



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—

Preserve America—What are they doing?

Many of our Preserve America grants that we have issued over the past 3 years are beginning to bear fruit. We will be featuring update reports for several of them over the next few months. Check them out here and contact Eugene Marino for more information.

Big Muddy NFWR interprets its History with help from Preserve America Grant program

The Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) obtained an opportunity to interpret the history of its Jameson Island Unit through a Preserve America Grant program. The grant originated through a productive partnership between the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Heritage Foundation Manitou Bluffs Chapter (Foundation), Arrow Rock State Historic Site (Historic Site), and the Refuge. The grant provided funding to develop five interpretive signs (figure 1), and an interpretive brochure for the Arrow Rock Landing Trail on the Refuge.

The Arrow Rock Landing Trail provides a unique historical tour for visitors to walk in the area that was a major crossroad for westward expansion during the nineteenth century. The recorded history in the area started with the Lewis and Clark expedition and ended with the close of the steamboat era on the Missouri River. This historical area also experienced the Santa Fe Trail and conflicts during the Civil War. All these major events were interpreted in the panels. The panels also interpreted the role those historical events took upon fish, wildlife and plant resources.

The Foundation submitted the grant; the Historic Site reviewed the grant proposal and historical content of

the interpretive signs and brochure. The Refuge helped design, review, and provide the location for the historical interpretation.



Figure 1. One of the five Interpretive Signs on The Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge purchased with the Preserve America Grant

The Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge proudly interpret the history of the land it manages. The Refuge receives the award of continually hearing compliments from visitors. The natural environment of the refuge now conceals the remnants of this historic era but the signs and brochure help the visitor imagine a time of manifest destiny. *Written by Tim Haller, Big Muddy NWR*

Region 6—Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge: A History Revealed

On February 25, 1909, President Theodore Roosevelt signed Executive Order 1032 and, with the stroke of a pen, designated 17 new western reservoirs, including

Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge at Deer Flat Reservoir in southwest Idaho, as “preserves and breeding grounds for native birds.” On February 25, 2009, about 100 refuge visitors, neighbors, and partners joined Deer Flat NWR staff, volunteers, and Friends to mark the centennial and celebrate 100 years of working together for wildlife.

Centennial preparations actually began well in advance, when the Friends of Deer Flat Wildlife Refuge applied for a Preserve America grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to conduct historical research about the refuge and reservoir. With grant funds, matching and in-kind contributions from 11 partners, and assistance from a variety of Friends members and refuge volunteers, the project is nearing completion. Project partners and volunteers have made a variety of contributions, including donations of cash or employee salaries, assistance with historical research, laying out and designing interpretive signs and a pamphlet, and much more.

With grant and partner funds, a Project Coordinator and Research Assistant conducted historical research about the refuge and reservoir at various museums, archives, and libraries. Their research also uncovered a large collection of historical photos, which were cataloged and scanned by volunteers into a digital photo archive of over 600 photos (figure 2).



Figure 2. Example of historical photos identified at Refuge. Early picnickers at Deer Flat using newly constructed CCC or WPA picnic tables.

Finally, a small cadre of volunteers received training on conducting oral history interviews. To date, they have conducted nine oral history interviews with a wide variety of people, including a long-term refuge employee, a fisherman who is the third generation in his family to commercially fish carp at the refuge, and several long-term refuge neighbors. The oral history tapes and transcriptions will be permanently archived at the Idaho State Historical Society.

The Preserve America grant has provided a unique opportunity to document refuge and reservoir history while forging new and strengthening existing partnerships. When the project is complete, the refuge

will have a comprehensive historical narrative, a historical interpretive pamphlet that will be sold at cost in the Friends’ bookstore, and a 1.3-mile historical trail with 13 interpretive signs (figure 3). The ribbon-cutting for the interpretive trail will be at a family-friendly Centennial Festival on June 6, 2009.

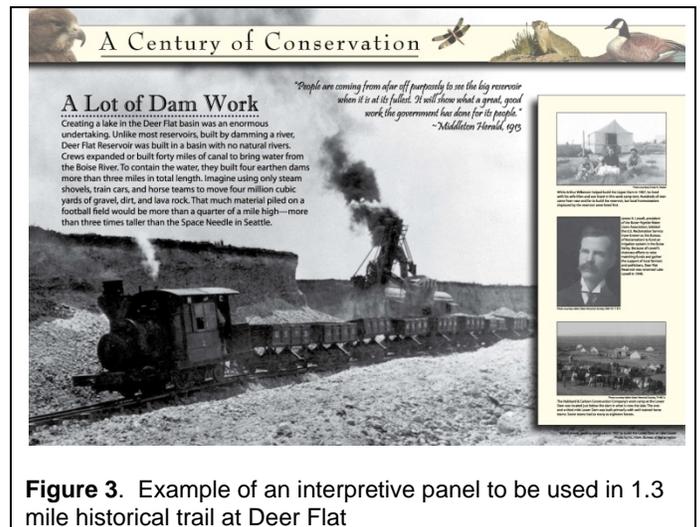


Figure 3. Example of an interpretive panel to be used in 1.3 mile historical trail at Deer Flat

Other Agency News

NPS—1998-2003 Secretary’s Report to Congress on the Federal Archeology Program Available

The Secretary of the Interior’s Report to Congress on the Federal Archeology Program for 1998-2003 was signed by Secretary Kempthorne on January 16, 2009, and delivered to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and to the House Committee on Natural Resources. The report, which was developed by NPS Archeology Program staff, summarizes data about the archeological activities reported by 32 Federal agencies for the period 1998 to 2003. The report also outlines challenges facing Federal agencies in carrying out stewardship responsibilities for archeological resources, and recommendations for actions to assist Federal agencies in these responsibilities. The recommendations focus additional attention to care of archeological sites and collections; strengthening relationships with Indian tribes, and sharing information with the scientific community and the public.

A PDF of the report is available on the NPS Archeology Program website on the Secretary’s Report to Congress web pages at www.nps.gov/archeology/SRC/index.htm

Contact: Frank McManamon (202-354-2123)

Railroad Pays Penalty in ARPA Case

While undertaking flood mitigation repair work on a railway line adjacent to Effigy Mounds NM, Iowa, in

2007, employees of the Iowa, Chicago, and Eastern (IC&E) Railroad deposited rock and soil inside the external boundary of the park. An area of approximately 912 square feet was affected, all of which was part of a known prehistoric and historic archaeological site. As a result of an investigation by NPS staff, it was determined that the strict liability civil penalty provisions of the Archaeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA) offered the most effective legal and resource damage mitigation remedy. Informal discussions between NPS and IC&E staff produced an agreement in which the IC&E agreed to remove the deposited materials from NPS lands under NPS supervision and, in exchange, the NPS agreed to reduce the civil penalty to \$19,809.50, which was equal to the government's restoration and repair costs. The agreed-upon mitigation work was completed in November 2008, and the civil penalty payment was received by the park in February 2009.

ACHP—Releases “A Report on Federal Historic Property Management”

In accordance with Executive Order 13287 “Preserve America,” the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) has presented its report on the health of historic properties held by Federal agencies in stewardship for the American people. The report assesses how agencies are managing these assets, how these historic properties contribute to local economic development, and what can be done to improve the state of Federal stewardship. This Preserve America Executive Order Report to the President is an evaluation of Federal agencies' accomplishments in their stewardship efforts since the ACHP's first report to the President in 2006. Federal agencies provided progress reports to the ACHP in 2008 that have been summarized in this report. Based on these submissions, the ACHP has developed a series of recommendations for action to advance the goals of the Executive Order and the National Historic Preservation Act.

To read the full report, go to www.achp.gov/section3/index.html

USGS—Archeological Sites Lost as Erosion Doubles along Part of Alaska's Coast

A USGS-led study reveals that coastal erosion has more than doubled along a 40-mile stretch of the Beaufort Sea in Alaska - up to 45 feet per year - in a 5-year period between 2002 and 2007. The average annual erosion rates along this part of the Beaufort Sea climbed from historical levels of about 20 feet per year between the mid-1950s and late-1970s to a rate of 45 feet per year between 2002 and 2007.

Another recent study along the same stretch of the Beaufort Sea verified "disappearing" cultural and historical sites, including Esook, a turn-of-the-century

trading post, and Kolovik (Qalluvik), an abandoned Inupiaq village site that may soon be lost. The authors speculate that recent trends toward warming sea-surface temperatures related to global warming and rising sea-level act to weaken permafrost-dominated coastlines by more quickly thawing ice-rich coastal bluffs and may explain the disproportionate increase in erosion along ice-rich coastal bluffs relative to ice-poor coastal bluffs.

To read the USGS study, go to Increase in the rate and uniformity of coastline erosion in arctic Alaska in the journal Geophysical Research Letters, at www.agu.org/journals/gl/gl0903/2008GL036205/

To read more about erosion and the loss of archeological sites, go to Modern erosion rates and loss of coastal features and sites, Beaufort Sea Coast, Alaska in the December 2008 issue of Arctic.

HUD— HUD Develops Section 106 Agreements Database

The HUD office of Environment and Energy has posted a NHPA Section 106 agreement on its public website. The database is a collection of HUD-related Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) and Programmatic Agreements (PA) from across the country, mostly from 2001 to present. The main purpose of this database is to provide users with a way to find agreements that may serve as models or samples for current projects that require a MOA or PA for compliance purposes. The intent is to facilitate the drafting of new Section 106 agreements. Users can also search the database and obtain a copy of an MOA or PA currently in effect for their records. The database will be updated as new MOAs and PAs are submitted.

To view the database, go to www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/environment/section106/index.cfm

Legislative News

Omnibus Public Lands Bill passes the House and Senate and is expected to be signed into law.

The bill includes many items but of chief importance for cultural resources programs is the passage of the Paleontological Resources Protection Act that will afford paleontological resources on federal land similar protections currently afforded to archaeological sites.

The bill also makes permanent the Save America's Treasures and Preserve America grant programs.

See the link for more information

www.achp.gov/news090330.html

Public Lands Service Corps Bill Would Benefit Historic Sites

House Natural Resources chairman Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) introduced HR 1612, the "Public Lands Service Corps Act of 2009" this week. HR 1612 would require the Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, Commerce departments to establish department-level offices to coordinate Public Lands Service Corps activities within those agencies that administer eligible service lands. Modeled on the existing Youth Conservation Corps program, this new program would fund eligible conservation activities on public lands that include: 1) assisting in historical and cultural research, museum curatorial work, oral history projects, documentary photography, and activities that support the creation of public works of art related to public lands; and 2) construction, repair, rehabilitation and maintenance of roads, trails, campgrounds, and other visitor facilities, and employee housing, historic sites and structures.

The House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands will hold a hearing on the bill on April 2nd.

Training, Upcoming Events, Education, and Volunteers and Friends News

There are a number of activities at the Cathlapotle plankhouse. For information on these events take a look at www.plankhouse.org

FLETC Offering Archeological Resource Protection Training

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) presents a 37 hour class which provides training in all aspects of an archeological investigation and subsequent prosecution of crimes. This premier class is taught by accomplished instructors that are nationally recognized subject matter experts in the fields of law enforcement, and archeology and law. The class cumulates in a 12 hour archeological crime scene practical exercise where law enforcement officers and archeologist work as a team to investigate and document a crime scene. Attendees will gather and process physical evidence, write incident reports, executive summaries, search warrants, damage assessments, and provide testimony in a courtroom scenario.

The course will be offered through the Navy, in Jacksonville, Florida, on April 13-17, 2009, and at Acadia NP, Winter Harbor, Maine, on April 27-May 1, 2009.

For registration information, contact Virginia McCleskey, 912-554-4828. For all other questions, please contact Senior Instructor Charles Louke, 912-280-5188.

April 25 - Commemoration of Francis Marion & Battle of Fort Watson at Santee Indian Mound/Fort Watson Archaeological Site complete with wreath & color guard. Sponsored by Sons of the American Revolution & the DAR. Held in conjunction with the birding festival at Santee NWR. Open to public & festival participants. Ceremony at 11 is on the 25th.