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Southern Nevada Agency Partnership Cultural Site Stewardship Program – Program Expansion and Steward Retention: Quarterly Progress Report, Period Ending September 30, 2009

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University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Period Ending September 30, 2009

Cooperative Agreement Number: H8R07060001

Task Agreement Number: J8R07070002

Project Title: Southern Nevada Agency Partnership
Cultural Site Stewardship Program – Program Expansion and Steward Retention

Executive Summary

- A total of 452 site stewards are trained and registered on the CSSP database.
- One training class was held this quarter adding 24 new volunteers.
- The stewardship program had an annual growth of 13.8% during the fiscal year 2009.
- Site Stewards reported 76 significant site impacts in 2008 compared with 83 during the same period last year.

Summary of Attachments

- Agenda for August 13, 2009 team meeting.
- Minutes for August 13, 2009 team meeting.

Collaboration with Interagency Team

The Interagency Cultural Site Stewardship Team (ICSST) met on August 13, 2009 (*see attached agenda and minutes*). Modifications to the ICSST charter language was recommended to update the original wording prepared in February, 2007. The team will vote on the new language at the next team meeting scheduled for October 1, 2009.

Under ICSST member Steve Daron, a National Park Service program is utilizing volunteers from the Cultural Site Stewardship Program to identify and plot mine locations along the Colorado River. An NPS team met with Program Manager, George Phillips, to plan instructional and safety courses for October 24, 2009. Volunteers will meet for the first time to organize into teams and prepare a strategy to begin in fall.

ICSST leader Mark Boatwright, reported approaching completion of an extensive project documenting sites monitored by CSSP volunteers. Five BLM archaeologists worked through the summer revisiting areas, needing site numbers, and upgrading records in the Muddy Mountain Wilderness, Red Rock NCA, Sloan, Paiute Valley and Laughlin areas. The project was inspired by steward site discoveries during the past five years.

Interagency program managers met on August 20, 2009, to discuss the implementation of expanded monitoring programs for OHV's, trails, and wilderness areas. ICSST leader Mark Boatwright and CSSP's George Phillips were invited to recommend planning strategies, and to offer access to CSSP's training procedures and reporting protocol.

During the August 21, 2009 Southern Nevada Agency Partnership (SNAP) meeting, members of ICSST and CSSP discussed sustaining the stewardship program in Clark County. The SNAP Board agreed the program merited consideration for Round 11 Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA) funding. CSSP will modify its current program to extend funding until December, 2011, and apply for two years' funding through SNPLMA, which should extend the program through December, 2013.

On September 25, 2009, the SNAP Board conducted a positive assessed the ICCST and CSSP program. The Board suggested that the program seek funding through approved alternate sources to extend the Clark County stewardship program beyond 2013. The Board further suggested that the history and success of CSSP be in written form as a resource to other volunteer programs.

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

Task 1 – Site Stewardship Database

A letter drafted by ICSST offered CSSP's relational database software to the Nevada State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO). An earlier plan by SHPO for a system funded through SNPLMA named "Site Stewardship Reporter" did not materialize. Subsequently, a formal request was made to ICSST for Clark County's database, which was approved by federal team members.

Phillips met with Dr. Craig Palmer, GIS representative from the Harry Reid Center, and obtained the assistance of a GIS student intern to make small improvements to the CSSP database. Three projects were given to the student which will improve the quality and speed of queries.

Task 2 – Recruit additional volunteer cultural site stewards.

One stewardship basic training class was held this quarter and 24 new volunteers were trained. During the year, a total of three classes were held adding 52 stewards, bringing the total of trained volunteers to 452 stewards. The program had an increase of 46 stewards, which is 13.8% over 2008 totals. The next scheduled training class will occur in late December. The annual growth of CSSP stewards is shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Annual growth of total CSSP stewards

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

Classes are conducted as needed in locations adjacent to regions needing stewards. Instruction continues to be adjusted to focus on special needs for those areas. Changes in the manual and procedures are made after each basic training class to include new information. Currently, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife agency is initiating a stewardship program for the Desert Wildlife Refuge to incorporate both CSSP and Nevada Site Stewardship programs.

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

In September 2009, a class planned for stewards on “Edible Desert Plants,” was postponed by Archaeologist, Sarah Cox Hill due to a family emergency. The class will be rescheduled in October 2009.

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

As reported last quarter, CSSP completed re-assignments for stewards based on information obtained from direct contact and e-mails by Regional Coordinators. Direct calls to stewards has proven the most efficient method to obtain feedback for 2009. Site access in two regions became more difficult. Road closures created problems for stewards who were required to hike longer distances, sometimes up to two miles further, to reach their sites. By direct contact through telephone or e-mail, coordinators were able to discuss new site assignments with many stewards. Additionally, new stewards replaced those whose assignments changed. Written feedback including complete written evaluations and anonymous program assessments will be used for all stewards in 2010.

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

CSSP will join the Interagency Volunteer Program recognition event on Nevada Day, October 31, 2009. A traditional annual picnic for CSSP volunteers will also be held at Lake Mead on Saturday, November 7, 2009. Plans are being prepared in collaboration with team members.

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.

Monitoring continues satisfactorily in all five regions of Clark County. During the last quarter, activity was slowed by heat during the summer months. This decrease is reflected in both the number of monitoring reports filed and a dip in site visitation by the general public.

- Gold Butte Region: Road closures by the BLM and preservation projects by the Friends of Gold Butte have highlighted this region amidst diverse political activity. CSSP made numerous changes to the steward teams and continued much needed monitoring activity. Damages during 2009 dropped from 2008, but still comprise 42% of all damages in Clark County.
- Moapa Region: Public visitation declined in Moapa Region due to a slowdown in construction around Coyote Springs and Overton. However, stewards reported 10% of Clark County’s site impacts which came from illegal, off-road incursions, graffiti and some shooting damage.
- Las Vegas Region: Stewards reported 36% of Clark County’s total impacts from graffiti on surrounding petroglyphs, particularly in Red Rock NCA. Steward teams are focused in areas with the highest rate of impacts and heaviest public visitation to cultural sites.
- Sloan/Eldorado Valley Region: Damages are light and usually involve signage removal or off-road incursions. Impacts here account for 12% of the Clark County total.
- Laughlin Region: Although there are reports of sporadic trash and heavy visitation to two sites, no significant impacts were reported.

Task 2 – Report incidents to appropriate agencies.

All incident reports have been submitted to the appropriate agencies. Impacts in Clark County are shown below:

CLARK COUNTY IMPACTS
REPORTED OVER 12 MONTHS ENDING 9/30/2009

GRAFFITI	33
OHV RELATED	19
VANDALISM	4
SIGN DESTRUCTION	14
BULLET DAMAGE	3
EXCESS TRASH	5
POTTING/DIGGING	1
OTHER	6

As pointed out above, graffiti and OHV related incidents remain highest in Gold Butte. Out of all significant impacts, 42% are from Gold Butte's site stewards who comprise only 14% of total active stewards.

Shown in Figure 2 below are reported annual impacts. Site impacts decreased more than 10% over the same period in 2008. This is the first decline in reported impacts in 5 years. A new Road Designation Plan in the Gold Butte/Arrow Canyon regions implemented in late fall of 2008 restricted motorized access to several key sites. As motorized vehicles were required to remain farther than 100 feet from a cultural site, impacts declined. In the cases of two Gold Butte sites where access restrictions are not enforced, impacts are increasing.

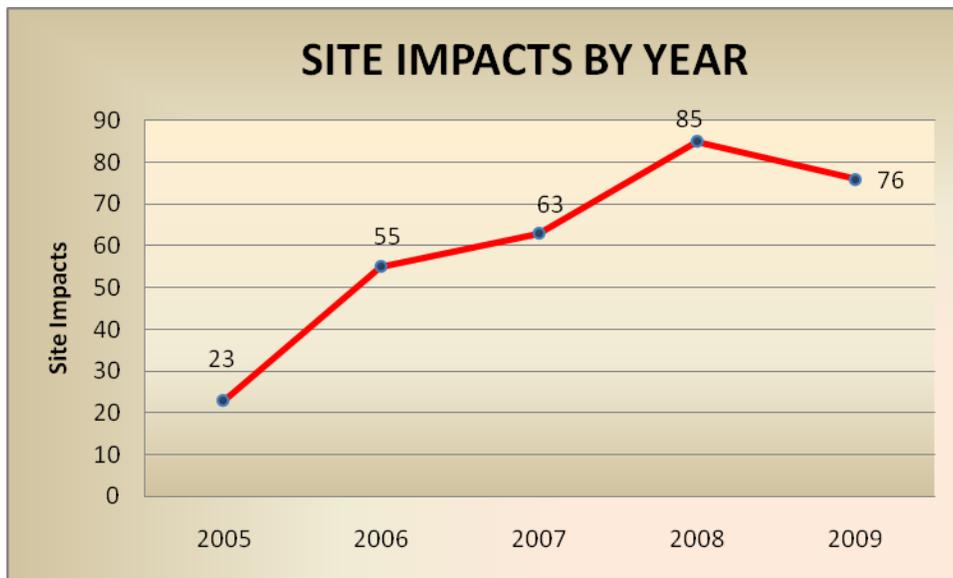


Figure 2. Impacts measured annually through June.

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.

All site monitoring activities are kept in compliance with agency instructions and are provided upon request.

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.

Phillips reported on the status of CSSP and projects completed at a Nevada Archaeological Association board meeting in Baker, Nevada. Ten state and federal archaeologists were present from each section of Nevada.

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.

On, July 9, Mark Boatwright and George Phillips were interviewed on Las Vegas Community Channel 99. The topic was destruction of petroglyphs focusing on the Sloan Region. A follow-up interview is scheduled for early October to photograph petroglyphs authorized by the BLM.

Submitted by:

A black rectangular redaction box covers the signature of the project administrator. A small blue mark is visible above the box.

Margaret N. Rees, Project Administrator

9/30/2009

Clark County
**Cultural Site
Stewardship**
Program

ICSST MEETING AGENDA

August 13, 2009

Nevada State Museum

1. Minutes of previous meeting.
2. George -Picnic November 7, 10:30 – 1:00 at Lake Mead Boulder Beach
3. Mark - Stewardship surveys and site recordings .
4. George – CSSP funding. Modification to 12/2011.
Round 11 application for 1 (or 2) years.
5. George – Meeting with IA Monitoring program on August 20.
6. Steve – Charter language – pending Steve’s return for next ICSST meeting.
7. Mark – Succession discussion.
8. Other.
9. Next meeting - adjourn.



ICSST MEETING NOTES
August 13, 2009
Nevada State Museum

Present: Elaine Holmes Sali Underwood Kelly Turner
Ruth Lopez Mark Boatwright George Phillips
Laureen Perry Kathleen Sprowl

Not Present: Steve Daron

Meeting commenced at 9:40 a.m.

1. **Minutes.** Changes to the minutes of ICSST Meeting of June 4, 2009:
 - a. Change Karen de Dufour to "Karyn."
 - b. Include ... two motions made (Laurie and Kelly) regarding charter language and succession. Team members tabled motions by consensus until Steve collects member comments.
 - c. Change "no" to "yes" in item #2.
 - d. Include "federal archaeologists met and discussed sending [database] letter to SHPO" to minutes.

Kelly motioned to adopt minutes with corrections...2nd by Ruth and Elaine.
2. **Picnic.** IVP Recognition event on 10-31 at the Renaissance Casino. CSSP will honor "Cultural Site Steward of the Year." Paul DePatta should be awarded special recognition at CSSP picnic to be held at LAME. Steve is obtaining fee waiver letter. George will contact all stewards when letter is issued.
3. **Program extension.** Steve will apply for program modification to extend funding through 12/2011. George discussed available funds to extend program from 7/2010 to 7/2011. Laurie can transfer approx. \$60K to CSSP to further extend 6 months to 12/2011. On August 21, ICSST will approach SNAP with request to approve a Round 11 application for 2 years additional funding to be facilitated at UNLV.
4. **IA Monitoring Program.** George said ICSST was invited to an IA Monitoring Program meeting on August 20 to discuss formation of OHV roads, trails and wilderness stewardship. CSSP was invited to share its program experiences. Kelly mentioned if participants requested our database software, they should cough (sic.) up funds. Laurie mentioned that additional funds could be used to upgrade our program, or apply it to operation costs of the database. Mark stated that it should be understood that our database software shouldn't be free. Laurie added we should

develop an MOU. Mark said that the team should have standard procedures for this and Sali added we should have a boilerplate MOU. Mark said we should decide who will develop the MOU. George will report what plans the IA teams have from the 8/20 meeting.

5. **Surveys.** Mark said the BLM crew obtained site numbers for 2 months for sites monitored by stewards. Problem is that earlier archaeology students have collected many artifacts leaving little or no sign of some sites. But, he found a long list of sites have incorrect site numbers and incorrect documentation that must be reviewed. He must account for all money spent by December and is getting some pressure to complete the surveys. Ruth questioned how funding was organized to survey and record. She asked how site steward funds were applied. Mark explained the funding and that the BLM is closing gaps to record sites being monitored.
6. **Charter Language.** Laurie brought wording on the ICSST charter language. Ruth requested that insofar as succession is concerned, Mark should continue as team leader for 6 more months or allow USFS to assume the team lead. Kelly said we should table the discussion and keep Mark as leader. Ruth made the motion that we should make an adjustment so Mark could continue until next meeting. Motion was seconded by Kathleen. All agreed.
7. **Site Stewardship Class.** George will conduct a basic site steward training class on 9/26. Kelly volunteered to assist. (Thanks, Kelly!)
8. **SHPO E-mail of 5.29.09.** George stated that a memo from SHPO dated 5/29/09 is inaccurate and needs to be addressed. He will send an e-mail refutation to Mark and copy the team.
9. **Other.** Ruth suggested a correction in a letter written by Mark to the BLM. "Currently we...." Should be changed to, "Currently the BLM..." (I am unclear what letter this is and am unable to report it accurately – gwp).

Elaine brought up "Rock Art in Context." Mark stated that if the State of Nevada adopts a standard for recording rock art it should be Arizona's standard. Elaine questioned this. Mark said it would be a way of standardizing procedures throughout the SW and may include Oregon and California. It involves element counts and recording rock art by elements, a coding system to develop studies. We will table discussion until Steve returns.

Next Meeting; October 1 at the IA Conference Room, 9:30 a.m.

12:15 Meeting adjourned. George W. Phillips