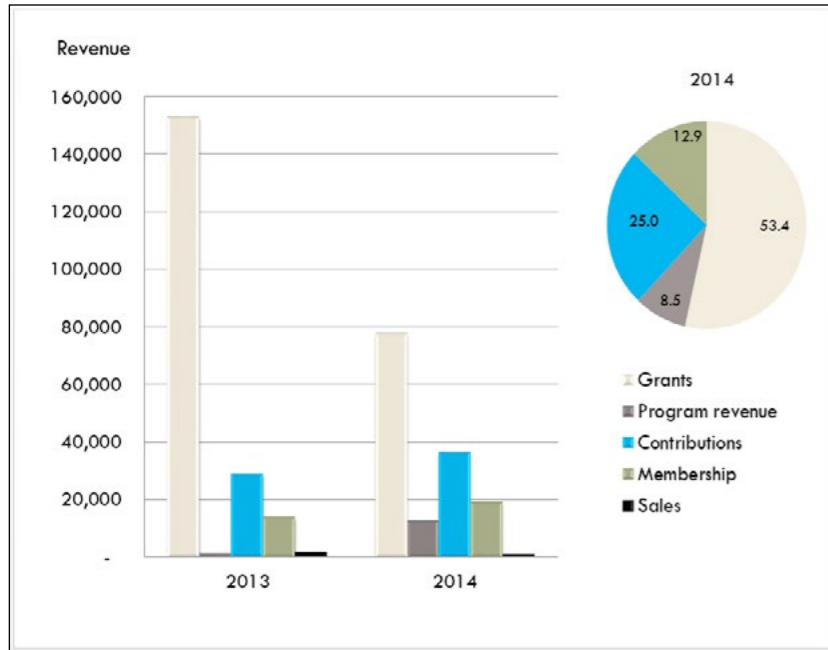




NRAF Annual Report

by Gus Quinlan, Executive Director



NRAF promotes programs of site documentation, public education, and research to better serve the heritage needs of Nevada's ancient rock art sites. Our early focus was on gathering detailed site data to correct the generally vague information that existed for the majority of Nevada's rock art sites.

Enhancing archaeological knowledge of rock art contributes to site management by supporting monitoring programs. It also allows more effective public interpretation in spreading the historic preservation message with the goal of fostering wider appreciation of rock art's heritage significance. And

better knowledge is critical to supporting research that explores rock art's place in prehistoric cultures and landscapes.

During 2014-15, NRAF continued to transition its recordation program to one where research and public interpretation needs are addressed more than in previous years. We continued to record sites for which existing knowledge is inadequate for site management needs, starting work on two multi-year projects at two large rock art complexes in northwestern Nevada. NRAF maintained its interest in site rehabilitation by assisting a graffiti reduction project in southeastern Nevada. We also developed an education program for teachers that will result in an accessible classroom resource.

Volatility in annual revenue is a fact of life for small nonprofits even though annual expenditures remain fairly fixed. Membership dues and

[Cont'd on Page 2](#)

ANNUAL MEETING 2015

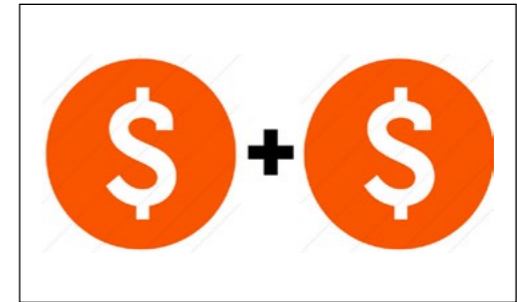


The Alexis Park All Suite Resort, Las Vegas, was the host hotel for the 12th Annual Meeting of the Nevada Rock Art Foundation. The change in date, from a spring to fall meeting, made it possible to book affordable Las Vegas rooms during relatively moderate weather. Friday evening's opening reception, on a pleasant warm Las Vegas evening, was held poolside, with no-host bar and *hors d'oeuvres* provided by Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Desert Branch.

The Saturday program of papers was hosted by the College of Southern Nevada and sponsored by the Department of Human Behavior. Kevin Rafferty, a CSN faculty member and NRAF board member, made the meeting arrangements for the auditorium and refreshments. Board President Alice Baldrice opened the meeting, and Executive Director Angus

[Cont'd on Page 3](#)

MATCHING GRANT OPPORTUNITY



NRAF has received a commitment from the NARA Foundation for a \$10,000 challenge grant to support the documentation and assessment of select rock art sites at Valley of Fire State Park, Clark County. The challenge grant is a matching grant program, meaning that NRAF must raise \$10,000 in matching funds to claim the award.

Professor Kevin Rafferty, College of Southern Nevada and NRAF board member, has been working with the Valley of Fire State Park for several years, surveying and recording archaeological sites. He has recommended the sites proposed for this project, with concurrence from the Valley of Fire State Park Director.

NRAF will survey select sites, as funding permits, at the State Park that currently are inadequately documented. These include rock art along Mouse's Tank trail. The project will result in systematic recordation that establishes a detailed baseline for both site monitoring and future research.

Valley of Fire is Nevada's oldest and largest State Park and is the most heavily visited. The State Park has a rich archaeological record that documents the presence of Basketmaker and later Western Puebloan farmers from the nearby fertile Moapa Valley. The span of approximate occupation has been dated from 300 B.C.E. to 1150 C.E. Their visits probably involved hunting, food gathering,

[Cont'd on Page 2](#)

And On the Web ...

- Follow this link for an article re-examining a famous body of Fremont rock art in Utah: <http://www.livescience.com/51886-winged-monster-rock-art-deciphered.html>.



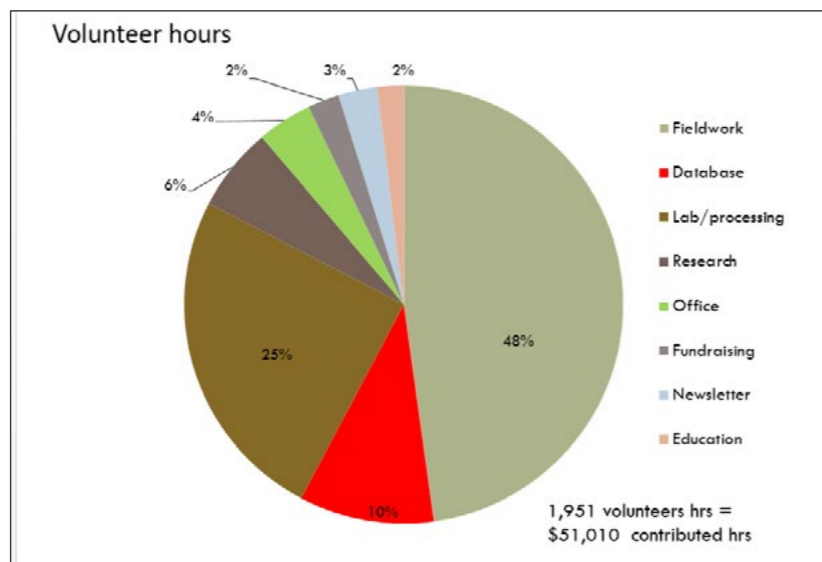
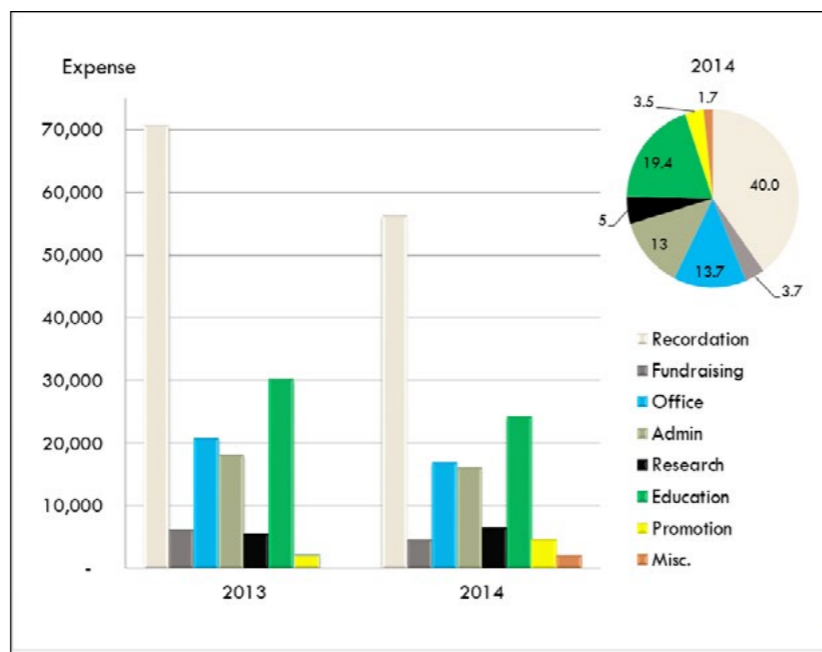
Annual Report

continued from Page 1 ...

private contributions both increased approximately 35% compared to 2013. Despite this, total revenue declined 28% compared with the previous fiscal year due to a drop in grant support. But, this decline is deceptive as revenue reported for a particular year is not necessarily for work in the year received. About 50% of grants received for 2013 were for multi-year projects or projects to be undertaken in 2014.

The emphasis of our annual activities is structured by the nature of fiscal support received. In 2014, 60% of revenue came in the form of grants or programmatic income restricted to specific tasks or projects. Another 6% of total revenue was received as donor-restricted gifts. This sets NRAF's annual priorities where education programs accounted for 19.4% of expenditure compared to 40% for recordation projects and 5% for research. Overhead (administrative and office expenses) are relatively fixed and proportional for a nonprofit of our size.

Overall, revenue and expenditure patterns reflect that, compared to the previous year, 2014's activities did not emphasize large archaeological surveys with expensive travel and fieldwork components. Total expenses declined 21% in 2014 compared to the previous year, indicating the importance of education and research projects that are cheaper to implement. Revenue received in a given year and actual expense will never neatly align due to multi-year projects. Also, grants and gifts received late in the fiscal year mean that the expense of implementing those projects will be reported in the following year when they are actually worked on.



Annual expenses do not reflect the value of the hours contributed by volunteers. In 2014, approximately \$51k of volunteer hours was contributed in the field and office. From assisting on recordation projects, processing fieldwork data, and educational outreach, NRAF's dedicated volunteers make an enormous difference in allowing NRAF to overcome the limitations of tight annual budgets. A review of 2014 project highlights and an update on 2015 accomplishments is provided on pages 5-9.

Your support plays a critical role in ensuring that Nevada's rock art heritage receives the archaeological attention it needs for its better understanding and interpreting it to the public. Together, we are making strides in realizing the vision of our founding executive director, Alanah Woody, for a future where Nevada rock art is cherished by all and research on it attains international significance. ■

Matching Grant

cont'd from page 1...

and religious ceremonies. Scarcity of water would have limited the duration of prehistoric stays in the area. Fine examples of rock art left by these ancient peoples can be found at several sites within the park.

NRAF successfully conducted a similar matching funds campaign last winter to record the Crow's Nest site, northwestern Nevada ([see page 8](#)). A \$7,000 award from the Community Foundation of Western Nevada was successfully out-matched by almost \$9,000 raised from NRAF donors and the NARA Foundation.

For more information or to support this project, visit our Valley of Fire webpage, www.nvrockart.org/pages/Valley.html. ■



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Alice Baldrice, President



2015 is ending and I can't believe how much NRAF has accomplished this year. NRAF staff continued projects in

the Sierra for the Tahoe National Forest and interpretive brochures for Pahrnagat Valley for the Ely District of the BLM. NRAF also developed and taught a BLM sponsored workshop for public school teachers who will incorporate materials on archaeology (including rock art), prehistory and ethnography into their curriculum. We know that the more students and young people know about the past, the more likely they are to respect and protect what remains. I compliment NRAF Staff, Executive Director Gus Quinlan, and Deputy Director Darla Garey-Sage on their ability to juggle the many projects, despite delayed starts caused by foul weather, family responsibilities and injuries. Hope you have the opportunity to pat them on the back and tell them "thank you" for all they do this holiday season. And I would like to give a big "thank you" to our volunteers who contribute so much of themselves to these projects.

In 2016, NRAF will continue projects such as Dry Lakes Basin and Black Mountain for the Carson District of the BLM, and will record additional rock art for the Tahoe National Forest. We will also initiate a large recordation project at Massacre Lake for the BLM Applegate Field Office, a rugged area difficult to access but with some exceptionally significant rock art.

[Cont'd on Page 3](#)



Annual Meeting 2015

cont'd from page 1...

Quinlan began the program with the Annual Report for 2014-2015. Excerpts from that report are reprinted here in the newsletter, and you can see that the Foundation continues to serve our mission with recordation and interpretation grants.

Presentations covered a wide range of topics, from protection of historic landscapes to interpreting rock art. Jeanne Sharp Howerton kicked off the programmatic papers with a presentation on the history of Michael Heizer's artwork "The City". Darla Garey-Sage gave presentations on the Lahontan Reservoir Petroglyph site, and on ethnographic data that could illuminate rock art's cultural contexts. Gus Quinlan presented on two rock art complexes in specialized environments, as well as on the Pahrangat Style viewed from the perspective of the Delamar Flat site. Benjamin Wilreker described the findings of research on historic inscriptions at the Helen J. Stewart Rockshelter. Harold Larson explored the historic references in a rock art panel from southern Nevada. Kevin Rafferty described the results of research at a complex of rock art and rockshelters in Red Rock Canyon. Former Board Chair Pat Barker concluded the program with a wide-ranging look at meaning in rock art.

The Saturday evening banquet and annual awards ceremony was held back at the Alexis Park All Suite Resort, and two awards were presented.

2015 Friends of the Foundation Award

The Friends of the Foundation Award is an occasional award that recognizes contributions to rock art

preservation by partner agencies and groups. For 2015, NRAF recognized the Artists Co-op Gallery Reno who have annually hosted the *Rockin' Out Art Show* to support rock art preservation. This annual art show has raised almost \$20,000 over the last nine years. The efforts of the Artists Co-op Gallery also keeps the mission and profile of NRAF visible in the community, as well as raising much needed funds. NRAF is grateful to have such devoted support and friendship from the Artists Co-op Gallery.



Clay Elting (left) receiving the 2015 Holmes Volunteer of the Year Award

2015 Holmes Volunteer of the Year Award

This is an annual award that recognizes a history of outstanding volunteerism to rock art preservation. The 2015 Holmes Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Clay Elting, who is the ideal of a volunteer for the Foundation. Clay's particular expertise and passion is photography, but he is always willing and happy to do whatever task is required, be it photography, log work, or IMACS. And crew members enjoy the nightly

opportunity to ride to dinner in his convertible Corvette! Clay is a vocal and generous advocate for both the mission of NRAF and the Foundation itself. Congratulations, Clay, 2015's Holmes Volunteer of the Year.

The 2015 meeting concluded after the banquet, as field trips were organized on individual basis this year. There are so many sites to visit that folks were able to make their own plans, although local members offered much appreciated input.

Next year the 2016 meeting of the Great Basin Anthropological Conference, will be held in Reno in October. NRAF suggests that members plan to attend the GBAC, where NRAF is scheduled to participate in a rock art symposium. The GBAC is a much larger regional meeting for all anthropological topics and NRAF members will have the opportunity to hear a wide variety of papers and interact with old and new friends. ■



President's Report

cont'd from page 2...

NRAF is also looking forward to initiating another exciting project in 2016 using different avenues for funding. We have a long tradition of partnering with federal agencies that have been able to fund documentation of rock art sites, particularly those near developed areas subject to high visitation. However, it has been more difficult to find funding to help states and counties who manage sites on non-federal land. In the past, NRAF has relied on the State Historic Preservation Office for matching grants but funding has dried up in recent years. As a result, NRAF has found other partners, in NARA and the Nevada Division of State Parks, to continue the important work of documenting rock art. One area in need of recordation is Valley of Fire State Park, where Dr. Kevin Rafferty, an NRAF board member, has worked with his students and State Parks staff

to locate and prioritize rock art sites for documentation at the Park. Most of these are well known sites that have never been professionally documented, and are in areas of heavy visitation that need a high level of recordation. Most of you already know that rock art has been imperiled in the past by taggers, despite the presence of law enforcement and rangers, so work in and around cities such as Las Vegas is imperative in the near future. Although money is not available from the federal or state governments, NARA, a private foundation, has offered matching funds (please see the remainder of the newsletter for more information on the project and funding) to achieve this goal. The more match we provide, the greater the number of sites that can be documented. Those of you who know the Valley of Fire State Park will understand why the trail to Mouse's Tank is considered a priority for recordation.

As the year draws to a close, and we give gifts to those we love, please remember to be generous to the non-profit organizations that are important to you, including NRAF. NRAF does important and lasting work, something other agencies, organizations and individuals can't do on their own. Once rock art is damaged or destroyed, it can't be recorded, repaired or replaced without the information collected by NRAF and its volunteers. The Valley of Fire State Park is a remarkable place and a worthy cause. I hope you will donate, no matter how small the amount, to the project.

Have a great holiday season and see you in 2016! ■





THE NEVADA ROCK ART FOUNDATION

Donation and 2016 Membership Renewal Form

Donation and Membership Levels

- Spiral (individual) \$25 Bighorn Sheep (family) \$50 Atlatl \$100
 Archer \$250-\$500 Weaver \$501-\$1,000 Sunburst \$1,001-\$4,999
 Alanah Woody Dot Circle \$5,000+

I also wish to make a donation to The Valley of Fire Project _____ (enter amount)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail* _____

**By giving us your e-mail address you agree to receive important updates and news about the Foundation via our Newsflash service. Your e-mail address will not be shared with any other parties and will only be used to provide you with information about the Foundation's upcoming events.*

I wish to renew by: CHECK MC VISA (sorry, no AMEX) Total enclosed _____

Card # _____ Exp date _____ Signature _____

THE NEVADA ROCK ART FOUNDATION is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

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2014-15 Program Accomplishments

Kyle Canyon recordation

Curtis Canyon graffiti reduction

Lahontan Reservoir recordation

High Basins recordation

Black Mountain recordation

Mt Irish public interpretation

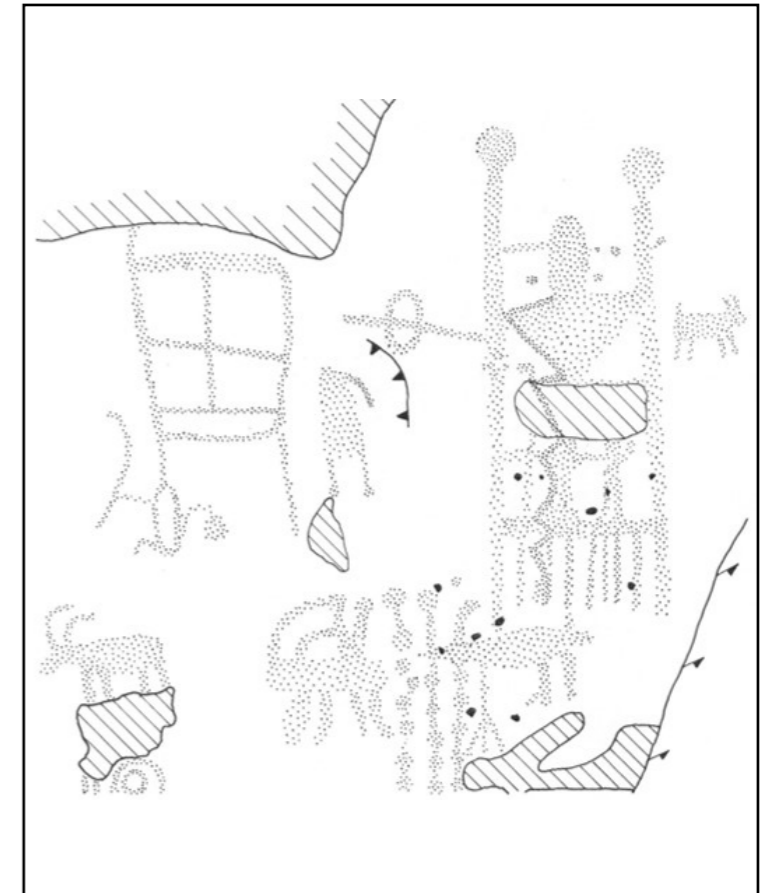
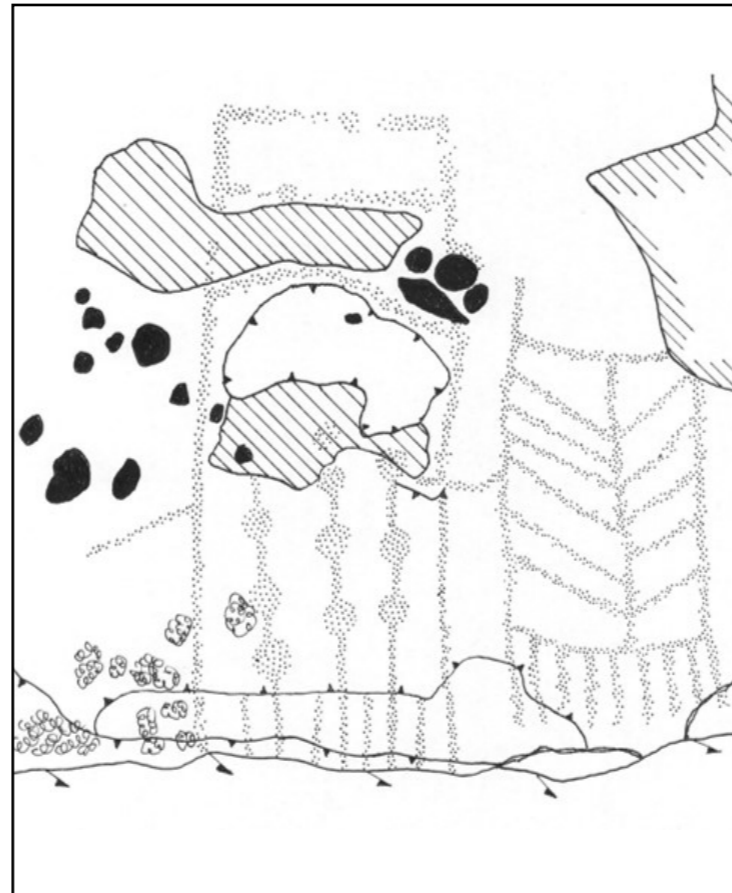
Prepared research for presentation at the Society for American Archaeology meetings, Great Basin Anthropological Conference, and American Rock Art Research meetings.

Prepared research on Polly Schaafsma's contributions to Great Basin rock art studies, published in 2015.



Kyle Canyon Recordation

Assisted ASM & Affiliates in recording rock art at the Kyle Canyon site in Lincoln County. Kyle Canyon contains 16 petroglyph panels, notable for their dense arrangements of motifs and Pahrnagat-style patterned-body anthropomorphs. The site provides important information about the stylistic properties of the Pahrnagat Anthropomorph Style and its associated archaeological contexts. ■



Curtis Canyon Graffiti Reduction



Provided technical assistance for a site rehabilitation project led by Eetza Research Associates at Curtis Canyon, Lincoln County. The project brought the specialist skills of conservator Dr Johannes Loubser to Nevada to mitigate the affects of graffiti and vandalism at the project site. ■



Black Mtn Recordation



Commenced fieldwork and training of members of the Walker River Paiute at the Black Mountain rock art complex, northwestern Nevada. The complex is among the largest unrecorded rock art complexes in the state. Recorded a

total of 660 rock art panels and 24 features in extensive taluses that run to almost the crest of Black Mountain. The rock art is characterized by dense clustering and heavy repetition on circular motif types. Fieldwork at the site will resume in summer 2016. ■



Lahontan Reservoir Recordation



Conducted fieldwork at the Lahontan Reservoir Petroglyph Site, Lyon County to intensively record its rock art and archaeology. The site covers an area of approximately 5.5 acres and comprises 208 rock art boulders densely distributed in two main concentrations. Other prehistoric archaeological features are surprisingly slight. Rock art imagery is dominated by abstract designs with a heavy emphasis on curvilinear motif types. Stick-figure anthropomorphs and zoomorphs are almost entirely absent. This pronounced emphasis on abstract designs seems to be a regional feature of the northwestern Nevada rock art record. ■

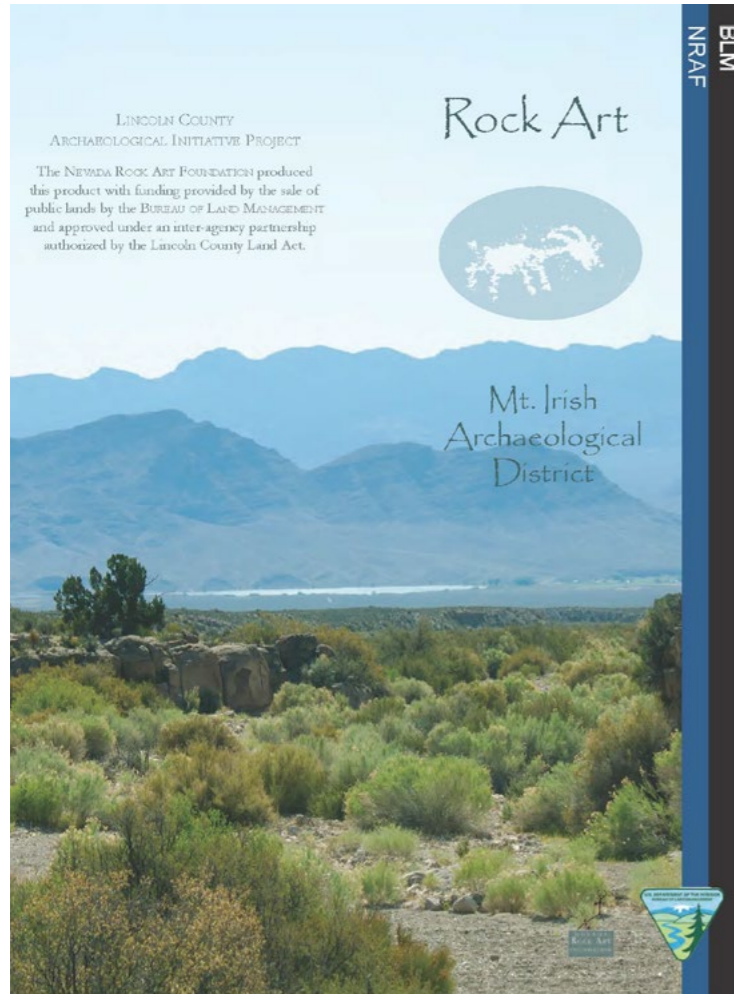
High Basins Recordation

Commenced a multi-year recordation project that continues NRAF's interest in the High Basins ACEC. Some 116 rock art sites have been identified in this area, and around 27 large sites were recorded by NRAF from 2004-2008. This project focuses on the smaller sites that are either unrecorded or

need their records updated using modern GIS technology. To date, recorded seven sites (80 panels) that are variably accompanied by simple lithic scatters and other archaeological features. The High Basins complex is characterized by its inter-mixing of settlement features and rock art. ■



Mt Irish Interpretation

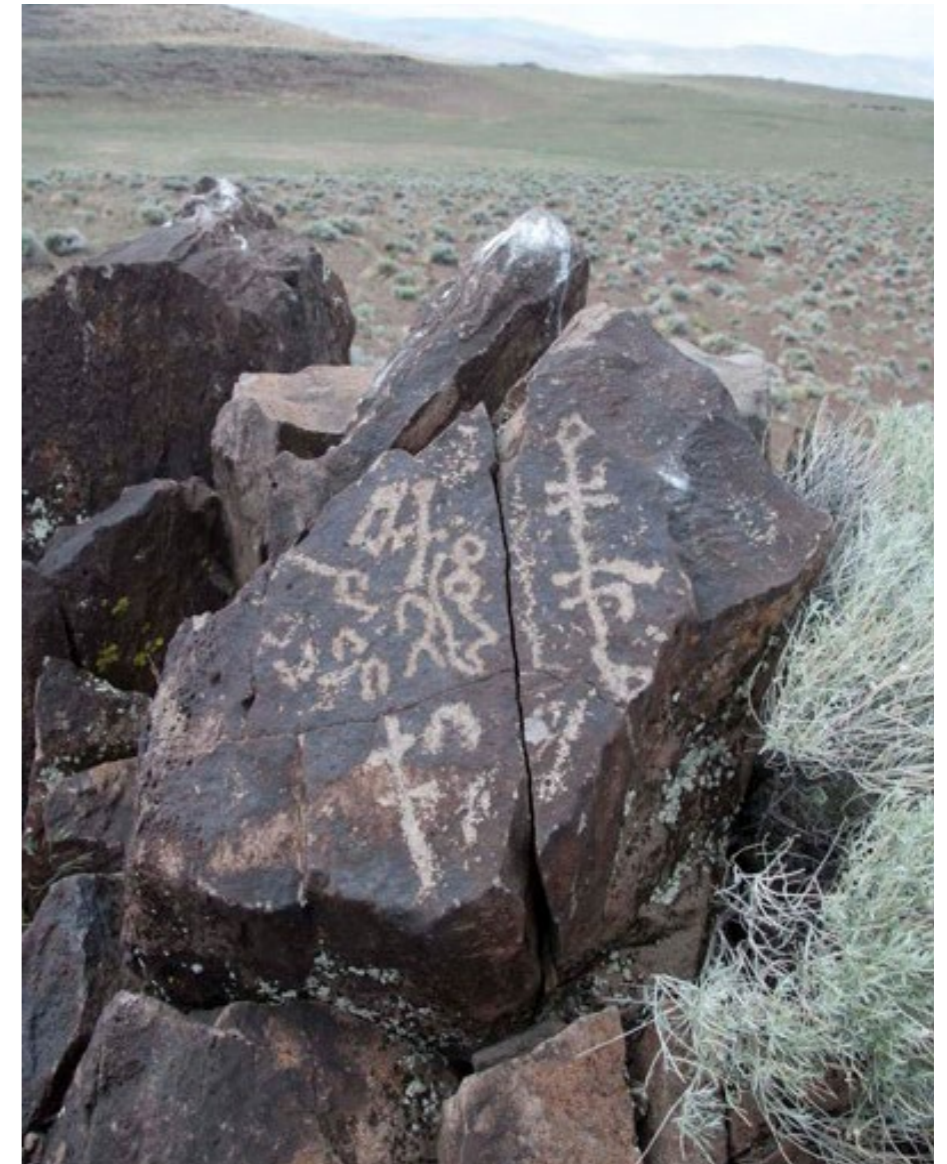


Developed interpretive materials to complement existing trail guide at the Mount Irish Archaeological District. The project was made possible by a grant from the Lincoln County Archaeological Initiative. Mount Irish is an important complex of rock art and settlement archaeology, famous for its Pahrnagat Style rock art. Interpreted public sites play an important role in showcasing the heritage significance of Nevada rock art. ■

Crow's Nest Recordation

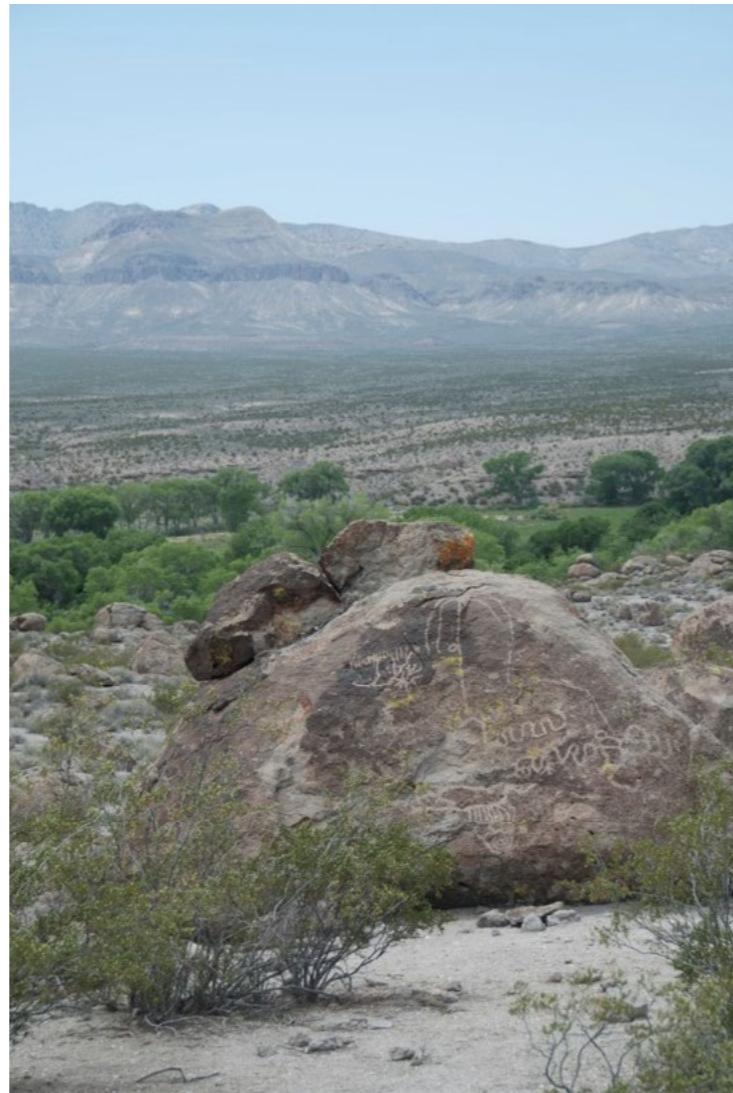
Recorded one of the largest rock art in the High Basins ACEC. The project was made possible by a challenge matching grant from the Community Foundation of Western Nevada, a grant from the NARA Foundation, and donations from NRAF members. The project focused on updating the

site record for the Crow's Nest site with geospatial data gathered using modern technology. We found the site to be more spatially extensive than previously reported, containing 301 rock art panels, a lithic scatter, and numerous rock alignment features. ■



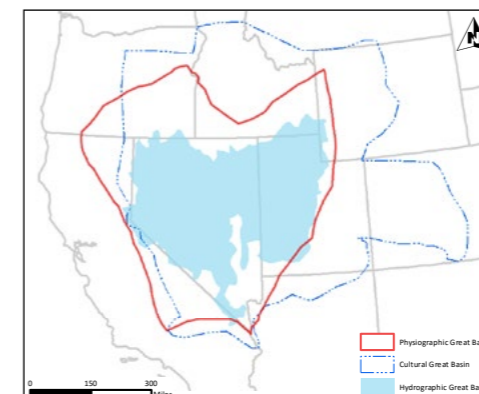
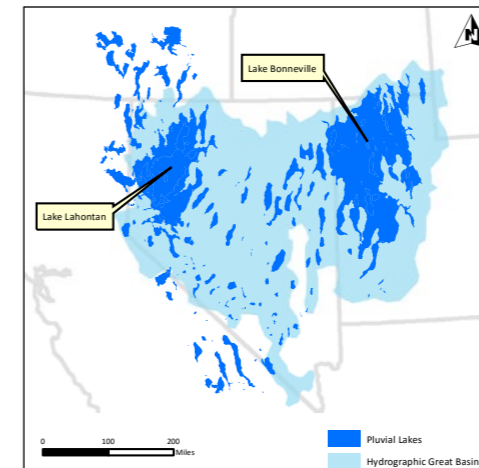
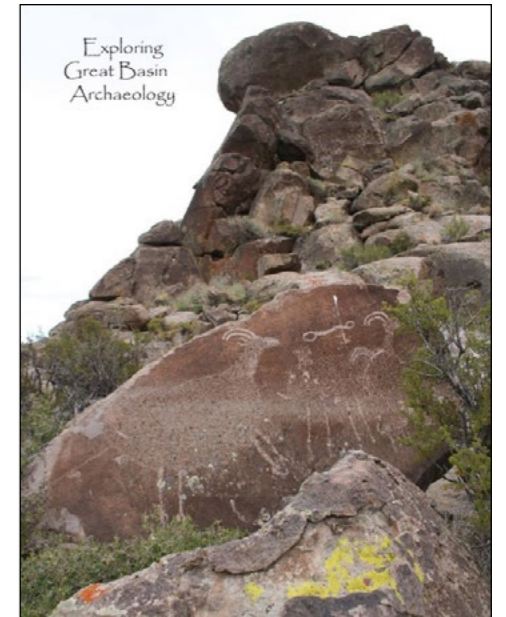
Ash Springs, Crystal Wash, & Shooting Gallery

Continued NRAF's interest in public interpretation of rock art in the Pahranaagat Valley area. Commenced work on developing brochures and webpages to complement existing trail guides for the rock art of Ash Springs, Crystal Wash, and Shooting Gallery. The interpretive materials contextualize the rock art of these areas based on the better data now available from recent archaeological surveys as a result of the Lincoln County Archaeological Initiative. ■



Great Basin Teachers' Workshop

Developed a program of educational outreach as part of the 2015 Great Basin Teachers' Workshop. The program aimed to share archaeological research on Great Basin anthropology in an accessible way with topics covering prehistory, ethnography, rock art, and historic preservation. Education programs can help inform the public about the importance of culture heritage, fostering wider appreciation of historic preservation. A course handbook—*Exploring Great Basin Archaeology*—was developed as an introductory text describing the history of human settlement in the region. ■





N E V A D A
ROCK ART
F O U N D A T I O N

*Working for the Conservation of
Nevada's Rock Art Heritage*

Code of Ethics

The Nevada Rock Art Foundation subscribes to the following code of ethics and its members, as a condition of membership, agree to abide by the standards of conduct stated herein.

1. NRAF respects the cultural and spiritual significance of rock art sites and shall not engage in any activity that adversely affects site integrity. NRAF members will be respectful at rock art sites—many are regarded as sacred by indigenous peoples and as such will be treated as a valued part of our shared cultural heritage.

2. NRAF members will strictly adhere to all local, state, and national antiquities laws. All research or educational activities taking place at rock art sites shall be subject to appropriate regulations and property access requirements.

3. All rock art recording shall be nondestructive with regard to the rock art itself and any associated archaeological remains that may be present.

4. No artifacts shall be collected unless the work is done as part of a legally constituted program of archaeological survey or excavation and with express permission of the landholder.

5. No excavation shall be conducted unless the work is done as part of a legally constituted excavation project and with the express permission of the landholder. Removal of soil shall not be undertaken at any time for the sole purpose of exposing subsurface rock art.

The Nevada Rock Art Foundation's principal objectives are to document rock art sites at risk and to work to conserve and ensure the integrity and future protection of all Nevada rock art sites.

The Foundation respects the cultural heritage and traditions of all indigenous people in all its activities.

**The Past
Deserves a Future**

GREAT BASIN GLYPH NOTES

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