



Historical Happenings

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

December

WONDERFUL THINGS

What's New at HQ?

Our webpage has a new look! Check it out at <http://www.fws.gov/HistoricPreservation/>

The next offering of our Cultural Resources Overview training will be February 8-26, 2016. See <http://www.fws.gov/historicPreservation/employeeTraining/index.html> for more information and to register

Contact Eugene Marino for more information

Around the Regions.... Region 1/8

Fort Ruby Archaeological Project and Interpretive Trail – October 2015

On October 10, 2015 the USDA Forest Service and USDI Fish and Wildlife Service hosted a ceremony to officially “open” the Fort Ruby Interpretive Trail. The opening was the culmination of a nearly 15-year effort to clean-up modern debris, conduct archaeological investigations, restore a spring house, stabilize a log cabin, and develop the interpretive trail. The trail opening was also an emotional day for members of the Western Shoshone tribe who participated in the event.

153 years earlier the Colonel Edward Patrick Connor marched through Overland Pass to this spot and gave the command establishing Fort Ruby to the seven companies of the Third Infantry, California Volunteers, and three companies of the Second Cavalry.

Connor and the volunteer soldiers looked around and were not pleased with the prospect of building a fort in such a remote location – as Connor wrote ... “Understand Fort Ruby is a bleak, inhospitable place”... and the men agreed with Connor requesting that they be sent to the East Coast to fight in the Civil War rather than stay at this post.

But Fort Ruby was in a key location to guard the Central Route, a wagon road. The road was vital for commerce and communication between East and West coasts. With the Civil War raging in the East – westerners took on a new responsibility of supporting the Union.

Fort Ruby was always a rough outpost, with simple log buildings, no surrounding palisade or defensive structures. The post operated with volunteers from California in 1862-1863; Nevada volunteers in 1864-1865; and regular U.S. 9th Infantry, from 1866 to 1869 when the post was closed and the men were moved to Fort Halleck. After its closing the site was abandoned and the buildings auctioned off.

A singular event in the Fort's history was the signing of the Treaty of Ruby Valley in the fall of 1863. Western Shoshone descendants of the treaty signers view that day in history with condemnation and sorrow, and are still grappling with the failed terms of the treaty.

By the 1880s a ranch was established at the site of the post. The ranch changed hands several times, but the site was privately owned until 2002, when the property transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for inclusion in the Ruby Lake National Wildlife Refuge. The remains of a recreational trailer park, ranching, and burned-out buildings covered the site of the historic Fort Ruby and approximately 10,000 years of use by Native Americans.

When we began our research and archaeological investigations we didn't know where the buildings were located...exactly. The maps were helpful but not exact and we only had a few



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photographs taken in 1868 of the buildings. Luckily we found the foundation stones for one of the chimneys in the officers' row of cabins, which lead us to re-locating six of the seven quarters based on the stone chimney foundations.

The Fort Ruby archaeological investigations were a partnership between the Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife Service utilizing the Passport In Time volunteer program. For five of the seven years we worked at the fort we had between 10-15 volunteers. A huge shout-out to the amazing volunteers who helped with the project.

Exciting finds were the stone foundation for the front of the Commanding officer's house, a privy, and several building remains. Once we were able to identify the location of the officers' houses we also wanted to know a bit more about the men who occupied the quarters.

From Building 1 we recovered pieces of ink bottles, pen nibs, uniform parts, alcohol bottles, and medicine bottle fragments – suggesting that this was the home or office of the Company clerk and surgeon. The company clerk wrote the monthly reports. The nearly 30 pen nibs we found inside the building suggest that as he wrote the reports and the pen nib broke he simply dropped it through the floor boards – where we were lucky enough to find them!

The Commanding Officer's house and surrounding area provided us with evidence that women and children were present at the fort. We found a porcelain doll's head, marbles, a toy tea set, and small pocket knife. We also found "good" china, an etched glass goblet, and a wide variety of table service dishes such as a soup tureen and covered dish. The Commanding officers brought with them items that reflected their higher status within the military hierarchy. And is the only cabin that contained evidence that meals were cooked and served in the house.

From each of the buildings we found a variety of ammunition – suggesting that while the men brought standard issue rifles – they also brought personal side arms and pistols. We found a wide range of ammunition that reflects the evolving standards from black powder percussion cap and Mini balls to metal cartridges with internal primers.

The interpretive trail is an important element that ties together the layers of stories that have occurred at this site. In fact, trying to tell many stories lead us to the realization that the theme is that "Fort Ruby is a Place of Many Meanings" – because of the vastly different viewpoints from the Western Shoshone who still grieve the loss of their home to the Euro-American travelers who viewed the Fort as a harbinger of their new home and security. With this broad approach we were able to focus on presenting opposite views of the same issue, along with context and information to help visitors grasp the complexities of the past.

The interpretive trail is about ½-mile long on a fairly even grade of packed sand and gravel. Beginning at the road, a pedestrian gate provides access to the trail. The 11 interpretive panels

present the history of the Fort, at locations around the parade ground which include historic photos and information about the archaeological investigations. At the newly installed flagpole, near the center point on the trail, is a large interpretive panel relaying information about the Treaty of Ruby Valley. The "treaty panel" includes the full text of the treaty, some context, and the opinion of the Western Shoshone about the signing of the treaty. This panel was created with the input of the tribal council and individuals and reflects the views of the Western Shoshone. From the flagpole the trail meanders east to a view north of Ruby Valley and a panel describing the long tradition of use of the valley by the Newe (the people), small panels along the trail point out the burned remains of the blacksmith shop, designated a National Historic Landmark, the restored Spring House, and the log cabin. The last interpretive panel is a view south, toward the Central Route, the Ruby Valley Stage Station, and the Overland Pass.

The valley looks much as it did in the 1860s with travelers along the road kicking up plumes of dust. The trail has a natural surface and the signs blend with the sagebrush and rabbitbrush. It is a quiet, isolated, exposed-to-the-elements kind of place with the rugged beauty of the western frontier represented.

Other Agency News

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>

Department of Agriculture

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Thomas Vilsack has recommended the cancellation of long-suspended oil and gas drilling leases near Glacier NP. The 18 leases are on land considered sacred to the Blackfoot Indian tribes in Lewis and Clark National Forest. A drilling suspension has been in place since the early 1990s. Lifting the drilling ban would have "adverse effects" on the site in the Badger Two-Medicine area of northwestern Montana, Vilsack wrote in a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, and that the leases themselves should be terminated.

The U.S. Forest Service in December 2014 determined drilling would negatively affect the sacred site and reduce its spiritual power for the Blackfeet. The Advisory Council



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on Historic Preservation agreed with that finding in January 2015. The Department of the Interior will have the final say.

TRAINING, UPCOMING EVENTS, EDUCATION, AND NEWS

FWS Cultural Resources online course: February 8-26, 2016—See <http://www.fws.gov/historicPreservation/employeeTraining/index.html> to Register.

National Park Service Offers Petrography Analysis Training

The NPS National Center for Preservation Technology and Training is offering a two-day, hands-on course on thin-section petrographic analysis of archeological specimens for NPS employees and partners on March 9-10, 2016 at the NPS Southern Arizona Office.

The workshop will include an introduction to polarized light microscopy as a method for identifying minerals, analysis of cultural materials made of stone (igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic), pottery, terracotta sculptures, bricks, tiles, and clay core materials from bronze castings.

This course is offered in partnership with the NPS Southern Arizona Office, Friends of NCPPT, and the Center for Historic Architecture and Design (CHAD), University of Delaware School for Public Policy and Administration. The cost for the course is \$375.00.

Contact: Tad Britt (318) 351-5641.

ELECTRONIC ARCHIVES WORKSHOP OFFERED IN CORVALLIS

Increasingly, archival records are created in electronic formats. As a result, archives of all types need to be responsible for the preservation of electronic records. A Society of American Archivists workshop Jan. 15 in Corvallis will review the fundamental principles of archival appraisal, appraisal policies and the unique issues that need to be addressed when appraising electronic records. Case studies will highlight the practical aspects of appraisal when dealing with electronic records.

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to develop an appraisal policy for their archives, include electronic records on records retention and disposal schedules, address technical issues (such as metadata, software dependence, etc.) that arise when appraising electronic records, and appraise electronic records for archives.

For more information and registration, visit the SAA's workshop website: <http://saa.archivists.org/events/appraisal-of-electronic-records-1650/651/>

DIGITIZATION PROJECT TRAINING OFFERED ONLINE

The Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) announced a new [training module for institutions](#) getting ready for digitization projects.

The Public Library Partnerships Project curriculum is intended for cultural heritage professionals who are new to digitization. It was

designed to provide useful conceptual and practical information about each stage of the process to a beginner audience.

The curriculum covers planning for digitization, selecting content for a digitization project, understanding copyright, using metadata to describe digital content, digital reformatting and file management, and promoting use of digital content.

The DPLA's partnerships project, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, worked with existing DPLA service hubs to provide digital skills training for public librarians and connect them sustainably with state and regional resources for digitizing, describing, and exhibiting their cultural heritage content.

In this project, DPLA worked with state and regional Hubs Digital Commonwealth, Digital Library of Georgia, Minnesota Digital Library, Montana Memory Project, and Mountain West Digital Library to write and iterate a workshop curriculum based on documented best practices. This curriculum is available in a self-guided version intended for digitization beginners. It can be shared, reused, and adapted.

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 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)



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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

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-direc

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 cataloging 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



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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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