

# CASSP Annual Report for 2015

## 1. Organization and Administration

The California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program (CASSP) is a program to train concerned people who are committed to protecting California's rich cultural heritage. Under CASSP, trained volunteers from the public regularly visit assigned archaeological and historical sites located on public lands and record their conditions. The volunteers are supervised by the local archaeologists who are working for the agencies responsible for those lands.

CASSP is part of the Society for California Archaeology (SCA). It receives direction and support from SCA members, SCA Executive Board, and the CASSP Committee. The SCA reviews CASSP policies, procedures, and accomplishments, and it helps shape future goals. The CASSP Committee meets during the SCA annual meeting; the public is welcome.

## 2. Highlights from 2015

The most important parts of CASSP are the achievements of the volunteer site stewards who are working all across the State. Their enthusiasm, dedication, and skills are making a real difference, and their efforts keep growing. From October 1, 2014, to September 30, 2015, site stewards reported 5,265 hours of volunteer time which equals \$112,471 in total value of recorded volunteer time. Thank you, site stewards!

The CASSP symposium at the 2015 SCA Annual Meeting in Redding attracted over 40 people. Eight panelists discussed CASSP and its past and future goals. The audience participated too, which resulted in new ideas and suggestions for the program. Increasing public awareness about CASSP turned out as

one of the major topics. Right after the SCA meetings, Linn Gassaway started the CASSP Facebook page. Leslie Steidl talked about the Oroville site stewards and their success with an Archaeology Booth at the local Farmer's Market. This example encouraged other site stewards to set up booths at other venues to educate the public about archaeology and its importance.

### *Volunteer training workshops.*

Five volunteer training workshops and two advanced training workshops were held in 2015. A total of 103 new or current volunteers participated in these workshops. Three BLM Field Offices (Barstow/Palm Springs, Hollister, and Bishop), three USFS locations (Eldorado, Sequoia National Forest Western Divide Ranger District, and Sequoia National Forest Kernville Ranger District), and one California State Parks (Anza-Borrego Desert State Park) hosted workshops.

This year, we especially thank the agency archaeologists who worked with us and our tight schedule of two and a half months to meet the grant's deadline! Thanks to Jim Shearer, George Kline, Sandy Rogers, Tim Kelly, Linn Gassaway, Alex Verdugo, Greg Haverstock, Ashley Blythe, William Kerwin, Jacquie Beidl, Miranda Gavalis, and Erik Zaborsky who hosted these workshops.

### *Partnerships.*

The Pacific Southwest Region of the US Forest Service provided major funding for CASSP through a grant from the California State Parks Off Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division. This grant specifies the SCA and CASSP as partners. Even though USFS is responsible for administering this OHMVR grant, they do not hesitate to include BLM Field Offices for training workshops. We're pleased that this cooperation continues to draw upon in-kind contributions from USFS and BLM, and their volunteer site stewards.

We are grateful for the participation of new partners – San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, Maturango Museum, and the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park of California State Parks. In December, the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park funded a volunteer training workshop at the Bob Begole Archaeological Research Center in Borrego Springs. State Parks Archaeologist Robin Connors hosted this workshop and two State Parks archaeologists, Tricia Dodds and Jim Cassidy, from Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreation Area joined her.

Ann Briety of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians graciously offered their facilities for the combined BLM Barstow/Palm Springs workshop in June and Sandy Rogers of Maturango Museum in Ridgecrest hosted the advanced workshop for Sequoia National Forest, Kernville Ranger District in August. Thank you for your in-kind support.

## 3. Budget

CASSP is funded primarily by a grant from the OHMVR Division of California State Parks, with in-kind support from the USFS Region 5, the BLM, the SCA, and volunteer efforts from the general public and from State and federal archaeologists. In 2015, seven workshops were conducted at a total cost of \$64,589.

## 4. Plans for 2016

For 2016, at least six training workshops will be offered. The workshop season starts with a volunteer training workshop hosted by BLM Palm Springs on April 2-3, 2016 and another hosted by Santa Lucia Ranger District of Los Padres National Forest on April 16-17, 2016.

Please check the CASSP web site ([www.cassp.org](http://www.cassp.org)) for the current workshop schedule. Questions about CASSP can be sent to [bpadon@discoveryworks.com](mailto:bpadon@discoveryworks.com), or by calling (562) 595-3995.

*Submitted by Beth and Chris Padon, March 11, 2016.*

# CASSP 2015



*A State Parks Ranger speaks at a volunteer training workshop in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Site stewards assist law enforcement officers and archaeologists by observing and reporting; they do not enforce laws.*



*CASSP advanced training workshops provide hands-on experiences in specific skill sets. At the Coast Dairies, site stewards photographed, measured, and sketched features to help complete the official site records (above). At the Maturango Museum, site stewards catalogued artifacts from an orphaned collection (below).*



*Agency archaeologists supervise the site stewards working in their resource areas. They collect the site visit reports to identify potential problems before more damage is done.*

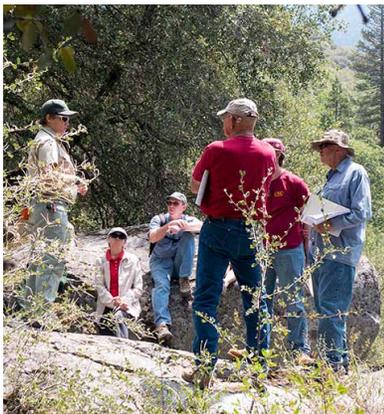
*CASSP volunteers share their enthusiasm about heritage resources on public lands. This happens informally when stewards are making their site visits. Some site stewards also participate in organized events, such as this archaeology day.*



*The first day of the workshop consists of classroom sessions (above). On the second day, participants visit archaeological sites (below).*



*In 2015, the CASSP Committee meeting at the SCA Annual Meeting in Redding was followed by a panel discussion about the ways that site stewardship could better protect cultural resources on public lands. A month later, the CASSP Facebook was created. And the outreach table that Lake Oroville site stewards started at the local farmers' market encouraged others to try similar efforts.*



*Site stewards record impacts, even when they are caused by natural forces.*

*This photo shows the remains of a structure, with some historic debris. With repeated visits, site stewards can recognize if the remains have been damaged or if any items have been taken.*