
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
Available at: https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/pli_cultural_stewardship/14

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.
Executive Summary

- The Cultural Site Stewardship Program has enrolled 352 site stewards, an increase of 30% over March 31, 2007.
- Two classes were held in 2008 adding 29 new volunteer stewards.
- Site stewards reported 38 significant site impacts 2008 YTD compared to 31 during the same period in 2007.

Summary of Attachments

- ICSST meeting agenda and notes.
- Train the Trainers agenda.

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

Task 1 - Site Stewardship Database

Maintenance of the Volgistics web-based system continues as the new relational system evolves. The new relational database is almost fully operative as reports and querying functions undergo adjustments and fine tuning. The new database is scheduled to be 100% complete by June 1, 2008. The new database system is being observed by other Nevada counties in consideration for use as statewide stewardship expands. There are about 500 site stewards throughout the state, 350 of whom are in Clark County.

Hours are updated daily as the new system allows CSSP to abandon the “Quarterly Log” from which most hours were recorded. The Quarterly Log has traditionally been a mechanism for
each steward to submit his/her volunteer hours donated over the past three months to be compiled and submitted at the end of each quarter. However, the new database system allocates these hours immediately as Site Monitoring Reports are received electronically. Countless hours are saved by CSSP not needing to acquire and compile completed logs manually.

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

Phillips attended the Mojave Rock Art Workshop annual meeting at the University of California’s Granite Research Station in the East Mojave Desert to discuss interpretation of rock art in the Southwest. Phillips continues to participate in local meetings with the Archaeo-Nevada Society, the Friends of Gold Butte, the Friends of Sloan, and the Southern Nevada Rock Art Association. Announcements are made at each organizational meeting on behalf of the CSSP recruitment process.

The number of volunteer stewards increased by 29 this quarter; this represents growth of 30% over March 2007. A training class was held on January 26 with 21 volunteers, two of which were re-visiting the class for updates. A class on February 16 was held in Pahrump, Nevada, to encourage stewardship development for Nye County. George Phillips assisted teaching the class which was sponsored by the State Historical Preservation Office. Of the 13 volunteers, 10 became stewards for the CSSP in Clark County but may be assigned sites in Nye County where needed.

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

Growth of the CSSP volunteers has been steady as shown in Figure 1 below.

![Stewardship Growth by Quarter](image)

Fig. 1 shows growth in the number of stewards each year in the quarter ending March 31.
A “Train the Trainers” session was conducted in Tonopah, Nevada on March 12 and 13 (agenda attached) to coordinate continuity of training standards with the State Historical Preservation Office. The Nevada Archaeological Site Stewardship Program adopted site introduction forms and procedures created by the CSSP. Additional agenda items focused on tweaking the “Archaeological Laws” portion of the classroom presentation to new volunteers and a discussion on which safety items merit emphasis. This was followed by a review of risk assessment procedures being introduced by the BLM in northern Nevada.

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

A UNLV anthropology student, Sara Cox Hill, will be conducting optional information classes for site stewards. Sara is a PhD. candidate in archaeology who will continue offering classes requested by stewards. This has been a highly successful method of retaining stewards’ interest. Classes in April will focus on GPS Navigation, the most frequently requested class.

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

An annual questionnaire will be produced and distributed during summer. The questionnaire and summary results will be presented in the September 30 Quarterly Progress Report.

The CSSP Standard Operating Procedures training manual is regularly renewed and updated. The updates are provided to ICSST members and copies of the manual are provided at least once each year and whenever needed. GroveSite has been updated with the newest editions of the training manual.

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

The annual Recognition Event for CSSP will be held with the Interagency Volunteer Program, and planning is in the formative stages. Plans are being prepared and will be presented to the ICSST during the May 20 team meeting. Phillips will meet with the SNAP Interagency Volunteer Program Team to coordinate the event, which will occur in late October. CSSP, with the ICSST, is also planning other get-togethers out of doors for CSSP volunteers.

**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.**

All available site stewards have been assigned and introduced to sites. Six new stewards are out of the area but will be introduced to sites upon their return. A site introduction procedure was created by CSSP to ensure standards for introducing stewards are consistent. This procedure was adopted by SHPO’s site stewardship coordinator, Sali Underwood. Evaluations of stewards are
informally completed and vary according to the conditions allowing site visitation (heat, snow, etc.). Frequent and interactive communication among the Program Manager, Regional Coordinator, and the Site Steward ensures project oversight and coordination. Site stewards frequently consult with the ICSST members, who are available daily.

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

Site stewards submit monitoring reports for each monitoring visit. Reports are prepared for the land managing agency as required or requested. Impact trends are determined and submitted to ICSST members at least quarterly.

Significant impacts during this quarter included human-caused damages – trashing sites, graffiti, and potting – as well as damage from natural causes. Reports of damage for this quarter include the following:

- Illegal collection of lithics
- Graffiti and digging at cave entrance
- OHV damage to middens
- Numerous ATV incursions
- Illegal fire rings and pits on cultural sites
- Post and cable barriers torn down
- Illegal removal of artifacts (medicine bottles and cans)
- Fence torn down
- Excessive trash dumping
- Used toilet paper consistently appearing in camping areas surrounding sites with no restroom facilities
- Cattle damage in rock art site

Site Monitor Reports indicate accelerating site impacts consistent with population increases. As reported in previous quarters, a by-product of off-road vehicle popularity is site degradation. The following chart shows the increase in significant impacts to fragile cultural sites and does not reflect data from reports of minor effects. Minor impacts, including trash accumulation and illegal desert off-roading, are reported to agency representatives to indicate visitation pressure, but they do not affect the site itself.

A protocol for damaged site reports includes contacting law enforcement officers as well as the agency representative at the earliest opportunity. Law enforcement officers will inspect the scene for possible crime investigation. If required, the assigned archaeologist will evaluate the damages for possible ARPA violations.
In Figure 2 on the next page, significant impacts for this quarter covering January 1 through March 31 are shown for years one through four (2005 – 2008). The initial increase between the first and second year reflects reports stemming from the growth of the CSSP.

![MARCH SITE IMPACTS](image)

**Fig. 2 shows Significant Cultural Site Impacts for quarters ending March 31**

**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.**

Site information is maintained in both paper form in locked cabinets and in the new, secure database being created. Steward information is kept in the same manner, but is also available in Volgistics as requested by the SNAP IVP team.

**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.**

At a Friends of Gold Butte Meeting on January 16, Phillips made a presentation to 24 members and visitors about stewardship developments in Gold Butte. Two Moapa Paiute Cultural Committee members were present and have signed up for a stewardship class to be given April 12.
On February 15, CSSP Program Manager George Phillips conducted a desert safety class for a BLM survey team that emphasized heat-related problems. The team of archaeologists and students was organized by Mark Boatwright to survey new and existing areas in Clark County to add and update their cultural site maps. A description of stewardship, its goals, and an explanation of duties were presented. One archaeology student took the next class and is now a steward for sites in Red Rock NCA.

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.

The Interagency Cultural Site Stewardship Team (ICSST) met on January 15, 2008. Agenda items included meeting with a Southern Nevada Agency Partnership (SNAP) marketing team to prepare a new stewardship brochure with high resolution photographs and organized to focus on the contacts and operations of the Cultural Site Stewardship Program (CSSP) within budget constraints. Other agency items included concern over frustration of site stewards in Gold Butte, announcement for a new site steward class in March (changed to April), a discussion of funds for site surveys on monitored sites, and site prioritization.

Submitted by:

Margaret N. Rees, Project Administrator

3/31/2008

Date
1. ICSST Meeting schedule
2. Brochure – Billy Whitcomb
3. Site Steward Class for January 26
4. Funding - $50K
5. Site numbers
6. Recognition Event and IVP
7. Bob Forsyth’s Website invitation
8. Gold Butte
9. Site prioritization – SHPO database
10. BLM Mileage
11. Other
ICSST MEETING NOTES  
January 15, 2008  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Office

Meeting called to order by Mark Boatwright at 9:30 a.m.

Present:  
Sali Underwood  
Mark Boatwright  
Kelly Turner  
Eva Jensen  
George Phillips  

Laurie Perry  
Kathleen Sprowl  
Steve Daron  
Elaine Holmes

Absent: None

1. Schedule: Meetings for ICSST were requested to be placed on Grovesite for the year by Jennifer Haley. The team chose to meet on the third Tuesday of every other month. The next meeting is scheduled for March 18 at the Interagency Bldg. George will put the schedule on Grovesite. Any changes made to the schedule will reflect in GroveSite as the need arises.

2. Brochure: Billy Whitcomb and Leslie Paige attended the meeting to assist with the design and completion of the CSSP brochure. They presented five good alternatives for consideration. The team had the following questions: 1) What are the budget constraints 2) exactly how is the funding going to be handled, and 3) can two different brochures be considered? Financial questions will be researched with Jennifer Haley by Mark Boatwright and Steve Daron. Leslie recommended controlling manufacture of the brochures by just one printer to limit production costs and suggested about 5,000 brochures be printed. The team would like a greater spectrum of sites. Laurie summed up the team’s reaction and told Billy that the team will define which are the best pictures and offer suggestions about the text. Discussion ensued about whether to use “Southern Nevada Site Stewardship” or “Clark County Site Stewardship.” Steve clarified that the brochure should reflect that we operate only in Clark County. Billy and Leslie left copies of each of their ideas and George will make a disk of photos in high resolution. Mark will make contact with Jennifer regarding the other items.

3. Site stewardship class: George announced the next site stewardship class would be held on Saturday, January 26 at the Boyd Law School on UNLV campus in Room 203. Anne McConnell and Elaine Holmes will be present as site coordinators and Laurie Perry will assist as archaeologist. Slight modifications have been made to the instruction manual and copies have already been printed.
4. $50K funding for surveys of sites monitored by stewards on BLM land was approved at the previous meeting held on October 31. These are agency funds of approximately $71,000 in which the balance is to be used as discretionary funds for the protection of cultural sites. In an update, Mark described plans to utilize students under his direction and will prepare a project description and funds request as needed by ICSST. Elaine suggested using verbiage on future agency signs authorized for specific site protection. She showed examples collected from other states. The team liked a combination of wording and will look into making signs for future use.

5. Site Numbers: Mark discussed need for a NVCRIS “data cut” for a number of BLM sites during a conference call conducted with SHPO’s Karen DeDufour in effort to establish site numbers on CSSP monitored sites. Karen unable to provide across the board cuts for all BLM sites in Southern Nevada. The avenue Mark sought to gather site numbers is difficult to achieve, so he will continue working to reconcile this.

6. Recognition Event: A request by Jennifer to consider combining recognition of the IVP team with CSSP was discussed. It was decided that CSSP will participate at the IVP team’s awards event but it will continue its traditional fall assembly. George will work with the IVP team to ensure participation. Funding for the traditional CSSP recognition event has always come from sources outside SNPLMA but has allowed a full program with each team member participating.

7. Bob Forsyth’s website invitation: Bob Forsyth, creator of a popular website picturing the majority of Southern Nevada’s rock art, asked if CSSP would like to be included as a reference to site stewardship. The SHPO’s website is linked already. The reference was OK’d by the team so long as no directions are given to confidential sites.

8. Gold Butte: Mark apprised the team of issues related to Gold Butte. He pointed out that stewards who were upset over a lack of protective action by the BLM to Gold Butte sites were about to be reassigned to other BLM locations in NCA’s or wilderness areas by George, that this created concern over the CSSP program in that region. George stated that the issue was a bit more complex, that concerns did not emerge just recently but built up over a period of years. This was not a rebellious or mutinous decision to reassign stewards; rather it was in effort to sustain the program. It had become evident that the stewardship was irrelevant to the previous team leader. Mark was appointed the new cultural resource contact for Gold Butte, pointing out that the lines of communication were adjusted within the BLM. George agreed to make no changes in the stewardship procedures as a result. George will meet with Patrick Putnam, Gayle Marrs-Smith and Mark Boatwright to ensure the communication will occur satisfactorily in the future.
9. Site Prioritization. Sali Underwood arranged for a conference call with SHPO’s Karen deDufour to discuss site data for BLM sites in Southern Nevada. Mark Boatwright explored possibilities to obtain information and site numbers for areas being monitored currently. He concluded that the best way to get the appropriate numbers and information he was seeking was from the Harry Reid Center. He concluded he would take George and go over the maps for each monitoring unit.

10. Mileage. Mark mentioned that the BLM would pay for mileage for stewards monitoring BLM sites. The team suggested that the decision to pay be made on a case-by-case basis because the other agencies were unable to participate. Several stewards monitor multiple sites for different agencies and the issue of payment could become complicated. However, funds were still available for Regional Coordinators who travel out of town to quarterly meetings.

11. Other. Sali Underwood mentioned that the State History Fair this year would be at either the Old Mormon Fort or at the Springs Preserve. Plans will be made for the stewards to attend.

12. The next ICSST meeting will be held Tuesday, March 18, 9:30 a.m. at the Interagency Office.

Submitted by:

George Phillips
TRAIN THE TRAINERS SESSION
March 12-13, 2008
Tonopah, NV

Thursday, March 12th

I. Brief education overview

II. Parts of a Lesson Plan

III. Present Program
  A. What’s good?
  B. What needs to be tweaked?
  C. How can we make lessons more effective?
  D. Discussion – lesson by lesson

Friday, March 13th

I. Safety Section
   A. What safety points should be covered?
   B. Most effective way to cover safety concerns.
   C. Brief outline of safety section to be acted upon.

II. Risk Assessment – Dave Valentine