



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

October 2005

Historical Happenings

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



Historical Happenings provides information on the USFWS Cultural Resources Management program. Information comes from sources such as the Regional Historic Preservation Officers, websites, new sources, as well as other cultural resource management professionals.

Issues are also available on the USFWS Cultural Resources website <http://historicpreservation.fws.gov>. Submissions are encouraged and can be made via email. Please contact Eugene Marino at Eugene_Marino@fws.gov for submission guidelines.

FWS Regional News:

Region 1—Rehabilitation of the Jack Longstreet Cabin on Ash Meadows NWR in southwestern Nevada has been completed and an Open House is scheduled for October 22. The project, funded by a grant from the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA), revitalized the stone cabin built in 1896. A western folk legend, Longstreet gained a reputation as a dangerous gunslinger. He tried to avoid conflicts and the law by living in remote places like Ash Meadows.



Completed restoration of the Longstreet Cabin, Ash Meadows, NWR Nevada

Longstreet's cabin is a unique example of pioneer resourcefulness, built from local stone and incorporating a spring mound into its structure. Located beside one of Ash Meadows NWR's warm water springs teeming with endangered pupfish, the restored cabin will be used as an interpretive site bringing together many of the messages the Refuge has to deliver, both cultural and natural. Contact Lou Ann Speulda for more information.

Region 4—Archaeologists working at Yauhannah Bluff have found Native American as well as Colonial artifacts at a site that will eventually become the Headquarters of the Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge. For more information contact Rick Kanaski.

Region 4—Fish Hatchery 2 site, located within the boundaries of the Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. The site contains abundant information relevant to addressing important research questions regarding regional cultural community and prehistoric social organization and subsistence patterns. For more information contact Rick Kanaski.

Region 7— This years Susten Camp, Kenaitze Athabascan Indian tribe's culture camp, took place earlier this summer at Stephanka's, a National Register eligible archaeological district and traditional cultural property on the Kenai River downstream from Skilak Lake on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. Stephankas contains 44 archaeological sites and 4 historic cabins associated with the Kenaitze Tribe. In the 20th Century, this stretch of river became a symbol of the traditional lifestyle and traditional values of the Kenaitze people. It is a place to connect with the past and to restore a spirit wounded by modern life. One of the cabins had become a derelict. It was being vandalized and was in danger of destruction by burning. The refuge manager felt the cabin could not be protected in place, and determined to remove the cabin from the district and reconstruct it, to its original appearance at the Kenaitze Tribe's interpretive site. Prior to the move the camp youth excavated the foundation and exposed the lowest logs to record construction details, The cabin was dismantled by refuge staff and moved to a boat launch area for trucking to the new site. The Campers loaded the cabin on the truck and, after it arrived at the new location, offloaded the cabin, covering the parts with tarps to protect them until the cabin is rebuilt in August. The second week of camp consisted of excavation of the sub-floor deposits. No spectacular finds were made but the remains did supplement the oral traditions about the cabin. Many small mammals probably from

trapping that took place from the cabin, were recovered. Also found were playing cards, a checker and a large cache of old Coke bottles outside the front door.

Other Agency News

DOI—On July 28, the Senate held a hearing on the proposed amendment to NAGPRA that would change the definition of Native American. At that meeting, the Department of Interior representative, Paul Hoffman, presented testimony that reversed the agency's previous position on NAGPRA. The DOI now opposes the McCain amendment definition of "Native American" and supports the Bonnischsen decision in the 9th Circuit Court that "such remains not significantly related to any existing tribe, people or culture...should be available for appropriation scientific analysis". This is incredible news and the experts think that reburial policies could be changed throughout the country. The full testimony from the hearing is on this website: http://indian.senate.gov/2005hrsg/072805hrsg/072805wit_list.htm.

NPS—Launches its Antiquities Act Centennial website. Information on upcoming events related to the centennial can be found at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/archeology/sites/antiquities/index.htm>

National NAGPRA—The online **Culturally Unidentifiable Native American Inventories Database** (<http://64.241.25.6/CIU/index.cfm>) now exceeds 100% of the original estimate. As of August 31, 2005, the database includes 15,322 records describing 115,477 Native American human remains inventoried by 445 museums and Federal agencies. This represents more than 100 percent of the National NAGPRA Culturally Unidentifiable inventory that was compiled from original submissions. Corrections, updates, and additions to this database are made as museums and agencies verify the data that have been entered, or submit revised inventories.

The next Review Committee meeting will be held **November 2005 in Albuquerque, NM**. No details have been posted as to dates or meeting location.

ACHP to Consolidate Resources by Closing Colorado Field Office

Effective October 28, 2005, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation will close its Lakewood, Colorado, field office and reallocate resources to its headquarters in Washington, DC.

ACHP— November 1, 2005 Deadline for Preserve America Presidential Award Nominations

Federal agencies are eligible to be nominated for and receive Preserve America Presidential Awards for their outstanding heritage preservation projects or programs. This is an opportunity to have your best preservation stories recognized at the highest level and shared nationally. Please see the attachment, the text of which appears below, which is provided for circulation within your agency.

Visit www.PreserveAmerica.gov for more details, and please start today to get your nominations submitted before the November 1, 2005 deadline.

ACHP—Released its latest update on its Archaeology Task force. See for more information <http://www.achp.gov>

ACHP—The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) is revisiting its "**Policy Statement Regarding Treatment of Human Remains and Grave Goods**," adopted in 1988 (1988 Human Remains Policy). A Task Force composed of ACHP members has drafted a set of Working Principles, which are presented below, to guide possible revision of the 1988 Human Remains Policy. The ACHP invites your views and observations on these principles. The Task Force will use your comments to prepare a draft revision of the 1988 Human Remains Policy. That draft will then be subject to further consultation and opportunity to comment, before a final draft is presented to the ACHP membership for adoption. Submit comments on or before November 4, 2005. See text at

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan2005180/0/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2005/05-17437.htm>

Legislative News

S. 1378 Comments sought on legislation to reauthorize the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation. This bill will make the Council a permanent entity eliminating the need for future re-authorizations.

H.R. 3085—Trail of Tears Documentation Act—directs Interior departments to provide a more complete picture of events associated with the Trail. It would expand information to cover all routes of the trail.

Native American Omnibus Act of 2005 - s.536

Sec. 108. definition of Native American.

Section 2(9) of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001(9)) is amended-

(1) by inserting 'or was' after 'is'; and

(2) by inserting after 'indigenous to' the following: 'any geographic area that is now located within the boundaries of.'

Bill Status: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d109:SN00536:>

Latest Major Action: 5/12/2005 Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 100

Training News

The National Trust for Historic Preservation will host the 11th International Conference of National Trusts in Washington, DC, October 15-19. See <http://www.nationaltrust.org/> for more information.

Persistence of Memory: Stewardship of Digital Assets, sponsored by the Northeast Document Conservation Center, November 1-2, pre-conference to the Museum Computer Network's 2005 Conference, Boston. See <http://www.mcn.edu/> for more information.

AAM--Best Practices in Collections Stewardship: Writing a Collections Management Policy January 13-14, 2006 - New Orleans. See <http://www.aam-us.org/> for more information.

Federal Register News

Native American Liaison News

Upcoming Events, Education, and Volunteers and Friends News

Work parties at the Plankhouse, Ridgefield NWR, will take place on October 5, 9, and 29. Contact Virginia Parks for more information.

Malheur NWR will be hosting a Ranching Heritage Day on October 15th. It takes place at historic Sod House Ranch and is a celebration of the history of the area and the continuation of ranching in the Harney Basin.

An open house of the newly restored Jack Longstreet Cabin on Ash Meadows NWR, Nevada will be held on October 22, 2005. For more information contact the Refuge at 775-372-5435

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.