

**SITE STEWARD PROGRAM**  
**1993 URARA SYMPOSIUM**  
**KANAB, UT**

BY

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**"THE UTAH ROCK ART RESEARCH ASSOCIATION IS NOT THE ONLY ORGANIZATION IN UTAH CONCERNED WITH THE RECORDING AND PRESERVATION OF ROCK ART. OUR ORGANIZATION, HOWEVER, IS THE LARGEST IN THE STATE OF UTAH, WHICH IS INDEPENDENTLY ORGANIZED, HAVING AS ITS MAIN GOALS THE RECORDING AND PRESERVATION OF ROCK ART AND EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC ABOUT ITS VALUE."**

Taken from the "Minimum Standards for Recording Rock Art for U.R.A.R.A.",  
by Steven J. Manning and Jesse E. Warner

To leave them alone invites their destruction.  
...Dave Madsen on rock art.

**Background**

Last year about this time Gail and I were approached by Ray Bailey about replacing him on a panel called "Utah Network for the Management, Protection, and Conversation of Rock Art" (Network), which had been formed to look at specific problems such as communication between entities interested in preservation and restoration of Rock Art.

During our meeting in February we were fortunate to meet George and Shirley Craig from St. George. George and Shirley had been working on surveying the Black Rock Mountain area in Arizona and that when they first arrived at the site it was strewn with litter and the kids who lived in the area regularly used the site as a party place. Every day George and Shirley would arrive and proceed to clean up. This involved picking up all the garbage and making the site look like it was cared for.

The result of their endeavors was not only did the kids move on to some other party place, but people (including some of the kids) started asking questions about the site, such as "What does this figure mean"? Or, if they were like me "What the hell is that"? The Craigs found that the kids who were previously trashing the site were now very interested and that their presence at the site had significantly altered human behavior.

As I sat there listening to Shirley relate her story, I wondered why I had never hear of the term site steward program associated with Utah rock art sites. I figured it was because, even though I've trekked around the desert for years, I was still very much a novice when it came to rock art. When I asked the group about Utah's site steward program I was told (almost unanimously) that we don't have one. I was more than just shocked. I couldn't believe that a state with as many wonderful and vulnerable natural resources as Utah had no program in place to protect them.

I gathered up as much information as possible from all the people in the Network and decided to try and do something about it. Shirley told me that Arizona's program was headed by the SHPO's office so I made an appointment to talk to Dave Madsen of our SHPO's office here in Utah.

Gail and I met with Dave in April of this year and he told us about a grant that was coming available from UDOT. He encouraged us to apply for some of the grant money citing the following stipulations: we had to put up "matching funds", and the deadline was June 7. Matching funds meant URARA picks an amount, say \$500, to show UDOT that we're serious about wanting the grant money. He also told us that the Sierra Club had contacted him a week previously about the same subject. One interesting comment Dave made was that the Australian people had told him that the number one reason for vandalism to archeological sites is the perception that people don't care.

Gail and I were concerned that URARA would be hesitant about putting up the \$500 toward the grant money, but the Executive Committee decided it was time to put our money where our mouths are and agreed to the \$500 needed. In fact, everyone pretty much agreed that they were tired of URARA having the status of a "club". It was time people started to take us seriously as a group concerned with preservation, recordation, and conservation. As it turned out, UDOT turned us down citing that they were already dealing with known sites. Dave is going to resubmit the proposal in January. He is also going to put the same proposal to the National Park Service because apparently they have monies available also.

As an aside from the program Dave Madsen was trying to help us get started, Gail and I, along with a few others have discussed URARA going ahead with our own site steward program.

The first thing we did was put together a list of possible sites which require immediate attention. Because just looking at the list of approximately 50 sites recommended for protection and development was overwhelming, I realized from reading various articles and letters regarding Arizona's program, we should start with just one site. Perhaps do the first one as a group. Then as we get the feel for what is going to work and what isn't, we can start taking volunteers for specific sites as they choose. This would involve soliciting individuals and/or groups for volunteer work at the sites we deem the most susceptible to immediate danger, whether it be human, environmental, or natural. We have found more than enough interest and enthusiasm within the group to proceed. In fact, Jesse got so excited he opened a booth at a small fair to see if any interest could be generated.

We have discussed such possibilities as having our initial and logo put on garbage bags and placed at sites that are trashed. We could also have small signs made stating that "This site is being cared for by URARA. Please help us take care of our natural resources", or something like that. We could create defined trails such as those you follow that are outlined with rocks. I have heard concern regarding areas directly in front of the panels. Perhaps this would also help.

The most important thing to remember is that our presence makes a difference. You are intensely interested in rock art, that is why you are here. As long as you are going to spending time at these sites, would you mind taking along a few garbage bags and maybe a sign or two to let people know there is a positive, visible presence there? Many of you probably already do pick up garbage and that is a great start.

Ultimately, I would like to see the program develop to the point where we have all the tools we need, such as site forms, garbage bags, signs, ect. available to the general public. I would like to get the word out to everyone in Utah that if they are planning a trip near an archeological site would they be willing to take some tools supplied by us and check on the site? Fill out the forms, pick up the garbage, and just give us a general description of the condition of the site. Maybe a photo or two if they feel there has been destruction.

Shirley Craig sent me a copy of ARARA's conservation guidelines. In the guidelines ARARA recommends what they call Levels of Actions, which are recording and follow-up guidelines. It goes on to say the information is passed on to the Conversation and Protection Committee. Perhaps setting up such a committee within URARA would be a good start (do we have one already?).

When I was going through the information on the Arizona program that Mary Estes sent me I was amazed at the amount of exceptionally organized information available to wanna-be stewards. They have

- Arizona Site Steward Program Handbook
- Intergovernmental Agreement
- Arizona Site Steward Program Field Training-Statement of Learning Objectives.
- Classroom training
- Site Steward Application
- Site Steward Training Outline
- Code of Ethics Statement to be signed (release from responsibility)

We are still looking for ideas, comments, suggestions, etc. Please help us get this program off on the right foot. We can use all the help you can give.