



The Highlights

It's been a busy and productive year! In June SPSS launched the new Site Steward Reporting System, an ArGIS database platform developed by our Tech Team that replaces the cumbersome, paper-based reports we used in all kinds of weather in the field. The new electronic tablets, purchased with grant funds, automatically recorded GPS coordinates while we photographed artifacts and recorded field data with drop down menus. Easy. Efficient. Accurate. More time will be spent discovering new artifacts, surveying new sites and laying the groundwork for further reconnaissance and classification. Our sincerest gratitude to Berta, Mitch and Diane for their tireless commitment.



Joana, Dan and Beth use the tablet to record artifacts discovered on a new site at Willow Creek.

The Numbers

Stewards

- 26 Volunteer Stewards
- 3188 Volunteer Steward Hours, 47% increase over 2018
- 122 Volunteer Tech Team Hours developing SSRS-SiteSteward Recording System

Sites

- 25 Site Visits, 15% increase over 2018
- 13 State recorded prehistoric sites and 3 historic sites monitored in 2019
- 134 Artifacts recorded by tablets and added to ArGIS database
- Stewards documented vandalism on remote cairn site that destroyed the context of thousands of years of archaeological information. Minor vandalism documented on a historic building site in addition to weather related deterioration.
- 4 New Sites planned for 2020.

The Projects

Weston Pass Post-Fire Assist: Prior to reopening to the public, The US Forest Service requested assistance from SPSS in assessing possible environmental damage to previously recorded archaeological sites after the Weston Pass fire. Twenty three site stewards worked 8-hour days with USFS staff in remote areas of the forest assisting with erosion control and recordation of artifacts and features.

Rochelle Rhone, USFS archaeologist, giving the morning instructions to Stewards on the work detail and goals for the day.



Stewards assisted Tom Lincoln, our consulting archaeologist, in the recordation of an archaeological property on the Blue Moon Ranch (private landowner). Two days were spent in the field recording the sites, producing site and feature maps, and completing documentation required by the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office.



After conducting scheduled monitoring of a recorded site at Willow Creek, stewards explored an adjacent hillside. They found sufficient artifacts to constitute an official new site. Findings were reported to the USFS Archaeologist and SPSS will conduct follow-up work with the Forest Service in 2020.

Lunch with a view at Willow Creek.

The Activities

- Kathy and Mary attended the Colorado Archaeological Society Annual Meeting in Pueblo, along with our southern stewards Wendy, Spencer, Joyce and Bill. Petroglyphs at the museum, silent auction, lectures, and a trip to a fur era trading post with a rattlesnake under the stairs were all part of the learning and fun.
- Mitch made lightweight and handy holders for flags; no more rusty hands. Dan made compass/measurement sticks that greatly improve representation of artifact details for photo records.
- Stewards attended several training courses including two separate lithics identification courses taught by Dr. Susan Bender and by Rebecca Simons, Assistant State Archaeologist. Tom Lincoln

provided a class on formal survey methods and State archaeological forms reporting, using the Blue Moon Ranch survey data stewards collected this summer.

- SPSS hosted a public outreach event about indigenous edibles called Talk and Tastings by Erica Davis, an archaeologist and professor at the Colorado Mountain College in Breckenridge.
- At the Heritage Area Symposium in September, Linda Carr gave a slide presentation on “Discovering South Park’s Native American Past and Protecting this Heritage”. Examples of artifacts, migration routes, archaeological sites and vandalism reinforced the need for public awareness of the preservation and protection of prehistoric and historic resources in the Park. Susan Bender submitted the cover article for the Heritage Area’s Summer brochure that was a handout at the Symposium.
- Flint Knapping demonstration by Tim Evans at Bob White’s beautiful Bristlecone View Ranch. Susan Bender described how points and tools were used by early Native American peoples. Tim knapped an obsidian point in 20 minutes! Yes, band aid needed.



Site Steward ski day at Breckenridge. No artifacts discovered.

SPSS is a Non-Profit

1st Year as an IRS recognized 501(C)(3) Non-Profit Corporation

1. Accepted contributions and donations that are tax-deductible to the donor!
2. Applied and awarded our first grant!
3. Received ESRI Technology Software for Non-Profit!
4. Received eligibility for technology products and services donations from TechSoup!
5. Designated charitable organization for Amazon Smiles donations!

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way to support SOUTH PARK SITE STEWARDS INC. Every time you shop, at no cost to you, AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to the SOUTH PARK SITE STEWARDS. Signing up is easy!



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4. Add a bookmark for smile.amazon.com to make it even easier every time you shop. South Park Site Stewards, Inc. will be automatically designated to receive the donations
5. Start shopping!

Meet the Board

Linda Carr – Executive Director: Keeps us well organized. Worked 22 yrs for World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control and prior to retirement, spent her 2 week vacations volunteering for the South Park Archaeology Project with Susan Bender, Dick Wilkinson, and Ed Friedman.

Beth Parisi – Assistant Director: Brings 20 yrs experience volunteering with Santa Fe National Forest Site Stewards where she lives part time and 10 yr Board member of Site Steward Foundation, Inc. Began volunteering in SP with Susan Bender in 2011. Ski instructor at Monarch in winter.



Beth & Linda with new discovery at Little Sacramento Creek warranting further reconnaissance in 2020.



Barb Saenger – Treasurer: Experience submitting fire mitigation grants facilitated our first tech grant and future funding. Hikes for artifacts and mushrooms.

Lori Kennedy –Secretary: Managed 200 Guest Service volunteers at Breckenridge Ski Area. Loves to hike, climbed every 14er.

Barb & Lori at Mosquito Pass after monitoring the nearby site at 12,000 ft. elevation.



Berta Robinson – Board Member: Our tech guru made site work easy, fun and productive with new tablets and state-of-the-art data collection and reporting system.

Kathy Reeves – Board Member: Always smiling, also worked with Susan Bender and Tom Lincoln and the South Park Archaeology Project 20 years ago. Lab and library coordinator who helped SPNHA realize their goal of housing the depository in the new county building.



From Our Advisors



Acknowledgement in Blue Moon Ranch Final Report by Tom Lincoln.....I acknowledge the SPSS volunteers who participated in the project for their gifts of time, patience, insights, and friendship which I received during the training, field recordation, and follow-up discussion and reporting. Their passion for Colorado prehistory is evident and boundless as their energy and good will. They made this project a success. Lastly, I am indebted to SPSS's Executive Director, Linda Carr for her tireless efforts promoting and directing SPSS and for making SPSS a major contributor in preserving South Park Archaeology.

Consulting Archaeologist and President of PHA Research, Inc., Former Assistant Regional Director for Cultural Resources, National Parks Service

"I can download all the data and incorporate into my systems in about 5 minutes flat. The data is completely current, and includes all the photos. In the future that will allow us to react very quickly to on-the-ground needs - if we observe impacts for example, I can review the data and photos later that same day."

*Michael Troyer, Archaeologist
Bureau of Land Management, Royal Gorge Field Office
SPSS Annual Steward Training, June 2019*



Dear South Park Site Stewards,

What an amazingly successful year you have had! Every year you take on new projects, extend your skills in archaeological data collection, and engage in important preservation work. You continue to build on the work completed by the South Park Archaeology Project (SPArP), such that every year our understanding of Indigenous peoples' activities in South Park grows. Moreover, your work with BLM and Forest Service archaeologists assists them in site preservation and identification activities for which they have limited time, given the state of their staffing. And, you have such fun doing all this! I have no doubt that you have become a force in South Park's heritage preservation community.

Personally, it is deeply gratifying to think of your work as the legacy of the 10+ years of research that I and the entire SPArP team devoted to creating knowledge about South Park's Indigenous history. Thank you, thank you for the time, energy, enthusiasm, and intelligence that you have devoted to SPSS.

With best wishes for a holiday filled with the joy of the season. Susan

Dr. Susan Bender - Professor of Anthropology, Emeritus at Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY

From Linda

Dear Fellow Stewards,

Just quick thanks to everyone for your contributions to SPSS and our mission. Incredibly we accomplished nearly twice as much work in a summer that was 2 months shorter than normal. We usually get into the field in May...this year it was early July. I hope you found the trainings, public outreach events, the new technology, and the variety of field work enjoyable and fulfilling. Our partnerships with BLM, USFS and SPNHA are stronger than ever. We will be establishing new BLM and USFS sites throughout South Park next summer.

I want to say a special thanks to those of you who helped organize events and help whenever and wherever needed...and a very big thanks to our technical team for their tireless dedication to the Site Steward Reporting System (tablets). We continue to be successful and growing. It wouldn't be possible without every one of you.

See you next Spring!

Linda Carr

Happy Holidays



The South Park Site Stewards program's (SPSS) mission is to promote the protection and preservation of prehistoric, historic, archaeological, and paleontological resources within the South Park National Heritage Area (SPNHA). The SPSS is composed of volunteer site stewards who work in collaboration with public land agencies and private land owners to monitor, protect, and report on the condition of these resources.