



The United States Fish and Wildlife Service Cultural Resource Program

The Mission of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) is to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. To accomplish this mission FWS manages 547 National Wildlife Refuges, 69 National Fish Hatcheries, and 203 Waterfowl Production Areas encompassing over 96 million acres of land.

In addition to its wildlife resources, USFWS is steward to a rich historical record and manages close to 20,000 archaeological sites and over 800 National Register eligible historic buildings that are associated with its mission (table 1).

What are Cultural Resources?

Cultural resources (also known as heritage assets) include: archaeological sites (both prehistoric and historic and their associated documentation), buildings and structures (figure 1), landscapes, objects (figure 2), and historic documents. These items form a tangible links with the past. As a land-managing agency, the USFWS is responsible for, and committed to, protecting and managing these irreplaceable resources in a spirit of stewardship for future generations to understand and enjoy.



Figure 1. Allee House Bombay Hook NWR, 1952.

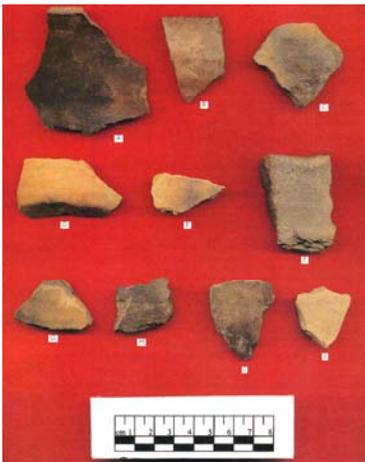


Figure 2. Colonoware from Youhannah Bluff, Waccamaw NWR

Table 1. Current USFWS Cultural Resource totals from the FY 2006 Refuge Annual Performance Plan

<i>Number Historic Structures</i>	873
<i>Number Archaeological Sites</i>	19,217
<i>Number of Paleontological Sites`</i>	878
<i>Number Museum Collections</i>	2,195
<i>Number National Register Listed Properties</i>	87

Role of the Cultural Resource Program

The Cultural Resources Management (CRM) program was established at USFWS in the 1970s to manage the rich array of cultural resources under its jurisdiction. Its primary goals are to:

- identify, evaluate, and encourage preservation of cultural resources
- manage museum property collections
- consult with a broad array of interested parties
- promote heritage education
- provide expertise for cultural resource need to USFWS programs such as, Federal Assistance, Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Realty, Endangered Species, Refuges, Fire, and Planning

Since its inception, the program has expanded as cultural resource laws, requirements, and public concerns, continue to increase. The Federal Preservation Officer, located in Arlington Virginia, coordinates the USFWS CRM program with many responsibilities delegated to regional staff (table 2). These include professional archaeologists, historians, and museum specialists. Each cultural resource professional in the USFWS meets the [Secretary of the Interior's professional qualification standards for historic preservation](#) qualifying them to conduct this type of work.

Table 2. Regional Cultural Resources Staff

Region	RHPO	Contact
1/CNO	Anan Raymond	503.625.4377
2	David Siegel	505.248.7396
3	John Dobrovolny	612.713.5439
4	Richard Kanaski	912.652.4415
5	John Wilson	413.253.8560
6	Meg VanNess	303.236.8155
7	Debbie Corbett	907.786.3399
9	Eugene Marino	703-358-2173

Stewardship Responsibilities for Cultural Resources

The management of Cultural Resources, which includes everything from literature reviews to excavations (figure 3), is required through authorities passed by Congress. These resources are cross-mission, meaning that regardless of an agencies primary mission, management of cultural resources must also take place.



Figure 3. Excavations at the Wallace Bottom Site, White River NWR

Importance of Cultural Resources to the USFWS

USFWS Cultural resources are protected by law and their proper stewardship is a mandated responsibility for all land-managing agencies. Beyond this however, they also enhance many of the educational messages that the USFWS promotes for its visitors (figure 4).



Figure 4. Quapaw elders visit the Wallace Bottom site, White River NWR

Taken in concert with other ‘habitat resources’ cultural resources play an important role in the proper understanding of the physical environment that USFWS seeks to conserve. In many instance, the habitats USFWS is charged with maintaining owe their current composition to the actions of prehistoric peoples.

You may contact Mr. Eugene Marino (eugene_marino@fws.gov), USFWS Archaeologist at 703-358-2173 for more information about the USFWS Cultural Resources program. You may also visit <http://www.fws.gov/historicpreservation> for additional information on the USFWS museum property program.