



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

March 2005

Historical Happenings

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

FWS Regional News:

Headquarters—The USFWS Museum Property Working Group will have its debut meeting early this Spring. The working group will bring together USFWS Museum Property expertise into a National working group whose goal is to enhance USFWS management of museum property. Contact Eugene Marino for more information.

Headquarters—The NPS Report to Congress for Archaeological Activities has been submitted to the NPS. 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

Headquarters—A 'new' USFWS Cultural Resources Program website is scheduled for launch at the end of March. The site offers information on the many facets of the program at USFWS as well as past issues of the ever popular Historical Happenings. Visit the site at <http://historicpreservation.fws.gov> and contact Eugene Marino with comments.

Region 1—Cultural resources a catalyst for behavioral change? Find out at <http://pacific.fws.gov/publications/out&about/Winter2005.pdf>. Look at the article entitled "Navigating Change"

Region 1—archaeologist Carla Burnside along with FWS Special Agents Edward Dominguez and Eric Jumper were recently honored. U.S. Interior Secretary Gale Norton on Wednesday awarded them the Conservation Service Award for their roles in exposing the large-scale theft and trafficking of North American artifacts from federal lands in Nevada and California. The award is one of the highest honors presented by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

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

National NGAPRA—The Minutes of the Review Committee's September 17-18, 2004 meeting are available online at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nagpra/REVIEW/meetings/RCMIN027.htm>.

The next Review Committee meeting will be held March 13-15, 2005, in Honolulu, HI. The agenda for the meeting includes an update on various disputes and issues pending before the Review Committee; requests for recommendations regarding the disposition of culturally unidentifiable human remains; discussion of regulations; the Review Committee's 2002-2004 report to the Congress; discussion of nominees for the committee's seventh member; and presentations and statements by Indian tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, museums, Federal agencies, and the public. See details at <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20051800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/05-241.htm>.

The National NAGPRA FY04 Final Report is available online at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nagpra/DOCUMENTS/NNReport0410.pdf>.

The Culturally Unidentifiable Native American Inventories Pilot (CUI) Database is now available online at http://64.241.25.6/CUI_pilot/index.cfm. The CUI Database is a compilation of data from museums and Federal agencies from various geographic areas of the United States. The online version of the database is 38% complete as of January 28, 2005.

Legislative News

Two Bills affecting claims under NAGPRA:

S.536: Technical Corrections Act
[http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d109:SN00536:](http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d109:SN00536)

S.147: Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act
[http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d109:SN00147:](http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d109:SN00147)

Training News

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

NCPTT Announces its next Cemetery Monument Conservation workshop is to be held in Omaha Nebraska May 24-26, 2005 For more information see www.ncptt.nps.gov/cemetery

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.

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 August 15-19, 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 March

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will make available copies of the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP), Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and Draft Wilderness Stewardship Plan for the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge in Pima and Yuma Counties, Arizona, for public review and comment. This draft CCP was prepared in compliance with the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 668dd et seq.), and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. It describes how the Service intends to manage the Refuge over the next 15 years.

DATES: Please submit written comments on the draft CCP on or before June 14, 2005.

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!).

Saturday, March 26, 3pm-6pm

Volunteer Appreciation Gala and Preview All CPP volunteers who have participated in work parties, workshops, and delivering outreach are invited to attend this special preview party. Donors and community partners are also invited. Refreshments will be served and outstanding volunteers will be recognized! RSVP by March 15 to virginia_parks@fws.gov or 503-625-4377.

Tuesday, March 29, 2pm-4:30pm

Door Opening Ceremony Project partners will officially open the doors to the plankhouse. Space is limited and registration is required, see contact above.

March 30 to April 3, noon-5pm daily

Plankhouse Open House The public is invited to drop by to see the plankhouse and participate in special activities to be scheduled each day

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.