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## Southern Nevada Agency Partnership Cultural Site Stewardship Program – Program Expansion and Steward Retention: Quarterly Progress Report, Period Ending September 30, 2010

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University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Period Ending September 30, 2010

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**

- One basic site steward class was held this quarter adding 36 new cultural site steward volunteers.

### **Summary of Attachments**

- Agenda and Minutes for August 19, 2010 team meeting
- Agenda for September 13, 2010 Regional Coordinator meeting

### **Collaboration with Interagency Team**

The Interagency Cultural Site Stewardship Team (ICSST) met on August 19, 2010, at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services Interagency Office Conference Room (*see attached agenda and minutes*). George Phillips, Program Manager, reported that the Cultural Site Stewardship Program is working with the Desert Wildlife Refuge (DWR) in accordance with a request by Anan Raymond, Archaeologist for USFWS. Phillips will work with Harry Konwin, USFW Volunteer Coordinator, and member of ICSST to establish stewards throughout assigned sites in DWR. Phillips solicited 12 existing stewards who will be assigned in collaboration with Konwin beginning October 2010.

Additionally, Phillips will assign stewards to remote sites along the Nevada border southwest of Searchlight. Working with Mark Boatwright, BLM Archaeologist, they will provide site locations considered worthy of agency preservation in the area. This will complement development of the Walking Box Ranch, but will remain a separate activity.

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

### ***Task 1 – Site Stewardship Database***

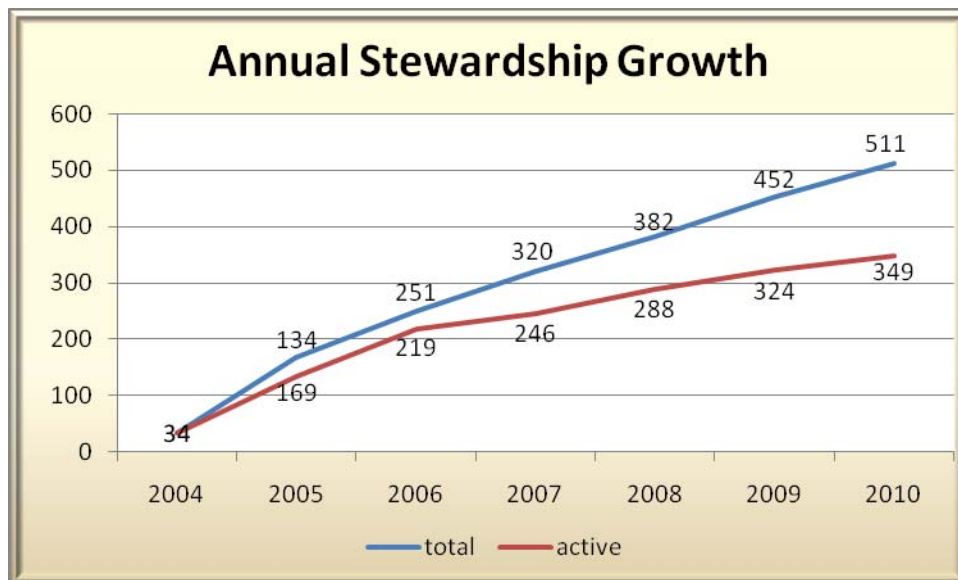
Since the CSSP has been active for six years, many steward files were suspected of having obsolescent information. As a result, packets were mailed to all active stewards requesting new Volunteer Agreements, Ethics Statements, updated Emergency Contact Information, and current Vehicle Identification information. Stewardship lapel pins for 2010, donated by the Nevada Archaeological Association, were also included. All but 18 stewards have returned the information to date.

The stewardship database continues to store and provide virtually all information regarding sites, stewards and agency reports. Backup copies are made frequently and are maintained in a separate section of the UNLV computer system where confidentiality is maintained. Small additions to expedite agency reports will be designed and implemented during the next quarter.

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

The third stewardship class for fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, was conducted at UNLV on Saturday, September 11, 2010. Twenty-three new volunteers participated showing the number of stewards trained during the fiscal year to 59, which is an increase of 13% over 2009 totals. Training classes for 2011 are scheduled in January, February and September.

As shown in figure 1 below, growth has been steady in both total and active stewardship during the past 6 years.



**Figure 1. Increase of stewardship numbers**

Regional Coordinators for CSSP met on September 13, 2010, to discuss organization for the new fiscal year beginning October 1, 2010. Two new Regional Coordinators were introduced to replace coordinators in Gold Butte area who were stepping down because they would no longer be able to devote the time required.

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

Each training class is modified to address stewardship program needs. Currently stewards are needed in areas requiring high-clearance and four-wheel vehicles only. Greater attention to safety and trip preparation is subsequently a greater focus in class. Vehicle breakdowns, two-vehicle monitoring, awareness of location and weather conditions are all stressed.

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

Regional Coordinators for CSSP will be instructed in map and compass orientation and gps navigation on Friday, October 15, 2010. Coordinators will then assist in ongoing instruction with stewards in their regions. This is the most often requested instruction by new stewards. A site photography instruction

given by Dave Lee was organized by Nevada Site Stewardship Program on May 8, 2010. Lithics instruction organized by the Nevada Site Stewardship Program and presented by William Reed, Regional Heritage Program Leader, U.S. Forest Service Intermountain Region was provided to Nevada stewards on June 5, 2010.

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

Class program evaluations are given to new site stewards at the end of each basic class, and feedback from the stewards has been very positive. Criticisms received in the past often referred to the “Legal” portion of stewardship. The class was restructured in response to comments from volunteers with ICSST guidelines, and no further criticisms have been received since January 2009.

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

A recognition event conducted by the Interagency Volunteer Program is scheduled for October 16, 2010 at UNLV for Clark County volunteers who meet minimum service levels. An annual traditional recognition event for all Clark County stewards and ICSST members is scheduled for Saturday, November 6, 2010. A “Site Steward of the Year” will be announced and other stewards will be recognized with plaques and certificates for individual achievement. The event will be conducted at the Boulder Beach Picnic Area.

**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.***

Twenty-three newly trained stewards along with 12 existing stewards were assigned to the Desert Wildlife Research area, and will be introduced to sites during early fall. The Abandoned Mines Lands project operated by the National Park Service will continue with new objectives this fall.

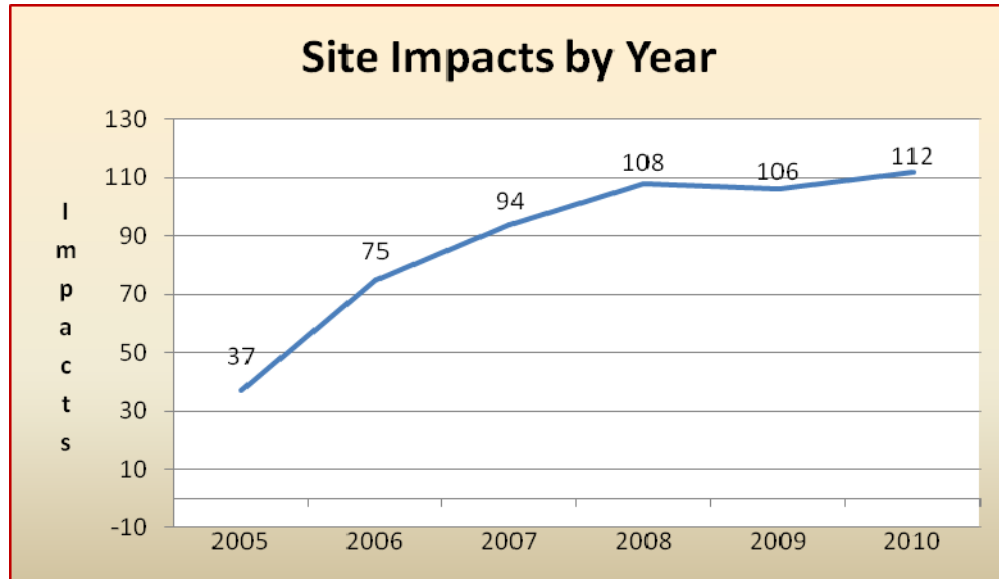
***Task 2 – Report incidents to appropriate agencies.***

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

*CLARK COUNTY CULTURAL SITE IMPACTS 12 Months Ending 9/30/2010	
Graffiti	34
OHV Related	26
Fence Destruction	7
Vandalism	7
Sign Destruction	8
Excess Trash	4
Potting/Digging	9
Bullet Damage	2
Fire Damage	5
Other Natural Causes	3
Other	7
Total	112

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

Shown below in Figure 2 below are site impacts compared annually through 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.



**Figure 2. Impacts measured annually through September 30**

A decline in impacts occurred between 2008 and 2009 as implementation of the Road Designation Plan in Gold Butte was enacted. Graffiti, vandalism and OHV- related impacts show the most notable effects.

***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. Annual reports are provided to each agency at fiscal year-end. CSSP will submit a report to USFWS at fiscal year-end 2011.

### **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.***

The Annual Nevada Archaeological Association Quarterly Meeting was held in Gabbs, Nevada on July 24, 2010. Phillips presented an update on activities and membership status of CSSP. On Public Lands Day, September 25, 2010, Phillips assisted the Public Lands Institute’s Conservation, Education and Interpretation Committee by conducting rock art tours for Families in Nature in the Valley of Fire State Park.

***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.***

Events and meetings of the Southern Nevada Rock Art Association, Nevada Archaeological Association, the Friends of Gold Butte, and the Nevada Rock Art Foundation provided numerous opportunities to discuss protection and preservation of cultural sites informally. Many stewards interact with these organizations and take part in preservation activities (desert plantings, area meetings for the upper Las Vegas Wash, and protection of Gold Butte). CSSP distributes brochures for CSSP, “Leave No Trace”, and “Archaeological Protection on Public Lands” with the Nevada State Museum, Overton Museum, and the Interagency and NPS offices.

Submitted by:



Margaret N. Rees, Ph.D.  
Executive Director, Public Lands Institute

September 30, 2010

# Clark County Cultural Site Stewardship Program

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## ICSST MEETING AGENDA

August 19, 2010

USFW Conference Room

1. Minutes of 6/10/2010 meeting.
2. Status of CSSP
  - a. Death of Sandra Edwards, steward
  - b. Activities of stewards through summer
  - c. George's assistant, Hanna Magno
  - d. Steward mailings complete. New VA's, Ethics, pins, contact info.
3. Steve – Round 6 Extension
4. USFW sites – coordination, existing CSSP stewards interested.
5. Expanding site base for monitoring – Searchlight west, Sheep Range
6. Gold Butte Coordinators - InSites
7. Site Steward class scheduled for Saturday, September 11 at UNLV  
Archaeologist presence required to tame lies
8. Recognition events
  - a. IVP recognition for AML group
  - b. CSSP recognition picnic on Saturday, November 6
    - (1) Location
    - (2) Food
    - (3) Awards
9. Other



**ICSST MEETING NOTES**  
**August 19, 2010**  
**USFW Conference Room**

Present :        Steve Daron                    George Phillips                    Kelly Turner  
                      Mark Boatwright                Dena Sedar                        Elaine Holmes  
                      Mark Slaughter                Kathleen Sprowl

Absent:            Harry Konwin

Meeting began at 9:40 a.m.

1. Minutes: Minutes of the ICSST meeting of June 10, 2010 were reviewed and corrected as follows: Elaine suggested Kathleen Holmes be corrected to Kathleen Sprowl. Sali asked that CSSP's "regional award" under section 3 be eliminated and "state award" be substituted. Minutes were approved as amended.
2. Status of CSSP:
  - a. George mentioned that the death of site steward Sandra Edwards in Mesquite, Nevada had nothing to do with stewardship or site monitoring. Ms. Edwards's death occurred within the city boundaries and was ruled accidental.
  - b. Stewardship activity has been predictably slow through the summer. Monitoring reports increase immediately as the temperature drops.
  - c. In effort to update all information and documents on all stewards, packets were mailed containing the following: New Volunteer Agreements, New Ethics Statements, lapel pins for 2010 active stewards, emergency contact information and personal vehicle information.
3. Extension: Steve reported success in modifying the CSSP program extending Round 6 funding to 2/29/2012. He will check with Joseph Cenicola to see if a separate 20 month extension is necessary.
4. USFW sites: CSSP will work through Anan Raymond, Archaeologist for the USFW and Harry Konwin, Volunteer Coordinator to establish stewards throughout assigned sites in the DWR. George sent out a memo calling for volunteers from the existing steward database and received 12 who would like to expand their assignments to include DWR. Site introductions will begin after October 1.
5. Expanding site monitoring base: Working with Mark Boatwright of the BLM, stewards will be assigned to needed sites along the Nevada border SW of Searchlight. Mark will provide site locations he feels are critical to archaeology in the area. This area in conjunction with the DWR area will require an estimated 20 additional stewards.



6. Gold Butte: Gold Butte Regional Coordinators Linda and Al Faas will be stepping down as regional coordinators beginning September. Al has health problems and Linda has been elected as Art Society President of Mesquite and will be unable to give the time required. Their help has been immeasurable. George will arrange for new coordinators during the next two or three weeks and has several volunteers as possible replacements.

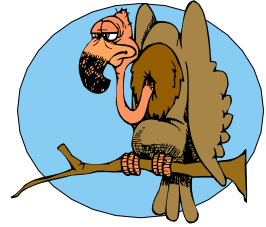
7. Class: Mark Slaughter graciously offered to assist with the 19<sup>th</sup> Las Vegas site stewardship class on September 11. Approximately 20 participants have signed to date.

8. Other: Kathleen has been working with the Old Spanish Trails Association (OSTA) program for stewarding in the SW. Four training programs have begun for new stewards but are focusing on that part of the trail in Arizona. At this point, CSSP will not be a part of the program.

Kelly gave an update on ARPA cases involving stolen petroglyphs. The cases are being prepared for trial.

Meeting ended at 11:50 a.m. The next meeting will be October 14, 2010, 9:30 a.m. at the State Museum at Lorenzi Park.

*Clark County*  
**Cultural Site  
Stewardship**  
*Program*



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**REGIONAL COORDINATORS MEETING**  
**September 13, 2010**  
**Red Rock Visitors Center**

1. **Status of CSSP**
  - Numbers
  - Activities – New VA's, Ethics, Pins, Contact Information
  - A ML
  - Change of Leadership – Gold Butte (Betty Conway, Michele Burkette)
  - Modification, extension
  
2. **Status of ICSST**
  - Fish and Wildlife
  - Laurie Perry, Mark Slaughter
  
3. **Regional reports**
  - Gold Butte
  - Moapa
  - LV
  - Sloan/Eldorado
  - Laughlin
  - DWR
  
4. **Training – First class will be January, 2011**
  - CSN students
  
5. **InSite write-ups**
  
6. **Steward issues**
  - Stewards w/out high clearance vehicles\
  - Erratic visitation
  - Turnover
  
7. **Recognition Picnic – November 6**
  - Award Recipients
  
8. **Regional Coordinator recommendations**