



Historical Happenings

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

November

WONDERFUL THINGS

What's New at HQ?

I would like to extend a special thanks to Alison Kuzj and Arianna Elm who have helped me here in HQ from June through October. Both took on numerous projects, including production of the past several HH newsletters (you'll see a drop in quality.....now), some of which we anxiously await for wider release. They took on many tasks that would not have been done otherwise and I am very grateful. Both are on their way to bigger and better things and I wish them a lot of luck.



Around the Regions....

Region 3 2015 Plum Island Lighthouse Excavations



The Region 3 Archaeologist, in cooperation with the archaeological field school at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota, returned for the third year to Plum Island within the Green Bay NWR in July to continue excavations on the remains of the original "Porte des Morts" (Death's Door) Lighthouse occupied from 1949-1858. The Porte des Morts Passage, off the tip of Door County, Wisconsin, is one of the most treacherous passages of fresh water in the world. It is littered with many shipwrecks. But, it was, and still is, an important commercial maritime waterway between Green Bay and Lake Michigan. To combat this dangerous passageway, the U.S. Government placed the 325 acre island into public domain in 1848, the same year as Wisconsin achieved statehood. The U.S. Lighthouse Service built a lighthouse on the south side of the island in 1849. Poorly placed and constructed, this limestone lighthouse lasted only ten years before being abandoned. A new brick lighthouse was constructed on nearby Pilot Island in 1858.



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The 2015 excavations concentrated on sampling the kitchen area and defining the inside wall of the building including uncovering the fireplace. More evidence emerged of the poor construction techniques. Findings indicate that much of interior wall was shored up after the initial construction. The original fireplace may have been moved to help facilitate the enhancements of the walls. The half cellar appears to have been lined with plaster in order to smooth out the floor and provide a moisture barrier for storage, including the oil needed for the lamp. The kitchen yielded much evidence of the keeper and his family. Kitchen utensils, faunal remains, personal items and even cloth was uncovered. Much of the kitchen has yet to be excavated, which may prompt the crew to go back for a fourth year. It's on an island, so why not?

By James Myster

Other Agency News

ACHP New RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING TRIBAL-FEDERAL CONSULTATION

(Excerpt) Tribal consultation remains a challenge, not just in historic preservation but in all aspects of the tribal-federal relationship. Tribal leaders continue to raise concerns about consultation to Administration officials at White House Tribal Nations Conferences and in meetings with federal officials. Federal officials often face challenges in meeting the conflicting priorities of tribal consultation and their mission and project obligations. They also raise concerns about these challenges and seek advice and assistance from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) regarding tribal consultation.

See more at <http://www.achp.gov/nap.html> or contact Valerie Hauser at vhauser@achp.gov

ACHP Electronic Section 106 System

Federal agencies (or officially delegated non-federal entity) can now use the ACHP's Electronic Section 106 Documentation Submittal System (e106). This system should improve the efficiency of the Section 106 review process. Hard copies and electronic PDF's can still be sent, although agencies are encouraged to use the e106 system for their submissions to the ACHP.

Here is the webpage for it <http://www.achp.gov/work106.html>

NPS—New THPO

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NOAA—The White House has proposed the designation of two new National Marine Sanctuaries - the first chosen in 15 years - as part of President Obama's efforts to protect the environment. NOAA has identified a marine sanctuary in the tidal waters of Maryland, and another in Wisconsin's Lake Michigan - both considered historically important and filled with shipwrecks.

The area in Wisconsin includes an 875-square mile area of Lake Michigan with waters extending from Port Washington to Two Rivers. It contains 39 known shipwrecks, 15 of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Mallows Bay-Potomac River in Maryland is a 14-square mile area of the tidal Potomac River. Nearly 200 vessels dating from the Revolutionary War through the present are found in the area, including the remains of the largest "Ghost Fleet," World War I wooden steamships built for the U.S. Emergency Fleet, which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The sites were chosen by the public last year, after NOAA gave Americans the opportunity to nominate marine and Great Lakes areas as national sanctuaries for the first time in two decades. A public comment period will remain open until January 15, 2016. (courtesy NPS for the news)

TRAINING, UPCOMING EVENTS, EDUCATION, AND NEWS

FWS Cultural Resources online course: February 2016—more to follow.

Fire Training Grants Available



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If you need funding support to be able to attend fire training, the NPS Wildland Fire Workforce Development Grant Program is an opportunity to consider. This opportunity is primarily intended for all wildland fire funded employees. Those that are not funded primarily through NPS fire dollars may still apply, but will need local unit FMO approval.

Completed applications must be submitted by November 6, 2015. Successful applicants will be notified by November 23, 2015. Please note, however, that applications will be accepted throughout FY16. Priority will be given to those submitted by the initial deadline.

National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program Hosts Free Workshop

The NPS ABPP will host a half-day battlefield preservation workshop for contractors and grant applicants on January 6, 2016, in conjunction with the Society for Historical Archaeology's (SHA) Annual Conference in Washington, DC. The workshop will introduce archeologists to the ABPP; provide information about grant opportunities; and how nonprofits and for-profit organizations can participate in battlefield preservation and create a forum for continued site identification, registration and protection.

The workshop will be held from 1-5 pm and registration is free. The option to register for the workshop is given when registering for the overall SHA conference.

materials. SAA supported similar bills in previous Congresses, and will work to support this version, as well.

H.R. 1493-Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act

Sponsor-Rep. Engel (D-NY)

Status-passed House 6/1/15; pending before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee

This bill would make a number of important and beneficial changes to how the U.S. prevents the looting and destruction of cultural resources overseas. It would grant the President the authority to impose emergency restrictions on the importation of Syrian cultural materials, and establish the position of U.S. Coordinator for International Cultural Property Protection at the State Department to oversee and develop a unified approach to the international cultural property protection activities of numerous federal agencies. This person would also serve as the chair of a new Coordinating Committee in International Cultural Property Protection. The panel, made up of representatives of those agencies, will meet to "coordinate and inform Federal efforts to protect international cultural property", and to assist the U.S. Coordinator in their efforts. SAA and other preservation groups sent a letter in support of H.R. 1493. The House passed the bill on June 1, and now work will shift to the Senate. You can read the letter here.

H.R. 1541-PRISM Act

Sponsor-Rep. Grijalva (D-AZ)

Status-pending before the full House

The Preservation Research at Institutions Serving Minorities (PRISM) Act would amend the NHPA to give colleges and universities with large numbers of Hispanic students the ability to tap into a grant program that provides students with the opportunity to participate in historic and cultural resources preservation projects. The new grants would be for Hispanic Serving Institutions, where Hispanic students make up 25% or more of the school's full-time undergraduate enrollment. H.R. 1541 was approved by the House Natural Resources Committee on September 10. A Senate companion bill (S. 805) is pending before that chamber's Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 1735-National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016

Sponsor-Rep. Thornberry (R-TX)

Status-final version pending before full House and Senate

The House Armed Services Committee included a provision (known as the Military LAND language) in this bill that would amend the National Historic Preservation Act to: 1) require the Secretary of the Interior to notify certain congressional committees if federal property is being considered for the National Register of Historic Places, or for designation as a National Historic Landmark, or for inclusion on the World Heritage List; 2) allow managers of federal lands containing historic resources to object to their inclusion in the National Register or designation as National Historic Landmarks on national security grounds; and 3) create a process by which federal lands managers could de-list properties from the Register. The Senate version of the legislation (S. 1376), which passed that chamber on June 18, did NOT contain similar language. SAA, along with the National Trust, the American Cultural Resources Association, NCSHPO and SHA, worked to ensure that the Military LANDS provision was excluded from the final NDAA law. In a substantial victory for cultural resource preservation, the LANDS language was excluded from the final legislative package.

H.R. 1806-America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2015

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Recent Proposed Cultural Resource Legislation

H.R. 581-National Heritage Areas Act of 2015

Sponsor-Rep. Dent (R-PA)

Status-pending before the House Natural Resources Committee

Under the legislation, a formal National Heritage Area System would be created within the National Park Service to "conserve, enhance, and interpret natural, historic, scenic, and cultural resources that together tell nationally significant stories..." The Department of Interior could provide technical and financial assistance to local coordinating entities to support the establishment of new NHAs, as well as leverage private, state, local, and tribal funding. Existing NHAs would also be included in the new system.

H.R. 1077-Casa Grande Ruins National Monument Boundary Modification Act

Sponsor-Rep. Kirkpatrick (D-AZ)

Status-pending before House Natural Resources Committee

This bill would expand the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument by transferring two parcels of federally-owned land containing important Hohokam cultural resources to the National Park Service, to be managed as part of the existing Casa Grande Ruins Monument. It would also authorize NPS to acquire, from willing donors or sellers, several tracts of private land near the Monument that also hold substantial Hohokam archaeological



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Sponsor-Rep. Lamar Smith (R-TX)

Status-passed House 5/20/15; pending before the Senate Commerce Committee

In reauthorizing the National Science Foundation, H.R. 1806 would break with tradition and allocate funding on a directorate-by-diretorate basis. In doing so, the bill would also make a 45% cut to the Directorate of Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE), which includes archaeological research. H.R. 1806 is opposed by the administration. Prior to debate in the House, SAA and groups representing nearly every scientific organization and research university in the country urged Members of Congress to vote "no". In the end, the measure passed 217-205. We will continue to vigorously oppose the bill in the Senate, which has indicated that it intends to take a better approach to NSF reauthorization later this year. A related bill, H.R. 3293, was introduced by Chairman Smith on July 29 that would require NSF to demonstrate that research projects are "in the national interest", based on certain criteria outlined in the legislation. SAA will oppose this measure, as well.

H.R. 2285-Prevent Trafficking in Cultural Property Act

Sponsor-Rep. Keating (D-MA)

Status-pending before House Ways and Means Committee

This measure would coordinate the activities of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to prevent stolen and illicitly-excavated cultural objects from entering the United States, in part through increased training for ICE and CBP personnel. It would also support the investigation and prosecution of individuals involved in the trafficking of antiquities, in an effort to break the link between this activity and the funding of terrorist and criminal organizations.

H.R. 2817-National Historic Preservation Amendments Act of 2015

Sponsor-Rep. Turner (R-OH)

Status-pending before the House Natural Resources Committee

The bill would reauthorize the Historic Preservation Fund through 2025 at \$150 million per year. SAA and other preservation groups will work for the enactment of this important legislation. A related bill, S. 2012, which would permanently reauthorize the HPF, is pending before the full Senate.

H.R. 3114- Army Corps of Engineers Veterans Curation Training Act

Sponsor-Rep. Napolitano (D-CA)

Status-pending before the full House

This bill would reauthorize the Army Corps of Engineer's veterans' curation program. Under this initiative, the Corps trains active duty and veteran armed forces personnel in curation and historic preservation techniques, in part through cataloguing the Corps' enormous number of archaeological materials. The bill would authorize a total of \$35 million for the program through 2020.

S. 1647-the DRIVE Act of 2015

Sponsor-Sen. Inhofe (R-OK)

Status-passed full Senate

This is a six-year surface transportation bill that was adopted by the Environment and Public Works Committee on June 24. Crucially, however, it only contains enough funding for three years. It was added as an

amendment to a House bill, H.R. 22, and passed by the Senate after a marathon debate on July 30. Unfortunately, it includes language, detrimental to historic preservation, which was successfully opposed by preservation groups in previous years. The section in question calls for the elimination of what is known as the 4(f) review. This key law mandates that planners "use all possible planning to minimize harm" to environmental and historic resources threatened by transportation projects. The House does not have a multi-year transportation bill. Given this, and the fact that authorization for spending on roads and bridges was set to expire soon, both chambers quickly adopted a stop-gap measure (H.R. 3236) that will keep federal surface transportation funding flowing into next year. That bill was signed into law on July 31. SAA and other groups will keep working to ensure that the harmful provision in the Senate bill is not included in the final multi-year transportation package.

S. 1979-the Bring the Ancient One Home Act of 2015

Sponsor-Sen. Murray (D-WA)

Status-pending before Senate Environment and Public Works Committee

The measure would direct the Army Corps of Engineers, within 90 days of enactment, to transfer the remains known as the Kennewick Man to the Washington State Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation for the purposes of repatriating the remains to claimant tribes. The legislation would waive all other provisions of law, including NAGPRA. SAA is carefully examining this bill and its potential ramifications, and will issue a position statement in the near future.

Thanks to Karen Mudar, the NPS Archaeology e-gram, and the Society for American Archaeology for the information

VOLUNTEERS AND FRIENDS NEWS



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