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Executive Summary

- The Cultural Site Stewardship Program now has 229 enrolled site stewards, a 6% increase this quarter and an increase of 674% since program inception.
- One training class was held this quarter and generated 13 new site stewards.
- Seventeen significant cultural site impacts were reported during the quarter. Site Stewards reported 49 significant impacts during the 9 month period compared to 18 impacts during the same period last year.
- Two sets of Volunteer Regional Coordinators were appointed, for a total of 4 teams to cover Clark County.
- Thirty-nine new site stewards were assigned this quarter, and a total of 148 critical sites are being monitored.

Collaboration with Interagency Team

The Clark County Heritage Resources Team (CCoHRT) met twice during the quarter on June 1 and June 30, 2006 (see attached June 1 agenda and meeting notes). Agenda items focused on creating a “Site Type and Threats Evaluation” system for agencies to prioritize critical sites for monitoring. The decision objectives were based on site sensitivity and included the following:

- Choosing the “best” sites to monitor
- Most benefit based on site rarity/sensitivity
- Minimize vandalism through increased monitoring

Decision criteria for site monitoring priority are:

- Site condition
- Site sensitivity
- Visitation
- Research potential
Factors for determining cultural resource sensitivity will be decided upon at the next CCoHRT meeting.

Sali Underwood, Site Steward Manager for the Nevada State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO), requested that personal information and volunteer hours for Clark County site stewards be integrated into the state’s new data system. The CCoHRT team agreed to provide the information, with the stipulation that each steward must formally opt-in to the SHPO system. The Program Manager will pursue these authorizations in July 2006.

Site Steward Training

The CSSP conducted one training class this quarter on June 24, 2006. The class was attended by 17 people and generated 13 new stewards (4 were not accepted into the program). During the summer, training class size is unofficially restricted to 20 volunteers. Site data preparation and sufficient time to introduce a new steward to a site requires one-half to one day for each steward and may become an unnecessary challenge to the steward in the heat of summer.

A PowerPoint presentation on laws affecting cultural site stewardship was prepared for the CSSP classroom training sessions by members of CCoHRT. This PowerPoint is an effort to standardize the training and will be provided to the Nevada Archaeological Association for use throughout Nevada (see attached “Laws” presentation).

Regional Coordinators Roy and Betsy Miller created a safety “call in” card (see copy attached) for stewards to give to a responsible party when they are visiting assigned sites. This idea was reinforced by an incident in Lincoln County in which a coordinator and a steward became stranded and spent the night in a remote location until they were discovered the following day by a rescue team. The card will give precise directions to a responsible party if the site steward fails to report back at the specified time.

Site Steward Recruitment

The CSSP currently has 229 site stewards in the CSSP database (6 are presently inactive). Recruitment and growth since program inception has been steady, with a 6% increase this quarter and an overall increase of 674% since program inception as indicated in the table below. Although there is considerable public outreach, recruiting site stewards is conducted solely by word of mouth.

The interest and quality of site stewards has been greater than expected. Although data on stewards’ academic qualifications are not formally collected, there are at least four with environmentally-oriented Ph.D.s, 10 with archaeology degrees, four newspaper or public marketing professionals, and more than 65 stewards who belong to active environmental organizations such as the Nevada Rock Art Foundation, Southern Nevada Rock Art Association, Nevada Archaeological Association, Archaeo-Nevada Society, Friends of Nevada Wilderness, Friends of Gold Butte, Friends of Red Rock Canyon, and the Mojave Rock Art Workshop. One steward is president of a Rubicon 4WD Association, and another is president of a Las Vegas ATV association.
Monitoring Activities

Gold Butte Area

As stated in previous quarterly reports, the Gold Butte Area was assigned “first priority” for protective action by the BLM as a result of data collected by CSSP site stewards. Scoping sessions for roads designation took place during this quarter, and three alternative plans were proposed to regulate vehicles. The archaeological firm Far West Inc. was contracted to conduct a survey of cultural resources in the Gold Butte Area and began administrative preparation on May 1, 2006. The physical survey is scheduled to begin in early fall. On June 26, CSSP Project Manager George Phillips accompanied archaeologists on a working tour of the area to identify notable sites. There are 45 CSSP stewards monitoring sites in 308,000 acres considered an Area of Critical Environmental Concern. Within those boundaries are two Wilderness Areas and two Wilderness Study Areas. Stewards have recommended locations for “post and cable” barriers and accompanying signage to the BLM, which responded with a team of workers to construct them. In two instances, site stewards assisted. During this quarter, CSSP stewards replaced seven carsonite signs and repaired seven more with the authorization of the agency archaeologist. Each steward collects trash accumulating around his or her assigned site, which frequently consists of several garbage bags. Due to the remote location of many sites, stewards conduct their monitoring in pairs following a strict protocol outlined in the CSSP training and field manuals.

Red Rock Canyon NCA

With the recent assignment of a full-time archaeologist for Red Rock Canyon NCA, the CSSP was able to assign 26 stewards to key locations to observe acutely sensitive areas. High visitation
and often high site visibility has prompted overlapping assignments to ensure adequate coverage. Stewards were recruited from the existing Red Rock Cultural Committee and are working closely with the NCA archaeologist as he becomes familiar with more than 150 documented sites.

**Sloan Canyon NCA**

The Sloan NCA Regional Manager, Bill James, and CSSP Manager George Phillips met to reinvigorate Sloan stewards as BLM Manager Charles Carroll leaves for a new position in Washington, D.C. An unusually regimented arrangement of 35 stewards provides monitoring Saturdays and Sundays and one day during the week as Sloan Canyon NCA evolves through management transition. Due in part to frequent presence of stewards, few impacts have been reported and are limited to minor graffiti and minor motorized vehicle incursions.

**Little Red Rock Area**

The CCoHRT team was approached by the southern Nevada SHPO representative to participate in training stewards for the Little Red Rock area. Located near Red Rock Canyon NCA, this is an area privately owned by the Howard Hughes Corporation but is an area rich in cultural resources. The team decided that the CSSP will continue to train site stewards for public lands sites only; individual stewards may elect to assist with monitoring the Little Red Rock area, but it will not be incorporated into formal CSSP efforts, to remain in compliance with SNPLMA regulations.

**Site Impacts**

As shown in the graph below, there has been a substantial increase in significant cultural site impacts reported this quarter, including human-caused damages – such as bullet-holes, graffiti and potting – as well as damage from animals, water, and fire. Reports of damage for this quarter include the following:

- Graffiti and chalking on petroglyphs
- Charcoal pictographs defaced from vigorous scratching
- Excess trash accumulation – dumping
- Cattle-caused damage through habitation area
- Illegal shooting gallery set up in ACEC
- Petroglyph and large stones appear to have been removed
- Multiple ATV tracks into wilderness, bypassing signs.
- Fences preventing entrance to restricted area torn down, OHV incursions
- Extensive ATV damage to crypto-crystalline soil in ACEC
- Road punch-ins

Monitoring reports indicate that, as population increases, impacts generally appear to increase in accelerating proportion due to adaptable and popular off-road vehicles. The vast majority of degradation occurs as a by-product of vehicle accessibility. Once-remote sites in the Logandale Trails and Gold Butte areas are common destinations for recreational vehicles. Public outreach and education coupled with cultural awareness road designation signs in selected areas may slow the assault on these fragile resources.
The increase in severe impacts during the quarter ending June 2006 is a reflection of intensified outdoor activity due to milder weather. During the three months of summer, this activity should decline somewhat and will be reflected in data accumulated for the quarter ending September 30.

Public Relations, Outreach, and Partnerships

A program brochure and banner for the Cultural Site Stewardship Program were presented to the CCoHRT team at its June 1 meeting and are currently undergoing final review and corrections. The brochures are designed for public awareness and site steward recruitment, and the banner will be used at public events.

All Clark County site coordinators and the CSSP Manager attended a statewide conference of the Nevada Archaeological Association (NAA) held on April 8, 2006, in Mesquite, Nevada. The group reviewed training procedures for stewardship throughout the state in a half-day session. During the evening dinner, George Phillips presented a tribute to Jack and Elaine Holmes, original members of the CCoHRT team. Elaine Holmes is the site steward representative on CCoHRT as was Jack, who passed away in December 2005. Both were presented with the Ting-Perkins award from the NAA for outstanding leadership by non-professional archaeologists. On
April 9, 2006, George Phillips led a tour of a Gold Butte Site for SHPO representatives and the Nevada BLM State Archaeologist.

On April 18, 2006, George Phillips and Regional Coordinators for Gold Butte organized a discussion of Wilderness Areas and Stewardship with BLM Wilderness Coordinator James Sippel. On April 24 and 25, 2006, George Phillips and all Regional Coordinators were pleased to assist the National Park Service in locating remote petroglyph panels along the Colorado River. A series of sites were assigned to stewards. During a meeting of the Boulder City Men’s Club, George Phillips gave a presentation about the CSSP and the growth of site stewardship in Clark County. Approximately 15 Boulder City businessmen attended.

A CSSP Regional Coordinators’ meeting was held at the Lost City Museum on May 1, 2006, to synchronize efforts in different areas of the County (see agenda attached). An updated volunteer list was provided to each of the 6 coordinators, and discussions regarding forms, site visits, communication, and safety were conducted. Site steward evaluations, certification, and reporting protocols were clarified. The annual recognition picnic, chosen for November 4th at the Valley of Fire was confirmed. Because May is Archaeology and Historical Preservation Month, schedules of events in all corners of Clark County were exchanged.

On June 8, 2006, George Phillips was invited to Jeffers Elementary School, a progressive science and math elementary school, to present a visual program about the value of cultural resources in Nevada to 4 fifth-grade classes. Approximately 65 students attended and were prepared with written questions.

The Nevada Rock Art Foundation (NRAF) held its annual meeting in Tonopah, Nevada, on June 10, 2006. In a PowerPoint presentation, Program Manager George Phillips gave an update on the expansion of the CSSP to approximately 50 members. The NRAF board agreed to provide funding for refreshments at CSSP site steward training classes.

Submitted by:

__________________________________________  June 30, 2006
Margaret N. Rees, Principal Investigator