



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

October 2007

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:

Washington Office—The 2007 Preserve America grants applications are available. Applications will be available from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation website (http://www.nfwf.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Browse_All_Programs&CONTENTID=6417&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm) and on the FWS Cultural Resources website (www.historicpreservation.fws.gov). Applications can be submitted through mid-November 2007. For more information contact Eugene Marino.

Region 1—The Corn Creek Railroad Tie Cabin

One of the unique historic buildings within the roughly 800 acres of the Corn Creek Dunes National Register Archaeological District on the Desert National Wildlife Refuge is a 15'x 26' cabin made of railroad ties. The tracks for the Las Vegas & Tonopah Railroad (LV&TRR) (1905-1918) were only two miles from the Corn Creek Ranch (now the Corn Creek Field Station). The LV&TRR ceased operations in 1919 and the tracks were torn up and stacked at regular locations along the old railroad bed. The Corn Creek Ranch owners used the discarded ties to build this cabin as well as for other buildings, fences, and a myriad of other uses.

Unlike a log cabin, the railroad ties are stacked rather than notched at the corners and spikes secure the ties together. The building was originally used as a residential cabin and a 1936 photograph depicts it with an attached carport also built of ties. The cabin has been used by the FWS for storage since it purchased the ranch in 1939.



The Railroad Tie Cabin in 1936

The use of this unique construction material represents a vernacular architectural style directly associated with Nevada's historic development and reflects the brief period when railroad speculation and construction was following the booming mineral discoveries in Southern Nevada. Using railroad ties was a practical solution for building materials in a desert environment.

A Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act grant is funding the restoration of this unique building on the refuge. The interior was full of a Big Horn Sheep Skull collection that became a haven for rodents. Transferring skulls, removing the celotex wallboards and sanitizing the cabin was the first fun step.



In process of cleaning out the cabin in January 2007

Exterior repairs have included the removal of a later wood shingle roof, replacement of deteriorated RR-ties (along the foundation), leveling and improving the foundation-footing by adding additional footing stones, and replacing the eaves and original corrugated metal roof. Interior repairs will include repairing broken window panes, doors and the tongue and groove flooring that rested on railroad ties.



Volunteers mucking out washed-in silt (woke up 1 snake)

The interior will be furnished with materials to provide the public with a view of the cabin's function as a residence when it is completed this Fall. Removing slope wash soil and constructing a railroad tie retaining wall around the back sides to hold the silt back will also occur. The cabin will be one of the focused stops along a formal visitor trail to be built soon.



Replacing foundation ties



The cabin exterior is completed; the interior and the landscaping will be completed in the Fall of 2007

Other Agency News

National NAGPRA—Final Rule adds 43 CFR Part 10.13, Future Applicability. The new regulatory language was issued on Wednesday, March 21, 2007, Vol. 72, No. 54 beginning on page 13184. Specifies requirements for all New discoveries (after the NAGPRA prescribed dates). The rule went into effect on April 20, 2007

October 15-16, 2007: [Review Committee Meeting coming to Phoenix, AZ](#)

National NAGPRA—The remains of at least 187 Native Americans presently housed in museum collections will soon be returned to ancestral lands for burial. The National Park Service has awarded six Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) grants to help fund the transfer of the human remains, and more than 21,500 associated funerary objects, to tribal lands. (See www.cr.nps.gov/nagpra for more information.)

ACHP—The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation is accepting nominations for exemplary heritage tourism and historic preservation programs and projects that meet 2008 Preserve America Presidential Award criteria.

Beginning this year, preservation projects that are primarily publicly funded now are eligible for consideration, unlike past years when preservation projects had to be primarily privately funded. Nominations must be postmarked no later than November 1, 2007.

Please see attached news release regarding the current nomination cycle, and share it with any media, organizations, or individuals that might be interested in submitting nominations or creating wider awareness of the program.

For more information, including the nomination form, instructions, and award criteria, visit www.preserveamerica.gov.

ACHP—The President has announced the appointment of four individuals, with two new appointments and two re-appointed expert members for second terms. They are, respectively: Mayor Thomas R. Miller of Franklin, Tennessee; John A. Garcia of Albuquerque, New Mexico; Julia A. King of St. Mary's City, Maryland; and, Ann A. Pritzlaff of Denver, Colorado.

ACHP—The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation has published its findings and recommendations on the future of the federal government's historic preservation efforts based on the national Preserve America Summit

held in New Orleans last October to mark the 40th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act. The report has been delivered to the White House and federal agencies are already in the process of implementing the recommendations.

The report is available at: www.achp.gov and www.preserveamerica.gov. Please see attached news release for more details and feel free to widely share this information.

Legislative News

Senate Passes Increased Funding for Bridge Repair and Affordable Housing/Main Street Programs

The Senate passed the FY'08 Transportation-HUD appropriations bill (HR 3074) by a margin of 88-7. Included in the bill was an amendment that would allocate an additional \$1 billion in grants to states for bridge repairs in fiscal 2008. The money would not be a regular appropriation but instead would raise the amount states could obligate from the Highway Trust Fund. It is unclear whether historic bridges would benefit from this additional funding.

HR 3074 also contains a provision prohibiting states to use un-obligated, suballocation monies — such as transportation enhancements — from satisfying rescission requests. Enhancements projects are the largest source of preservation-related transportation funding in the federal budget.

Training, Upcoming Events, Education, and Volunteers and Friends News

USFS—The Ouachita National Forest is once again partnering with Archeological Resource Investigations (ARI) to offer the 5-day advanced ARPA damage assessment class.

Ft. Smith, Arkansas October 22-26, 2007. Target audience is federal, tribal, state and local government agencies and federal, tribal, state and county prosecuting attorneys, contractors and anyone that has an interest and/or deals with ARPA.

Tuition is approx. \$750.00. Location will be in Ft. Smith, AR at the Holiday Inn City Center-Rogers Avenue. 1-800-465-4329

More information can be found at www.arinvestigations.net

Registration deadline for the class is September 21, 2007

Cathlapotle Volunteer Workgroups forming now.

1. Maintenance/Landscape: the house needs to be kept up just like your own place. We will soon have to get the house ready for winter and decide how to make the smoke vents easier to handle. This group will eventually work with the Educators on an ethnobotanical trail and the landscaping around the Plankhouse.

2. Education/Children's Activities: During the winter, this group will work on grade-appropriate presentations volunteers give to school groups that come to the Refuge. Teachers and retired teachers are especially needed.

3. Mat Group and an Organizer: if we're going to have mat making and other things going on all winter (basketry, cordage, what else interests you?), we need makers. Please let us know if you want to be on the Mat Group, to come to one or as many of the sessions as you want. If someone would like to organize the on-going meetings, help find people who would like to share their knowledge or projects with us, we **really** want to hear from you.

4. Outreach: find new volunteers and supporters, give talks to service organizations. We will have a PowerPoint presentation and talking points prepared,

and train volunteers who want to do this. Is your organization interested in the Plankhouse and would like a presentation?

5. Demonstrations/Workshops: we are planning a Second Sunday series - something special every second Sunday of the month from April through November for 2008, and need to start planning now. Help identify workshops and demonstrations to have, and providers. Flint knapping, basketry, archaeological presentations, cultural demonstrations – we need to find out what people want, and deliver it.

If you are interested in working on any of these groups, email Kate at Catherine_Mueller-Wille@fws.gov, or call 360-887-4106.

The next historic preservation conference for the National Trust for Historic preservation will be held the week of October 1st in St. Paul Minnesota. FWS has been invited to a panel discussion of cultural resource outreach activities along trails, roads, and byways.

Read all about it here
http://www.nationaltrailspartnership.org/07_conf.asp

Requests for Information