



# Trail Stewards as Citizen Scientists



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# Stewards and Citizen Science on the National Historic Trails

- The Trail Steward concept
- Starting up Trail Steward programs
- Trail Steward accomplishments
- Expanding capacity through citizen science



# The Trail Steward Concept





# Starting Up Trail Steward Programs

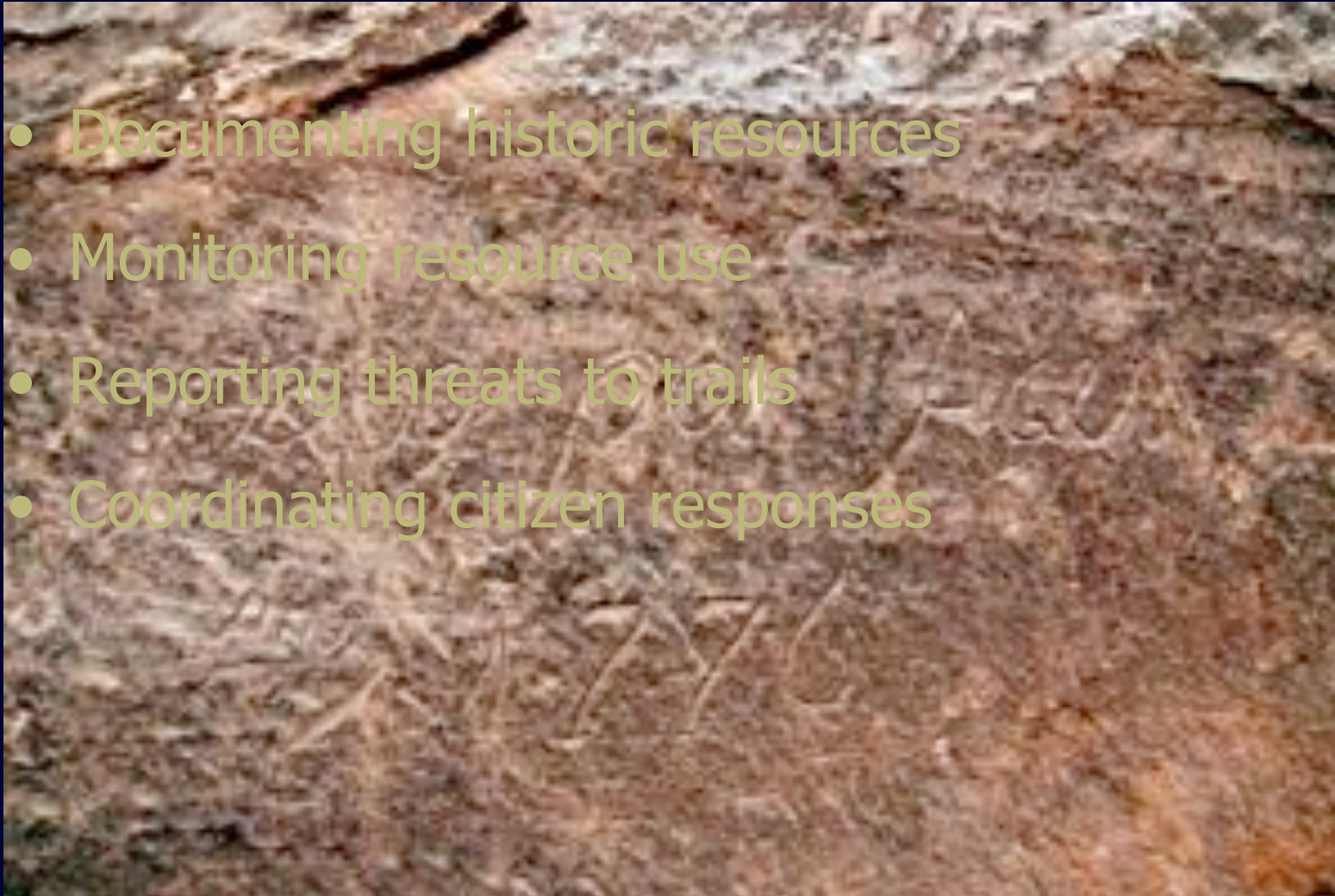
- Preservation plans and program design
- Providing high-quality training
- Partnering with land managers
- Managing trail steward program and data



# Trail Stewards: Getting Things Done



- Documenting historic resources
- Monitoring resource use
- Reporting threats to trails
- Coordinating citizen responses



# Trail Stewards: Getting Involved



- Recognition, immediate threats, meetings





# Expanding Our Citizen Science Programs on Historic Trails

- Stewards and Citizen Scientists: What's the difference?
- What historic trails offer citizen science programs
- What citizen science brings to historic trails
- Where do we go from here?



# Citizen Scientists and Stewards: What's the difference?

- Large numbers of people
- Short training time/no special training
- Well-defined, limited tasks
- Data useful for variety of applications





# What Historic Trails Offer Citizen Science

- Historic trails as “connectors”

- What resources lend themselves to citizen science initiatives?

- Critical resources
- Land use
- Trail resource “health”





# What Citizen Science Can Offer to Historic Trails

- Gather many observations quickly
  - Over time
  - Over space
- Train quickly or use skills gained “off-site”
- Keep infrastructure costs low or pass on to others
- Involve new constituencies with the trails

# Where do we go from here?

- Ground programs in relevant resources
- Work towards partner-driven programs
- Share citizen-collected data widely

