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Executive Summary

- Two basic site steward classes were held this quarter adding 36 new cultural site steward volunteers
- CSSP awarded “Preserve America Steward Award”
- CSSP stewards were requested to document BLM sites
- Stewards completed two of four documentation projects for NPS

Summary of Attachments

- Agendas and Minutes for February 11, 2010, team meeting
- Letter from First Lady Michelle Obama – “Preserve America Steward Award”

Collaboration with Interagency Team

On February 3, 2010, the Cultural Site Stewardship Program received a designation as a “Preserve America Steward” with the Public Lands Institute (PLI) and the Southern Nevada Agency Partnership (SNAP). The program received a letter signed by First Lady Michelle Obama acknowledging the award. Preparation to present the award is currently being with BLM to appear at the opening of the new Red Rock Canyon visitor’s center on April 10, 2010.

The Interagency Cultural Site Stewardship Team (ICSST) met on February 11, 2010, at UNLV (see attached agenda and minutes). Team members welcomed Dena Sedar, Archaeologist for the Lost City Museum who replaced Eva Jensen on the team. Results of the basic site steward class held at UNLV on February 6, 2010, were reviewed and plans were made for an upcoming stewardship class to be held in Mesquite on March 13, 2010.

Steve Daron, Agreements Technical Representative for the Cultural Site Stewardship Program, (CSSP) and George Phillips, CSSP Manager, submitted a program modification request to extend the stewardship program from June 2010 to December 2011. Response from the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) is positive and the final modification plan is expected to be completed by April 2010.
Cultural site stewards continue documenting abandoned mines along 180 miles of the Colorado River for The National Park Service. The Abandoned Mines Project activity will resume after a holiday layoff and poor weather season. Two of four teams completed their assignments in areas near Cottonwood Cove and Katherine’s Landing along the Colorado River at the end of February. Two remaining crews of cultural site stewards will continue into spring until complete. The teams have contributed more than 3,100 hours and drove more than 2,000 miles to their projects.

Mark Boatwright, Archaeologist for the Bureau of Land Management, requested 20 to 25 cultural site stewards qualified in rock art recording to assist in documenting Gnat Canyon, a major petroglyph and temporary habitation site in Paiute Valley. The documentation project should begin in April 2010, and be completed by mid-May 2010.

Members of ICSST and Tom Sharkey, Investigator for the US Forest Service, met on March 1, 2010, in effort to organize an interagency law enforcement oriented towards reducing vandalism of cultural heritage sites. George Phillips will prepare a list of sites with a history of vandalism. Investigator Sharkey will organize 22 law enforcement personnel and provide them with specialized training and scheduling to work with cultural site stewards.

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

**Task 1 – Site Stewardship Database**

Status of the CSSP database remains unchanged from previous quarters. It continues to provide secured data and reports for land managing agencies. Changes to cultural sites, agency information relating to stewardship, and site steward data have been maintained since the inception of the program. There are 506 name entries in the database of which 488 are site stewards. The balance is those involved with stewardship administration, law enforcement or oversight.

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

Two classes were held this quarter adding 36 newly trained volunteers. There are 488 stewards on the CSSP database, an increase of 7.9% over 2009 totals. The next scheduled training class will occur in late September 2010, after summer heat subsides. Primary sites in Clark County are being monitored effectively. Classes will continue to replace and reinforce stewards who leave through attrition and for newly discovered sites. The annual growth of CSSP stewards reflecting both the total number of stewards and of active volunteers is shown in Figure 1.
**Task 3 – Deliver, evaluate, and refine basic training classes for volunteer cultural site stewards.**

A class conducted on February 6, 2010, at UNLV drew 28 participants of which 24 became site stewards, and 4 others took the class as federal and state agency archaeologists who are involved with stewardship.

A second class was held in Mesquite, Nevada, on March 13, 2010, where 12 participants attended. This was in effort to solicit volunteers to supplement monitoring in Gold Butte, an area rich in cultural heritage sites with the greatest concentration of site impacts.

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

No optional classes were offered this quarter. Both site surveying and rock art recording will be offered to interested stewards in April 2010.

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

An annual evaluation and feedback program will be launched this summer. Separate teaching evaluations are given at every new class by each steward. Future class presentations are adjusted in response to suggestions and ratings overall are highly satisfactory.

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

An annual CSSP Recognition Picnic was held at the Boulder Beach Picnic Grounds on November 7, 2009. Quarterly social events are held by Regional Coordinators and an annual recognition will be held in November 2010.
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.

Thirty-six newly trained volunteers are in the process of being assigned sites this quarter. Regional Coordinators and the Program Manager frequently accompany stewards during site visits to assist and encourage monitoring thoroughness.

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 CULTURAL SITE IMPACTS
6 MONTHS ENDING 3/31/2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graffiti</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OHV Related</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vandalism</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sign Destruction</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess Trash</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bullet Damage</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potting /Digging</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Site impact numbers will differ from Site Reports. More than one impact may be included in each report.*

Incidents of site impacts are highest in the Las Vegas area with 23 impact reports filed followed by Gold Butte with 20. The remaining are single digit figures in the five geographical areas in Clark County, Sloan, Laughlin and Moapa Valley.

Shown in Figure 2 below are impacts reported for the first six months of 2010. Graffiti and OHV related incidents are the principal cause for the increase. However, there is early data that much more aggressive potting or digging for artifacts is on the rise primarily in the Moapa and Southern (Laughlin) regions.
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.

During a site stewardship update to the Southern Nevada Rock Art Association on February 18, 2010, Phillips was invited to present the stewardship program to the Professional Guide Guild on April 19, 2010. Quarterly updates regarding stewardship were given to the Nevada Archaeological Association during their annual meeting on March 26, 2010.

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 Community Service Channel 99 Television ran interviews with George Phillips and Mark Boatwright on stewardship and its service to Sloan Canyon NCA during the months of February and March 2010. Phillips attended meetings and offered input to the Friends of Wilderness, the Friends of Gold Butte, the Southern Nevada Rock Art Association and the Nevada Rock Art Foundation. He attended the annual

Submitted by:

Margaret N. Rees, Project Administrator

3/31/2010
ATTACHMENTS
1. Minutes of 12/10/2009 meeting

2. Welcome to Dena Sedar. Her story, followed by professionally acceptable comments

3. George – Results of site steward class held 2/6/2010

4. Letter from the White House

5. Steve – poster mock-ups

6. Steve – update on CSSP modification

7. Kelly – status of and plans for state stewardship by Sali
   - status of and plans for CSSP stewardship by George

8. Other
Meeting opened at 9:45 am.

1. **Minutes of previous meeting:** Minutes of the meeting of February 11, 2010, held at UNLV, were reviewed and passed.

2. **Dena Sedar:** Members welcomed Dena Sedar, Archaeologist for the Lost City Museum, to the ICSST team. Dena gave a brief professional history and personal biography.

3. **Stewardship Class:** George said 28 participants showed up for the February 6 class for new volunteer stewards. Of these, 24 became new stewards and 3 attended to become familiar with the stewardship program for administrative reasons and 1 was taking a refresher. Mark Boatwright was the attending archaeologist. Another class is scheduled for March 13 in Mesquite to supplement volunteers in Gold Butte. Kelly Turner volunteered to attend the class.

4. **Award:** George provided ICSST members with a copy of a letter from First Lady Michelle Obama announcing the Preserve America Steward designation to CSSP, PLI and SNAP. There was no check in the envelope, but the award was welcome by all members. There was some discussion over creating an event for presentation of the award. George will pursue and report back at the next ICSST meeting.

5. **Posters:** Steve presented two posters prepared by Sarah Clark, the SNAP contract representative, for review by the team. With minor suggestions the two posters were approved for printing.

6. **Modification:** Steve presented an update on the status of the CSSP modification proposal. It appears the process is going well and should be completed by April.

7. **Stewardship Plans:** Sali listed training dates and recognition events being held in the Nevada Site Stewardship Program. George discussed a modestly expanded use of Clark County Stewards for specific tasks for the federal agencies. Both Sali and George are seeking expansion of the numbers and use of stewards for site preservation.

8. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held at the Lost City Museum on April 8, 9:30 a.m. Meeting was adjourned at 11:20.
February 3, 2010

Dear Volunteers of the Public Lands Institute:

Congratulations on your designation as a Preserve America Steward, and thank you for all that you do to care for our Nation’s important historical resources. The places you care for hold a treasured place in the American story, and it is through your vision and dedication that our history will be upheld and our future will be renewed.

President Obama and I are proud of your efforts and we applaud your achievement. The Americans who came before us built this country on the strength of their hopes, hard work, and perseverance. Now you are using those same qualities to help share our history with today’s Americans and those of tomorrow. With your service, you are strengthening our country. Every volunteer shows that we all have a role to play in shaping a better future, and we can do it by honoring our past.

Thank you again for all that you do, for your continuing commitment to our Nation’s heritage, and for your enthusiastic participation in the Preserve America program. I wish you all the best, and I have high hopes for your continued success.

Sincerely,

Michele Obama