



Historical Happenings

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

August

WONDERFUL THINGS

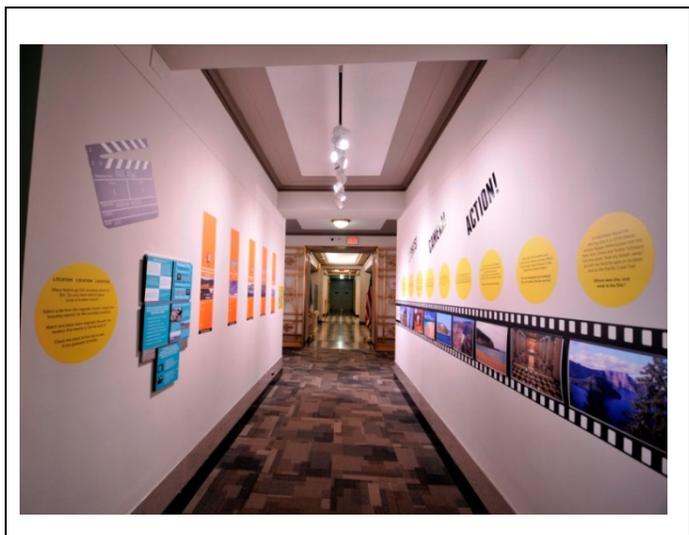
What's New at HQ?

New Exhibition at the Interior Museum!

DOI Pop! On Air, On Screen & In Print is a new exhibition at the Department of the Interior that is available through 2016. Over the years, DOI's people and places have been featured in everything from television shows to comic books. This exhibition showcases historical artifacts and imagery that exemplify the intersections of DOI and popular culture.



Sphinx paw from the set of Cecil B. DeMille's 1923 film *The Ten Commandments* on display at *DOI Pop! On Air, On Screen & In Print*



There are over 50 items from the early 1900's to the present on display, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is well represented throughout. One of the highlights of the exhibition is the plaster paw of a Sphinx that was used in Cecil B. DeMille's 1923 silent film *The Ten Commandments*. At the conclusion of filming, the massive sets were dismantled and buried in the sands of what is now the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Complex. Archaeologists' uncovered portions of two prop sphinxes, including the paw that is currently on display at DOI Pop!



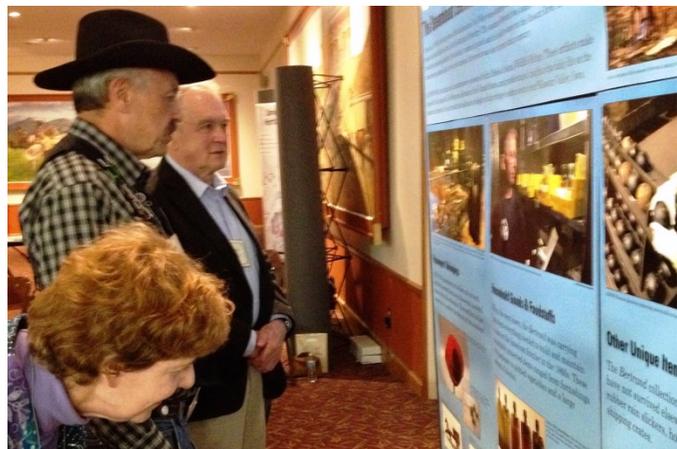
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The *Bertrand* traveling exhibit was set up in the main conference room where the history and legacy of the Mullan Road, which went west from Fort Benton into what is now the state of Washington, was discussed.



The *Bertrand* display served to highlight the tools, foodstuffs and personal items that would have been found along the Mullan Road in the 1850s and 1860s.

FWS HQ Interns Summer 2015

Alison Kuzj and Arianna Elm started their internships at FWS HQ in June 2015. They both have been working on a variety of projects including updates to the FWS historic preservation webpage. Additionally, Alison has also been creating trading cards to commemorate the 50th anniversary of NHPA. Arianna has been working on the economic review of FWS historic sites and updating the cultural resources annual datacall for museum property. Alison will be finishing her internship at headquarters in August while Arianna will continue her work at headquarters through October.

Around the Regions....

**Region 3
New Traveling Exhibit for the Bertrand Collection**

As a part of the commemoration of the 150th years since the sinking of the steamboat *Bertrand* on the Missouri River on April 1, 1865, a traveling exhibit was designed and constructed. This portable display provides information about DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, its location and a number of photographs of artifacts recovered from the shipwreck that are housed and exhibited in the refuge's visitor center. It is hoped that the traveling exhibit provide the means for people who might not otherwise have an opportunity to experience the natural resources and the diverse collection of beautifully preserved 19th century objects that DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge has to offer.

It is appropriate that the public debut of this exhibit took place this last May in the city that was the intended destination of the *Bertrand*, Fort Benton, Montana. The display was first set up as a part of the Mullan Road History Conference, sponsored by the River and Plains Society of Fort Benton. 110 people attended the seminar and on its completion the exhibit was moved to the Museum of the Upper Missouri where it helped to "kick-off" the annual Summer Celebration in Fort Benton. The next host of the traveling exhibit will be the Washington County Historical Society Museum in Fort Calhoun, Nebraska.

By: Dean Knudsen

**Region 4
Excavation at Byrd Hammock, St. Marks NWR, Florida**

The combined efforts of federal, state, local, and non-profit groups to protect the valuable cultural resources at Byrd Hammock led to fruition when the site was acquired by the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge. Byrd Hammock is significant because it contains two separate villages that are representative of different cultures, located within 100

yards of each other. The earliest village is an example of Swift Creek Culture (200-650AD) while the other village is representative of Weeden Island culture (650-900AD), indicating a cultural shift occurring around 650AD.

Excavation at Byrd Hammock began in the fall and was led by Mike Russo, National Park Service Archeologist and Division Head, and involved numerous other NPS archeologists, volunteers, and students from Florida State University and Louisiana State University. In addition to the ceramics, oyster shells, animal bones, and lithic projectile points uncovered at the site, the archeologists also found distinct soil discolorations. These soil features are evidence of house post holes, cooking and midden pits, and burial mounds which allowed the archeologists to reconstruct the layout of the village. The evidence indicates that the houses were arranged in a semi-circle around a plaza. Russo believes that the lighter soil present in the open end of the semi-circle indicates that it lacked semi-permanent structures, and therefore it was most likely occupied by visitors attending ceremonies in the village.



(Photo: Joe Rondone/DemocratS)

Despite the similarities in the layouts of the villages, the Weeden Island and Swift Creek Cultures had different burial practices and ceramic styles. The Swift Creek culture stamped their ceramic vessels with a patterned wooden paddle and buried their dead with non-local burial items (such as copper, mica, and galena) and scattered ceramic pots with the bottoms broken off throughout their burial mounds. The Weeden Island culture incised their ceramics, often times with animal designs, or formed their vessels into the shape of an animal. They also buried their dead with ceramic vessels specifically made for burial purposes. Russo suggests that these cultural differences represent an adoption of new social and religious practices by the same

group of people, rather than the result of new people coming to the area.

Regardless of the interpretation, it is clear that Byrd Hammock holds incredible research potential and is a valuable cultural resource to all of the individuals, groups, and agencies that worked to protect it.

For more information, contact Rick Kanaski.

Other Agency News

ACHP Summer Meeting in DC

The newest member of the ACHP was sworn in at the summer meeting held in the Russell Senate Office Building on July 15th. Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr. of South Carolina was recently appointed by President Obama as a representative of the nation's mayors.

A measure to amend the ACHP's operating procedures was voted on by members, but a majority was not reached. Members will reconvene on this issue at the next meeting in the fall. The council adopted a plan which outlines ways that the ACHP can help federal agencies in assisting SHPO'S and THPO's with Section 106 responsibilities. Also discussed at the meeting was the Building a More Inclusive Preservation Program, which addresses the need for the national historic preservation program to reflect the diversity of the United States. This includes a wider representation in the determination of sites eligible for inclusion on the National Register. Other topics on the meeting agenda include the Asian-American Pacific Islander Initiative, the American Latino Heritage Initiative, and the ACHP Youth Initiative. The meeting was also attended by members of the Squamish Tribe's Youth Council.

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation—is beginning to plan for the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act in 2016. Part of the planning involves publication of 106 success stories, referring to Section 106 of the Act. FWS made the list! A story about the Cathlapotle Plankhouse at Ridgefield NWR was released late in June. Check it out: http://www.achp.gov/sec106_successes.html and click on Cathlapotle.

ACHP has also updated several policies. Please check [achp.gov](http://www.achp.gov) for all these updates

TRAINING, UPCOMING EVENTS, EDUCATION, AND NEWS

None at this time



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LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Recent Proposed Cultural Resource Legislation

H.R. 135-Military Land Act of 2015

Status-pending before the House Natural Resources Committee

Last year, the House included this bill as a provision of its version of the defense authorization legislation. It would have amended 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. Historic preservation groups succeeded in excluding the language from the final defense legislation. H.R. 135 was proposed for inclusion in this year's House defense authorization bill (H.R. 1735). On April 29, by a vote of 35 to 27, the text of H.R. 135 was added to the House defense bill.

H.R. 749-Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015

Status-passed full House March 4; pending before Senate Commerce Committee

This legislation would reauthorize and reform Amtrak. Section 402 of the bill would require the Department of Transportation to develop program alternatives for railroad and rail-related properties for the purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA. At present, there is no Senate counterpart to the bill. The motives behind the language appear to be to give railroads similar treatment under the NHPA currently enjoyed by highways, such as the exclusion from the statute of most maintenance and repair projects for the interstate highway system.

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

Status-pending before House Natural Resources Committee

This bill would expand the Casa Grande Ruins NM by transferring two parcels of federally-owned land containing important Hohokam cultural resources to the NPS, to be managed as part of the existing 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 archeological materials.

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

Status-approved by House Foreign Affairs Committee, pending before full House

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.

H.R. 1541-PRISM Act

Status-pending before the House Natural Resources Committee

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 opportunities to participate in historic and cultural resources preservation projects. The new grants would be for institutions, where Hispanic students make up 25% or more of the school's full-time undergraduate enrollment. A Senate companion bill (S. 805) is pending before that chamber's Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

S. 199-Gold Butte National Conservation Area Act

Status-pending before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

The measure would establish a conservation area of nearly 350,000 acres of BLM land in Clark County, Nevada, to "conserve, protect, and enhance the cultural, archaeological, natural, wilderness, scientific, geological, historical, biological, wildlife, educational, and scenic resources of the area" and to facilitate the designation of wilderness areas therein. A House companion bill, H.R. 856, is pending before the House Natural Resources Committee.

H.R. 488, H.R. 900, S. 228, S. 232, S. 437, and H.R. 2258

A number of bills have been introduced in the 114th Congress that would, to varying degrees, limit the President's ability to establish National Monuments. The 1906 Antiquities Act allows the President to set aside lands from development that are owned by the U.S. A new Subcommittee of the Interior within the House Committee on Government Oversight and Reform will investigate the current administration's use of the Antiquities Act.

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

Status-pending before Senate

In spite of strong opposition from nearly every scientific organization (including the Society for American Archaeology) and research university in the country, the House passed a National Science Foundation reauthorization bill that will make a drastic 45% cut to the NSF's research funding for the social sciences. The legislation was adopted by a vote of 217-205.

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

VOLUNTEERS AND FRIENDS NEWS

Friends Awarded Preserve America Stewards National Designation

First Lady Michelle Obama Designates the Friends



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of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge a Preserve

America Steward

The Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge was honored recently when Mrs. Michelle Obama, First Lady of the United States, designated it as one of the nation's newest Preserve America Stewards.

"Preserve America Stewards are committed to preserving America's diverse heritage, and their work demonstrates how individuals who care deeply about serving their country and their communities can make a difference," Mrs. Obama said. "I thank and commend the volunteers of the Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge and the Cathlapotle Plankhouse for protecting our nation's historic treasures. You set a wonderful example for our young people, the future stewards of our heritage, while also improving the quality of life and economic vitality of our nation."

The Board of the Friends of Ridgefield NWR received a letter and certificate of designation signed by Mrs. Obama announcing that they are now a Preserve America Steward. Designation as a Preserve America Steward provides national recognition for programs that successfully use volunteers to help care for our historic and cultural heritage for the benefit of present and future generations.

The Preserve America program became an authorized part of the national historic preservation program when President Barack Obama signed the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 on March 30, 2009. The Preserve America program is a federal effort to encourage and support community efforts to preserve and enjoy America's priceless cultural and natural heritage. The goals of the initiative include a greater shared knowledge about the nation's past; strengthened regional identities and local pride; increased local participation in preserving the country's cultural and natural heritage assets; and support for the economic vitality of our communities.

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation administers the Preserve America program with the Department of the Interior, in cooperation with ten other federal agencies. For more information, visit <http://www.achp.gov/> and <http://www.preserveamerica.gov/>



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