



Historical Happenings

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

November

WONDERFUL THINGS

What's New at HQ?

A great article about a recent renovation highlighting the historic Columbia River Highway:

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/publicroads/14sept/oct/04.cfm>

Manager's Corner

This month's edition includes background on **Glenn Klingler** who is currently the Refuge Manager at Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge based in Williamstown, WV. Prior to being a manager, he spent over 20 years as a federal wildlife biologist specializing in endangered birds

As a wildlife biologist working for the U.S. Forest Service a few years ago, I found myself walking across a desert landscape on the fringe of the Dragoon Mountains in southeast Arizona. The Dragoons are part of three mountain ranges that comprise the Douglas Ranger District of the Coronado National Forest. On this day, I was with three other individuals conducting a cultural resource survey, two of whom were forest archaeologists, and the third who was a range conservationist. We spread out and formed a grid on this hot day to survey an area for a proposed access road.

This area is truly rich in cultural resources and items we found on the surface, without any excavation, included several obsidian flakes/points, an old whiskey bottle that had clearly been knapped and



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an old round of ammunition, stamped with "1881" on the bottom. What made this round fascinating was that it was not merely an empty spent cartridge. This round still had the lead bullet on it. I imagined cavalry soldiers skirmishing with Apaches in this area, and perhaps the bullets were dropped from a saddlebag as the soldiers pursued or fled. Or it may have been much less spectacular, perhaps merely dropped while sitting around a campfire.

One might wonder, "what were a biologist and range con doing conducting cultural resource surveys?" The Coronado National Forest implemented a "Para-archaeology Program" on the forest which consists of a one-week "immersion training" taught by experienced archaeologists, and then followed by a shorter-term annual refresher. The intent of the program was to train additional people to do preliminary archaeological surveys. If particular issues were encountered, or trigger points, if you will, then the para-archs would contact the forest archaeologists for a more intensive survey. This took enormous stress off the few archaeologists who were charged with coverage of a large geographic area in Arizona.

In my current position, I am the Refuge Manager of the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge (ORINWR) based in West Virginia. Like Arizona, the refuge encompasses a large geographic area—lands and mainland tracts scattered over 362 river miles and three states. And also like Arizona, parts of ORINWR are rich in cultural resources. But unlike Arizona, the number of archaeologists employed by the Service is even fewer. For example, there is, on average, 1 archaeologist per Region and each administers projects in many different states. With most located in our Regional offices, the cost to get one of those individuals to even do a survey on a refuge can be cost-prohibitive when one factors in airfare/fuel/per diem and potential overtime costs. Considering the sometimes remote location of our Refuges incurring such costs are not an unusual occurrence and when one considers that even small projects on Refuges can require a cultural resources review, those associated costs can test a manager's ability to balance resource management while maintaining critical refuge infrastructure.



While these archaeologists are hard-working and consummate professionals, I submit that their workload is not sustainable. I suggest developing and implementing a similar program to that which I experienced in Arizona with the Forest Service. The trainings might only occur every few years, and usually with a small number of attendees (perhaps 10-20 maximum). There might be a day in an office setting, followed by the remainder of the course occurring in the field. The field portion would be taught by experienced, veteran archaeologists through an intensive examination of cultural resource sites, with emphasis on the field identification of sites, as well as "trigger points" that would require further survey by experienced, full-time archaeologists.

A program such as this would clearly take intense trust by all parties. I believe there is currently a quiet mistrust among field staff and archaeologists. Some managers fear a survey, if financially feasible, might mean the disruption or elimination of an important refuge project that is for the protection of present-day natural resources or infrastructure. I believe archaeologists fear that surveys, left in the hands of managers or other field staff, might cede some of the quality control over these surveys.

I believe these issues can be overcome. Either through the type of program I just mentioned, and/or by the willingness by all parties, where appropriate, to negotiate solutions to these issues in good faith. An "all or none" approach on either side is not productive. We are all on the same team, so I believe it's in our best interest to compromise to accomplish mutually-beneficial resource goals.

Glenn D. Klingler

Wildlife Refuge Manager

Ohio River Islands NWR

Around the Regions

Region 3

James Myster, Alison Kuzj, and Arianna Elm co-authored a paper titled "Museums Property in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Midwest Region" that was presented at the Midwest Archaeological Conference in October. This paper outlines the ongoing project, in partnership with Hamline University, to inventory, catalog, and track all USFWS museum property in the Midwest Region. Also detailed in the paper is the background to USFWS policies and procedures, the types of museum property within the USFWS, and how the project is working with the USFWS field stations and non-federal repositories to fulfill the agency's preservation mission.



(Region 3 Contd.)

This photo is of a charcoal drawing Region 3 found in the attic of an 1870s house purchased on the Minnesota Valley NWR. They purchased the Gehl-Mittelsted House in 1995. The drawing depicts a young girl holding a doll. They have reached out to the family to see if it might be anyone's great grandmother.

Other Agency News

DOI: Secretary Jewell, Director Jarvis Announce Nine New National Historic Landmarks:

<http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/secretary-jewell-director-jarvis-announce-nine-new-national-historic-landmarks-highlighting-americas-diverse-history-and-culture.cfm>

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.



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TRAINING, UPCOMING EVENTS, EDUCATION, AND NEWS

Keep yourself in the loop and check out these upcoming educational opportunities:

<http://training.fws.gov/>

The National Preservation Institute, a nonprofit organization founded in 1980, educates those involved in the management, preservation, and stewardship of cultural heritage. The 2014-2015 National Preservation Institute seminar schedule is available at www.npi.org.

Archeological Resources Protection Training Program—The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) presents this thirty-seven hour class which provides training in all aspects of an archeological investigation and subsequent prosecution of the crimes. This premier class is taught by accomplished instructors that are nationally recognized subject matter experts in the fields of law enforcement, archeology and law. The class cumulates in a twelve-hour archaeological 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.

This 37-hour course is taught by accomplished instructors who are nationally-recognized subject matter experts in the fields of law enforcement, archeology and law. Enrollment is limited to federal or state law enforcement officers, archeologists and prosecutors.

The next course is: TBA

Contact: Charles Louke (912) 280-5138 for course information.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

None at this time

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.

Thanks for checking out this month's edition of Historical Happenings, see you next month!



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