12-31-2006


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QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Period Ending December 31, 2006

Cooperative Agreement Number  H8R07010001
Task Agreement Number  J8R07040007
Cooperative Conservation: Increasing Capacity through Community
Partnerships: Cultural Site Stewardship Program

Executive Summary

• The Cultural Site Stewardship Program now has 249 enrolled site stewards, an increase of 732% since program inception in 2004.
• Four training classes were held in 2006, adding 72 new stewards.
• Site Stewards reported 55 significant impacts during the 12-month period compared to 25 impacts during the same period last year.

Summary of Attachments

• Team agenda and meeting notes
• Invitation to 2006 CSSP Recognition Event
• Copy of EyeSite newsletter
• Desert Valley Times article

Collaboration with Interagency Team

The Clark County Heritage Resources Team (CCoHRT) met on October 12, 2006 (see attached agenda and meeting notes). Agenda items included final organizational details for the 2006 CSSP Recognition Picnic Event held November 5 at Valley of Fire State Park. A total of 89 stewards and agency representatives attended the event, where two awards were presented to outstanding site stewards – one for exceptional monitoring activity in a large, remote area and one for creating and distributing a new CSSP newsletter. The newsletter, titled EyeSite, was created by Site Steward Coordinators Roy and Betsy Miller, who wanted to relay current information about site stewardship activity in Clark County (attached). The publication is now circulated among all site stewards statewide.

A third award was presented to BLM Law Enforcement Officer Don Miller for his reliability, action, and participation with site stewards in remote areas of Gold Butte. In addition, five Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to meritorious site stewards serving in all areas of Clark County, and the Nevada Archaeological Association board purchased “Site Stewardship 2006” pins to be given to all stewards. Although the character of the recognition picnic was intentionally light-hearted, accomplishments and milestones of the CSSP were highlighted. Each
CCoHRT member thanked the volunteers for their outstanding contributions and results. All eight team members volunteered for work duty and assisted in cleaning up after the event.

Annual Reports

For the federal fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, the Cultural Site Stewardship Program reported a total of 3,570 hours donated to federal agencies. Individual reports were prepared for each agency with a detailed accounting of the most severe site impacts. These impacts were graded by severity, location, and description. Agency reports also included individual steward assignments with brief monitoring and training details. Site information included the number of monitoring visits received; that is, two or more stewards visiting a site together would count as one site visit. It should be noted that only the most severe impacts are reflected in the table below. All were reported to the appropriate managing agency and include:

- Digging/potting
- Bullet holes
- Vandalism
- Firepits in shelters
- Water damage (Natural)
- Trash – excessive
- Signs destroyed
- Graffiti
- ATV related
- Pernicious destruction
- Collectors’ piles
- Cattle damage
- Excess visitation damage
- Witness illegal activity

A summary of volunteer hours and site impacts is shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>No. Site Visits</th>
<th>Indiv. Hrs. Donated for Site Visits</th>
<th>Impacts Grade 1-3</th>
<th>Total Volunteer Hours*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BLM</td>
<td>472</td>
<td>2616.25</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>2854.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOR</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>50.00</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>65.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>NPS</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>305.25</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>336.25</td>
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<td>USFS</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>24.00</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>24.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>569</td>
<td>3112.00</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>3570.41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Total Volunteer Hours includes training.

Site Steward Training

The fourth site steward training class for 2006 was held on October 7, 2006. A total of 72 new site stewards were trained in 2006 and added to the 169 stewards active one year ago, reflecting a growth of 42% for the calendar year. The next training class is tentatively set for January 27, 2007. There are now 251 stewards in the CSSP database, an increase of 217 stewards or 738 percent in two years.
In collaboration with Sali Underwood, Site Steward Manager for the Nevada State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO), 27 CSSP-trained stewards who monitor cultural sites on federal land in Clark County were also assigned to sites in the Little Red Rock area under the authority of the SHPO office. As mentioned in the last quarterly report, Ms. Underwood is a member of the interagency team and has participated in two previous CSSP classroom training sessions. As SHPO coordinator, she has adopted aspects of the CSSP training agenda and training aides for statewide use and has contributed valuable information and assistance to the Clark County program.

Site Steward Survey

During Fall 2006, the Public Lands Institute created and distributed to site stewards a survey to assess CSSP training effectiveness. The survey content was approved by the interagency team and submitted to UNLV’s Internal Review Board for compliance with human-subjects policies. Results and comments were compiled by team member Elaine Holmes and were presented at the monthly team meeting on November 14, 2006. Results, summarized below, were positive.
CSSP TRAINING ASSESSMENT

- The instructor presented material clearly. 100% agree
- The instructor was responsive to the questions during training. 100% agree
- The training and field manuals are clear and easy to follow. 100% agree
- The classroom is conducive to learning. 84% very effective, 12% effective, 4% no response
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the trainer. 84% very effective, 12% effective, 4% no response
- The amount of content is appropriate for this class. 96% agree, 4% neutral
- The six-hour time allotment is appropriate for this class. 92% agree, 8% neutral
- The delivery methods in the class were effective to help me understand the cultural site stewardship. 96% agree, 4% neutral
- Did the training session meet your level of experience? 100% just right
- After receiving the training, how prepared did you feel to begin a general stewardship assignment? 48% very prepared, 52% prepared
- Overall, the training and site introduction were valuable to me. 76% strongly agree, 24% agree

Open-ended comments from volunteers included numerous requests for GPS classes as well as map and compass training. Other volunteers requested additional training in site documentation and photography, general archaeology, and geology. Optional classes will be organized by PLI and delivered by qualified archaeologists throughout 2007 in response to these requests.

Monitoring Activities

Red Rock Canyon NCA
As previously reported, CSSP stewards reported two major impacts to moderately remote resources in the Red Rock Canyon NCA. In one case, a severe vandalism attack on a highly-prized pictograph site elicited an official ARPA investigation by the Bureau of Land Management. Through a request by CSSP Program Manager George Phillips, an international conservator was introduced to the BLM staff and has made her services available to help mitigate the significant damage at this site.
Gold Butte
During calendar year 2006, the BLM contracted with Far West Archaeological to conduct a $1.7 million archaeological survey, currently underway. A Road Designation study is complete and final recommendations are pending. These activities are a result of a BLM directive to establish Gold Butte as the agency’s top priority in 2006. Much of this activity was influenced by data collected by CSSP Site Stewards during 2004 and 2005. The archaeological survey will clarify the number and illuminate the importance of cultural sites within the 308,000 acres of Gold Butte. It will furthermore define the sites at risk of deterioration due to human, animal, and natural causes. The road designation study will remove new incursions that place many of the sites at risk caused from off-highway vehicle access.

Impacts

For the first time in three years, impacts during the fourth quarter were fewer in 2006 than in the previous year. (Weather- and fire-damage during the last quarter of 2005 contributed to the higher numbers last year.) Shown below are the number of significant impacts for 2006:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quarter</th>
<th>Impacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December '05</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March '06</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>June '06</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>September '06</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December '06</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Public Relations, Outreach, and Partnerships
At a Friends of Gold Butte Meeting on October 18, 2006, Project Manager George Phillips gave a powerpoint presentation on the Archaeological Resource Protection Act to 18 members. This was in response to member requests to clarify the differences among a confusing number of laws regulating cultural resources.
Clark County site coordinators and the CSSP Project Manager attended a quarterly site steward meeting of the Nevada Archaeological Association (NAA) held at the Lost City Museum in Overton, Nevada, on October 18, 2006. Agenda items included training procedures created by the CSSP. Recognition events for 2006 were discussed and NAA members planned to attend where possible.

All CCoHRT members attended the Great Basin Archaeological Conference held October 20-22, 2006, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Project Manager George Phillips assisted at a booth sponsored by the NAA and participated in a seminar on stewardship.

On November 8, 2006, CSSP Project Manager George Phillips and BLM Archaeologist Mark Boatwright, escorted newspaper editor David Bly on a tour of Gold Butte. Mr. Bly, the new Editor-in-Chief of the Desert Valley Times, subsequently wrote a front-page article on population impacts in the Gold Butte area and the effects of site stewardship (see attached). This article is significant because it supports site stewardship and conservation in the Moapa Valley-Gold Butte areas. This support was lacking in prior years and has already had a positive impact on the Mesquite community as reported by stewards residing there.

Submitted by:

Margaret N. Rees, Principal Investigator

December 31, 2006
Team Agendas & Minutes
CCoHRT MEETING AGENDA
October 12, 2006
Interagency Office
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

1. Recognition Picnic 11/5/06
2. Status of Site Stewards
4. Round 6: Task Agreement and Funding
5. Draft charter discussion /review
6. Site Types and Threats
7. Next meeting date/adjourn
CCOHRT MEETING NOTES
October 12, 2006
Interagency Office

9:00 Meeting opened.

Present: Steve Daron Elaine Homes Laurie Perry
Eva Jensen Sali Underwood Kathleen Sprowl
Mark Boatwright George Phillips Susanne Rowe
Susan Barrow

Susan Barrow introduced herself representing the U.S.F.S. She said the agency is hiring an archaeologist soon but at this time he/she will not be a part of the CCoHRT Team.

Agenda Items:

A. Recognition Picnic. George Phillips outlined the organization of the event scheduled for Sunday, November 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. or longer at the Valley of Fire. Assignments for the team include: Kathleen Sprowl – parking; Eva and Elaine – greeters; Mark– cooking; Laurie and Steve – award presentations; Sali and Suzanne will assist with guests and food as they think is needed. Invitations to all stewards are complete and are being mailed today.

Mark had to leave at this time for a dental appointment.

B. George discussed the status of CSSP. A training class held Saturday, October 7, brought in 23 new stewards for a total of 248. Class evaluations and a copy of the agenda were provided to the team for review. Monitoring emphasis with the new stewards will be at Gypsum Cave, Red Rock Canyon NCA and Arrow Canyon.

A survey mailed out last month by PLI was received with over 24% return, exceeding a 20% minimum return standard established at the beginning. Elaine volunteered to compile the results.

Phillips reported that site impact reports have doubled over those from last year. We have about 90 site stewards more this year, an average of about 45 actively monitoring throughout the year (plus another 45 new to the program who haven’t had the opportunity to report yet). The most destructive occurred early September at Prayer Cave in Red Rock Canyon NCA. The destruction of a major pictograph site drew an article in the Review Journal. Some pictures were shown to the CCoHRT members.

C. A copy of the training manual was handed out to each of the members for review.
Both the Field Manual and Training Manual are being updated as new information is gathered. New adjustments will be made in November to correspond with information through the SHPO representative, Sali Underwood.

D. Steve Daron introduced Appendix B-7 of the Estimated Direct Costs and Key Milestone Dates involved in the Round 6 funding process. After reviewing instructions, the team decided the allocation of $90K for direct labor among the team members. A 10% contingency in the SNAP CSSP budget was discussed and determined it will continue in reserve. Laurie recommended it be put into UNLV’s budget. Steve will discuss the contingency with Jennifer Haley. Steve further proposed that equipment for the CSSP be considered as well as funding for a graduate student in the proposal.

Steve introduced the CESU Task Agreement Draft. We will emphasize the raw science data that the CSSP contributes. Changes were suggested by team members. Steve will email the Agreement with the suggested changes to team members who will reply with further comments to Steve by November 5.

E. Steve said the Draft Charter is in for review. A discussion of defining the “voting consensus” was introduced and the team decided the original draft was satisfactory. Non-federal representatives cannot vote on federal funding issues. The team affirmed the essential role of non-federal team members. Their contribution is a cornerstone in the construction of the SNAP CSSP.

A discussion ensued regarding the name of the team. The title, “Clark County Heritage Resource Team” should reflect a more federal identity. Among suggestions that were offered one will be submitted for acceptance by SNAP.

Deliberation to the Charter continued. Steve will make the agreed-upon changes and email the results to team members before submitting to Jennifer.

F. The agenda topic, Site Types and Threats, was delayed and will be facilitated by Mark Boatwright upon his return at the next meeting.

F. The next meeting will be held in Boulder City (location TBA) on December 14 at 9:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m. meeting adjourned.
2006 CSSP Event Invitation
The Clark County Cultural Site Stewardship Program Cordially Invites You and a Guest to our

Cultural Site Stewards Recognition Picnic

Sunday, November 5, 2006
10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Valley of Fire State Park
Beehive #2

RSVP to your area coordinator by October 24, 2006 or call (702) 895-4863. Please bring your own chairs.
(Please see the back for directions)
Directions to Valley of Fire State Park

Traveling northeast on Interstate 15 from Las Vegas, take Nevada Route 169 at Crystal (Moapa Indian Reservation) south to the park.

Traveling southwest on I-15 turn south on Route 169 (Exit 93) near Glendale, and travel southeast 15 miles to the park.

Proceed to the Beehives located just southeast of the roadway and south of the Atlatl Rock turnoff. Please park in the Beehive parking lot and walk the short distance (150 feet) to Beehive Group Area #2.

Note: The $6.00 entrance fee is waived. Just present the enclosed letter to the ranger in the toll booth.

We're looking forward to seeing you!
EyeSite Newsletter
Hello Fellow Gold Butte Site Stewards!

Mark Your Calendars!

**Thursday, November 16, 2006** – Are your GPS skills outstanding? I didn’t think so. Site Steward Bob Nielson is hosting a GPS meeting and training class at 4:30 P.M. in the Mesquite Eureka Hotel "Zion Room". On the small chance that your GPS skills are outstanding, I think he would probably appreciate your support.

**Saturday, November 18, 2006** – This is a Friends of Gold Butte field trip starting at Whitney Pockets (in Gold Butte where the pavement goes to gravel) at 9:00 am. Marc Maynard, Las Vegas BLM Biologist & Roads Coordinator and Nancy Beecher, PHD in Conservation Biology, will be on hand to discuss the roads within archaeological sites. The review will be of the more "controversial" roads considered for designation in the upcoming Draft Environmental Assessment. This is an important outing to help prepare for comprehensive comments to protect our cultural resources, scenic and wildlife values in Gold Butte.

Plan to spend the day and bring lunch, including cold weather stuff.

*Please RSVP for the outing to Nancy Hall,* birdladynv@yahoo.com. She will look forward to hearing from you.
Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2006 – This Friends of Gold Butte meeting will be in Mesquite at the Oasis Convention Center, located behind the RV Park. We have the Mojave Room. The meeting will begin at 7 pm and we'll discuss how to move forward as a group to seek designation for the Gold Butte area and address ideas for education of the area. Nancy Hall will be there at 6 pm for those who would like to come early and visit. Dinner will not be provided but there is a pizza/sandwich shoppe in the Oasis Casino as well as Tailgaterz that has food to go.

Over 70 Hardy Site Stewards And Agency Archaeologists Survive Annual Recognition Picnic

Authorities are optimistic that over 70 Clark County Cultural Site Stewards and agency archaeologists will continue improving after polluting themselves with 150 hamburgers, 25 hot dogs and 44 chicken breasts during the annual Recognition Picnic on Sunday, November 5th at the Valley of Fire.

Festivities began after the distinguished archaeologist and valet Kathleen Sprowl, parked the last car with subtle guidance (and without her whip).

George Phillips, Master of Ceremonies, strived in vain to dignify the proceedings in spite of the rubber chicken on his hat.

Steve Daron, archaeology team leader who was wearing a dignified fedora with aroused peacock plumage, awarded a Special Recognition plaque to Doug Haag and Jennifer Sheldahl for their diligent stewardship on a 4 square mile complex tract of land in National Park Service territory. Doug and Jennifer donated over 124 combined
hours to monitor their site and somehow found time to get married in the process.

The amiable BLM Archaeologist, Susanne Rowe presented Regional Coordinators Roy and Betsy Miller with the Cultural Site Stewardship Pulitzer Prize for “EyeSite,” the pioneering newsletter touted throughout the state and which has gone through 25 publications without a single lawsuit (yet). Roy’s lovely wife and co-editor, Betsy, suspecting the recognition picnic might somehow incriminate her, had fled to Maui for the weekend.

BLM Ranger Don Miller was not so quick. Before he could bolt, both praise and a plaque were thrust upon him in sincere gratitude for his dedicated service to stewards in the Gold Butte area. Don’s gracious wife, Erika, appearing concerned with what she may have gotten herself involved in, remained poised and unflappable throughout the ceremony.

Special awards were given to Mike and Pat Carey, stewards in Sloan, JoAnn Gira and Keith Lozeau in Gold Butte, Roger and Susan Kolar in Red Rock, Anne McConnell in Las Vegas, and Bruce and Kathy Hollinger in Moapa-Gold Butte. These stewards distinguished themselves through consistency, dependability and hours monitoring complex sites.

As expected, cooks Darlene & Rick Hulse and Mark Boatwright received the greatest applause of the day from the stuffed group for their nimble, energetic cooking and excellent vittles.

After draining 4 cases of soda pop and devouring 6 pounds of chocolate chip cookies for desert, the crowd meandered up to their cars and dispersed without incident.
Gold Butte lies in the transition between the Great Basin Desert to the north and the Sonoran to the south. This transition area is called the Mojave Desert. It is defined by a combination of latitude, elevation, geology, and indicator plants.

The Mojave has a typical mountain-and-basin topography with sparse vegetation. Sand and gravel basins drain to central salt flats from which borax, potash and salt are extracted. Silver, tungsten, gold and iron deposits are worked.

The Mojave Desert hosts about 200 common plant species found in neither of the adjacent deserts. Cacti are usually restricted to the coarse soils of bajadas. Mojave yuccas, creosote bushes, and sagebrush are common shrubs of the Mojave Desert.

Unlike the Sonoran Desert, trees are few, both in numbers and diversity. The exception is the Joshua tree. While this unusual tree-like yucca is usually considered the prime indicator of Mojave Desert vegetation, it occurs only at higher elevations in this desert and only in this desert.
Favorite Links

Nevada Site Stewards: www.nevadasitestewards.org

Site Steward Bulletin Board and Forum: 
http://p086.ezboard.com/belydistrictsitestewardprogram


Nevada Rock Art Foundation: http://nevadarockart.org/index.htm

If you have considered writing an article for EyeSite, please do so.
If you have a few favorite photos that you would like to show off, please email them to us.
Oh, you have an idea for an article, but don’t want to do the writing? Great! Just send us the idea.

Roy & Betsy Miller
Regional Coordinators for the Gold Butte Area
Betsy: busybee@cascadeaccess.com
Roy: mesquiter@gmail.com
Phone: (702) 345-3006

For those of you who are new site stewards, this is another issue of our email newsletter called EyeSite. We hope to interest you in site stewardship goings-on, meetings, classes, hints and tips, and anything else that tickles our fancy. There is no regular schedule. The newsletter will just pop up in your email whenever we have something to share with you AND our mood ring has turned BLUE (calm, relaxed, and happy).

(It is possible that an amazing amount of the information in this issue was shamelessly plagiarized from multiple sources)
# Index of Articles From Issues of EyeSite

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<td>You Are The Guardians Of The Past</td>
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</table>

Most issues are archived on the Nevada Site Stewards web site:

[http://www.nevadasitestewards.org/EyeSite.html](http://www.nevadasitestewards.org/EyeSite.html)
CSSP Program Publicity
Rock art sites vulnerable
David Bly, Desert Valley Times
Article published Nov 14, 2006 in Desert Valley Times Vol. 11 No.91

One of the many petroglyph sites in eastern Clark County. Such sites are vulnerable to damage from weather and human contact.

Eastern Clark county is criss-crossed with trails made by miners who sought to dig precious minerals out of the rocks and mountains.

But those trails often pass by a far richer treasure, one that is only beginning to be understood.

The region has thousands of rock art sites, places where prehistoric peoples etched or painted images into the sandstone.

The remoteness of many of the sites has protected the inscriptions until now, but with increasing interest in region’s wide open spaces, and with ease of access afforded by ATVs, there’s a growing danger that the sites can be degraded, inadvertently or on purpose.

It’s a quandary for those whose job it is to protect, preserve and study the rock art, some of which could be as much as 9,000 years old.

“This is public land,” said George Phillips, project manager for the Cultural Site Stewardship Program at the University of Nevada Las Vegas. “People have a right to enjoy what’s here.

“And yet, it’s so important that we protect these sites.”

Protecting the sites is difficult, given the huge area, most of which falls under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management.

Enter the site stewards.
These are volunteers who make regular visits to the sites, inspecting the inscriptions and comparing them to previous photographs to see if any changes have been effected by people or natural forces.

The result has been a decrease in the number of damaging incidents, said Phillips.

“Site stewards are extremely dedicated people who do a tremendous job,” he said.

Roy and Betsy Miller of Mesquite have been site stewards for about three years, and oversee a number of other site stewards in the region.

At an appreciation picnic for the stewards, it was pointed out that the Millers had given more than 400 hours to site stewardship last year.

“That surprised me,” said Roy, a retiree originally from Ohio. “I had no idea we had put in that much time. We just do it because we enjoy it.”

What’s not to enjoy? The stewards spend their time out among Nevada’s beautiful and fascinating rock formations. Most have a passion for the past, and have a personal interest in the sites they watch over.

That same beauty and fascination is drawing an increasing number of people into the desert canyons and washes, many of whom share a fascination for the rock art sites.

And so those sites are in danger of being loved to death.

“We don’t direct people to sites,” said Mark Boatwright, an archeologist with the BLM office in Las Vegas.

“There are sites where they can go, but there are sites we prefer people stay away from. Some of those places we consider to be very sensitive.”

Even well-intentioned people can cause damage as they drive four-wheel drives and ATVs over areas that could yield valuable clues to the past.

“That word ‘quandary’ keeps coming up,” said Phillips.

“The land belongs to the people; but people can damage the sites.”

Some of the damage is deliberate — he pointed to etchings in the dark desert varnish. Among the figures inscribed hundreds — if not thousands — of years ago were white bullet holes where some marksman proved he could actually hit the side of a very large rock.
Elsewhere, pothunters have illegally removed artifacts.

Fans of Indiana Jones movies might think it’s a lark to dash into an archeological site and remove artifacts, but it’s against the law, and stiff fines can result.

And some people have been known to damage sites in vain attempts to pry away sections of the art, something that usually ends up destroying the art.

But human touch alone will damage the inscriptions, which are already threatened by the natural processes that erode and crack the sandstone.

Attempting a stricter enforcement of the law won’t prevent all the problems, Phillips said.

The answer, he said, lies in education, in making people aware of the importance of the sites.

“We’d like the public to develop a sense of stewardship,” he said.

“They should honor the site and be very careful. They should recognize it has tremendous cultural significance.”

That significance is still being analyzed, said Boatwright. The Hollywood view of archeology would have scientists deriving detailed descriptions of past beliefs, incidents and attitudes through studying the inscriptions.

But the truth is, no one really knows exactly what they mean. The desert writings offer few answers and many questions.

“Interpreting rock art isn’t something most archeologists are going to talk about with a high degree of certainty,” he said.

While many of the sites have symbols in common, and archeologists can determine that one site is related to another, it cannot be assumed the sites were made by the same ethnic groups for the same reasons.

“It’s like if we were in Europe looking at gothic cathedrals,” he said. “We’d see gothic cathedrals in Denmark, in Germany, in France, and say there’s one gothic culture without taking into account linguistic and cultural differences.”
Simplistic interpretations also don’t factor in the individuality of the persons who created the rock art, he said.

“We want to be careful not to put words in the mouths of the people who lived here,” he said.

Nevertheless, there is much to be learned from the inscriptions, he said.

“Archeology here is really, really exciting,” he said, “not so much for what is known, but for what is unknown. There are a lot of unanswered questions.”

The scientific, artistic and heritage value of the rock art sites is lost if artifacts are removed or drawings are damaged, he said.

In the past, archeologists were fond of removing artifacts and taking them to museums, but studying them on site is much more informative, he said.

He believes keeping the public away from the sites is not the sole answer to preserving the sites.

In fact, increased access could help increase the appreciation for the value of rock art, he said, if that access is controlled to prevent damage to the inscriptions as well as to the fragile desert environment.

Meanwhile, the site stewards — 250 of them in Clark county alone — keep watchful eyes over special places that offer fascinating glimpses of the past.

The rock art sites will likely never reveal all their secrets, but with preservation and protection, they will continue to provide fascinating glimpses of past lives, and their dreams, hopes and beliefs.

For photos concerning rock art, please see the Desert Valley Time’s online photo gallery.