

12-31-2005

Cooperative Conservation: Increasing Capacity through Community Partnerships: Cultural Site Stewardship Program: Quarterly Progress Report, Period Ending December 31, 2005

Margaret N. Rees

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

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/pli_cultural_stewardship

 Part of the [Archaeological Anthropology Commons](#), [Civic and Community Engagement Commons](#), [Community-Based Learning Commons](#), [Cultural Resource Management and Policy Analysis Commons](#), and the [Historic Preservation and Conservation Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Rees, M. N. (2005). Cooperative Conservation: Increasing Capacity through Community Partnerships: Cultural Site Stewardship Program: Quarterly Progress Report, Period Ending December 31, 2005. 1-4.

Available at: https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/pli_cultural_stewardship/6

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Public Lands Institute at Digital Scholarship@UNLV. It has been accepted for inclusion in Cultural Site Stewardship Program by an authorized administrator of Digital Scholarship@UNLV. For more information, please contact digitalscholarship@unlv.edu.



QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

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

Cooperative Agreement Number H8R07010001

Task Agreement Number J8R07040007

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

Executive Summary

- Active stewards in the program now total 169, an increase of 497% since December 2004.
- 11 additional major cultural site impacts resulting in measurable damages reported this quarter. Four additional impacts with somewhat lesser significance also reported in the quarter. Total impacts since December 2004 total 36 major and 12 less significant.
- 2006 monitoring plan for Gold Butte implemented.
- Training class on Southern Nevada Pre-history presented to 41 site stewards.

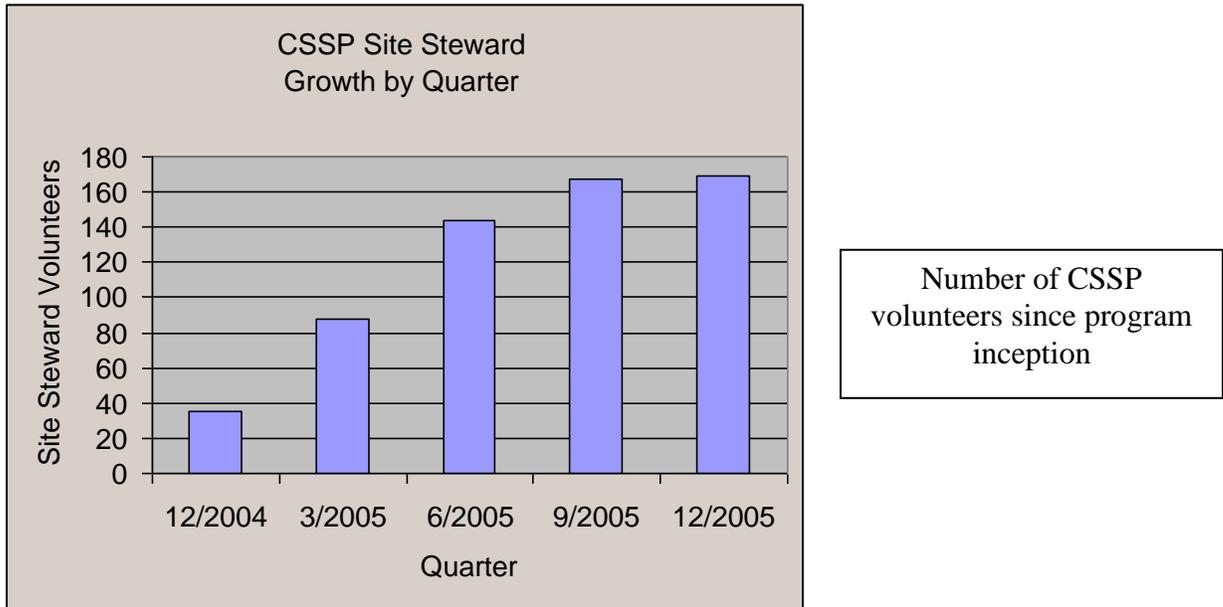
Collaboration with Interagency Team

During the past quarter, the seven-member Clark County Heritage Resources Team (CCoHRT) led by Steve Daron, Archaeologist for the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, met on November 29, 2005 (*see attached agenda*) to review the year's achievements and to plan for the coming year. Two members of the Interagency Volunteer Team, Callie Le'au Courtright and Nancy Bernard, were present to discuss incorporation of site steward volunteer data into the broader interagency volunteer database.

Dr. Allison Brody, Project Manager for the Environment Education Strategy, also attended the November meeting to invite the interagency team to the "Our Places Tell Stories" education conference to be held at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas on January 24, 2006. The CCoHRT team agreed to make presentations at the conference and conduct a 90-minute session on cultural heritage issues in Clark County.

Site Steward Recruitment

Of 178 Clark County site stewards currently listed in the Cultural Site Stewardship Program (CSSP) database, 169 were active this quarter. Recruitment and growth since formal inception of the program in December 2004 has been dynamic (a 497% increase in volunteers), as reflected in the table below:



Because of the growth in the program, the CCoHRT team will consider placing a cap in 2006 on the number of volunteers for Clark County to ensure quality control. The Arizona Site Steward Program is currently capped at 800 for the entire state.

Gold Butte Protection

As first reported in the CSSP quarterly report of June 30, 2005, impacts reported by Clark County site stewards were swiftly increasing in the Gold Butte area. The data alarmed members of the Bureau of Land Management Mojave South Resource Advisory Committee (RAC), which asked to tour approximately 350,000 acres affected. As a result, the following actions have occurred:

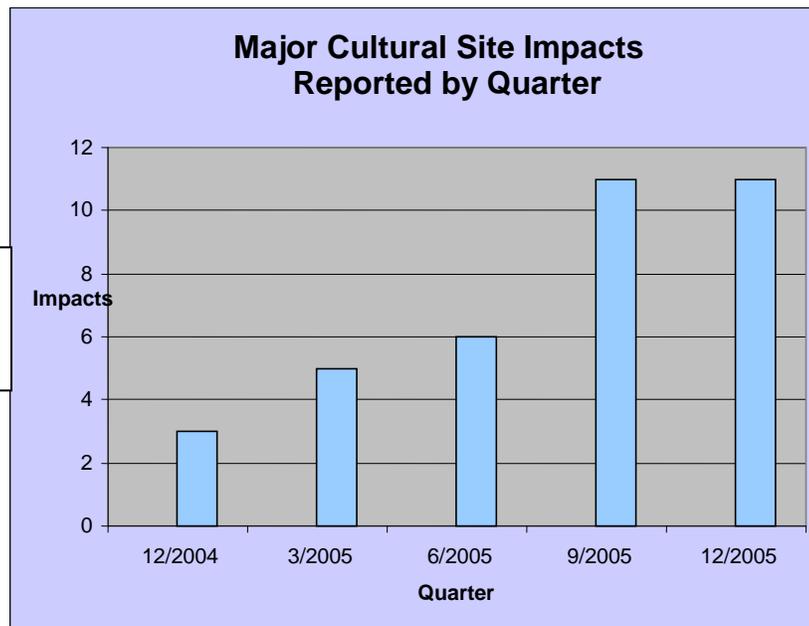
- On October 7, 2005, the Southern Nevada BLM office conducted a tour of the Gold Butte area. Nevada State Archaeologist Pat Barker, BLM Las Vegas Field Manager Juan Palma, BLM archaeologists, and members of the Resource Advisory Committee attended the tour and prepared comments for protection of cultural and natural resources. Juan Palma requested that the comments be submitted to him for review.
- From the RAC's comments and suggestions, Juan Palma subsequently assigned "first priority" concern to the Gold Butte area for 2006. Mr. Palma said he will recommend a plan to the U.S. Congress and will take interim action in the meantime to buffer impacts to cultural sites.

These significant and swift steps to protect the Gold Butte area are a direct result of data, action, and involvement of CSSP site stewards.

Monitoring Activities

Volunteer reports of significant cultural site impacts mirror the population pressure in Clark County. As shown in the table below, reported impacts are providing rich data to land managers. A total of 36 major cultural site impacts showing measurable damages have been reported to managers since program inception in December 2004. These damages include bullet holes in major petroglyph panels, graffiti, and potting. Not shown in the table below are 12 additional impacts of lesser significance that were also reported during this period. These included higher-than-usual visitor volume, fire pits, road deterioration, and very minor trash piles that did not directly affect cultural sites.

Reports of significant impacts to cultural sites by CSSP volunteers



Site Steward Training

No required training classes were presented during the fourth quarter. The next site steward training class scheduled for January 21, 2006, has exceeded expectations, with more than 35 enrolled participants to date (*see attached announcement*). A plan for additional 2006 training classes was approved by the CCoHRT Team at its November 2005 meeting. Future training classes will be held March 18, May 27, August 19, and October 21, 2006.

As noted in our last quarterly report, the university and the interagency team have also initiated optional training classes for site stewards, which are taught by Dr. Jim Watson, a UNLV bioarchaeologist. Three classes were presented in Fall 2005 to pique site stewards' interest and encourage continuing education. Volunteers were asked to choose topics of interest, from which classes have been designed for presentation. The latest class, "Paleo Indians to the Pioneers: Southern Nevada Pre-history," was held October 26, 2005 (*see attached invitation*) and drew 41 site stewards. High attendance and vigorous interest ensures classes will continue throughout 2006, with new sessions currently scheduled for February 22 and April 19, 2006.

Site Steward Recognition

The first annual recognition picnic for Clark County site stewards was held November 5, 2005, at the Valley of Fire State Park. The UNLV Public Lands Institute planned the event and all CCoHRT members assisted with a barbeque and award presentations. Food was donated by the Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association. Three site stewards received framed award certificates, and three CSSP volunteer coordinators were awarded plaques. The Ting-Perkins Award for non-professionals in the field of archaeology was presented to CCoHRT members Jack and Elaine Holmes by Steve Daron, President of the Nevada Archaeological Association (NAA). Eighty stewards attended the picnic and received a stewardship pin provided by the NAA, a hiking bandana, and a certificate of appreciation. Copies of the invitation, program, certificate, and photos from the event are attached.

Public Relations, Outreach, and Partnerships

A statewide site steward coordinator's meeting sponsored by the NAA was held on October 14, 2005. George Phillips and the CSSP site coordinators presented the positive growth and effects of site stewardship in Clark County. Organizational difficulties facing other Nevada counties occupied much of the NAA board's discussion.

On November 9, 2005, George Phillips presented a program to the Arizona Archaeological Society in Cave Creek, Arizona, on the growth of stewardship relating to rock art in Clark County. More than eighty members attended.

The Friends of Gold Butte met on November 15, 2005, at which time George Phillips informed the group of BLM's plans to protect Gold Butte. The meeting was attended by representatives of Friends of Nevada Wilderness, the Acting Chief BLM Law Enforcement Officer, officers from Partners in Conservation, and numerous interested citizens.

On November 22, 2005, George Phillips was interviewed for an upcoming article on the Cultural Site Stewardship Program for publication in the Spring 2006 issue of *UNLV Magazine*. Photos to accompany the article were taken at Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area.

Submitted by:

Margaret N. Rees, Principal Investigator

December 31, 2005