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Executive Summary

- Two steward training classes were given this quarter training 41 new volunteers.
- Total trained stewards reach 428.
- The Cultural Site Stewardship brochure was approved and completed.
- Program sustainability issues were discussed at February SNAP meeting.

Summary of Attachments

- Cultural Site Stewardship brochure.
- Minutes and agenda of January and March team meetings.

Collaboration with Interagency Team

The Interagency Cultural Site Stewardship Team (ICSST) met on January 20, 2009 and March 12, 2009 (see attached agendas and minutes). Since CSSP funding is scheduled to cease in July 2010, sustainability of the program has been the main topic as initial funding sources are diminishing subsequent to the effects of the national economy. SNPLMA funds are also diminishing. Members of ICSST met with the SNAP board on February 20 to discuss possible options. The SNAP board lent their support and suggested a “band-aid” approach until other funding sources could be identified. CSSP will comply and seek grant money as well as outside commercial sources that appear viable sources. ICSST members were cautioned by the SNAP board to avoid conflicts with federal policy regulating solicitation of commercial funds.

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

Task 1 – Site Stewardship Database
The CSSP database continues to produce well-organized information upon request of federal agencies. In mid-March, the CSSP database provided detailed information to BLM’s contract archaeologists for the Gold Butte area. This information will be used in a final report of a survey conducted on 362,000 acres of *Areas of Critical Environmental Concern* that includes two wilderness areas. The data reflects over four years of visitation history and reported impacts to the majority of cultural sites that will be used to evaluate its Road Designation Plan. The information will also be used to recommend management actions to preserve cultural sites.

CSSP database information is facilitated and stored in UNLV’s super computer. It provides the security required by SNAP agencies to maintain discrete access to site location and site information for team members collected by site stewards. CSSP considers this security as a major component in sustainable program options.

**Task 2 – Recruit additional volunteer cultural site stewards.**

Two new steward classes were held this quarter. The first was conducted at UNLV and recruited 26 new volunteers including two National Park Service rangers and two local archaeologists. The second class drew 15 new volunteers in the Mesquite area and was aimed at attracting local residents to monitor sites in the Gold Butte region. An additional five volunteers from the Nevada site steward program joined CSSP bringing the total trained volunteers to 428 stewards, an increase of 46 stewards or 12% over 2008 totals.

Stewards are considered inactive if no visitations occur within a six month period. As shown in figure 1 below, there were 318 active volunteers in March 2009. Between the years 2006 and 2007 a slower increase in active stewards is reflected due to construction of a retention basin near the Sloan site that created an access barrier to more than 35 assigned stewards.

![Site Stewardship Growth](image)

*Figure 1. Annual cumulative growth for active and total stewards.*
In 2008, road closures in the Gold Butte area extended some hiking distances to sites that exceeded comfort levels of approximately 12 stewards. Those volunteers are in the process of being reassigned.

**Task 3 – Deliver, evaluate, and refine basic training classes for volunteer cultural site stewards.**

Classes are conducted in locations adjacent to the regions having a greater need for stewards. Instruction is subsequently adjusted to focus on special needs for that region. Organizations are targeted for special needs. For example, off-highway vehicle enthusiasts from local clubs are invited to monitor areas experiencing OHV damage in Logandale Trails or Gold Butte. Local environmental groups are invited to steward areas where hiking requirements are higher, trash is of greater concern, and vandalism is common as in the Laughlin area. CSSP continues to draw interested new volunteers by word of mouth and referrals from existing stewards.

**Task 4 – Deliver, evaluate, and refine optional educational training for volunteer cultural site stewards.**

Classes are being prepared for map and compass navigation, fundamental GPS operation, tours of public pre-historic sites, lithic studies, and pottery recognition. Classes will begin in April 2009.

**Task 5 – Obtain and evaluate feedback from volunteer cultural site stewards about the program and incorporate into program improvements.**

As mentioned in the previous quarterly progress report, CSSP is completing re-assignments for stewards whose site access in Gold Butte and Sloan areas were altered and required greater hiking distances that exceeded the volunteers’ comfort level. In addition, more remote sites are being assigned in Laughlin around Spirit Mountain and Paiute Valley. In the Las Vegas areas, both the Spring Mountains and Muddy Mountain Wilderness sites are being assigned in response to volunteers’ requests. Easily accessible sites are fully monitored in Clark County, allowing greater focus on these more remote locations.

**Task 6 – Plan and implement volunteer recognition initiatives and events.**

CSSP will join the Interagency Volunteer Program recognition event on Nevada Day, 2009. A traditional annual picnic for CSSP volunteers will also be held prior to Thanksgiving. Location for this event will be determined.

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

**Task 1 – Assign, monitor, supervise, and evaluate volunteer site stewards to protect cultural sites on public lands.**

The steady increase in volunteers has inspired greater reliance on Regional Coordinators. The coordinators are volunteers that assist managing stewards in each of the five regions. They also assist the program manager in class presentations, arranging site assignments and assisting with site introductions. They are an indispensable asset to the stewardship program, and help to enhance communication at all levels between stewards, the program manager and the agencies. They are frequently involved in response to site impacts that are time-sensitive. For example, the Regional Coordinators in Gold Butte
assisted in summoning a BLM ranger to halt the destruction of Joshua Trees by irresponsible campers. Other coordinators in Moapa summoned rangers upon discovering thieves burning sheathing off commercial copper wire on cultural sites in the Moapa Region.

**Task 2 – Report incidents to appropriate agencies.**

All incident reports have been submitted to the appropriate agencies. As shown below, impacts from October 1 through March 31 are compared by year. Reported impacts increased only 18% this year compared to an increase of 47% over the same period last year.

![Annual Site Impacts
Six Months through March](image)

Figure 2. Impacts measured annually through March.
A new Road Designation Plan in the Gold Butte/Arrow Canyon areas implemented in late fall of 2008 explains a positive 45% improvement in site impacts as reflected in the figures below:

GOLD BUTTE IMPACTS REPORTED OVER 6 MONTHS ENDING 3/31

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OHV</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VANDALISM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRAFFITI</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIVESTOCK</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIGN DAMAGE</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXCESSIVE TRASH</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLECTORS PILES</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Impacts</strong></td>
<td><strong>22</strong></td>
<td><strong>12</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Signage, barricades, and restoration of illegal trails appear to have had a substantial effect reducing negative impacts to cultural sites.

**Task 3 – Collect, maintain, and provide longitudinal statistics to federal land managing agencies and create and maintain a central database containing site steward and cultural site monitoring information and statistics from all five agencies.**

Information from CSSP is being given to agencies in their efforts to implement new surveys of site locations being monitored in Arrow Canyon, Paiute Valley, and Gold Butte. All site monitoring activities are kept in compliance with agency instructions and provided upon request.

**Project 3: Community Outreach and Education**

**Task 1 – Inform the community about the Cultural Site Stewardship Program and their opportunity to get personally involved in protecting public lands.**

On January 17, 2009, George Phillips gave a presentation to the Mojave Rock Art Workshop on the viability of site stewardship. The workshop was a three-day event with more than 25 attendees from around the southwest.

On January 21, 2009, Phillips conducted a power point presentation to BLM staff of approximately 75 in the Las Vegas field office. The purpose was to inform new BLM employees of CSSP activities and the effects of stewardship on land management.

**Task 2 – Educate the public about the need to protect cultural sites, increase public awareness of the significance and value of heritage resources, and educate the public about proper site etiquette in accordance with existing state and federal laws enacted for historical preservation.**
On February 7, 2009, Phillips conducted a two hour presentation to an interagency volunteer class at Red Rock, which was organized by BLM Ranger Kate Sorom. Sixteen people attended the class and four volunteered for CSSP stewardship.

In early January of 2009, the CSSP brochure was approved and 1000 copies were produced (see brochure attached). The brochure will enhance awareness of the stewardship program and will be distributed throughout Clark County in agency offices, libraries and relevant organizational outlets.

Submitted by:

Margaret N. Rees, Project Administrator

3/31/2009
ICSST MEETING AGENDA

March 12, 2009

UNLV

1. CSSP update
   Training on 1/24 – Las Vegas
   Training on 1/31 – Mesquite
   Total of 41 new stewards
   Next training – early fall

2. Brochure

3. SNAP sustainability meeting and results

3. Steward training ... recording

4. Sali

5. Annual Recognition event – November 7

6. Other

7. Next meeting date. Adjourn.
ICST MEETING MINUTES  
March 12, 2009  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Present:  
Kathleen Sprowl  
George Phillips  
Eva Jensen  
Ruth Lopez  
Kelly Turner  
AnnMarie Kmetz  
Elaine Holmes  
Laureen Perry  
Mark Boatwright  
Steve Daron  
Sali Underwood

9:50 Meeting began.

1. Minutes of meeting on January 20, 2009, approved. Phillips presented results of two stewardship training classes. On January 24, twenty-six volunteers participated at UNLV including 2 NPS rangers and 2 archaeologists. Another training was held a week later on January 31 at the Mesquite Community Center. Fifteen new stewards were trained specifically for Gold Butte area. Mark Boatwright assisted as archaeologist for both classes. Elaine Holmes assisted in the first class as Regional Coordinator and Linda and Al Faas assisted in the second class. The next training will occur in early fall.

2. The Cultural Site Stewardship (CSSP) brochure was finally approved by the Interagency Cultural Site Stewardship Team (ICSST) and the Southern Nevada Agency Partnership. Brief discussions followed of where and when the brochure will be displayed. New SNAP “Don’t Collect” brochures were handed out and eagerly received by the team.

3. Mark Boatwright introduced the discussion of CSSP sustainability. At a meeting held with the SNAP board on February 20, Steve, Laurie, Mark and George presented concerns and options considered by ICSST available to continue financing the stewardship program. The board agreed unanimously that due to the success achieved, the program should remain. Phillips reported that he could reduce costs up to 26% and possibly redirect existing funds without affecting the product. The SNAP board lent their support and suggested a band-aid approach to continue financing until more stable sources could be identified. The team will cut costs and scour related sources for funds in attempt to prolong the financing for another year. Phillips will research other avenues through UNLV and other options. Tami Lucero, acting SNAP Executive Director, mentioned she could look for unused funds from other programs. Kelly suggested seeking funds from USFS or Clark County. Steve mentioned we should all sit down with Peg Rees at PLI and modify the existing CESU Agreement to conserve remaining assets.

4. Steve introduced the possible establishment of a nation-wide context for Rock Art driven by Ron James of SHPO. The concept was welcomed by all members. Questions arose as to what level Native Americans were to be involved.

Mark said that a “down and dirty” documentation of sites in Warshield Canyon would take place beginning April 6. He said it should take about 3 weeks and his team would move to Paiute Valley. Both areas are monitored by CSSP stewards where information is sketchy. Mark will be using NRAF volunteers. George suggested that many CSSP stewards are trained by NRAF and could be contacted using CSSP resources to provide manpower. The activity would be outside
normal CSSP tasks but could provide team members with a known pool of experienced volunteers.

A general discussion of stimulus package funding for various projects arose. Ruth, Laurie and Kelly discussed the virtues of seeking stimulus package funding where volunteers are the primary labor source.

5. Sali asked that any changes to the CSSP Site Monitoring Report be communicated to her. The CSSP Site Monitoring was modified earlier to adapt to the new database begun in 2008. George agreed to notify her in the future

Sali introduced a concern that the CSSP “Site Introduction” e-mail sent to new stewards leaves some authorities uneasy in the northern part of the state. The wording, “… and I are pleased you’ve accepted the sites in [area]. We know you’ll enjoy them and we encourage you to search the site further. Much of our knowledge of these areas comes from stewards who genuinely enjoy exploring details of their sites.” The concern focused on exploring and was discussed by the team. It was agreed that the wording was acceptable. George mentioned that if any federal team member objected to the wording, he would change it.

6. The IVP team decided to conduct its annual recognition event on October 31, 2009. George will arrange for CSSP participation. The annual social picnic for CSSP will be held the following week, November 7. The location will be announced at the next ICSSP meeting.

7. The next meeting will be Thursday, June 4, at the USFS conference room in the Inter Agency building at 9:30 a.m.

11:30 Meeting Adjourned

George Phillips