

## **THE SITE MONITORING PROGRAM STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST INTRODUCTION**

The Stanislaus National Forest Site Monitoring Program (Stanislaus SMP) is comprised of volunteers, sponsored by the Forest Service, that have a commitment to heritage resource protection. The program is designed to monitor sites to create a presence to prevent looting and vandalism and to record and report these activities when it occurs.

### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

In recognition of the fact that prehistoric and historic archaeological materials are irreplaceable national resources, the Stanislaus SMP works toward the following goals:

- To preserve prehistoric and historic archaeological resources for the purposes of conservation, scientific study, and interpretation.
- To increase public awareness of the significance and value of heritage resources.
- To discourage site vandalism and looting.
- To promote understanding and cooperation among the Forest Service and the public.

### **CODE OF ETHICS**

The main objective of the Stanislaus SMP is to prevent destruction of prehistoric and historic archaeological sites in the Spring Mountains. Therefore, all volunteers will be guided by a code of ethics. Volunteers will observe the following rules:

#### **1. COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAWS**

In the course of their duties, monitors will comply with all Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.

#### **2. RESPECT FOR THE PUBLIC**

Monitors will remain aware that the public may perceive them as representatives of the Forest Service. They will carry out their activities in a courteous manner and with respect for private property.

#### **3. PROTECTION OF HERITAGE RESOURCES**

At no time will a monitor engage in any vandalism or looting of a site. Any such activity will result in the monitor's dismissal from the program and prosecution under the full extent of the law.

#### **4. CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION**

All prehistoric and historic archaeological sites, including site location information, site descriptions, vandalism reports, maps, and photographs are the property of the Forest Service. All of this information is confidential and may not be shared outside of the site-monitoring program without prior approval from the Forest Service. Any break in this confidentiality will result in the responsible parties dismissal from the program and prosecution under the full extent of the law.

#### **5. COLLECTIONS**

Monitors may not collect any artifacts on Federal lands unless explicitly directed to do so by a land manager from the Forest Service. If artifacts obtained from Federal lands are surrendered to them in the course of their monitoring duties, the artifacts and reports detailing the surrender will be delivered to the Forest Service. Any monitor discovered to have taken artifacts from a site will result in the monitor's dismissal from the program and prosecution under the full extent of the law.

## SELECTION, DUTIES, AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF A SITE MONITOR

### 1. SELECTION OF MONITORS

Anyone who is interested in preservation of heritage resources and who is willing to abide by the Code of Ethics can be a monitor in the Stanislaus SMP. Monitors will serve on a volunteer basis and will be recruited and selected without regard to race, creed, religion, age, sex, color, national origin, or handicap. However, no person who has been convicted of a violent crime, crime against a person, crime involving the use of a weapon, or any other felony shall be utilized as a volunteer.

### 2. MONITOR DUTIES AND ACTIVITIES

The primary mission of the monitoring program is to periodically monitor certain selected heritage resource sites for evidence of new vandalism or looting. The monitor will be assigned to one or more sites to which they are responsible. Responsibilities include:

- a. Establishing photo points within the sites in which to document the site.
- b. Ensuring the site is properly recorded, including the site boundaries, all rock art panels, looting pits, vandalism, etc.
- c. Regularly visiting the site to take photographs at the established photo points, labeling the photos, and maintaining an album.
- d. Regularly updating the site map and taking photographs of any recent looting or vandalism activities.
- e. Regularly taking notes on site condition, if any visitors were encountered at the site, etc.
- f. Notifying the Forest Service of any recent looting or vandalism. If the damage seems recent and no one is in the area, back out of the area and notify the Forest Service as soon as possible. The Forest Service will tell you what to do next, what steps we will take, and how soon we can arrive. If there will be a delay, the Forest Service will inform you on if you should go home or stay in the area. However, it is important that you do not walk around the site because you could be destroying valuable information, such as foot prints and tire tracks, that could assist the Forest Service on identifying the looter or vandal.

If the act is in progress, follow these rules: if you can safely take photographs of the action, photographs of the vehicle and license plate, and can write down a description of what you saw, the person, and the license plate, then do so. However, **NEVER APPROACH** the person while they are in the act or try to detain the individual when they are leaving the vicinity.

These people are often armed and should be considered dangerous. If you do not feel comfortable in the situation, then leave and notify the Forest Service as soon as possible. If you are in the act of monitoring the site and a looter or vandal approaches you, use your best judgment on if you should continue doing your monitoring or leave the area. **Remember, heritage resources are important, but they are not worth your life!**

- g. Recommend needs for the site, i.e., signs, fencing, etc., to assist the Forest Service in managing the resource.

### 3. MONITOR RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. Sign and abide by your agreement to follow the Code of Ethics.
- b. Maintain frequent communications with your Forest Service contact.
- c. Turn in the monitoring reports, photographs, site maps, and other documentation in regular intervals.
- d. Visit the site you are assigned to at least once a quarter, or more frequently, if possible.

- e. Do not serve nor create the impression of having the authority to serve in any law enforcement capacity while performing any monitoring duty.
- f. Sign a Volunteer agreement with the District Ranger.

**Code of Ethics**

I, the undersigned, recognize that prehistoric and historic archaeological materials are irreplaceable natural resources. I will not misuse or misrepresent my participation in this program for personal gain to obtain access to sites, records, or artifacts. I realize that the value of a prehistoric or historic archaeological site is in its context as well as content, and disturbing a site for purposes other than scientific study will destroy a unique record of the past, which can never be regained. I adopt the Stanislaus National Forest Site Monitoring Program Code of Ethics. In the event that I observe or learn of ongoing destruction of heritage resources, I consider it my obligation to notify the appropriate authorities.

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**FEDERAL LAWS AND EXECUTIVE ORDERS**

Authority. The Organic Administration Act of June 4, 1897, authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to regulate occupancy and use of the National Forests. Classification of special interest areas that should be managed for recreation use substantially in their natural condition is authorized under 36 CFR 294.1a. Such areas, which are of a nature or significance to justify or require more intensive management, protection, interpretation, or use are, authorized under 36 CFR 294.1b.

The Environmental Policy Act of January 1, 1970, declares the responsibility of Federal Agencies to preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage and provides that the policies, regulations, and public laws shall be interpreted and administered in accordance with the policies of the act.

1. Antiquities Act of 1906. (34 Stat. 225.) Provides for the protection of historic or prehistoric remains, or any object of antiquity, on Federal lands; establishes criminal sanctions for unauthorized destruction or appropriation of antiquities; and authorizes scientific investigation of antiquities on Federal lands, subject to permit and regulations.

2. Historic Sites Act of 1935. (49 Stat. 666.) Authorizes the establishment of national historic sites and otherwise authorizes the preservation of properties of national historical or archeological significance, authorizes the designation of national historic landmarks; establishes criminal sanctions for violation of regulations pursuant to the act; authorizes interagency, intergovernmental, and interdisciplinary effects for the preservation of cultural resources; and other provisions.

3. National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. (80 Stat. 915.) Declares a national policy of historic preservation defined in the act as the protection, rehabilitation, restoration, and

reconstruction of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, or culture, including the encouragement of preservation on the State and private levels; directs the expansion of the National Register of Historic Places to include cultural resources of State and local as well as national significance; authorizes matching Federal grants to States and the National Trust for Historic Preservation for acquisition and rehabilitation of National Register properties; establishes an Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, provides procedures in section 106 for Federal agencies to follow in the event a proposal may affect a property on, or eligible to, the National Register. In addition, by recent amendment to the 1966 Act, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to withhold from disclosure to the public locational information on National Register listings "whenever he determines that the disclosure of specific information would create a risk of destruction or harm to such sites or object," (PL 94-458, 90 Stat. 1942).

4. National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Declares that it is the policy of the Federal Government to preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) directs that, to the fullest extent possible...the policies, regulations and public laws to the United States shall be interpreted and administered in accordance with the policies set forth in this act. Compliance with NEPA, therefore, includes a demonstration of compliance during project planning and execution with other measures for the protection of environmental values.

5. Executive Order 11593, Protection and Enhancement of Cultural Environment, May 13, 1971. (36 C.F.R. 8921.) To further the purposes and policies of the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the Historic Sites Act, and the Antiquities Act, Executive Order 11593 asserts that the Federal Government shall provide leadership in preserving, restoring, and maintaining the historic and cultural environment of the Nation. It directs Federal agencies to ensure the preservation of cultural resources in Federal plans and programs contribute to the preservation and enhancement of nonfederally owned sites, structures, and objects of historic, architectural, or archeological significance. It also orders Federal agencies to locate, inventory, and nominate to the National Register all properties under their control or jurisdiction that meet the criteria for nomination, directs them to exercise caution during the interim period to ensure that cultural resources under their control are not inadvertently damaged, destroyed, or transferred before the completion of inventories and evaluation of properties worthy of nomination to the National Register, and orders the Secretary of the Interior to undertake certain advisory responsibilities in compliance with the order.

6. The Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979. (ARPA) (P.L. 96-95, 93 Stat. 721-72B; 2, 16 U.S.C. 470aa-47011). ARPA establishes a permitting requirement on the excavation or removal of archaeological sites and artifacts from the public and Indian lands, including National Forests. It prohibits the excavation, removal, alteration, and the defacement of any archaeological resource located on public or Indian land without a permit from the land managing agency.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE MONITORING FORM

### MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

1. SITE # \_\_\_\_\_ 2. NAME OF MONITOR \_\_\_\_\_
3. DATE \_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_ 4. QUAD \_\_\_\_\_ 5. DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_
6. SITE DESCRIPTION:

### ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION

7. Primary Physiographic Settings: Alluvial terrace ( ); Dune ( ); Slope ( ); Ridge ( ); Cliff face ( ); Stream terrace ( ); Rock shelter/cave ( ); Outcrop ( ); Arroyo/wash ( ); Saddle ( ); Floodplain ( ); Other ( ).
8. Degree of Shelter: Open ( ); Overhang/cave ( ); Combination ( ).
9. Dominant Soil Type: Alluvium ( ); Aeolin ( ); Colluvium ( ); Bedrock ( ); Residual ( ).
10. Soil Texture: Silty ( ); Gravelly ( ); Sandy ( ); Combination ( ).  
Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

### NATURAL IMPACTS

11. Evidence of natural impacts:
- |  |         |        |
|--|---------|--------|
| (a) Surficial sheet washing                      | Yes ( ) | No ( ) |
| (b) Gullyng (cuts 10-100 cm. deep)               | Yes ( ) | No ( ) |
| (c) Arroyo Cutting (cuts more than 100 cm. deep) | Yes ( ) | No ( ) |
| (d) Wind deflation                               | Yes ( ) | No ( ) |
| (e) Bank slumpage                                | Yes ( ) | No ( ) |
| (f) Dune migration                               | Yes ( ) | No ( ) |
| (g) Other  | Yes ( ) | No ( ) |
- Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

12. Evidence of wild animal-caused impacts:
- |                           |         |        |
|---------------------------|---------|--------|
| (a) General trampling     | Yes ( ) | No ( ) |
| (b) Trailing through site | Yes ( ) | No ( ) |
| (c) Burrowing             | Yes ( ) | No ( ) |
| (d) Bedding               | Yes ( ) | No ( ) |
| (e) Dusting               | Yes ( ) | No ( ) |
| (f) Shelter               | Yes ( ) | No ( ) |
| (g) Compacted area        | Yes ( ) | No ( ) |
| (h) Other                 | Yes ( ) | No ( ) |
- Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

List type of animal (s) causing impacts if known:

13. Characterize the stability of the site: Stable (no active erosion) ( ); Incipient erosion ( ); Active erosion ( ).

**HUMAN IMPACTS**

14. Collection piles. Yes ( ) No ( )  
List total number of piles
15. Roads/Trails. Yes ( ) No ( )  
List number of roads/trails across site ( )  
(on sketch map identify location of roads/trails)
16. Evidence of on-site camping.  
Indicate with an (X) what kinds of evidence are present:
- (a) Fire scars, fire pits, recent charcoal ( )
  - (b) Rearrangement/clearing of rocks ( )
  - (c) Recent camper trash ( )
  - (d) Obvious soil compaction ( )
  - (e) Other ( )
- Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

- Does this evidence appear to be recent (less than 5 years) Yes ( ) No ( )
17. Evidence of deliberate vandalism.
- (a) Surface disturbance (e.g. graffiti) Yes ( ) No ( )
  - (b) Slight subsurface disturbance Yes ( ) No ( )
  - (c) Substantial subsurface disturbance Yes ( ) No ( )
  - (d) Undercutting of walls Yes ( ) No ( )
  - (e) Walls demolished or rebuilt Yes ( ) No ( )
  - (f) Building material removed Yes ( ) No ( )
  - (g) Other Yes ( ) No ( )
- Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Does this evidence appear to be recent (less than 5 years) Yes ( ) No ( )

**LIVESTOCK IMPACTS**

18. Trails: Yes ( ) No ( )  
List number of trails across site ( )  
(on sketch map identify location of trails)
19. Livestock use facilities adjacent to or located on site:
- (a) Stock pond Yes ( ) No ( )
  - (b) Fence Yes ( ) No ( )
  - (c) Corrals Yes ( ) No ( )
  - (d) Salt licks Yes ( ) No ( )
  - (e) Troughs Yes ( ) No ( )
  - (f) Other Yes ( ) No ( )

20. Evidence of livestock caused impacts:
- |                           |         |        |
|---------------------------|---------|--------|
| (a) Dusting ground        | Yes ( ) | No ( ) |
| (b) Compacted areas       | Yes ( ) | No ( ) |
| (c) General trampling     | Yes ( ) | No ( ) |
| (d) Trailing through site | Yes ( ) | No ( ) |
| (e) Bedding area          | Yes ( ) | No ( ) |
| (f) Shelter area          | Yes ( ) | No ( ) |
| (g) Manure piles          | Yes ( ) | No ( ) |
| (h) Wall rubbing          | Yes ( ) | No ( ) |
| (i) Other                 | Yes ( ) | No ( ) |

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Does this evidence appear to be recent (less than 5 years) Yes ( ) No ( )

**MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

21. What types of impacts threaten this site: (i.e. what to look for)  
Rank each threat according to the criteria listed below.

0 = Not a threat now or in the foreseeable future.

1 = Possible threat.

2 = Definite threat.

3 = Actively occurring at present time.

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| (a) Livestock trailing                             | _____ |
| (b) Livestock bedding                              | _____ |
| (c) Salt licks                                     | _____ |
| (d) Development of new gulies or arroyos           | _____ |
| (e) Human roads/trails                             | _____ |
| (f) Human campsites                                | _____ |
| (g) Human visitation                               | _____ |
| (h) Animal burrowing                               | _____ |
| (i) Dune migration                                 | _____ |
| (j) Development projects                           | _____ |
| (k) Logging activities                             | _____ |
| (l) Wind deflation                                 | _____ |
| (m) Bank slumpage                                  | _____ |
| (n) Vandalism (pothunting, collecting or grafitti) | _____ |

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SITE:**

**\*\*PHOTOS OF THE SITE MUST BE TAKEN AT EACH MONITORING SESSION AND ATTACHED TO FORM. A SET PHOTO POINT SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AT THE INITIAL MONITORING SESSION AND LOCATED ON SKETCH MAP.**