleen Sprowl, and the Cultural Site Stewardship (CSSP) manager, George Phillips, began assigning stewards to cultural sites vulnerable to human impacts. The first steward visit yielded evidence of potential vandalism and theft of petroglyphs and is prompting stewardship expansion throughout the preserve.

**Laughlin Expansion**
Stewardship expansion is focused on the Spirit Mountain - Laughlin area. Newspaper articles from the Laughlin Times and notifications by the Laughlin Library and Chamber of Commerce supported CSSP efforts. This is the fifth and last area to be populated by CSSP volunteers in Clark County. In addition to an abundance of prehistoric cultural sites, stewards will monitor historic sites related to early development of the Colorado River area and the construction of Davis Dam. Sites are located on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service.
Site Impacts Reported

As shown in Figure 2 below, there has been a relatively steady increase in significant cultural site impacts this year reported by quarter. Reports of significant impacts increased more than 16% over those reported last year. Vandalism, graffiti and ATV-related incursions were the most destructive activities. New problems this year, such as the presence of human waste in common but undesignated camping areas in Gold Butte, combined with excessive trash accumulation, indicate a need for camping regulation and toilet services.

Fig. 2.

![Significant Impacts Reported by Quarter](image)

Fig. 2 illustrates three years of cultural site impacts of significance reported each quarter.

Sixty-three significant impact reports were submitted for FYE 2007. These reports may include multiple impacts and are broken out and itemized below in Table 1:

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incident Type</th>
<th># of occurrences</th>
<th>Incident Type</th>
<th># of occurrences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digging/potting</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Graffiti</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bullet holes</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>ATV related</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vandalism</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Collector’s Piles</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire pits in shelters</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Visitation damage</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excessive trash</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Signs destroyed</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human waste</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Tour Helicopter Infractions</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 identifies the type and number of occurrences impacting sensitive sites.
Vandalism includes looting artifacts, paintball activity on petroglyphs, destroying retaining fences, uprooting Joshua trees for fire pits, and the theft of two petroglyph panels. Graffiti on petroglyphs occurs predominantly in Logandale Trails and Gold Butte. Visitation damage includes parking on prehistoric roasting pits, trampling midden piles and driving OHV’s onto a designated site beyond a restrictive sign or barrier. One tour helicopter was reported flying into the Muddy Mountain wilderness well below the minimum altitude permitted, as seen in Figure 3 below. Another tour helicopter was photographed in a wilderness landing on a primary habitation shelter and again in an area surrounded by wildlife. Both incidents were reported to the Law Enforcement Ranger.

Fig. 3

Fig. 3 shows a helicopter flying approximately 50 feet over Muddy Mountain Wilderness.

Significant impacts are those human or natural encounters with cultural sites or the immediate surrounding areas that seriously diminish site quality. Total impacts showing grades “minimum” to “severe” have increased each year partially due to observations of increased numbers of the CSSP, combined with explosive population growth in Clark County.

The number of serious impacts reported for each agency is shown on Table 2 on the next page.
Table 2

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<th>NPS</th>
<th>BOR</th>
<th>USFS</th>
<th>USFW</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
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<td>18</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 shows the number of serious impacts reported for each agency.

A list of all site stewards’ hours, numbers of sites visited, and numbers of visits per site will be compiled by agency as the data becomes available immediately after September 30 and will be presented to the agencies by October 15. All figures will be reported in quarterly report for December 31.

**Project 3 – Community Outreach and Education**

In early July, Phillips solicited volunteers to monitor cultural sites in the Spirit Mountain – Laughlin area. In response, the Laughlin Times interviewed Phillips (see article attached) and notices were posted by the city library and the Chamber of Commerce (see notices attached). Response from the Laughlin community was strong, and the first class, held on September 22, training stewards was successful.

On July 24, CSSP Manager George Phillips met with U.S. Forest Service Volunteers to describe the CSSP organization and answer questions about facilitating stewardship volunteers. The purpose was to assist forest service volunteer coordinators in developing a system of managing volunteers.

On August 1, Phillips gave a power point presentation about CSSP and stewardship in Clark County to the Southern Nevada Grotto and members of the National Speleological Society. Three members volunteered for site stewardship. Grotto members voted to notify CSSP whenever caves with cultural resources are found disturbed. Phillips will notify law enforcement and team archaeologists under stewardship reporting protocol.

Team Leader Steve Daron and Program Manager George Phillips delivered a PowerPoint
presentation, a description of the evolution and status of CSSP, to a Congressional Committee on August 9th at the BLM Logandale Fire Department. There were approximately 25 congressional staff members present.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

- Laughlin Times Article – interview on July 25, 2007
- Interagency meeting notes
- Notice of training published by Laughlin Chamber of Commerce
Volunteer for site stewardship

By MARK ASHLEY

LAUGHLIN — Residents in and around Laughlin who have an interest in cultural history and archeology and have a love of the desert are being sought by the Cultural Site Stewardship Program to help preserve and conserve the area’s cultural sites.

The program is facilitated by the University of Nevada at Las Vegas and operates in partnership with The National Park Service, The Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Forest Service.

Clark County has 7,000 to 11,000 sites of cultural interest, and the CSSP has 288 site stewards to help watch over them. As they seek to expand their presence in the Laughlin area they are looking for an additional 45-50 volunteers for the program.

“We have Clark County divided into five areas, and Laughlin is our most important one,” said CSSP coordinator George Phillips.

The process of becoming a site steward starts with taking a free class provided by the CSSP. The class is an intensive six-hour program involving lectures, movies and powerpoint presentations. “It’s a lot of fun,” said Phillips.

The class teaches stewards desert safety, the laws and ethics related to the program, how site visits are made and how to fill out the reports.

Once the class is completed the steward is assigned a site. “We’ll assign them a site close to where they live, we have plenty of them,” said Phillips.

The class is followed by a half-day or day-long orientation at the steward’s assigned site. The steward is shown how to report on the site and will be given unique insight into the site not generally available to the public.

Stewards are requested to visit and report on their site at least quarterly, though some sites require more visits and reports. Stewards are not allowed to interfere with people at the site, they are meant only to observe. “The value is in collecting data,” said Phillips.

The program is looking for all kinds of people to be stewards. Stewards must be a minimum of 18 years of age to participate in the program and many stewards are retirees. Sites require different levels of effort to visit, some can be driven to, others are so remote a day long hike is required to reach them.

Stewards are also eligible to attend other free classes organized by the CSSP. Classes are taught by Ph.Ds and Ph.D candidates on subjects of interest to site stewards such as archeology, identifying artifacts, native peoples and the global positioning system.

According to Phillips, as Laughlin and Bullhead City grow, the population is moving toward cultural sites that are being knowingly and unknowingly damaged. And, there is a lot to damage. “You have no idea how important Laughlin is,” said Phillips.

Phillips said that artifacts were “ankle deep” when he visited the Christmas Tree Pass area as a child. “You couldn’t step without stepping on an artifact,” said Phillips. Sightings of artifacts are now rare.

The CSSP will be offering a class on July 28 at UNLV for anyone interested in becoming a site steward. The program is also planning to offer a course in Laughlin in the fall, as part of an effort to increase its presence in the Laughlin area.

The CSSP recently received the 2007 National Cooperative Conservation Award from the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Anyone interested in becoming a site steward can contact program coordinator George Phillips at 702-895-4863.
Meeting began at 9:35 a.m.

Present:

Steve Daron, NPS       Laurie Perry, BOR
Kathleen Sprowl USFW  Shawn Gibson, BLM
Elaine Holmes         Kelly Turner, USFS
Mark Boatwright, BLM   Sali Underwood, SHPO
George Phillips PLI    Tami Lucero, SNAP
Vanessa Truitt, NPS    Eva Jensen, Lost City Museum
Karin DeDufour, SHPO GIS database representative

1. Tami Lucero presented information on processes related to SNPLMA funding. The Quarterly Reports and budget process is contained in just one report – examples were handed out. She provided a list of proposed deliverables and asked for comments from the team. She mentioned that the new system should be in place by FY 2008. Because transfer requests must be in by the 15th of the month, Quarterly reports must be completed by the 15th of the last month in the quarter. Once this procedure begins, Tami asked to have copies sent to her to preview. The team had a brief discussion over the changes and stated that there should be a provision to request advance funding. Mark said there may be a problem accounting for money not spent. Tami left the meeting at 9:55.

2. Steve brought up that Round 6 funding for CSSP is $765,748.50. Approximately $132,000 is not applied. George will research the use of $132,000 but everyone should bring ideas for its use to the table at our next meeting.

3. Karen DeDufour is unable to travel due to her advanced pregnancy and asked that George, Vanessa and Craig travel to Carson City to plan the “tables and relationships” Vanessa developed for the new database. Karen requested that the CSSP approve giving a list of UTM’s of sites being monitored in order to match them with NVCRS. This was approved unanimously by ICSST and it should be done immediately in order to obtain site numbers in lieu of inaccurate site “codes.” Mark will meet with George to develop accurate site numbers.

4. Miscellaneous:
The team discussed pictures taken during presentation of the CSSP Conservation award in Washington D.C. which have not arrived. When they do, George will make a framed copy and distribute copies to members of the ICSST.
Phillips brought up a “Thank You” letter addressed to CSSP for assisting HRC members filing a backlog of paperwork. Special mention was given to Marilyn McMurtrie, a steward who spent several days assisting. A requirement by all agencies is issued that stewards using ATV’s for
monitoring must be safety certified through ASI (ATV Safety Institute). Phillips made arrangements for stewards to take a class from a BLM certified instructor, Robert Wandell, in September. The date will be determined early next month.

5. The CSSP Three Year Final Report was handed out to all ICSST members. Sali Underwood requested access to Grove Site. This may be determined later according to Steve. The team requested George put the final report on disks with all products attached. They will be handed out at the next meeting.

Steve mentioned that he and George will present a power point on the status and development of CSSP to a Congressional Committee August 9 at the Logandale BLM fire station.

6. The CSSP recognition event must take place this year on October 20. George already made arrangements for November 3 at the Valley of Fire but will change to October 20 and report at the next meeting.

7. Sali Underwood asked if CSSP would authorize help developing Stewardship in southern Nye County. Members authorized assistance to be on a temporary basis and where stewards in Pahrump could assist monitoring sites in Clark County on the west side of the Spring Mts. to comply with SNPMA regulations. Sali will work with George to implement the program.

8. Steve announced that under the Charter Agreement, the ICSST leader is to change to the BLM representative October 1. Mark Boatwright will be taking over as the new team lead.

Mark discussed training for Indian tribes – if it were possiblt to coordinate with tribes for training. Sali said she will integrate Indians into regular training classes and avoid presenting classes selectively to tribes. Her last class planned for tribal stewards had 13 sign up, 9 RSVP for the class and 4 showed. It was not cost effective.

9. Kelly brought up the consideration for a site steward with law enforcement background who could build cases as a Law Enforcement Officer representative. The ICSST directed the CSSP to separate special law enforcement activity from stewardship functions. Kelly agreed.

10. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 3, 2007, at the NPS conference office in Boulder City at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 6, 2007

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
Gian Galassi, UNLV Public Affairs
895-3104
George Phillips, Cultural Site Stewardship
702-895-4863

LAUGHLIN AREA RESIDENTS NEEDED TO MONITOR CULTURAL SITES
Volunteers will be trained to become site stewards

LAS VEGAS – Residents in and around Laughlin now have the opportunity to help preserve and conserve the area’s cultural sites. The Interagency Cultural Site Stewardship Program (CSSP) is recruiting volunteers who have an interest in prehistoric and historic cultural history and archaeology and a love of Southern Nevada’s desert.

Clark County has thousands of cultural sites, and the CSSP has more than 300 site stewards to help watch over them. The program is managed by the UNLV Public Lands Institute on behalf of the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service, and the Bureau of Reclamation.

As the program expands into the Laughlin area, another 45-50 volunteers are needed. Training will be provided, including an intensive six-hour, free class followed by several hours of one-on-one site orientation to show how to monitor the site. Stewards must be at least 18 years of age to participate. Sites require different levels of effort to monitor, and assignments are based on interest and ability. Some cultural sites can be driven to, while others are in remote locations requiring greater hiking abilities.

Anyone interested in becoming a site steward should contact George Phillips, CSSP program manager, at 895-4863 or 498-5418. The CSSP will offer a class for interested volunteers from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, September 22 at the Laughlin Library, which is located at 2840 South Needles Highway.

The Interagency Cultural Site Stewardship Program is funded by the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA). The Public Lands Institute was initiated in 2005 to work in collaboration with federal, state, and non-profit partners to create new knowledge, advance technology, improve education, and engage the community to enhance public lands stewardship. More information about CSSP and the institute is available at http://publiclands.unlv.edu.

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UNLV is a doctoral-degree granting institution with more than 28,000 students and approximately 3,000 faculty and staff. More than 220 undergraduate, master's and doctoral degrees are offered. Founded in 1957, UNLV is located on more than 350 acres in dynamic Southern Nevada. The university is classified in the category of Research Universities (high research activity) by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.