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Re-evaluation of the Main Ridge Site and Adjacent Areas: Annual Year-end Report

Margaret N. Rees

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

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ANNUAL YEAR-END REPORT

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
October 1, 2005 – September 30, 2006

Cooperative Agreement Number H8R07010001
Task Agreement Number J8R07050006
Re-evaluation of the Main Ridge Site and Adjacent Areas

Executive Summary

- Conducted archival research at the following repositories: Southwest Museum, Western Archaeological Conservation Center, Nevada State Museum, the National Museum of the American Indian, the Lake Mead National Recreation Area offices of the National Park Service, the Lost City Museum, UNLV Special Collections, and UNLV Department of Anthropology.
- Compiled a digital database of all records and artifacts associated with the 1920's-1940's excavations at Lost City.
- Initiated field research (mapping, surveying, and excavation) at Lost City through a Fall 2006 UNLV archaeological field school.
- Hired graduate student Leilani Espinda to conduct archival research and Sharlyn Benito and Glendee Ane Osborne to help with the field work.
- Initiated analysis of human remains
- Presented a Fall 2005 brown bag lecture about the project to the UNLV Anthropology Department faculty and students.
- Presented a paper on the upcoming work at the Three Corners Conference, held on October 15, 2005, at UNLV.

This task agreement was awarded to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) on October 1, 2005, and was originally set to conclude on September 30, 2006. However, a formal modification was processed by the National Park Service on August 11, 2006, which extended the term of the task agreement through February 15, 2008.

The following information constitutes the annual year-end report for the period October 1, 2005-September 30, 2006, and summarizes all archaeological resource activities conducted over the course of the last 12 months, which were used to meet the deliverables identified in the statement of work.

Archival Research

Leilani Espinda, a graduate student in the Department of Anthropology, was hired in the Spring of 2006 to initiate archival research. To date, she has visited the following

repositories: Southwest Museum, Western Archaeological Conservation Center, Nevada State Museum, the National Museum of the American Indian, the Lake Mead National Recreation Area offices of the National Park Service, the Lost City Museum, UNLV Special Collections at UNLV, and UNLV Department of Anthropology.

She is still awaiting data from the following institutions: Nevada State Museum (although she has received some information from this repository, subsequent information suggests that there may be more records than were provided to her during the first visit) and the Nevada State Historical Society.

Leilani has completed the entry of all records and data into an Excel spreadsheet and has organized all other notes into a digital record. Currently, Leilani and Principal Investigator Dr. Karen Harry are writing the technical report that will accompany these data. We anticipate no problems in meeting the January 15, 2007, deadline for the draft finder's guide with annotated bibliography.

Field Research

Two additional graduate students, Glendee Ane Osborne and Sharlyn Benito, were hired to assist with field work. Investigations are slated to be held in four three-day sessions this fall: Sept. 29-Oct. 1, Oct. 13-Oct. 15, Nov. 3-5, and Nov. 17-19. Participating in these field investigations will be the 13 students enrolled in Dr. Harry's Fall 2006 field methods course; these students will be directed by Dr. Harry and the two graduate assistants. Additional sessions with a smaller group may be held as needed after the end of the fall semester.

Human Remains Analyses

Drs. Jennifer Thompson and Debra Martin, both physical anthropologists with the UNLV Department of Anthropology, have initiated the analyses of the Lost City human remains that will be subject to repatriation under the requirements of NAGPRA (i.e., the National Graves Protection and Repatriation Act). During August 2006, the professors traveled to Tucson, Arizona, to analyze 10 of the human remain sets held at the Western Archaeological Conservation Center. They have also completed preliminary analyses on the eight sets of remains held by the UNLV Department of Anthropology.

Outreach and Scholarly Activity

The following outreach and scholarly activities were conducted:

- A brown bag lecture about the Lost City Project was presented by Dr. Karen Harry in Fall 2005 to the UNLV Anthropology Department faculty and students. (*presentation attached*)
- A paper was presented by Dr. Karen Harry and anthropology major Andreas Charest on October 15, 2005, at the Three Corners Conference held in Las Vegas. (*presentation attached*)

Additionally, the following activities are scheduled for the upcoming year:

- A paper will be presented at the Great Basin Anthropological Conference on October 21, 2006, by Drs. Jennifer Thompson, Debra Martin, and Karen Harry on the preliminary findings of the human remains analyses.
- A paper will be presented at the Society for American Archaeology Meetings in April 2007 by post-doctoral scholar Dr. Greg Haynes, Ms. Leilani Espinda, and Dr. Karen Harry regarding the preliminary findings of the archival and field research.
- A presentation will be given to members of the public the Nevada State Museum in early May 2007.

Submitted by:

Margaret N. Rees, Project Administrator

September 30, 2006

Date