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# Archaeological Inventory, Site Assessment, and Data Management, Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LMNRA) and Parashant National Monument (PARA): Quarterly Progress Report, Period Ending December 31, 2007

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**UNLV**  
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA LAS VEGAS  
**QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT**

University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Period Ending December 31, 2007

Cooperative Agreement Number H8R07060001  
Task Agreement Number J8R07060013

Archaeological Inventory, Site Assessment, and Data Management, Lake Mead National  
Recreation Area (LMNRA) and Parashant National Monument (PARA)

### **Executive Summary**

- Completed subsurface test excavations at Site 26Ck4943. Field work included the excavation of 11 test units and 10 shovel probes, and the recovery of 52 artifacts and 6.0 gallons of feature fill.
- Inventoried 435 acres, documented 13 new sites and conducted condition assessments on 12 other sites.
- Completed a review of all 1,932 ASMIS site records, of which 857 are sites located within LMNRA or PARA, while 1,075 are “Local Resource Types.”
- Gave five presentations on Task Agreement projects at the *Three Corners Conference* at UNLV.

### **Summary of Attachments**

Site 26Ck4943 Test Excavation Summary  
Site Condition Assessment Summary

### **Program Activities**

#### Preserve America Project 1A: Saint Thomas

No activities were undertaken for this particular project during this quarter. Field work, which will include condition assessments on all 140 features, is scheduled for January.

#### Preserve America Project 1B: Lake Mead Website Cultural Resource Information Review and Update

After consultation among Program Manager Greg Haynes, NPS ATR Steve Daron, and NPS Web Designer Leslie Paige, a new strategy for completing project deliverables was developed. Research Assistant Steph Velasquez and Dr. Haynes will author most of the text, while Ms. Paige and Mr. Daron will review the information and suggest where appropriate graphics should be included. Other PLI research assistants and NPS personnel will help with smaller portions of the text and in gathering the necessary graphics.

Consultation also resulted in a revised web-page outline. A new “Culture and History” front page, coupled with web text that presents historic information on Daniel Bonelli, Elwood Mead, Jedediah Smith and Anson Call (Callville Bay), were submitted to Ms. Paige for review. Web text for a number of other topics is scheduled for completion by the end of this year. Topics include the importance of cultural resources and their protection, an overview of the Overton Arm, the submerged B-29 military airplane, Pueblo Grande de Nevada, and a biography of Mark Raymond Harrington.

#### Preserve America Project 1C: Evaluation of Site 26Ck4943

The Class 1 Inventory and Testing Plan for Site 26Ck4943 and a letter initiating consultation were mailed to a number of tribal organizations on August 23; three tribes responded (the Fort Mohave Indian Tribe, the Quechan Indian Tribe, and the Hopi Tribe). Of these three responses, the Quechan Indian Tribe requested a tour of the site, and this was conducted by PLI archaeologists Greg Haynes and Leah Bonstead on November 15. Likewise, the report and a letter requesting approval of the testing plan were mailed to the Nevada SHPO at the end of September; a concurrence letter was received back within 30 days. Thus, official documentation for tribal consultation (Deliverable 3) and the Nevada SHPO (Deliverable 4) is complete.

Subsurface test excavations under the direction of Dr. Haynes began at Site 26Ck4943 on November 14 and continued through December 6, 2007. Excavated were a total of 11 test units, 10 shovel probes, and 9 cubic meters of dirt. As a result of field work, 52 artifacts were recovered, including 28 from subsurface contexts (chipped stone debitage=24, chipped stone tool=1, ceramics=2, ground stone=1) and 24 from the surface (chipped stone debitage=1, chipped stone tool=1, ceramics=21, ground stone=1). In addition, 15 sediment samples that comprise 7.5 gallons of dirt were collected, of which six gallons came from a fire-related feature exposed in the side-wall of an incised wash. Specialized botanical analyses of the sediment samples were been mailed to a laboratory in Colorado, and results are expected back by March 30, 2008.

The purpose of this test excavation program was to determine if a substantial subsurface archaeological deposit was present at Site 26Ck4943, and, if so, to characterize its content and spatial extent. Initial site documentation, continued exposure of new artifacts over time, and the presence of buried deposits at other sites in the area all suggested that an important archaeological deposit may be present. Unfortunately, with the possible exception of the fire-related feature, no deposit was found. Whether or not the fire feature exposed in an incised wash was a result of human activity remains to be seen.

#### Project 2: Site Condition Assessments

Condition assessments have been completed for 12 sites on LMNRA this quarter, which accounts for nearly half of the condition assessments required on Lake Mead for FY08 (Phase 2.1). All of these sites remain in good condition, although one is now classified a “Local Resource” because it does not meet current NPS site criteria. In addition, some soil deflation and cattle effects are consistent impacts at all of the sites near Grand Wash.

All of the site records entered into the NPS ASMIS database have been systematically reviewed by PLI Field Supervisor Leah Bonstead (Phase 2.4). At the beginning of the task agreement (October 1, 2006), the number of records present in this database totaled 1,932 and all of these have now been reviewed for accuracy and completeness. Of these records, 857 sites are located in either LMNRA or PARA, contain accurate locational/spatial information, and meet the current NPS criteria to be designated a "site." The other 1,075 records are considered a "Local Resource Type." That is, they are either not in the boundaries of LMNRA or PARA, do not contain accurate locational/spatial information, and/or do not meet the current NPS criteria to be designated a "site." The current number of site records in the ASMIS catalog for both LMNRA and PARA, including both "sites" and "Local Resource Types" is 2,175, of which 243 are new sites added to the system in FY07.

#### Project 3: NPS Fire Management Projects (PARA)

All of the deliverables identified in Phase 1 and Phase 2 for the Andrus Burn Unit project are complete, as stated previously in the FY07 Year End Report. Archival work for the Twin South Fuels Treatment project will commence sometime after January 1, 2008.

#### Project 4A: UNLV Archaeological Field School on the Shivwits Plateau

Laboratory analysis of the artifacts recovered during the 2007 summer field school at Lava Ridge Ruin (AZ A:15:50) is currently on-going under the direction of PLI Principal Investigator Dr. Karen Harry. A total of 14 new sites were found as a result of archaeological survey on Mount Dellenbaugh, near Lava Ridge Ruin. All of the associated documentation for these sites, including a short report describing the results of the survey, has been completed and entered into ASMIS. A report that describes preliminary excavation results will be completed by December 31.

#### Project 4B: Shivwits Plateau Settlement Pattern Study

A final GIS database that includes information on approximately 1,200 sites recorded on the Shivwits Plateau (PARA) was submitted to Principal Investigator Dr. Karen Harry, BLM PARA Archaeologist John Herron, and LMNRA Archaeologist Steve Daron in late September (Phase 1.2). The database is associated with a region roughly 124 km long by 80 km wide and covered by forty 7.5 minute USGS quadrangles. Variables associated with each site include site type, site function, and time period. Other GIS-based layers associated with the site database include topography, water resources, vegetation communities, and soil types. This database was compiled by Ms. Glendee Ane Osborne, a graduate student supervised by Dr. Harry. Ms. Osborne will complete a settlement pattern study using this data for her M.A. thesis in anthropology.

In conjunction with this project, Ms. Osborne completed her thesis prospectus and successfully defended her research design this semester. She gave a presentation about her project to LMNRA Resource Management personnel in November.

#### Project 5: SNPLMA Capital Improvement Projects

As a result of consultation among NPS ATR Steve Daron and PLI Archaeologists Leah Bonstead and Greg Haynes, four parcels suitable for inventory under the Capital

Improvement Project were identified. These parcels include 305 acres near Government Wash, 340 acres near Laughlin, and a total of 750 acres associated with two parcels in the Virgin Basin. Taken together, the total number of acres scheduled for the CIP survey is 1,395, which is almost double the 700 slated for Phase 2 of this project. While the Class I Inventory is not yet complete—a result of the field work at Catacombs Curve (see above)—it will be completed and turned into Mr. Daron by December 31.

Field work for the Government Wash inventory was completed in October under the direction of PLI Archaeologist Liz Roycraft. In all, 305 acres were surveyed, and seven sites and 25 isolated artifacts were recorded.

#### Project 6: Lost City Inventory

No activities were undertaken for this particular project during this quarter. Field work is scheduled to occur between January and February of next year.

#### Project 7: BLM Andrus Burn Unit (PARA)

All of the deliverables identified in both Phase 1 and Phase 2 for this project are complete, as previously stated in the FY07 Year End Report.

### **Other Projects Conducted at the Request of the National Park Service**

UNLV Graduate Student Glendee Ane Osborne assisted NPS Archaeologist Pat Baird in the documentation of Blue Point Spring. Ms. Osborne's work primarily involved the creation of a highly accurate site map using a Total Station. Both the upper and lower spring localities, as well as associated historic fish ponds, roadways and other historic features were mapped.

Three rock art sites were recorded near Cottonwood Cove (26Ck6577, 26Ck6578, 26Ck6579). The documentation crew included two PLI employees (Bonstead, Burrows), an NPS seasonal employee (Ms. Allison King) and two volunteer Student Conservation Association volunteers (Ms. Crystal Kauk, Ms. Sarah Weems). Ms. Bonstead trained the entire crew on the proper techniques used to record rock art according to standards provided by the Nevada Rock Art Foundation and approved by Nevada SHPO.

In 1997 and 1978, the Western Archaeological Center (WACC) recorded 130 sites near Tassi Spring in the Grand Wash area of PARA. These sites would eventually become listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as the "Grand Wash Archaeological District." Because the level of documentation for archaeological sites has significantly changed over the years, LMNRA Archaeologist Steve Daron requested that field work take place at this NRHP district in order to update the existing site records. This work would include relocating, re-recording, and assessing the condition of as many sites as possible using current standards and protocols. Field work began in October under the direction of PLI Archaeologist Steph Velasquez, and will be ongoing throughout the upcoming year as time and the disposition of both PLI and NPS archaeologists allow.

In order to conduct an aeriially-ignited prescribed fire on Kelly Point, the Fire Management Office at LMNRA requested archaeological survey for a fire break on each side of the proposed parcel. Field work was conducted in November under the direction of Steph Velasquez. One hundred thirty acres were inventoried, and three sites and seven isolated artifacts were recorded. More field work is expected for this project in the upcoming year.

This quarter, 360 artifact records were entered into ANCS+, the Park Service's national curation catalog. All of these records were for Main Ridge (Smithsonian site #26Ck2148) at Pueblo Grande de Nevada, the so-called Lost City. Additionally, quality control/quality assurance of records in the Natural History catalog of ANCS+ is currently being undertaken as time and effort allow. This work is at the request of LMNRA Cultural Resources Branch Chief Rosie Pepito, and is being conducted by PLI Research Assistant Erin Burrows.

### **Personnel and Hiring**

No changes in the disposition of the PLI archaeological staff occurred this quarter. The NPS, however, acquired a new Student Conservation Corp volunteer, Ms. Sarah Weems. Sarah obtained her B.A. in anthropology from the University of Louisiana (Lafayette) and attended a field school this past summer in southeastern California through the California State University system.

### **Training**

PLI Research Assistant Liz Roycraft attended a number of important training events this quarter. In October, she attended the National Historic Preservation Trust's introductory course on Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Nowadays, all professional archaeologists need to have a working knowledge of Section 106, because it requires all federal agencies to take into count the effects of their activities on places listed or eligible to the National Register of Historic Places and how, exactly, the agencies are supposed to do that. She also completed a four day Geographic Information System class at UNLV that covered the basic application of this program to resource management work. Much of Ms. Roycraft's work requires her to enter spatial data into a LMNRA GIS database, ensure that her data interfaces with other kinds of spatial data, and produce GIS-based maps. Ms. Roycraft also attended the NPS Basic Helicopter Safety training, so that if an archaeologist needs to go into the field via helicopter, someone will be available to do this according to NPS protocols.

PLI Research Assistant Steph Velasquez also attended a number of training events. In October, she attended a full week of SCUBA training at Lake Mead and obtained at PADI SCUBA certificate. Moreover, she was able to obtain a Diver's Alert Network Oxygen Administration Certification at the same time. It is important to note that these two courses were undertaken on Ms. Velasquez's own time and at her own expense. A number of important cultural resources are submerged in Lake Mead, and this will allow

her to monitor and conduct work as necessary on those resources, as well as assist the LMNRA Dive Team, as needed. She also attended a CPR/AED recertification class.

All of the PLI Archaeologists (Dr. Karen Harry, Dr. Greg Haynes, Ms. Leah Bonstead, Ms. Velasquez, Ms. Roycraft, Ms. Burrows, and Graduate Student Osborne) attended the biennial *Three Corners Conference*, which was held on the campus of UNLV on October 13, 2007. This conference included 27 papers that presented the results of current archaeological research taking place in southern Nevada, northwestern Arizona and southeastern California (see below).

### **Scholarly Activity**

As discussed above, all of the PLI Archaeologists attended the Three Corners Conference in October and five papers on the results of task agreement projects were presented at the conference. Dr. Karen Harry discussed how excavations at Lost City in the 1920s and 30s were portrayed in newspapers and how this caught the imagination of the American public (Project 6). Dr. Greg Haynes reviewed cross-cultural agricultural practices in very arid riverine settings, and then made various inferences regarding prehistoric farming practices at Lost City (Project 6). Ms. Leah Bonstead presented a co-authored paper on the history of Saint Thomas, its current condition, and NPS efforts at preservation (Project 1A). Mr. Andreas Charest, one of several archaeologists hired last summer by PLI, discussed prehistoric grinding slicks on the Shivwits Plateau and made several hypotheses about their function (Projects 3, 7). Finally, Ms. Stephanie Henrickson and Ms. Angela Peterson, both UNLV undergraduates who participated in the field school at Lava Ridge Ruin, showed how freeze-thaw effects on the Shivwits Plateau may have destroyed fire hearths at Lava Ridge Ruin (Project 4A).

Graduate student Glendee Ane Osborne, completed and successfully defended her thesis prospectus in November. Ms. Osborne will be using site inventory data obtained by both the NPS and BLM to construct a GIS-based predictive site location model for the Shivwits Plateau (see above, Project 4B). She also presented her thesis prospectus and research design to LMNRA Resource Management personnel.

PLI Field Supervisor Leah Bonstead gave a presentation at an orientation for new Nevada Conservation Corp (NCC) employees. NCC crews work on public lands throughout the area, including LMNRA. Ms. Bonstead spoke about the kinds of archaeological sites present in southern Nevada, as well as the kinds of sites found specifically at Lake Mead. She also led a tour of the Saint Thomas town site for this year's LMNRA volunteers. Program Manager Haynes was invited to give a presentation at the Lincoln County Chapter of the Nevada Archaeological Association. His talk showcased the archaeological work currently taking place at Lost City by PLI and the NPS.

## **Unpublished Archaeological Technical Reports**

Velasquez, Steph

Memorandum: Grand Wash Archaeological District Site Re-Documentation Project, October 2007 Trip Report. Lake Mead Cultural Resource Project Number 08-011. Memorandum on file at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Boulder City, Nevada. (10 pages, 7 site forms).

Memorandum: Kelly East Prescribed Fire Project, November 2007 Trip Report. Lake Mead Cultural Resource Project Number 08-013. Memorandum on file at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Boulder City, Nevada. (4 pages, 3 site forms).

## **Conference Papers and Presentations**

Bonstead, Leah

Cultural Resources of Southern Nevada and Lake Mead National Recreation Area. Paper presented at the Fall 2007 Nevada Conservation Corp orientation, Boulder City, Nevada.

Bonstead, Leah, Eva Jensen, and Steve Daron

History and Condition of St. Thomas: A Southern Nevada Ghost Town. Paper presented at the 2007 Three Corners Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Haynes, Gregory M.

Cross-Cultural Implications for Ancestral Pueblo Agriculture along the Lower Muddy River in the Mojave Desert. Paper presented at the 2007 Three Corners Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Pueblo Grande de Nevada: A View of the Anasazi World from Its Far Western Edge. Paper presented to the Lincoln County Chapter of the Nevada Archaeological Association, Caliente, Nevada.

Harry, Karen G.

Red-Headed Giants, Silk-Clad Skeletons, and Drunken Archaeologists: A Voyeur's Look Back at the Discovery and Early Fieldwork at Nevada's "Lost City." Paper presented at the 2007 Three Corners Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Henrikson, Stephanie, and Angela Peterson

Explaining the Absence of Hearths at Lava Ridge Ruin. Paper presented at the 2007 Three Corners Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Charest, Andreas P.

Milling Slicks: Evidence of Practical Activity, Rock Art or Ritual Activity? Paper presented at the 2007 Three Corners Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada.





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Margaret N. Rees, Principal Investigator

12/31/2007

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Date

**Table 1. Site 26Ck4943 Test Excavation Summary**

Test Unit No. / Shovel Probe No.	Location	Dimensions	Depth	No. of Artifacts Recovered	Sediment Samples Recovered	Comments
TU #1	Middle of Site	2.0 x 0.5 m	0.8 m	2	0	No Cultural Deposit
TU #2	Middle of Site	2.0 x 0.5 m	0.8 m	4	0	No Cultural Deposit
TU #3	Road Junction	2.0 x 1.0 m	0.3 m	0	0	No Cultural Deposit
TU #4	Road Junction	2.0 x 1.0 m	0.4 m	0	0	No Cultural Deposit
TU #5	Feature 2	1.0 x 1.0 m	1.0 m	2	12 (6.0 gals)	Fire-Related Feature
TU #6	STP #8	1.0 x 1.0 m	0.8 m	7	1 (0.5 gal)	No Cultural Deposit
TU #7	Rock Shelter	2.0 x 0.5 m	0.8 m	0	0	No Cultural Deposit
TU #8	AR-20 West	2.0 x 1.0 m	0.4 m	0	0	No Cultural Deposit
TU #9	AR-20 West	2.0 x 1.0 m	0.4 m	0	0	No Cultural Deposit
TU #10	AR-20 West	2.0 x 1.0 m	0.4 m	0	0	No Cultural Deposit
TU #11	Near Wash	2.0 x 0.8 m	0.8 m	1	1 (0.5 gal)	No Cultural Deposit
STP #1	Near Wash	0.3 m dia.	0.8 m	1	0	No Cultural Deposit
STP #2	Near Wash	0.3 m dia.	0.8 m	0	0	No Cultural Deposit
STP #3	Near Wash	0.3 m dia.	0.8 m	1	1 (0.25 gal)	Possible Feature
STP #4	AR-20 South	0.3 m dia.	0.8 m	0	0	No Cultural Deposit
STP #5	AR-20 South	0.3 m dia.	0.8 m	0	0	No Cultural Deposit
STP #6	AR-20 South	0.3 m dia.	0.8 m	1	0	No Cultural Deposit
STP #7	AR-20 South	0.3 m dia.	0.8 m	1	0	No Cultural Deposit
STP #8	AR-20 South	0.3 m dia.	0.8 m	0	0	Darkened Stratum
STP #9	AR-20 South	0.3 m dia.	0.8 m	1	0	No Cultural Deposit
STP #10	AR-20 South	0.3 m dia.	0.8 m	0	0	No Cultural Deposit

\*Seven artifacts were also obtained from 14 one-meter-wide shovel scrapes excavated at the base of an entrenched wash. Both fire-related features found at this site have been exposed in the side-wall of this wash.

\*\*Twenty-four artifacts were also collected from the surface of this site.

**Table 2. Site Condition Assessment Summary (October 1 to December 31, 20007)**

<b>NPS Unit</b>	<b>Site Number</b>	<b>General Location</b>	<b>Site Type</b>	<b>Overall Condition</b>	<b>Comments</b>
LAME	26Ck1219	Las Vegas Wash	Prehistoric	Good	Does not meet current site definitions
LAME	26Ck1223	Boxcar Cove Road	Prehistoric	Good	
LAME	26Ck6661	Government Wash	Prehistoric	Good	
LAME	26Ck6662	Government Wash	Prehistoric	*	Could not be relocated
LAME	26Ck6664	Government Wash	Prehistoric	Good	
LAME	26Ck6821	Government Wash	Prehistoric	Good	
LAME	AZ A:09:012	Grand Wash	Prehistoric	Good	
LAME	AZ A:09:013	Grand Wash	Prehistoric	Good	
LAME	AZ A:09:014	Grand Wash	Prehistoric	Good	
LAME	AZ A:09:015	Grand Wash	Prehistoric	Good	
LAME	AZ A:09:016	Grand Wash	Prehistoric	Good	Some erosion into wash
LAME	AZ A:09:081	Grand Wash	Prehistoric	Good	
LAME	AZ A:09:087	Grand Wash	Prehistoric	Good	