

12-31-2005

Archaeological Research & Data Management, Lake Mead National Recreation Area and Parashant National Monument: Quarterly Progress Report, Period Ending December 31, 2005

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Rees, M. N. (2005). Archaeological Research & Data Management, Lake Mead National Recreation Area and Parashant National Monument: Quarterly Progress Report, Period Ending December 31, 2005. 1-2. Available at: https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/pli_lake_mead_archaeology/1

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QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

**University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Period Ending December 31, 2005**

**Cooperative Agreement Number H8R07010001
Task Agreement Number J8R07050012
Archaeological Research & Data Management,
Lake Mead National Recreation Area and Parashant National Monument**

Executive Summary

- 2005-2006 survey priorities established
- Completed 650 acres of survey at Lake Mead NRA and 700 acres of survey at Parashant National Monument
- Search for the project manager underway
- Hiring of crew member(s) 90% completed
- Preparations underway for the summer field school
- Presented a Fall 2005 brown bag lecture to the UNLV Anthropology Department about the upcoming project
- Presented paper on upcoming work at the Three Corners Conference, held October 15, 2005 at UNLV

Program Activities

Surveys and Assessments

Since the task agreement was awarded on October 1, 2005, the university's primary focus has been on establishing the 2005-2006 survey priorities and continuing archaeological field surveys, documenting archeological sites, and completing National Park Service ASMIS (Archeological Sites Management Information System) condition assessments at newly and previously recorded sites. From October 1 to December 31, 2005, some 650 acres were surveyed within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area and another 700 acres within the Parashant National Monument.

Lake Mead survey and site documentation projects include three archeological survey projects in high-priority areas in Arizona on the east side of Lake Mohave. A 555-acre parcel was surveyed at the "Desert Rose" development and one new archeological site and 19 isolated finds were recorded. A 75-acre survey was completed near Katherine Landing, for which archeological resources were found. Lastly, 20 acres were surveyed near Arizona Bay, for which no archeological resources were again found.

Parashant archeological projects include two survey and documentation projects in high priority areas, one fuels monitoring project, and one List of Classified Structures project. Twenty-one sites were recorded in Priority Area III of the Death Valley-Langs Run project area this fall. Some 700 acres of the Andrus Prescribed Burn Unit were surveyed, and three sites and four isolated finds were documented. Three archeological sites were flagged during fuels monitoring

on the Twin North Prescribed Burn unit. Four archeological sites were revisited and their structures photographed during a List of Classified Structures project conducted on the Shivwits Plateau.

Eleven ASMIS condition assessments were completed for Lake Mead sites, and twenty-four were completed for Parashant sites. Of the 11 assessments completed for Lake Mead, 10 were for previously recorded sites and one was for a newly recorded site. Of the Parashant assessments, seven were for previously recorded sites and 24 were for newly recorded sites. We have completed 14 assessments for previously recorded sites at Lake Mead and Parashant, meaning that we have completed 28% of our goal of revisiting 50 sites this year.

The Spiderman Rockshelters ARPA (Archeological Resources Protection Act) report is in its final draft, pending changes from National Park Service Law Enforcement. Sixty-five site records from Priority Areas I and II of the Death Valley-Langs Run project area at Parashant are in final form and will be sent to the Parashant office before the end of December 2005.

Hiring

We are actively working to fill the job positions needed for this project. The search for a project manager is underway. The position was first announced in summer 2005; after reviewing the applications received, the search committee agreed to postpone the interviews in the hopes of attracting better qualified candidates. We have agreed that the position will be re-posted early this coming spring, with the intent to fill the position by mid- or late-spring. The job search for the archaeological survey crew member(s) is also proceeding. Job interviews for this position were concluded December 6, 2005, and we are currently in the process of calling references for the top three candidates. We anticipate that a hiring decision will be made before the end of the month.

Field School

Preparations for the summer field school are underway. In the fall, Dr. Karen Harry traveled to the Shivwits Plateau with Steve Daron of NPS and John Herron of the Bureau of Land Management to begin locating an appropriate site location and to initiate preliminary preparations. Dr. Harry is currently working with Rosie Pepito of the NPS to initiate the Native American consultations as required by federal regulations.

Scholarly Activity

Finally, we have worked to publicize the upcoming research with the hopes of increasing student involvement and awareness of the project among archaeological professionals. To this end, Dr. Karen Harry presented a brown bag lecture to the UNLV Anthropology Department during Fall 2005, in which she described the work to be conducted and discussed ways that students might become involved. As a direct outcome of this lecture, two graduate students are developing research proposals for their M.A. theses based on data to be obtained from this project. Additionally, Dr. Harry also presented a paper on the upcoming research at the Three Corners Conference, held at UNLV on October 15, 2005. This professional conference was attended by students and professional archaeologists from the Nevada, Utah, California, and Arizona region.

Submitted by:

Margaret N. Rees, Project Administrator

December 31, 2005

Date