



Historical Happenings

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

FWS Regional News:

Headquarters—The FWS report for Section 3 of the Preserve America Executive Order (13287) has been submitted to the Advisory Council. Contact Eugene Marino for more information.

Headquarters—Virginia Parks from Region 1 will be at the WO on a developmental detail and will be working on a distance learning course for cultural resources and assisting Visitor Services with the upcoming Friends Conference.

Headquarters—The NPS Report to Congress for Archaeological Activities is due March 14, 2005. Please submit pertinent information to the WO electronically. This year's questionnaire can be found at (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/aad/src/forms.htm>.) Contact Eugene Marino for more information.

Headquarters—The USFWS Cultural Resources Staff annual meeting will be held in conjunction with the Society for American Archaeology Meetings in Salt Lake City, UT. The cultural resources meeting will be held on March 29th. For more information contact Eugene Marino

Region 5—Rare Elk Skull and Antlers Unearthed at Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge

A rare eastern elk skull and antlers were recently excavated from a wetland impoundment on Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge in Basom, New York near Buffalo. During a dike construction project the elk parts were found nearly six feet down in the muck soil layer. When it died, the elk was a mature 6 x 6 (12 point), five year old bull. The find included the antlers, the top of the skull, and both lower jaw bones. The muck did an excellent job of preserving the specimen and only one antler point was damaged during the excavation.

Depending on its age, the antlers may be able to tell us about a now-extinct variety of North American elk. The eastern elk is an extinct subspecies of elk that at one time inhabited most of the eastern United States. The elk was extirpated from western New York State around 1820 and by the late nineteenth century the subspecies was completely extinct. Loss of habitat and overhunting were the main causes of its decline. A piece of the elk bone has been sent to a laboratory for dating.

The refuge plans to have the specimen preserved and displayed in the visitor center. Most people are unaware that these animals once roamed New York. This find offers a unique opportunity for the refuge to give visitors a look back in time at the wildlife history of the western New York area.

Other Agency News

NPS—Announces their annual data call for the Report to Congress. The 2004 questionnaire can be found at (<http://www.cr.nps.gov/aad/src/forms.htm>). Contact Eugene Marino for more information.

National NGAPRA—The next Review Committee Meeting will be in Honolulu on March 13-15. The Culturally Unidentifiable Native American Inventories Pilot Database is now available online. The online version of the database is 32% complete as December 30, 2004.

Legislative News

Information on the new Sunken Military Craft Act (P.L. 108-375) signed by the President on October 28, 2004. The new law confirms that sunken U.S. military vessels and aircraft are the sovereign property of the United States regardless of the passage of time and provides for archeological research permits and civil enforcement measures (including substantial fines) to prevent unauthorized disturbance.

Note in particular Section 1403 paragraph (b) on consistency with other laws, paragraph (c) on consultation, and paragraph (d) on application to foreign craft, which would come into play when a sunken military craft is located within a unit of the national park system.

In addition, note Section 1406 paragraph (c) making the law of finds not apply to sunken military craft (U.S. or foreign flag) and paragraph (d) making the law of salvage not apply to sunken military craft without the express permission of the sovereign (U.S. or foreign flag).

Also note the definitions in Section 1408. This new statute provides the United States with a new authority for protecting and preserving sunken warships, naval auxiliaries, other vessels owned or operated by a government on military noncommercial service when it sank, military aircraft or military spacecraft that was owned or operated by a government when it sank, and the associated contents of such craft. Many such sunken craft are known or thought to be within units of the national park system and it is good to know there is one more statute that can be added to the existing arsenal of archeological, historic preservation, and government property laws.

Training News

The National Preservation Institute's Training Calendar has been updated and is available at www.npi.org.

HERITAGE, ENVIRONMENT & TOURISM

Meetings of the Society for Applied Anthropology, La Fonda Hotel, Santa Fe, New Mexico
April 5-10, 2005 contact Erve Chambers, c/o Society for Applied Anthropology, P.O. Box 2436,
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-2436; sfaa2005@sfaa.net; (405) 843-5113.

**Workshop on Climate Variability & Ecosystem Impacts in Southwestern Forests/Woodlands
February 7-9, 2005 at Arizona's Sedona Hilton** Please click in the link below for more information (Deadline for early registration is Jan. 10):

<http://cals.arizona.edu/gila/naturalresources/index.html>

Please forward this announcement to other interested partners you know. Also please forgive multiple messages. Thanks.

MANAGING MUSEUM PROPERTYsponsored by the Interior Museum Program conducted at the San Diego Museum of Man 1350 El Prado, Balboa Park San Diego, California 92101 March 14-18, 2005. Additional information and an application can be found at the Interior Museum Program website address: <http://museums.doi.gov/training/managing.html> or contact Donald Cumberland at 202-208-4698

Federal Register News

For January—SUMMARY:

SUMMARY:

Native American Liaison News

Upcoming Events, Education, and Volunteers and Friends News

Cathlapotle Plankhouse Project Countdown to "Completion"

Furnishing and maintaining the plankhouse will be an ongoing process, so "completion" is really the wrong word. But there is an ever-dwindling list of tasks that will be accomplished between now and the projected Grand Opening next spring. Here is a snapshot of the timeline as it now stands (subject to change, of course!).

January:

Contractor installs roof planks

Volunteers install wall planks, begin work on interior sleeping platforms, benches, and furnishings

February:

Volunteers continue working on the plankhouse interior, building hearth boxes, installing furnishings, etc.

March:

Gala Celebration for Volunteers!

Grand Opening Media Event

Grand Opening Public Event

Volunteers continue working on the interior....

Requests for Information

The Service is increasing its participation in the National Trails System, the Trails for All Americans program, and promoting our part in the CDC initiative, Trails for Health. As part of that effort we are trying to increase the visibility of the Service in the National Trails System. The National Trails System has three components: National Scenic Trails, such as the Appalachian Trail; National Historic Trails, such as the Trail of Tears; and National Recreation Trails, unique local or regional trails. National Scenic and Historic Trails are congressionally designated, National Recreation Trails are designated by the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior.

There are 15 National Historic Trails in the NTS. Seven of them have NWRs or NFHs along them or near them. The Service is interested in certifying refuges and hatcheries along NHTs. Certification is a partnership that helps landowners protect and preserve their historic trail properties, and share them with others. Nathan Caldwell, the newest addition to the WO transportation staff, will be working with interested regions and field stations on the certification process. For more information and a list of the NHTs and NWRs or NFHs associated with them, contact Nathan by email or at phone (703) 358-2205.