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Clark County Cultural Site Stewardship Program: Final Project Report

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FINAL PROJECT REPORT

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

Cooperative Agreement Number H8R07010001
Task Agreement Number J8R07040007

May 31, 2007
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Cooperative Conservation: Increasing Capacity through Community Partnerships Cultural Site Stewardship Program was funded by the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act and implemented by the Public Lands Institute at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas on behalf of and in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service.
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND
CONCISE STATEMENT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Cooperative Conservation: Increasing Capacity through Community Partnerships – Cultural Site Stewardship Program is a Round 4 Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA)-funded project implemented by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Public Lands Institute on behalf of and in cooperation with four Federal agencies. This project resulted in the design, development, and implementation of an Interagency Cultural Site Stewardship Program. The program:

- Was recognized with Department of the Interior Cooperative Conservation Service Award (2007).

- Was modeled after the successful Arizona Site Steward Program developed and implemented with the following components:
  - recruitment activities
  - required classroom and field training and optional courses
  - recognition events
  - volunteer service totaling 10,929 hours by 288 Cultural Site Stewards and seven regional coordinators who identified, documented, and reported 94 significant impacts and 200 lesser impacts

- Developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) describing recruitment, training, recognition, and retention of volunteers, site steward operations, relevant laws, and a protocol for interfacing with law enforcement personnel.

- Conducted research on the viability of establishing a certificate program for cultural site stewards.

- Developed, distributed, and analyzed training program effectiveness survey.

- Designed, developed and implemented a hybrid relational database for the Cultural Site Stewardship Program.

- Built and maintained relationships with the public through:
  - outreach activities at community events
  - membership and participation in professional societies
  - multiple formal and informal presentations
  - timely response to inquiries through telephone, electronic, and mail correspondence
BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

Four Southern Nevada Federal land management agencies – Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) – manage more than seven million acres in Southern Nevada. Since 1999, these agencies have been working together to develop collaborative programs and projects that enhance services to the public, improve the stewardship of the Federal lands, and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of their management activities. The agencies formed interagency teams for key focus areas, one of which is the Interagency Cultural Site Stewardship Team (ICSST).

The ICSST (formerly known as Clark County Heritage Resource Team or CCoHRT) is a team of eight advisors. It comprises archaeologists from the four Federal agencies (BLM, NPS, USFS, and USFWS), the Bureau of Reclamation, the Lost City Museum and, as of 2006, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). One citizen representing volunteer site stewards serves as the eighth team member. Voting rights, however, are limited to the five Federal agency members. By charter definition, the ICSST is a group of Federal cultural resource managers in partnership with tribal, state, local and volunteer organizations to promote the preservation and documentation of cultural resource sites through the establishment and utilization of a cultural site stewardship program. The ICSST serves as the “steering committee” described within the original Conservation Initiative nomination and task agreement for this project.

Las Vegas has experienced explosive growth in the past 25 years, growing by 83.5% between 1990 and 2000.\(^1\) Such growth is leading to increased impact to public lands, but the growth also provides a larger pool of people from which to draw individuals to steward public land resources. In regard to cultural resources, many sensitive cultural sites in southern Nevada are being lost to vandalism and looting. Budget constraints on the individual Federal land management agencies have led to inadequate numbers of personnel to care for these precious sites. Thus, the agencies recognized that a volunteer-based, site-stewardship program is a potential solution to preserving Southern Nevada’s irreplaceable cultural legacy.

In 2004, the four Federal agencies co-nominated a project to support these joint efforts with Southern Nevada Public Land Management funding in the Conservation Initiatives category. After the Secretary of the Interior approved the nomination, the National Park Service – which serves as the Lead Agency on the project – entered into a Great Basin Cooperative Ecosystems Study Unit cooperative agreement with the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). UNLV’s Public Lands Institute administers this joint project and hired a Program Manager to work with the ICSST to implement it.

From this initiative, the Cultural Site Stewardship Program (CSSP) of Clark County was born. The objective of the CSSP is to join local community organizations, tribes, and cultural and natural resource specialists to recruit and train specialized volunteers to monitor and protect sensitive cultural and natural resources.

\(^1\)(2004) Justice & Democracy Forum on the Leading Social Indicators in Nevada, UNLV.
After site stewards are trained in the areas of cultural history, archaeology, procedures, law, and survival and safety, they use various methods (e.g., field notes, drawings, and photography) to document changes in cultural sites over time. Observations are reported to the CSSP Program Manager, who, in turn, compiles the reports for presentation to land agency representatives. Early detection of degradation and/or illegal activity at cultural sites is critical to preservation. In addition to providing a conservation service, participation in a specialized stewardship activity such as the CSSP is a unique opportunity for individual connection with and greater appreciation for Southern Nevada public lands. Individual site stewards can positively impact the community by imparting increased awareness of the importance of cultural artifacts to others and by encouraging respect for cultural diversity in the area.

The CSSP is modeled after the successful Arizona Site Steward Program (ASSP), which was established on June 5, 1986 by the Law Enforcement Subcommittee of the Governor’s Archaeology Advisory Commission (GAAC) of Arizona. ASSP is sponsored by the public land managers of Arizona and volunteer stewards are selected and trained by the Arizona SHPO and the GAAC. The Arizona State Parks is the agency in charge of coordination and training. CSSP is similar to ASSP the following areas:

- Organization
- Operations
- Roles of Site Stewards
- Training Procedures
- Manuals and Materials (general features, components, and organization)

Unlike ASSP, CSSP directs training through the approval of the ICSST. The ICCST provides oversight and guidance for the development of the CSSP and all related products. Because the Nevada SHPO is not a training entity in Clark County for site stewards, the administrative procedures vary slightly from those in Arizona and are approved by ICSST for reporting specific to Clark County sites. It should be noted that the CSSP also employs some training and procedural concepts borrowed from site stewardship programs in New Mexico, Colorado, and California. CSSP protocols for site introductions, evaluation of disturbed sites, and reporting methods are aligned to Federal guidelines applicable to Southern Nevada public lands.

**DETAILED ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

This project accomplished the formation and implementation of the CSSP, a volunteer-based program with the objective of monitoring sensitive cultural resources to aid Federal land management agencies in the preservation of these valuable resources.

**Products**

Bulleted items, indicated throughout this document with the ► symbol will be included in the 3-Year Cultural Site Stewardship Program Compilation Volumes, which will be delivered to the agencies on or before August 31, 2007.
Cultural Site Stewardship Program Awards

*Department of the Interior Cooperative Conservation Service Award*

The 64th Department Honor Awards Convocation was held on Wednesday, May 9, 2007 at the Sidney Yates Auditorium in the Main Interior Building, Washington D.C. The Program Manager and the ICSST members were present to receive the award from Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne.

*Nevada Rock Art Foundation*

The CSSP received an award recognizing significant contribution to the mission of the Nevada Rock Art Foundation. It was presented to the Public Lands Institute, UNLV by the Executive Director at its annual meeting in Boulder City, NV on April 28, 2007.

Cultural Site Stewardship Program Implementation

*Areas Served by the Cultural Site Stewardship Program*

Four areas were initially established for monitoring by cultural site stewards: Gold Butte, Moapa Valley, Las Vegas, and Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area. Regional Coordinators (see Regional Coordinators, below) and stewards were assigned to staff these areas throughout the project. In the third year of project implementation, Laughlin and Eldorado Valley—including sites along the Colorado River in the southernmost portion of Clark County—were identified as an additional area for CSSP activity. Two Regional Coordinators and 7 new stewards were assigned to these additional sites. However, fourteen more stewards are needed to cover the Laughlin area.

Through agency direction, the CSSP Program Manager developed a confidential list of 450 critical cultural resource sites and locations within the above geographic locations to be monitored in Clark County. Each site contains the UTM grid location. When a site is assigned, it also contains directions prepared in narrative form with sufficient detail for site stewards to find on subsequent visits. There are approximately 420 sites assigned and new sites are frequently submitted to land managers for monitoring consideration. A precise number of sites monitored is inexact. The BLM manages more than 80% of all sites and has assigned “areas” for monitoring but has chosen not to define sites. They are in the process of reorganizing this process so the number of sites will remain an estimate.

*Critical Site Monitoring by Cultural Site Stewards*

Volunteer monitoring totaling 10,929 hours of service has been accomplished under the CSSP by 288 site stewards and seven regional coordinators. It is interesting to note that the CSSP has increased its volunteer stewards since its inception. The table in Fig.1 on the next page illustrates the number of volunteer hours reported to each agency to date.
Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>BLM</th>
<th>NPS</th>
<th>USFS</th>
<th>USFWS*</th>
<th>BOR*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FYE Sept. 30, 2005</td>
<td>5,306**</td>
<td>199</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FYE Sept. 30, 2006</td>
<td>2,854</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YTD 2007</td>
<td>1,785</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Neither the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) nor the U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) had site stewards assigned in 2005. The USFWS had no archaeologist to oversee stewardship and had subsequently not been assigned stewards.
** Figures provided by the BLM for the latter half of 2004 were added to figures for 2005.

Fig. 1. Number of volunteer hours by agency since the program’s inception.

Fig. 2 below illustrates the steady growth of volunteer stewards in the program since its inception.

![Cultural Site Stewardship Growth](image)

Fig. 2. Growth of Cultural Site Steward Program in volunteer numbers and time.

**Site Monitoring Reports**

Site Monitoring Reports are submitted for each site visit. When impacts are reported, they are graded according to the severity of damages to the cultural site. Reports of major impacts include:

- Agency sign destruction
- ATV/OHV-related damage
- Bullet holes / graffiti
- Cattle-caused damage
- Collectors’ piles
- Digging/potting
- Fire pits in shelters
- Lightning fires
- Trash (excessive)
- Pernicious destruction
- Vandalism
- Visitation damage
- Water damage (natural)
- Witnessing illegal activity
The CSSP received 1,124 Site Monitoring Reports filed since December 4, 2004 showing that 119 sites were damaged. These reports include the following impact grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007 (YTD)</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1 - Severe impact</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 2 - Moderate impact</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 3 - Minimum impact</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-total</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 4 - No impact to site</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>454</td>
<td>1005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>391</td>
<td>494</td>
<td>1124</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 doubled each year partially due to an extension of the CSSP, combined with explosive population growth in Clark County. The number of serious impacts reported for each agency are shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>BLM</th>
<th>NPS</th>
<th>BOR</th>
<th>USFS</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>50</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007 (YTD)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>36</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For the most serious impacts, agency archaeologists and law enforcement personnel conduct formal investigations. Quarterly changes in severe impacts are illustrated in Fig. 3. on the next page. A pronounced decline in reported impacts for the third quarter of 2007 is probably due to intensified law enforcement patrolling in Gold Butte, a region that has borne 56% of all reported impacts in Clark County. Data for the 2007 fourth quarter is not yet available.
Cultural Site Steward Recruitment
Efficient recruitment targets populations likely to be interested in and beneficial to the CSSP. This population is likely to participate in activities or attend events focused on the Southern Nevada outdoor themes. Therefore, recruitment has targeted:

- Two Clark County hiking clubs
- Four off-road vehicle clubs
- Six avocational/enthusiast groups

Cultural Site Steward Training
Specialized training is essential to successful implementation of the CSSP. The Core Training Course and Field Site Introduction is mandatory for all site stewards and includes instruction on site steward procedures, reporting, safety, Federal land law, and law enforcement protocols. During the course of this project, eight Core Training Courses were held and 254 volunteers were introduced to cultural sites. Each volunteer receives the following materials during core training:

1. Cultural Site Stewardship Program Manual of Clark County
2. Cultural Site Stewardship Program Field Notebook
3. CD containing digital versions of the reporting forms in the training manual:
   a. Site Monitoring Form
   b. Site Impact Form
   c. Quarterly Service Log
   d. New Site Discovery Form
   e. Photographic Log
   f. Mileage Log
   g. Manual Note Sheet
h. Site Action Guidelines
i. Manual Note Sheet

4. Site Stewardship Identification Card

Additional important documents created by the CSSP Program Manager and unique to this program are the Site Questionnaire and the Site Introduction Checklist. The Site Questionnaire provides a structure for stewards to record specific site information in reference to the location, features, artifacts, and any unusual characteristics of the site. The Site Questionnaire is designed to guide site stewards to capture finer details about the assigned site in order to speak more knowledgably with agency representatives. The Site Introduction Checklist was created to ensure that initial site introduction procedures are consistent. At times when archaeologists are unavailable, the CSSP Program Manager or Regional Coordinators may conduct site introductions among new stewards while maintaining procedures for each that conform to ICSST requirements.

In addition to required classroom training, optional training classes are offered to Clark County Site Stewards. Topics of interest are submitted to CSSP Regional Coordinators, chosen by the coordinators in conjunction with the CSSP Program Manager and arranged through UNLV’s Public Lands Institute. Five optional training classes were conducted by Jim Watson, Ph.D., UNLV Anthropology Department and one class was offered by Eva Jensen, Archaeologist and Curator of the Lost City Museum:

8/13/05. Location: Sunset Park, Henderson.
Topic: “Basic GPS navigation.”
Time: 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
10 stewards attended.

8/24/05. Location: Mesquite Public Park, Mesquite NV.
Topic: “Basic GPS navigation.”
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
17 stewards attended.

10/26/06. Location: Sun City Anthem Community Center
Topic: “Paleoindians to the Pioneers: Southern Nevada Pre-History.”
Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
41 stewards attended.

3/1/06. Location: UNLV, Public Lands Institute.
Topic: “The Archaeological Record of Southern Nevada – Sites, Features, and Artifacts”
Time: 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
28 stewards attended.
7/15/06. Location: UNLV Campus, Wright Hall
Topic: “Understanding GPS Navigation”
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
18 stewards attended.

1/27/07 Location: Lost City Museum, Overton, NV.
Topic: “Southwest Pottery Workshop”
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
39 stewards attended.

► Cultural Site Stewardship Manual for Clark County and associated Core Course Materials
► Field Notebook and associated Field Site Introduction Course and Fieldwork Materials
► Optional Training Course List, Course Descriptions, and Syllabi

Regional Coordinators (Advanced Cultural Site Stewards)
An experienced site steward is assigned as the Regional Coordinator in each area. Regional Coordinators serve as liaisons for the CSSP. They work with the Program Manager and agency archaeologists to assist with classroom training and site introductions and help ensure site stewards are fully supported in the field. They are knowledgeable about sites in their area and may assist with the monitoring process and with communication between stewards and the Program Manager and/or archaeologists. They receive copies of stewards’ reports in their area and help facilitate administrative paperwork and site steward evaluations. Regional Coordinators conducted six meetings for planning and information exchange over the course of project implementation.

Cultural Site Steward Recognition
Recognition ceremonies honoring CSSP site stewards are held annually. Eighty eight site stewards were recognized at the first ceremony, which took place at the Valley of Fire, Nevada on Nov. 5, 2005. Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association donated funds for a barbeque lunch. Nevada Stewardship pins for 2005 were donated by the Nevada Archaeological Association and presented to site stewards in attendance. CSSP 2006 identification cards were given to each cultural site steward along with certificates of appreciation. In addition, three special achievement plaques and three framed honorable mention certificates of achievement were awarded. The CSSP supplied hiking bandanas as gifts to all site stewards present. Identification cards, pins, and bandanas with thank you letters were mailed to the remainder. Each agency representative publicly thanked the site stewards for their work.

The second annual recognition event was held on November 5, 2006, also at the Valley of Fire. The event, which included a barbeque, was attended by 79 cultural site stewards. Volunteers received site stewardship pins for 2006, which were donated by the Nevada Archaeological Association, 2007 site stewardship identification cards, certificates of appreciation, and hiking whistles purchased through CSSP. Two plaques for special achievement were awarded to two site stewards. A third plaque was presented to a Law Enforcement Ranger in Gold Butte for his assistance and support. Three framed certificates of achievement were awarded to outstanding
volunteers. Agency archaeologists and members of the ICSST thanked the stewards. Hosting supplies were funded by a gift from the Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association.

**Standard Operating Procedures**

Program Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) were drafted and agreed upon by all ICSST members. The SOP provides detailed, written instructions to achieve programmatic uniformity of events, but is dynamic in nature. Future reviews and updates are necessary in order to ensure compliance with agency policy and programs, and to maximize efficiency as changes occur. Specific topic areas covered within the SOP include:

- **Part I** Program Overview and Organization
- **Part II** Site Steward Recruitment, Training, Recognition, and Retention
- **Part III** Site Stewardship Operations:
  - Site Stewardship Activities Summary
  - Site Steward Identification Card
  - Geographical Areas and Site Assignments
  - Regional Coordinators
  - Field Safety
  - Communication
  - Processing Site Steward Reports for Federal Agencies
  - Database

Also included within the SOP is a document entitled, “Site Action Guidelines: A Protocol for Interfacing with Law Enforcement Personnel.” This document describes what actions should be taken and how to interface with law enforcement and cultural resource personnel if looted sites are found. The protocol is approved by members of ICSST, the Bureau of Land Management Chief Law Enforcement Ranger, and members of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. Copies are included in the Cultural Site Stewardship Training Manual for Clark County and in the Cultural Site Stewardship Field Manual for Clark County under “Site Action Guidelines.” This protocol was adopted by the Nevada Archaeological Association Site Stewardship Program used throughout Nevada.

► Manual: Cultural Site Stewardship Standard Operating Procedures

**Memberships, Public Outreach Efforts, Media, and Communications**

The CSSP Program Manager is an active member of the following community and state-wide organizations affiliated with cultural resource protection:

- Nevada Archaeological Association – (serves as ex-officio member of Board of Directors)
- Southern Nevada Rock Art Association – (serves as librarian)
- Nevada Rock Art Foundation
- Archaeo-Nevada Society
- Mojave Rock Art Workshop
- Friends of Gold Butte
Public outreach functions draw attention to the CSSP and influence community commitment to the preservation of cultural resources. The CSSP Program Manager promotes the program whenever possible and participated in the following public outreach and efforts:

1/07/05  Presentation to Southern Nevada Rock Art Association; 22 people present
1/21/05  Presentation to Nevada Archaeological Association in Overton, NV on the organization of site stewardship
3/10/05  Program Manager interviewed for an article in City Life Magazine on CSSP published in March, 2006 issue
4/16/05  Presentation on CSSP status to the Nevada Archaeological Association at annual meeting in Tonopah, NV
5/07/05  Hosted information booth at Archaeological and Historical Preservation Day at the Springs Preserve, Las Vegas, NV
6/22/05  Presentation to the Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Committee in Ely, NV on denigration of cultural sites in Gold Butte Area as reported by CSSP stewards
7/08/05  Presentation to Federal Land Managers Meeting in Las Vegas, NV on CSSP status
8/16/05  Presentation to Friends of Gold Butte in Mesquite, NV on data collected from cultural site stewards showing destruction in Gold Butte area
8/18/05  Photograph presentation to Southern Nevada Rock Art Association on impacted rock art sites in Clark County taken from cultural site steward photographs
10/14/05 Presentation to the Nevada Archaeological Association state-wide site stewardship meeting on positive effects of (CSSP) stewardship in Mesquite, NV
11/22/05 CSSP Manager was interviewed by UNLV Magazine on Sloan Cultural Site Stewardship for spring publication focusing on CSSP
1/20/06  Introduced CSSP to Southern Mojave District of the Resource Advisory Committee
1/21/06  Speech on CSSP status at State Site Stewards Coordinators Meeting for Nevada Archaeological Association held in Pahrump, NV
3/09/06  Presentation of CSSP operations and results at Boulder City Rotary Club; 50 people present
3/21/06  Photograph presentation to Friends of Gold Butte on off-road destruction in Gold Butte at Moapa Valley Tribal Plaza
3/09/06  CSSP Manager was interviewed for City Life Magazine with newly-appointed Nevada SHPO Site Steward Coordinator
3/23/06  CSSP forms, protocol and procedures presented to Nevada Archaeological Meeting of “Train the Trainers” at Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas
4/06/06  PowerPoint presentation on CSSP activities around the Boulder City area to Boulder City Men’s Club; 14 people present
4/08/06  CSSP training procedures presented to Nevada Archaeological Association Coordinators Meeting for consideration to be used for state-wide application
6/08/06  Spoke to 2 classes (65 students total) on care and protection of cultural sites
6/10/06  Presentation to annual meeting of Nevada Rock Art Foundation in Tonopah, NV on Clark County site stewards’ accomplishments
8/25/06  Meeting with Board of Directors of Citizens for Active Management regarding stewardship of Gypsum Cave and Great Unconformity
CSSP forms and reporting procedures presented to Nevada Archaeological Association meeting in Overton, NV. CSSP forms were formally adopted for state-wide use, distributed through SHPO Site Steward Coordinator.

Review Journal article on destruction in Red Rock Canyon NCA citing cultural site stewardship. This is an alert as a result of CSSP Cultural Site Steward monitoring reports in Boulder City, NV.

Main speaker for first meeting of year for Archaeo-Nevada Society; Presentation on CSSP evolution and results from stewardship

CSSP Manager gave presentation on Archaeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA) to Friends of Gold Butte

Program Manager interviewed by Desert Valley Times, Mesquite editor for article on CSSP participation in Gold Butte. Article altered previously contrary editorial attitude on stewardship in Gold Butte to supportive and pro-conservation position.

Presentation on ARPA (similar to presentation on 10/17/06) to Archeo-Nevada Society

CSSP power point presentation to Nevada Archaeological Association in Beatty, NV on training and growth of CSSP

Presented updated Gold Butte Site Stewardship data to update Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Committee in Las Vegas, NV

Presented program and form on how to conduct site introductions at annual Train the Trainers meeting at Nevada State Museum System and form was adopted by the NAA and SHPO for use state-wide

Presentations to State and National Organizations:

PowerPoint presentation on the development of CSSP to the Mojave Rock Art Workshop at University of Southern California’s Granite Mt. Research Center

Presentation of CSSP growth to Oasis Conference in Carson City, NV

Presentation to Arizona Archaeological Society in Cave Creek, AZ, on impacts of stewardship in Clark County, NV

Presentation on stewardship in wilderness to the National Carhart Wilderness Training out of Missoula, MT, held in Las Vegas for BLM Wilderness Rangers. Led tour for 45 wilderness rangers and Federal employees to Brownstone Canyon in Red Rock Canyon NCA

Program Manager led tour of Whitney-Hartman complex in Gold Butte, NV, for Deputy SHPO and new BLM State Archaeologist, local SHPO representative, and BLM Law Enforcement Ranger

By request of the agencies, cultural site stewards are to refer any media attention through the agency involved. Numerous articles have appeared in local new media as a result of CSSP observations. Key print articles have been preserved within a media packet.

General communication of program progress and accomplishments were communicated to the four Federal agencies through the submission of detailed quarterly reports.

► PowerPoint: Cultural Site Stewardship Program General Presentation
► Media Packet: Copies of key print articles featuring CSSP
Training Effectiveness Survey
During Fall 2006, the Public Lands Institute created and distributed a survey to site stewards in order to assess the effectiveness of CSSP training. The survey content was approved by the interagency team and submitted to UNLV’s Internal Review Board for compliance with human-subjects policies. Results and comments were compiled by ICSST member Elaine Holmes and were presented at the monthly team meeting on Nov. 14, 2006. The complete report is entitled, “Cultural Site Stewardship Training-Effectiveness.” Results, which indicated a very positive response, are summarized below:

- The instructor presented material clearly ................................................................. 100% agree
- The instructor was responsive to the questions during training .............................. 100% agree
- The training and field manuals are clear and easy to follow .................................. 96% agree
  4% neutral
- The classroom is conducive to learning ................................................................. 84% very effective
  12% effective
  4% no response
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the trainer ............................................................... 84% very effective
  12% effective
  4% no response
- The amount of content is appropriate for this class ................................................ 96% agree
  4% neutral
- The six-hour time allotment is appropriate for this class ........................................ 92% agree
  8% neutral
- The delivery methods in the class were effective to help me understand the cultural site stewardship ................................................................. 96% agree
  4% neutral
- Did the training session meet your level of experience? ............................................. 100% just right
- After receiving the training, how prepared did you feel to begin a general stewardship assignment? ................................................................. 48% very prepared
  52% prepared
- Overall, the training and site introduction were valuable to me ............................... 76% strongly agree
  24% agree

In addition to eliciting a very positive response to the training program, open-ended comments from volunteers included numerous requests for GPS classes as well as map and compass training. Other volunteers requested additional training in site documentation and photography, general archaeology, and geology.

► Report: Cultural Site Stewardship Training-Effectiveness
Cultural Site Steward Certificate Program
The CSSP Manager introduced and researched the possibility of developing a certificate program for cultural site stewards. The envisioned program would provide long-term benefits to cultural resources and immediate motivational benefits to site stewards themselves. Several programs were researched in Nevada, Colorado, and Utah. Sustainability of a certificate program relies on two points: overall funding and continued program support. The Colorado certification program, one of the longest running, dedicates its Assistant State Archaeologist to provide curriculum, training and administration of the 19-year-old program. The CSSP Program Manager summarized his findings to the ICSST on February 15, 2007. This summary is contained within a report entitled, “Viability of Establishing a Certificate Program for Cultural Site Stewards.” The team felt the program had considerable merit, but should be presented state-wide and should be offered to all citizens, not limited to cultural site stewards. Members of the ICSST voiced concern that the program exceeds the authorization and funding limits of the CSSP and voted to take no action at this time.

Report: Viability of Establishing a Certificate Program for Cultural Site Stewards

Hybrid Relational Database
In collaboration with the PLI Research Team, a hybrid 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 was 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 visits by site stewards accessible over a long period
- hours spent monitoring, training
- secure Web site reporting
- agency reports compiling numbers of volunteer hours and stewardship visits
- administrative documentation

When the newly designed and secured database is operational, 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 are being sought through Clark County’s Out of Agency funding source to enhance this system.
FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS

CSSP is an important mechanism by which SNAP can achieve its goals of community connection, resource protection, and science and research. Round 6 SNPLMA Conservation Initiatives funding has already been approved for the continuation of this project. The primary purpose of the Round 6 project is to continue the program with a focus on program expansion and steward retention. All actions taken to implement the Round 6 project should support the following goals established by the SNAP Interagency Cultural Site Stewardship Team (ICSST):

- Help protect cultural resources by increasing the public’s knowledge and appreciation of the fragile remains of the past and to reduce acts of intentional and accidental destruction.
- Preserve prehistoric and historic archaeological resources for the purposes of conservation, scientific study, and interpretation.
- Increase public awareness of the significance and value of heritage resources and the existing state and Federal laws enacted for historical preservation.
- Promote understanding, cooperation, and partnerships between the participating Federal agencies, Native Americans, and concerned citizens and to encourage respect and conservation of traditional lands and cultural resources.
- Discourage site vandalism and theft.

Specific objectives of the Round 6 Cultural Site Stewardship Program are to:

- Increase the number of at-risk cultural sites being monitored.
- Increase the number of trained cultural site steward volunteers to meet the needs of the agencies.
- Provide both mandatory and optional training workshops for site steward volunteers.
- Enlist site steward volunteers to participate in community outreach/public education projects.