



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

March 2007

Historical Happenings

Notes on Cultural Resource Management in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Historical Happenings provides information on the USFWS Cultural Resources Management program. Information comes from sources such as the Regional Historic Preservation Officers, websites, new sources, as well as other cultural resource management professionals.

Issues are also available on the USFWS Cultural Resources website <http://historicpreservation.fws.gov>. Submissions are encouraged and can be made via email. Please contact Eugene Marino at Eugene_Marino@fws.gov for submission guidelines.

FWS Regional News:

Washington Office—The first module of the Cultural Resources On-line Training Series has been launched. It is available at <https://doilearn.doi.gov/>. This first module focuses on aspects of cultural resources that **every** FWS employee should know and includes basic definitions of key concepts as well as information on how cultural resource management fits in the broader FWS mission. For more information contact Eugene Marino.

Washington Office—Plans are underway for the 2007 Cultural Resource course. The course will be held at NCTC the week of August 13th and will be aimed at project leaders and refuge managers. Regions 4 and 5 are coordinating the effort. For more information contact Eugene Marino.

Region 7—Funds from the 2005 BAER (Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation) Program were used to investigate and document cultural resources on Kanuti and Yukon Flats NWR during the summer of 2006. BAER funds were used to acquire helicopter time which allowed for access to remote areas of Alaska's vast interior refuges.

On the Yukon Flats NWR we investigated areas within four of their larger fire perimeters which burned in excess of 612,000 acres. They included the John Herbert's Village, Sheenjok, Salmon Fork and Nelson Mountain fires. While investigating and documenting a number of known sites within the burns, 12 new sites were located. This work doubled the number of known archaeological sites on the nine million acre refuge from 15 to 32. In addition we located the foundations of cabins along the historic Caro Trail leading from Yukon River steamboat ports to the goldfields at Caro. The

cabins offered shelter for travelers every 10 miles or so along the trail.

The Kanuti NWR investigations took place within the 81,510 acre Old Dummy Fire perimeter. 20 sites were located and documented. Most are historic 20th century trapping and hunting camps but the sites included the only known prehistoric site on the 2.5 million acre refuge.

BAER is only to be used to investigate and mitigate damage to known cultural resources. It is not a means to conduct wide scale inventory. However, with the vast distances, often vague locational information available for sites, and lack of personnel and time to conduct more extensive surveys, it has proven an invaluable tool for monitoring, evaluation and verification of information. Baer has enabled us to perform some real work on two refuges that had rarely been visited by archaeologists and whose cultural treasures are virtually unknown. For more information contact Debbie Corbett



Historic cabin remains recorded at mile 14 along the Caro Trail during work BAER conducted in the summer of 2006..

Region 7—Alaska’s coast has an exceptionally rich archaeological record. The exceptionally rich environment has supported large prehistoric populations for 10,000 years. As one of Alaska’s largest coastal land managers, the Service is responsible for the stewardship of thousands of sites, spread over dispersed and inaccessible coastlines. The prominent, easily visible coastal sites are a major target of illicit digging and artifact collecting. A major user group in these waters are commercial fishermen with an intimate knowledge of the shoreline and often with many hours to wait between fishing “openings”.

The Alaska Region of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Kodiak’s Alutiiq Museum & Archaeological Repository (Museum), and the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology (OHA), partnered to create a poster (Figure 1) and an informational rack card to provide basic information on the historical value of archaeological resources and the penalties for disturbing them. The goal was to reduce damage by people interested in archaeology but unaware of the consequences of artifact hunting.

The Museum, a Native Alaskan cultural center, designed the poster and rack card. The FWS distributed the posters to all of the Harbor Masters and city offices from Ketchikan to Kuskowkim Bay, over 110 communities in the primary fishing regions. OHA coordinated with the Alaska Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission to include the information card in the mailing sent to over 14,000 commercial fisheries permit holder in January 2007. It is too early to know if the posters and cards are having an effect but since the mail-out we have received requests for additional posters and rack cards from several communities. Koniag, Inc, the Alaska Native Corporation landowner on Kodiak is using the information to brief commercial guides and outfitters operating on their lands. With the help of the Alutiiq Museum we have already reduced the incidence of vandalism on Kodiak from about 17% of sites to 1-2%. With their help we hope to spread this success to other coastal areas of Alaska. For more information contact Debbie Corbett

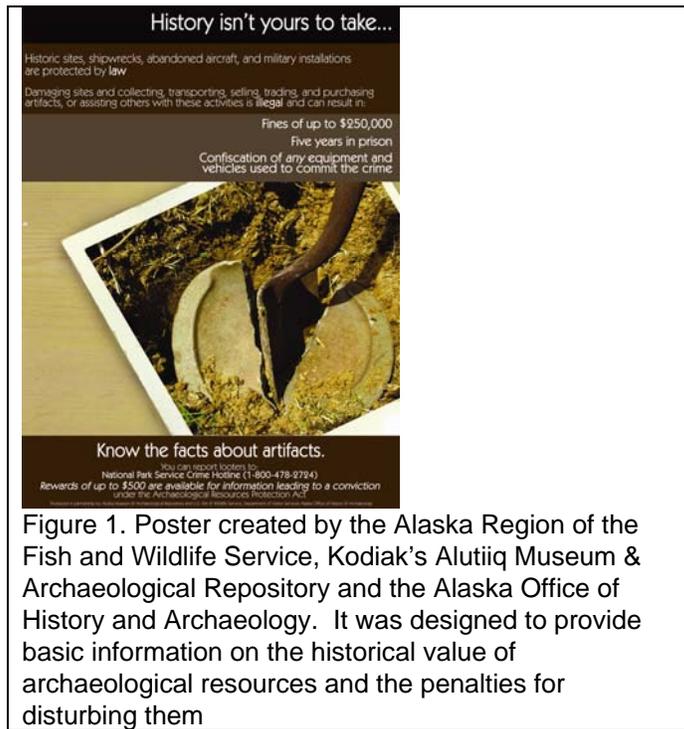


Figure 1. Poster created by the Alaska Region of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Kodiak’s Alutiiq Museum & Archaeological Repository and the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology. It was designed to provide basic information on the historical value of archaeological resources and the penalties for disturbing them

Other Agency News

ACHP—Issues Revised Policy Statement Regarding Treatment of Burial Sites, Human Remains, and Funerary Objects

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation voted unanimously to adopt its new “Policy Statement Regarding Treatment of Burial Sites, Human Remains, and Funerary Objects” Feb. 23, 2007 at its quarterly business meeting in Washington, D.C. This new policy statement replaces the ACHP’s 1988 “Policy Statement Regarding the Treatment of Human Remains and Grave Goods.”

National NAGPRA—Upcoming events

NAGPRA Training, U.S. Department of the Interior, South Building Auditorium, 1951 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC
April 17, 2007, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

April 17-20, 2007: [NAGPRA Training](#), [Consultation](#), and [Review Committee Meeting](#).

White House—2008 budget has been released and contains \$5 million dollars aimed at creating a national inventory of heritage assets. These monies will be available in the form of grants that will be open to various groups, including Federal agencies.

Legislative News

National Historic Preservation Act Amendments Act of 2006 Signed by President

President George W. Bush signed Senate Bill 1378, the National Historic Preservation Act Amendments Act of 2006, into law on Friday, Dec. 22, 2006. The bill makes several significant improvements to the national historic preservation framework. Among the most significant of these changes to the states and State Historic Preservation Officers is extending the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) through 2015.

Provisions of S. 1378 also expanded the membership of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) from 20 to 23 members, with the additional members coming from federal agencies that currently lack voting representation on the ACHP. Other modifications allow the ACHP more flexibility to better administer the Preserve America initiative and other mission responsibilities. The Act now also allows the ACHP to enter into cooperative agreements with Federal Grant programs to better ensure compliance with NHPA.

Active tax legislation includes a great [set of amendments](#) to the federal rehabilitation tax credit program.

[Community Restoration and Revitalization Act H.R.1043 and S.584](#)

[Preserve Historic America Act H.R.610](#)

Use this link for additional information on currently pursued historic preservation legislation
<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/thomas>

Training News

The 2007 National Preservation Institute list of course is on-line. Consult for courses available near you.

MANAGING MUSEUM PROPERTY
sponsored by the Interior Museum Program,
Washington, DC and the Western Archeological and
Conservation Center, National Park Service
Tucson, Arizona April 2 –April 6, 2007

Contact Ronald C. Wilson at 202-208-3438 for more information.

New Technical Brief on Archeological Damage Assessment Archeological Resource Damage Assessment: Legal Basis and Methods,” by Martin E. McAllister, is now online on the Archeology Program website as Technical Brief #20:
<http://www.cr.nps.gov/archeology/pubs/techBr/tch20.htm>.

This technical brief describes and explains the archeological resource damage assessment process, including the legal basis and procedures for field damage assessment, value and cost determinations, and report preparation. Archeologists involved in ARPA investigations must fully understand the archeological resource damage assessment process and how to carry it out correctly because the credibility of such damage assessments directly affects the outcome of these cases and the criminal or civil penalties imposed.

Upcoming Events, Education, and Volunteers and Friends News

Requests for Information