

3-31-2007

## Archaeological Inventory, Site Assessment, and Data Management, Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LMNRA) and Parashant National Monument (PARA): Quarterly Progress Report, Period Ending March 31, 2007

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### Repository Citation

Rees, M. N. (2007). Archaeological Inventory, Site Assessment, and Data Management, Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LMNRA) and Parashant National Monument (PARA): Quarterly Progress Report, Period Ending March 31, 2007. 1-10.

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## **QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT**

**University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Period Ending March 31, 2007**

**Cooperative Agreement Number H8R07060001**

**Task Agreement Number J8R07060013**

**Archaeological Inventory, Site Assessment, and Data Management, Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LMNRA) and Parashant National Monument (PARA)**

### **Executive Summary**

- Monitored 142 features at the historic townsite of Saint Thomas
- Front page for Lake Mead's "History and Culture" web site posted, Boulder Beach and Lake Mohave historic sketches under technical review by LMNRA
- Testing proposal and class I inventory for site 26Ck4943 complete
- Conducted 24 site condition assessments at Lake Mead NRA, 40 sites identified for condition assessments at PARA
- Reviewed over 300 site records on PARA for settlement pattern study
- Completed 600 acres for SNPLMA Capital Improvement Project
- Completed 470 acres of inventory and recorded 20 prehistoric sites for Lost City Project
- PLI archaeological crew attended a special submerged archaeological resources law enforcement training course sponsored by LMNRA

### **Summary of Attachments**

- Task Agreement Progress Report, Year 1 (10/01/2006-09/30/2007)
- Updated Saint Thomas map, March 2007 (electronic only)

### **Program Activities**

#### Preserve America Project 1A: Saint Thomas

Fieldwork at Saint Thomas was conducted by a joint PLI-NPS archaeological crew in January under the direction of PLI Field Supervisor Leah Bonstead (deliverable deadline: February 2, 2007). Over the course of this fieldwork, condition assessments were conducted on 142 previously recorded features using a monitoring form developed this past fall under the task agreement. This monitoring form proved sufficient for long-term use at the site with only minor modification. Detailed scale maps, written narratives and photographs were obtained for 10 previously recorded features (deliverable deadline: March 1, 2007). GPS locations for approximately 1,400 tree stumps that once lined the main streets were also obtained (deliverable deadline: March 1, 2007). In addition, 17 other features were discovered and cursorily documented.

Laboratory work is currently focused on organizing the large quantity of data obtained in January and integrating it with existing site records. Also, both PLI and NPS personnel are in the process of creating a number of GIS-based site maps that integrate documented cultural features with various digitized environmental layers (e.g., vegetation, substrate, elevation and topography, shoreline recession) available from NPS. An updated map of Saint Thomas that includes 128 features and 1,400 tree stumps is attached to this quarterly report.

#### Preserve American Project 1B: Lake Mead Website Cultural Resource Information Review and Update

Updating the Lake Mead NRA cultural resource web information has been spear-headed by PLI Research Assistant Elizabeth (Lisa) Gioia-Acres, in conjunction with Park Archaeologist Steve Daron and Visual Arts Specialist Leslie Paige, among others. The cover page for Lake Mead's "History and Culture" web site, organized and written by Lisa, is available on-line (<http://www.nps.gov/lame/historyculture/index.htm>). The web information for Boulder Basin is currently going through final technical review by Park personnel, although several paragraphs are posted under the above link (click on *places*). Historic research for Lake Mohave is complete and the prepared text, along with pertinent graphics, has been provided to NPS ATR, Steve Daron (deliverable deadline: March 15, 2007). Over the next quarter, this web page will also undergo NPS content and technical review.

#### Preserve America Project 1C: Evaluation of Site 26Ck4943

A Class I inventory report that documents the current condition of site 26Ck4943 (site condition assessment), reviews previous archaeological work (file search) and ethnographic information (literature review), as well as a proposed subsurface test excavation strategy, was submitted to Park Archaeologist Steve Daron (delivered as scheduled by January 15, 2007). Currently, this report is undergoing minor modifications, based on consultations between PLI Program Director, Dr. Greg Haynes, and Mr. Daron. Revisions will be submitted by March 31, 2007.

Before subsurface test excavations can take place at site 26Ck4943, consultations with Native American tribal organizations and the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office need to be finalized. Under the current archeological task agreement, these consultations are scheduled for completion by March 30, 2007. However, this deadline will not be met. This is because other priorities delayed the Park's review of the Class I inventory report and because upcoming fire management inventories in Andrus Canyon (see below, Project 3) now need to be completed by early summer, rather than by fall. In terms of consultation, it is the responsibility of the federal agency to initiate and oversee consultation with other agencies, while PLI archaeologists provide support and assistance, as needed. Discussions regarding the timely completion of this project between PLI Program Director, Dr. Greg Haynes, and NPS ATR Mr. Steve Daron, have taken place. At the present time, Native American and SHPO consultations will occur in the upcoming quarter and test excavations will commence once summer temperatures along the lower Colorado River moderate.

#### Project 2: Site Condition Assessments

Twenty-four site condition assessments have been completed by PLI archaeologists on Lake Mead NRA so far this quarter. Four other condition assessments are scheduled for completion by the end of March. Most of this work has been overseen by PLI Research Assistant Elizabeth Roycraft. Another 40 sites on PARA have been identified for condition assessments by PLI

Research Assistant Steph Velasquez. Site condition assessments on PARA will be completed in conjunction with other project work scheduled for the Shivwits Plateau this spring and summer.

### Project 3: Fire Management Projects

The fire management program at Lake Mead NRA initially scheduled hazardous fuel/vegetation reduction treatments in the Andrus Canyon area of PARA for the spring of 2008 (Task Agreement p. 24). However, the fire program has since moved these treatments forward to the summer of 2007. This means that archaeological survey will have to commence as soon as access can be obtained into the parcel. A pre-inventory field trip and interdisciplinary planning meeting is scheduled for late March and, if appropriate, archaeological fieldwork will begin on the Shivwits Plateau in early April. Fortunately, 2,000 acres have already been inventoried, so completing the other 3,500 acres to meet the current deadline should be possible. Park Archaeologist and NPS ATR Steve Daron, along with PLI archaeologists, have been involved in on-going discussions with both the BLM and NPS fire management officers; Mr. Daron fully supports the shift in archaeological work priorities in order to support scheduled fuel reduction goals.

### Project 4A: UNLV Archaeological Field School on the Shivwits Plateau

PLI Principal Investigator for Lake Mead NRA archaeological task agreements, Dr. Karen Harry, continues to prepare for the 2007 summer archaeological field school. The course will be held from June 4 to July 6, and excavations will continue at Lava Ridge Ruin (AZ A:14:50). Dr. Harry recently obtained a research infrastructure award from UNLV for \$57,354 and these monies will be used to purchase field-going vehicles and other necessary equipment. A variety of analyses continue on data obtained from the 2006 field school at Lava Ridge and the lithic and ceramic analyses are almost complete. Information about this year's field school is available on the anthropology department's website (<http://anthro-ets.unlv.edu/summer2007fieldschool.html>).

### Project 4B: Settlement Pattern Study

Graduate student Ms. Glendee Ane Osborne is currently working on this project, under Dr. Karen Harry, for her M.A. thesis in anthropology. The size of her study area is approximately 125 by 80 km in size and includes much of the Shivwits Plateau. Ms. Osborne has made a number of trips to the Lake Mead NRA cultural resource offices in Boulder City and to the BLM cultural resource offices in Saint George to obtain relevant inventory reports and site documents. Currently, Ms. Osborne has collected nearly 400 site records for an area that covers 12 USGS topographic quadrangles. In addition, with the help of PLI archaeologists, definitions for 15 different site type categories, as well as strategies for identifying the temporal affiliation for all prehistoric sites, has been developed.

### Project 5: SNPLMA Capital Improvement Projects

While three inventory locations covering approximately 900 acres were initially identified for this project, only two were surveyed by the PLI archaeological crew. Inventory at Stewart's Point, a high-use recreational shoreline once submerged beneath Lake Mead, covered approximately 420 acres; no archaeological sites were discovered. The other inventory, covering 180 acres, was located near Boy Scout Canyon, along the boundary of LMNRA with Boulder City. Only two archaeological sites were recorded during this particular inventory. Archaeological reports that present the results of this fieldwork are currently being written by PLI research assistants. (The

deliverable deadline for at least 500 acres of inventory was met as scheduled before March 30, 2007).

#### Project 6: Lost City Project and Inventory

A total of 470 acres have been surveyed for the Lost City Project along the lower Muddy River, near Overton, Nevada. This includes 130 *submerged* and 340 *terrestrial* acres. Of these acres, 250 were surveyed in one continuous parcel on the west side of the Muddy River, 35 were surveyed on top of Mormon Mesa, and the other 185 were surveyed in two discontinuous parcels on the east side of the Muddy River. A total of 19 prehistoric sites and 13 isolated finds were recorded. Of these sites, four were prehistoric lithic scatters, four were mixed artifact scatters, and 11 were Anasazi habitation sites, including two c-shaped pueblos. Survey and site documents, including GIS spatial data, are currently being organized in the laboratory and entered into the NPS ASMIS database. (The deliverable deadline for at least 400 acres of inventory acres was met as scheduled before April 15, 2007).

#### Project 7: BLM Andrus Burn Unit

The BLM has identified a 900 acre parcel for archaeological inventory on PARA lands, just north of the NPS-BLM boundary. This parcel is contiguous with on-going inventories on NPS lands in the same general area (Project 3, above). Inventory reports that present the results of previous archaeological investigations, along with known cultural resources, have been obtained by PLI Research Assistant Steph Velasquez from the BLM PARA Archaeologist, John Herron. In addition, Ms. Velasquez has been working in conjunction with BLM fuels personnel for upcoming fieldwork on the Shivwits, in general, and in the Andrus Canyon burn unit, specifically. This includes a field visit to the proposed burn unit and an interdisciplinary fuels management meeting scheduled for late March.

### **Personnel and Hiring**

A number of changes have taken place on the PLI-NPS archaeological crew during this quarter. Ms. Lynn Geoghegan, hired as a one-year archaeological technician, resigned to pursue a career in education. In order to fill this position, Ms. Erin Burrows, who recently graduated from UNLV with a Bachelor's degree in anthropology, was hired February 1. Ms. Elizabeth (Lisa) Gioia-Acres, who has worked as a full-time research assistant, was reduced to half-time employment through the end of the 2006-2007 academic year, to devote more time to her graduate program in history. Finally, PLI hired Ms. Andi del Gatto, a former employee, from January 1 to February 28. Ms. del Gatto conducted a number of laboratory and curatorial based tasks and a summary of her activities are presented below.

The PLI archaeological crew has been host to three NPS volunteers. Mr. Andres Diaz, a volunteer with the federal Student Conservation Association, has been conducting field and laboratory work with PLI and NPS archaeologists since the fall. Mr. Diaz's support—free of charge to PLI—has been an invaluable asset to our program over the past six months. Another short-term NPS volunteer, Mr. Bob Bonstead, worked with the joint PLI-NPS crew in January monitoring the historic townsite of Saint Thomas. Finally, a long-term NPS volunteer, Mrs. Marcia Maier, who lives at Lake Mead during the winter, continues to work in the laboratory organizing several hundred historic black-and-white photographs and creating a searchable database for their use.

## **Other Activities**

Ms. Andi del Gatto was hired on a short-term basis to assist PLI research assistants and NPS cultural resources personnel on tasks associated with the curation of documents, photographs and artifacts. One of the more important accomplishments was the development of a Preventative Conservation Plan for the Park's curation facility. This protocol, developed under the direction of Cultural Resource Branch Chief, Ms. Rosie Pepito, provides a framework for consistent care of records and objects at the Park's curation facility. Ms. del Gatto also updated Lake Mead's ANCS+ database (Automated National Catalog System for museum collections), inputting recently issued accession numbers and catalog numbers and adding descriptive information for archived objects. Other tasks include preparing artifacts for long-term storage, identifying objects and records throughout LMNRA that need to be placed in the curation facility, and archiving restored nitrate photographs. She also prepared loan documents for objects scheduled to leave the curation facility.

As a result of lowered lake-levels, a portion of the Overton Marina was transported to Calville Bay. In order to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the PLI archaeological crew at LMNRA was asked to conduct a 120-acre emergency inventory on land adjacent to the proposed location of the marina. This inventory was conducted in early February and no archaeological sites were encountered.

Emergency condition assessments at two rock art sites also took place this quarter. At the request of Park Archaeologist Steve Daron, the Jumbo Wash rock art site, located just south of the Willow Beach Developed Area, was re-documented. This fieldwork took place because the area around the site is experiencing increased recreational activities as a result of lowered river levels. Initially documented in 1980, a total of 13 previously identified and 13 newly discovered rock art panels were recorded. Another condition assessment took place at a large rock art site in Petroglyph Wash. NPS personnel had reported damage to one of the many petroglyph panels at this site. Fieldwork included a damage assessment of the vandalized panel. Also, 109 rock art panels were visited to ensure that no other damage had occurred and each of the panels were photographed for future reference.

As a result of long-term, on-going lake recession at the NRA, a variety of cultural resources are becoming more easy to access by the general public. This includes not only archaeological sites on land (e.g., Lost City, Jumbo Wash rock art), but just as importantly submerged resources that are now accessible to recreational scuba divers (e.g., submerged military aircraft, the Hoover Dam Aggregation Plant). In order to prepare NPS law enforcement officers for potential violations of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act in lacustrine settings, a Submerged Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) law enforcement training course was sponsored by NPS at Lake Mead. Because the prosecutions of ARPA cases integrally involve both law enforcement personnel and archaeologists, NPS cultural resources personnel and PLI archaeologists (Leah Bonstead, Steph Velasquez, Liz Roycraft, Greg Haynes) attended this unique and specialized four-day training session.

## **Scholarly Activity**

Ms. Leah Bonstead gave two public presentations this past quarter. The first presentation was at the Submerged Archaeological Resources Protection Act law enforcement training course. Here, she discussed the kinds of archaeological resources present on the NRA, including both

submerged and terrestrial resources. The second presentation took place at the Arizona Northwestern Regional Site Stewards workshop in St. George, Utah, and was conducted jointly with Park Archaeologist Steve Daron. This presentation was focused entirely on archaeological resources present on the Arizona Strip (Northwest Arizona) and the archaeological work currently being conducted by PLI and NPS on Parashant National Monument.

Ms. Lisa Gioia-Acres continues to make progress towards a Masters degree at UNLV in history. She is currently taking a colloquium in American Western History (History 726). Her research was successfully reviewed by the university's Protection of Research Subjects Institutional Review Board, in order to publish information obtained from informant interviews. Along these same lines, Ms. Gioia-Acres also applied for a \$1000 grant to cover transcription costs for oral interviews.

Ms. Steph Velasquez will attend the NPS Geographic Information Systems Specialist training, scheduled for the last week of March. Lake Mead NRA is covering the cost for tuition and travel. This training is essential—and identified in Ms. Velasquez's 2007 professional development plan—because she continues to play a key role in organizing and managing most of the cultural resources spatial data obtained by the PLI archaeological field crew.

Dr. Greg Haynes led two field trips out to Lost City. The first trip was to show how Lake Mead has affected archaeological sites across this large prehistoric complex with a member of the NPS Submerged Cultural Resources Team. The second trip was to showcase this year's fieldwork to various Park employees, including Park Archaeologist/ATR Steve Daron, as well as Lost City Archaeologist, Eva Jensen. In addition, Dr. Karen Harry and Dr. Greg Haynes gave a presentation to Bureau of Reclamation archaeologists that high-lighted the results on-going PLI research at Lost City.

### **Unpublished Archaeological Resources Reports**

Bonstead, Leah.

*Archaeological Survey Southeast of Boulder City, Boyscout Canyon Area, Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LAME). Archaeological Clearance Survey Form, Lake Mead Cultural Resources Project Numbers 05-007, 05-032, 07-027; WACC Project Number LAME 2004 L. Draft report on file, Cultural Resources Office, LAME, Boulder City, Nevada. (23 pages)*

Haynes, Gregory M.

*A Class I Overview and Testing Plan for the Christmas Tree Bend Site (Site No. 26Ck4943). Lake Mead Cultural Resources Project Number 07-006; WACC Project Number LAME 2006 F. Draft report on file at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Boulder City, Nevada. (21 pages)*

Roycraft, Elizabeth.

*Stewart's Point Low Water Survey, Lake Mead Capital Improvements Project. Archaeological Clearance Survey Form. Lake Mead Cultural Resources Project No. 07-015; WACC Project Number LAME 2007 B. Draft report on file, Cultural Resources Office, LAME, Boulder City, Nevada. (10 pages)*

Memorandum: Cottonwood Rock Art Documentation. Lake Mead Cultural Resources Project No. 06-033. Memorandum on file at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Boulder City, Nevada. (14 pages)

Memorandum: Harry Reid Center Records Search. Lake Mead Cultural Resources Project No. 06-046. Memorandum on file at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Boulder City, Nevada. (2 pages)

Submitted by:



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Margaret N. Rees, Principal Investigator

03/31/2007

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Date

# **Attachments**

**Table 1. Task Agreement Progress Report, Year 1 (10/01/2006 - 09/30/2007)**

	<u>Scheduled Deadline</u>	<u>Date Completed</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<i>Project 1A (Saint Thomas)</i>			
1. Compile/organize site data	11/30/2006	11/30/2006	
2. Design feature assessment form	11/30/2006	11/30/2006	
3. Monitor features using form	02/02/2007	01/24/2007	
4. GPS tree stumps, add to map	03/01/2007	01/24/2007	map complete (attached)
5. Document 10 features	03/01/2007	01/24/2007	
6. GIS-based site map	05/18/2007		in progress
<i>Project 1B (LAME Website Review &amp; Update)</i>			
1. Web page format	10/27/2006	10/27/2006	“History & Culture” front page posted
2. Outline for historic periods	10/27/2006	10/27/2006	
3. Boulder Basin history web page	12/15/2006	12/15/2006	undergoing final technical review
4. Lake Mohave history web page	03/15/2007	03/15/2007	undergoing text/technical review
<i>Project 1C (Site 26Ck4943)</i>			
1. Site condition assessment	11/17/2006	10/09/2006	
2. Class I inventory report	01/15/2007	01/15/2007	
3. Consultation	03/30/2007	unknown	scheduled for April-June (see above)
4. Fieldwork	04/27/2007		scheduled for fall (see above)
5. Draft report	09/30/2007		scheduled for completion in Year 2
<i>Project 2 (Condition Assessments)</i>			
1. 30 condition assessments, LAME	09/30/2007		24 assessments complete
2. 30 condition assessments, PARA	09/30/2007		40 sites selected for assessment
3. 60 assessments in ASMIS	09/30/2007		24 LAME sites inputted into ASMIS
4. 800 site records, ASMIS review	09/30/2007	12/30/2006	800 site records reviewed in ASMIS

**Table 1. Task Agreement Progress Report, Year 1 (Continued)**

	<u>Scheduled Deadline</u>	<u>Date Completed</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<i>Project 3A (Fire Management Projects)</i>			
1. Class I Inventory Report	04/30/2007		fieldwork scheduled for April
2. Fieldwork	09/15/2007		
<i>Project 4A (Shivwits Field School)</i>			
1. Fieldwork	07/27/2007	07/06/2007	field Course Dates: June 5-July 6
<i>Project 4B (Settlement Pattern Study)</i>			
1A. Compilation of GIS database	05/31/2007		ca. 400 site records obtained
1B. Pilot database	05/31/2007		
<i>Project 5 (Capital Improvement Projects)</i>			
1. Class I inventory Report	12/01/2006	12/01/2006	600 acres surveyed, 2 sites recorded site forms, reports nearly complete
2. Class III inventory fieldwork	03/30/2007	02/21/2007	
3. Site forms, draft report	06/01/2007		
4. Final report	09/15/2007		
<i>Project 6 (Lost City Survey)</i>			
1. Class I Inventory Report	12/15/2006	12/22/2006	ATR approved late deliverable date 470 acres surveyed, 19 sites recorded 9 site documents complete
2. Class III inventory fieldwork	04/15/2007	01/26/2007	
3. Draft report, site forms	06/15/2007		
4. Final report	09/15/2007		
<i>Project 7 (PARA Fire Management Projects)</i>			
1. Class I Inventory Report	04/30/2007		Previous reports/documents obtained
2. Class III Inventory fieldwork	09/15/2007		