6-30-2011


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University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Period Ending June 30, 2011  

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 cultural site steward class was held this quarter adding 17 volunteers.  
- Team focus is upon plan to transition project to state stewardship program  

Summary of Attachments  

- Agenda and Minutes for May 5, 2011 team meeting  
- Agenda for June 23, 2011 team meeting  
- Transition Plan proposed by ICSST Leader  
- Stewardship article by Henderson Press  

Collaboration with Interagency Team  

Two team meetings were held this quarter. Focus of both the Cultural Site Stewardship Team (CSSP) and its advisory group, the Interagency Cultural Site Stewardship Team (ICSST) was upon program sustainability and eventual transition to state stewardship.  

On May 5 2011, the teams met to discuss funding issues and to consider relocating CSSP operations from UNLV to another entity (see agenda and minutes attached). Kelly Turner, current ICSST Leader and Mark Boatwright, BLM representative suggested moving CSSP to the Interagency Office to save money when Round 11 funds became available. According to this concept, CSSP would continue operating through the Public Lands Institute (PLI) at UNLV. George Phillips, CSSP Manager, responded that the future funds were approved through SNPLMA’s Round 11 and that they were based upon the continued relationship with PLI through the end of 2013. Facilitation through PLI has provided almost seven years’ benefits such as IT support, management benefits and community contacts unavailable through most alternative entities. These services were catalysts to the performance and achievements of the program. Phillips thought potential grants and financial gifts could not be processed as easily through federal agencies as they could through the UNLV non-profit Foundation.
On June 6, 2011, ICSST Leader Kelly Turner sent the following e-mail:

“...Mark let us know on Monday that he had been told that he needed to submit the Work Plan and Task Order for the funds for the Site Steward program as well as his other funds up to the State office by June 14. This meant that we needed to make some decisions on how we were going to use our funds. After initially discussing what was needed we decided to make our decisions based on the sustainability alternative that we had presented to the SNAP board. This alternative involves the slow transition of the Clark County Site Steward program over to the State Program.

“Based on this fact we developed a timeline and several specific tasks that would need to occur. The Round six funds run through 2011 with the funding for the Program Manager position ending at the end of December 2011 and the CESU agreement with PLI expiring at the end of February 2012. Based on this, the attached timeline was developed” [Proposed CSSP Transition Plan attached].

On June 23, 2011, a second team meeting was held (agenda attached). Dr. Margaret (Peg) Rees, Executive Director of the Public Lands Institute was invited to discuss the proposed transition plan and funding of CSSP. Dr. Rees asked if alternatives management options were considered to transition the CSSP program directly to the state stewardship program. Kelly said ICSST made a decision but had not considered other options. Sali Underwood, Nevada State Site Stewardship Coordinator and member of ICSST acknowledged that the state system, which began in 2006, is built upon the CSSP model and uses its forms and training procedures. The state system is supported through the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) and faces financial transitions as well. Members of ICSST acknowledged the financial uncertainties for the state-run stewardship program. Dr. Rees and George Phillips will meet with Sali Underwood and Ron James, State Historical Preservation Officer to discuss. Dr. Rees and Phillips will present ideas discussed at the next ICSST Meeting.

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

**Task 1 – Site Stewardship Database**

A request to make use of the stewardship database software created by CSSP was made by Dr. Elizabeth Barrie, Project Manager for the award-winning Take Pride in America program. She and Erika Schumaker, team leader for Take Pride made the request to further implement the project’s highly successful anti-litter and desert dumping strategic plan. The stewardship database stores all site information, volunteer data and agency reports in a format which can be modified to support the project. ICSST members unanimously approved its use.

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

The second stewardship class for 2011 was conducted at UNLV on Saturday, May 5, 2011, at the UNLV Paradise Campus. Seventeen new volunteers participated in the class, bringing the number of stewards trained to 545. A total of 34 new volunteers have been trained during fiscal year 2011.

As shown in figure 1 below, growth has been steady in both total and active stewardship. Numbers of active stewards are amended throughout the year to reflect those who are part-time residents or do not visit their sites at least once within a three-month period. During 2011, total volunteers have increased by 6.6% over 2010 totals.
Task 3 – Deliver, evaluate, and refine basic training classes for volunteer cultural site stewards.

Each training class is modified to address stewardship program needs. Two-hour “refresher classes” are being planned for all stewards who are active and were trained prior to 2011. Primary topics covered will include safety, law enforcement, and operational procedures. Classes prepared in Power Point will be given in Boulder City, Mesquite, and two locations in Las Vegas. Steward participation will be requested by letter and e-mail supported by CSSP Regional Coordinators. George Phillips will monitor response from the stewards and track attendance through the stewardship database. A minimum of three presenters will attend each class including one archaeologist from ICSST, a member of SNAP law enforcement, and one project manager. Classes will begin August, 2011 and proceed until all active stewards attend.

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

Rock Art Recording, lithics, gps navigation, and map and compass classes are being prepared for summer 2011, by CSSP Regional Coordinators.

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 and were criticized for being too detailed. The class was restructured in response to comments from volunteers with ICSST guidelines, and no further criticisms have been received in that regard since January 2009.
**Task 6 – Plan and implement volunteer recognition initiatives and events.**

The seventh recognition event for all Clark County stewards and ICSST members will take place in November, 2011. Detailed plans will be made this spring. All six previous events were well-attended and considered highly successful. Stewards are recognized for outstanding service and are presented with plaques, certificates and other awards during an outdoor informal ceremony.

**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.**

Three new stewards of 34 remain unassigned. All three are out of state and will return at the end of summer.

**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 first six months of the fiscal year 2011 are shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><em>CLARK COUNTY CULTURAL SITE IMPACTS</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 Months of Fiscal Year Ending March 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Graffiti</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OHV Related</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fence Destruction</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vandalism</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sign Destruction</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Excess Trash</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Potting/Digging</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bullet Damage</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fire Damage</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Natural Causes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total**                                      | 95        | 108       |

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

Figure 2 below shows an increase of over 13% in significant site impacts and does not reflect data from reports of minor effects. Minor impacts, including trash accumulation and illegal desert off-roading, are reported to agency representatives to indicate visitation pressure, but they do not affect the site itself. A rise in the “Other” category includes a brush fire within a site area caused by fireworks, 2 roads washed out within cultural site boundaries and a petroglyph discovered broken and displaced from natural causes.
Annual impacts are increasing steadily from continued population pressure. A decline in impacts occurred between 2008 and 2009 as implementation of the Gold Butte Road Designation Plan was enacted.

**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.**

In response to Kelly Turner’s e-mail request, lists of all sites by agency including gps locations, site steward personal information and, and volunteer site assignments were given to each agency.

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.

**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.**

On May 26, 2011, an interview with George Phillips on site stewardship near Henderson, Nevada was published in the Henderson Press (*article attached*). The reporter, Karen Lu interviewed 2 stewards as well and subsequently joined CSSP stewardship. She was assigned to a site near the Spring Mountains.
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.

Phillips spoke through the View magazine regarding graffiti damage to a Red Rock Lost Creek pictograph site in May, 2011. The BLM archaeologist, Mark Boatwright, is arranging for classes on select graffiti removal for site stewards. He intends to begin late in 2011.

Submitted by:

Margaret N. Rees, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Public Lands Institute
1. Minutes of meeting for 3/17/11.

2. CSSP Class - 5/21/11

3. Family monitoring approval

4. Funding

5. Other

6. Next Meeting
ICSST MEETING NOTES
May 5, 2011
Interagency Office

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

Meeting began 9:40 a.m.

1. Minutes of 3.17.2011: Program extension should show 6 months rather than 2 months. (Kelly still waiting for total amount of funds left from each agency for Round 6. Kelly said timing for the CSSP extension referencing 12/2012 is ok.) Minutes approved with corrections.

2. Class: The second CSSP site steward basic training class for fy 2011 will occur on Saturday, 5/21/2011 at the Paradise Campus of UNLV. Seventeen new stewards are expected to participate.

3. Family stewarding: George asked for approval to begin using family stewards for sites easily monitored and approved by agency archaeologists. He checked with Nancy Bernard, NPS Volunteer Manager to ensure appropriate documentation would included, Volunteer Agreement, Parents’ Authorization Agreement, a written description of what the family was to monitor in addition to standard site introduction information for the parents. Kelly said the children and their parents should receive special training and children should be no younger than 8 years old. She will meet with George to make a plan in 2 weeks. George will organize a list of potential sites for each agency.

4. Funding: Issues regarding funding CSSP program were addressed. Steve asked if UNLV would be willing to fund the program through 2013. George said he proposed funding to 2013 through Round 11 as if it were continuing through UNLV. Questions were raised by Kelly and Mark B. whether it would be best to remain with UNLV or consider moving operations to another entity. Funding must be sought from commercial organizations when there is a non-profit organization to process funds through. Mark said he would like to know who we’re requesting funds from. George said no formal applications have been made but he would like to begin now. We need to know with which entity CSSP will be associated first. He asked for a team decision by June in order to begin. It was decided that George would invite Dr. Rees to our next meeting to discuss. He will make arrangements and notify team members of the approved date and time.

5. Other: Elaine recommended adding a Regional Coordinator to the Las Vegas area. George will arrange in coordination with Elaine.
Elaine recommended information regarding impact investigations be relayed to stewards through George. The team agreed that stewards should be notified if an investigation is ongoing and what restrictions would apply. This includes whether stewards should refrain from monitoring the sites and when they could resume.

Action item: George will enquire if Dr. Rees can attend an ICSST meeting either June 23 or June 30 at the PLI Conference Room at 9:30 and will notify team members within the next week.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50

George Phillips
ICSST MEETING AGENDA
June 23, 2011
PLI Conference Room – UNLV

1. Review minutes of 5.5.11 meeting
2. CSSP update
3. Kelly – CSSP funding discussion with Peg
4. Use of CSSP Database
5. Refresher training
6. Other
Southern Nevada Cultural Site Stewardship Program Transition Plan

When the Federal archaeologists met with the SNAP board on May 6, it was agreed that the Cultural Site Steward team would begin to transition the program over to the State. On Tuesday May 31, 2011 the Federal archaeologists met by phone conference and began developing the timeline for the transition and deciding how the money for Round 11 would be distributed. On Thursday, June 2, 2011, I had a conversation with Ron James, SHPO, about the funding for the State program and he assured me that the funding is there and will be there and is secure and that he is more than happy to help us make this a smooth transition that benefits the resources.

While the actual transition of data and information to the State will begin January 1, 2012, the process to deal with the transition will start in June 2011. As a part of beginning to develop the transition it is important that all team members work together and coordinate with each other to meet the needs of both the current Clark County program and the State program. As a part of this any and all requests for information or interviews from the media need to be directed to the Federal agencies Public Affairs Officers and the Federal archaeologists. It is also important that before any new stewards are placed on sites that those visits are coordinated with the agency archaeologists. As always, data and information concerning sites on Federal land is confidential and is only to be shared between the Federal archaeologists, the Clark County site steward program and the State site steward program and is not to be accessed for personal use.

Starting January 1, 2012, the Program Manager position would be extended for one year until the end of December 2012. A new CESU agreement with PLI would begin March 1, 2012 and would run through December 31, 2012.

Between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012, the Clark County program will work with the State program to transfer all of the computer information located on the computers, external hard drives, CDs or Thumb drives etc. used by or associated with the Clark County Site Steward program. This will include all of the program information, including but not limited to the Site Steward data base with the information for all volunteer site stewards, their contact information and the information about the sites they are monitoring, all submitted monitoring forms and all communications from the stewards having to do with the Clark County site steward program and the sites they monitor, all photographs, maps, training information, damage documentation etc. All of the hard copy documents associated with the Clark County program, including but not limited to submitted site monitoring forms, photographs, maps, site locations information (site records, maps show location, etc.), and all the training information. All training classes would be coordinated with the State in order to make sure that the information that is being presented is consistent with that of the State program. The Refresher trainings that will start later this summer will also be coordinated with the State in order to begin informing the older site stewards of the impending transition and in order to give them time to ask questions or raise issues.

In June 2012, the Federal archaeologists will begin working with the State to begin developing the necessary agreements and documents needed for the transfer. The transfer of all Clark County Site Steward program information from all sources will be completed by December 14,
2012 and the final close out of the office at PLI will begin. Both the Program Manager position and the CESU agreement will end on December 31.

January 1, 2013 will be the official transfer of the Clark County program to the State program. The remaining Round 11 funds will also be transferred to the State at this time.

Fifty Thousand dollars ($50,000.00) of the Round 11 funds will be retained out of the $300,000.00 by the Federal archaeologists to oversee the program for two years.

Specific tasks that need to occur now are:

1. Mark B. will write the new Work Plan and Task Order and submit it to the BLM State Office.

2. George and Sali will develop complete lists, specific to each agency land, of all the sites that they currently have site stewards monitoring, who each of the stewards are and all the contact information for each of the site stewards for each agency archaeologist. This information is to be available by the June 23rd meeting. The format should be electronic in an Excel spread sheet on CDs so that it can be added to the agencies databases.

3. The Federal archaeologists will begin to modify the Clark County Site Steward Charter to reflect the upcoming changes and make the decision on whether the team remains independent or is moved under the Cultural Resource team as a subcommittee.

[Sent by Kelly Turner, USFS archaeologist, ICSST Leader]
Volunteer Group Tasked with Preserving History

Written by Karen Y. Lu THP Reporter

One of the culturally significant petroglyphs found in the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area. To preserve this unique rock art, only photography is recommended.

"One of the things that I love about the site is that people can walk by and have no clue that they are walking by something that is historically significant."

- Linda Nations, Cultural Site Steward

A small army of 500 volunteers is protecting Southern Nevada's culturally significant historic and prehistoric sites through a public partnership called the Cultural Site Stewardship Program.

These sites represent the history of ancient animals and cultures including the Piaute, Mojave, Patayan, Chemehuevi and Soshone.
The program is part of the Public Lands Institute (PLI), which is headquartered at UNLV and represents a partnership between UNLV and five federal government agencies: the National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation and the National Forest Service.

The Public Lands Institute is led by project manager George Phillips.

Because "close to 80% of our (state) lands are public," Phillips said, there are not enough park rangers or public archaeologists to adequately monitor and protect these culturally sensitive areas.

"Henderson is completely surrounded by sites," he said, including areas within Duck Creek, the Las Vegas Wash, Whitney Mesa, Sunset Park, Lake Las Vegas and Sloan Canyon.

For example, Sloan Canyon, which is easily accessible from the Anthem community, has "phenomenal sites," said Phillips, including those that show evidence of prehistoric peoples moving north and south and ancient game trails.

As a result, there are several local stewards actively monitoring and reporting on the conditions of their assigned sites within the 48,438-acre Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area, which the U.S. Congress designated in 2002.

The PLI Cultural Site Steward Program has more than 500 diligent volunteers who visit, photograph and report on their sites a minimum of once a quarter.

Phillips has found that the volunteer stewards have observational judgment that is often as good as, and sometimes better than, professionals. This is because they often feel close personal ownership of their site, he said, noticing any little change or disturbance since their last site visit.

Linda Nations, a Henderson resident and guide at Hoover Dam, has been a site steward since 2005.

Nations said she volunteered because the federal agencies were short staffed and because these sites are fragile and a "part of our human heritage."

Her assigned site is in Henderson and is both "very, very old" and "surprisingly close to a residential area."

"One of the things that I love about the site is that people can walk by and have no clue that they are walking by something that is historically significant," Nations said.

Stewards are trained to notice and report any changes or damage to a cultural site, on a scale from 0 (no change to site) to 4 (active destruction witnessed during visit).

Phillips reviews all reports and forwards the observed facts and trends to the agency that governs the particular location.
According to Phillips, the most common cause of damage is graffiti, followed closely by off-road vehicles driving over delicate evidence of cultural and ecological history.

Unfortunately, there is also malicious looting and removal of valuable artifacts.

And for those who are just curious, Phillips cautioned that even touching or moving an ancient item, such as a pottery shard or arrowhead, lessens its historical significance as it "places the item out of context."

Anyone interested in becoming a site steward is encouraged to contact George Phillips at george.phillips@unlv.edu or 702-895-4863.