
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/17

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 reports the first decrease in reported cultural site impacts since program inception.
- Total cultural site stewards trained is 382 for 2008 calendar-year-end.
- Two new Regional Coordinators assigned to Sloan and Eldorado Valley.

Summary of Attachments

- Minutes and agenda of October team meeting.
- Recognition picnic agenda and invitation.

Collaboration with Interagency Team

The Interagency Cultural Site Stewardship Team met once this quarter on October 28, 2008 (see attached agenda and minutes). Two members of the Nevada SHPO office attended the meeting to observe a demonstration of the site stewardship database. ICSST meets every other month and continues to provide direction and guidance for both specific stewardship issues and strategic planning.

In collaboration with the Interagency Volunteer Program (IVP) Team, CSSP organized a cleanup on October 25 of a prehistoric cultural site along the Colorado River managed by the Bureau of Reclamation. A total of eight volunteers were transported from Las Vegas and the cleanup was directed by the BOR Archaeologist, Laureen Perry, the TPIA/IVP Manager, Doug Joslin, and the CSSP Manager, George Phillips.

On November 13, 2008, Phillips and seven site stewards participated in photo documenting a major cultural site near Laughlin, Nevada. Lake Mead National Park Service Archaeologist, Steve Daron oversaw the project.
Project 1 – Recruitment, Training, and Retention of Volunteer Site Stewards

**TASK 1 – Site Stewardship Database**

The Cultural Site Stewardship Program (CSSP) relational database produced its first annual data reports to managing agencies, covering the period of October 1, 2007, through September 30, 2008. Hard file records were maintained during the same period to verify results. As planned, reports were created in much higher detail, reduced time and with superior accuracy. The system responds easily to fine corrections and is frequently tweaked to produce additional information.

A second design phase is planned for the system to produce daily information quickly. Although data is already available through select queries, the “mini-reports” will provide instant information at the push of a button. These reports are described by the programmer as “baseball card” information and will show site steward - partner relationships, the sites they monitor, the frequency of their visits, and hours. For specific sites, the “mini-reports” will provide the last five visitation dates and names of the monitors. The value will be measured by speed of obtaining information.

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

No class workshops were held this quarter. Two basic workshops are scheduled, one for January 24, 2009 at UNLV in Las Vegas and one on January 31, 2009 in Mesquite. As seen in figure 1 below, totals for calendar-year-end continue to rise reflecting a 19% growth over 2007 totals.

![Steward Growth - Calendar Year End](image)

**Fig. 1 shows growth totals annually in December.**
Task 3 – Deliver, evaluate, and refine basic training classes for volunteer cultural site stewards.

New modifications are applied to the CSSP manual as they are agreed upon by the Interagency Cultural Site Steward Team. Agendas are also adjusted for each class to complement the archaeologist or law enforcement officer assisting with training.

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

No optional classes were given this quarter due to holiday scheduling complexities. However, classes continue to be effective for both seeking new stewards and motivating existing volunteers. Most recently, stewards requested a tour of an agency-approved public pre-historic site with the history and observations presented by an archaeologist. CSSP will organize this for early January, 2009.

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

A Road Designation Plan in Gold Butte coupled with issues stemming from a depressed economy have created a need for CSSP Regional Coordinators and the Manager to adjust site assignments. In Gold Butte, several road closures near key archaeological sites required long-time stewards to hike more than double the distance to monitor their sites. For a few, this became difficult and sites were reassigned. Forty-six stewards are assigned to Gold Butte of which four who reside over 120 miles away in Las Vegas have asked for reassignments due to the cost of transportation. We were able to accommodate all requests. On January 31, CSSP will conduct a basic steward workshop in Mesquite to infuse the area with new stewards willing to hike the longer distances.

In Sloan, construction of a retention basin has frustrated a number of experienced stewards who volunteered as a hiking group. Unable to access the Sloan entrance easily, 12 stewards chose not to continue until access is improved. These stewards have been active for over four years but do not have a high-clearance vehicle enabling them to drive approximately 12 miles to the northern Sloan entrance. In response, a basic steward workshop will be conducted on January 24 in Las Vegas to recruit replacements. Additionally, Phillips is scheduled to speak to the Anthem Hiking Club in January to solicit additional volunteers.

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

CSSP joined the Interagency Volunteer Program recognition event on November 1, 2008, to present its “Steward of the Year” award to Chuck Williams at a breakfast in the Renaissance Hotel in Las Vegas. The following week, CSSP held an annual picnic gathering of all Clark County site stewards at the Boulder Beach picnic area at Lake Mead (invitation and agenda attached). Plaques and Certificates of Appreciation were presented as well as were steward lapel pins supplied by the Nevada Archaeological Association to 86 stewards present. All but one ICSST members were present to thank the volunteers and mingle informally with the stewards.

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.

Assignments are scrutinized and can be adjusted to suit the volunteer as mentioned above. When an adjustment is necessary, it is done as quickly as possible often involving new introductions of sites to experienced stewards.

Two experienced volunteers were introduced in November to replace a retiring coordinator in Sloan. The area previously titled, “Sloan,” is expanded to include Eldorado Valley and will be renamed “Eldorado.” The added area will include those sites from Sloan, outside of Henderson, down Eldorado Valley and along the Colorado River from Boulder City to Paiute Valley south of Searchlight. This modifies the “Sloan” Region bringing it into balance with the physical area size and stewardship numbers of the other four Regions: Gold Butte, Moapa, Las Vegas and Laughlin. The new coordinators served as site stewards for four years and have received recognition for their observation detail, consistency and commitment.

Task 2 – Report incidents to appropriate agencies.

All incident reports have been submitted to the appropriate agencies. As shown below in Figure 2, reported impacts were down by 26% for the first quarter ending December, 2009, over the same period in 2008. CSSP figures show this is due to a 50% decrease in reported OHV impacts in Gold Butte presumably due to implementation of the Gold Butte Road Designation Plan this past fall.

Impacts

![First Quarter Impacts Compared](image)

**Figure 2**
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.

As stated in the FYE 2008 annual report, impacts of cultural sites are graded according to severity to observe trends:

- **Priority 1** – Most severe and may include potting (digging) or graffiti on a petroglyph panel.
- **Priority 2** – Damage to a site such as excess trash, OHV damage to midden, or vandalism substantially affecting its context.
- **Priority 3** – Minimal damage to site elements such as OHV damage to biotic soil at the site but which affects overall site quality.

Highest reported damages over a five year history are consistently in four areas shown below as a percentage of the total:

- Vandalism 18%
- OHV Related 18%
- Graffiti 15%
- Sign destruction 13%

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.

For the Great Basin Archaeological Conference on October 8, 2008, Sali Underwood, Nevada State Stewardship Coordinator and George Phillips prepared a formal presentation on Sustainability of Stewardship for Cultural Site Preservation that was given in Portland, Oregon.

CSSP Manager Phillips attended monthly meetings for the Friends of Gold Butte, the Southern Nevada Rock Art Association, and the quarterly board meeting of the Nevada Archaeological Association. He presented an update on restoration projects to the Friends of Gold Butte on December 11, 2008.

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.

At the monthly meeting of the Freelance Association for the Nature of the Globe (F.A.N.G.), a UNLV environmental group of 20 students, Phillips gave a power point presentation on preservation activities and stewardship. Several students will take the stewardship workshop in January 2009 and participate as trained site monitors.
Appendix A
Directions to Boulder Beach Picnic Area:

FROM HENDERSON:
Drive east on Lake Mead Parkway beyond Lake Las Vegas. From the fee booth, drive 10.0 miles on Lakeshore Rd. to the Boulder Beach Special Events turnoff sign. Turn left and stay left - continue .3 mile to the picnic area in the trees.

FROM BOULDER CITY:
From I-93 towards Lake Mead, turn onto the Lakeshore Rd. From the fee booth, drive 1.2 miles and turn right at the Boulder Beach Special Events turnoff sign. Bear left and continue for .3 mile to the picnic area in the trees.

Note: The entrance fee is waived. Just show the fee booth employee your entry letter included and you will be let in free.

Our advisors, your coordinators and I are looking forward to seeing you!
The Clark County Cultural Site Stewardship Program Cordially Invites You and a Guest to our

Cultural Site Stewards Annual Picnic

Saturday, November 8, 2008
10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Lake Mead National Park
Boulder Beach Picnic Area

Hamburgers, Grilled Chicken, Italian Sausages and all the Trimmings WILL BE CATERED TO YOU

(Please see the back for directions)
Appendix B
ICSST MEETING AGENDA

October 28, 2008

Bureau of Reclamation Office

1. CSSP Database Review

2. Annual get together event

3. CSSP Plans and Activities
   • BOR Cleanup
   • Activity Plan for FY 2009
   • Regional Coordinators
   • Database
   • Website
   • Brochure

4. Signage Proposal – Elaine

5. Native American Letter Update

6. SHPO Power Point Presentation – Sali

7. Other

Appendix C
ICSST MEETING MINUTES
October 28, 2008
Bureau of Reclamation Office

Present:  Eva Jensen  Mark Boatwright  Kelly Turner
Steve Daron  Alice Baldrica (SHPO)  Annmarie Kmetz (USFS)
Karen de Dufour (SHPO)  Sali Underwood  George Phillips\nLaurie Perry  Kathleen Sprowl  Elaine Holmes

1. CSSP new relational database review. Connection between computer and projector defied correction. This is saved for a future showing, but concepts were discussed with SHPO representatives who flew down to look at it. George Phillips showed them alone with computer screen.

2. The annual CSSP picnic gathering is planned, food is to be brought in by Paul DePatta. All CSSP stewards received invitations by mail with letter for fee waiver at the Lake Mead fee booths. Invitations and a copy of the letter will be sent to ICSST members this week.

3. CSSP Plans and Activities were presented by George:
   • Bureau of Reclamation cleanup was conducted at a mortar site in Laughlin.
   • Training workshops will occur on January 24 at UNLV in Las Vegas and another on January 31 in Laughlin. Focus is on reinvigorating areas with new or reassigned stewards to maintain interest.
   • Regional Coordinators – Bill James is resigning as coordinator to work in a more “activist” role for Sloan. He’ll remain as a site steward. Roger and Sue Kolar will replace him. The Sloan area will be expanded to include Eldorado Valley.
   • Database – A “baseball card” concept is planned. Stewards can be queried instantly showing sites, partners and recent visits. Sites can be queried for frequency of visitations, assigned stewards and impacts.
   • Website – Joan Guilfoyle relayed SNAP approval for website to be constructed in PLI.
   • Brochure – Wording and pictures are complete. Comments by site stewards will be added by request of Billy Whitcomb, designer. Purpose for the brochure is to recruit stewards. It should be ready by next meeting.

4. Signage – Elaine, Kathleen, Annmarie, and Laurie suggested slight revisions to wording of signs and simplify the language. There may be approximately $40,000 for signs. Laurie thinks the BOR can make the signs.

5. Native American Letter – update from Mark, he’s working on it.

6. Sali Underwood gave a Power Point Presentation she gave at the Great Basin Archaeological Conference. Topic was sustainability of cultural sites through stewardship.

7. Volunteer Agreements – It was concluded that stewards need not carry Volunteer Agreements in the field, site steward ID cards are sufficient.
   Steve mentioned that gps units could be affect by the upcoming solar flare period.
   Laurie said the BOR could provide posters for the CSSP. We should submit design ideas.

8. Next ICSST meeting will be January 20, 2009. Location to be determined.

Adjourned 12:30
George Phillips