



# CELEBRATE ARCHEOLOGY! PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN FEDERAL ARCHEOLOGY

## Federal Archeology Report 2012-2013

### The Federal Archeology Report

Since 1928, when the first Federal Archeology Report was delivered to Congress, the Department of the Interior Consulting Archeologist, assisted by the National Park Service, has collected and maintained information about Federal archeological responsibilities. Detailed data collected since 1986 are available on the NPS Archeology Program website at <http://www.nps.gov/archeology/SRC/INDEX.HTM>.

Today Federal agencies use everything from archeology camps to International Archaeology Day to connect the public with archeology. This report details some of the many ways that Federal agencies help the public learn more about our rich heritage.

### Who We Are

The stewardship of America's archeological heritage is a well-established function of the Federal government supported by longstanding policy. Beginning in 1892 when Casa Grande Ruins were set aside for preservation, Federal agencies have paid special attention to the archeological resources located on their lands or affected by their activities.

Archeological resources — sites, collections, and records — must be used wisely and protected for future generations. The Federal Archeology Program is a network of Federal agency archeologists who work on public lands and in regional offices, research centers, and agency headquarters to care for archeological resources on behalf of the American people.

The Interior Department Consulting Archeologist provides information about archeological stewardship activities required by the National Historic Preservation Act and Archaeological Resources Protection Act. Archeological stewardship activities are carried out by:

- Agencies that manage archeological resources on Federal lands;
- Agencies that fund projects that have potential to impact archeological resources, including resources on state or private lands;
- Agencies that regulate or issue permits for activities that have potential to impact archeological resources, including resources on state or private lands.

# 2012-2013 At A Glance

## Inventory and Stewardship

- 2,879 archeological inventories and 522 data recovery projects carried out under NHPA Sections 106 and 110, resulting in 19,722 archeological reports
- At least 2,500,000 acres inventoried to identify and document archeological resources
- 37,000 new archeological sites on Federal lands documented
- 26,600 archeological sites evaluated for listing on the National Register of Historic Places

## Archeological Collections and Support of Science

- Over 116 million archeological objects and 52,000 cubic feet of archeological material preserved and cared for
- Archeological collections utilized 1,600 times for research and exhibition

## Site Protection and Prosecution of Looters

- 1,850 permits issued for archeological research on Federal land
- 850 documented instances of looting and vandalism of archeological resources

## Partnerships and Volunteers

- 184,110 volunteer hours for archeology, valued at over 2 million dollars
- 303 partnerships contributing almost 6.5 million dollars for archeology

Numerical data are available on the NPS Archeology Program website at <http://www.nps.gov/archeology/SRC/INDEX.HTM>.

## Connecting With Our Heritage – Partnerships, Volunteers, and Outreach

Federal agencies introduce citizens to archeological stewardship through many kinds of public programs, including partnerships with communities and local organizations, volunteering, and innovative public programming. Federal partnerships with community organizations connect communities with their archeological heritage and promote good heritage ethics, creating stewards for archeological resources.

## Stewardship of Our Heritage – Site Inventory and Documentation

Good archeological stewardship begins with identifying and documenting archeological resources. National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 110 requires Federal agencies to establish programs to systematically inventory archeological resources on Federal lands. Inventory and documentation — knowing what resources you have — is the first step in a robust and responsive stewardship program.

NHPA Section 106 requires Federal agencies to take archeological resources into account when planning Federal undertakings on or off Federal lands that might affect archeological resources. Mitigation promotes data collection from impacted resources. Baseline identification and documentation of archeological resources makes them easier to avoid or consider during Federal undertakings.

## Caring for Our Heritage – Archeological Collections

Archeological collections consist of excavated objects, field notes, photographs, reports, and other materials that are produced as part of scientific investigations. Federal agencies are required by law to care for archeological collections from Federal lands.

Archeological collections are a continuing source of information about past events. Access to artifacts and information, through actual or virtual exhibits, help connect us to our past.

## Heritage for the Future – Protecting Archeological Resources

Access to digital images and other material makes guarding archeological site locations difficult. Rather than shielding resources from the public, Federal agencies rely on citizens to help protect and respect archeological sites. A well-informed and knowledgeable American public is our biggest advocate for our non-renewable and precious cultural heritage.

Professional organizations and the public assist Federal archeologists to protect archeological resources in a number of ways. They monitor activities on Federal lands that may harm archeological sites and update agency personnel when they see destructive activities. Partner organizations develop outreach programs and interpretive materials to inform the public about the value of archeological resources.

There was much concern about the safety of archeological resources on Federal lands during the government shutdown in 2013. Adequate monitoring of archeological resources is a constant challenge, however, and it is unknown how many archeological resources on Federal lands are vandalized annually.

### Science for the Future – Climate Change

One of the biggest challenges facing Federal archeologists is not looting and vandalism, but the loss of archeological resources from changing environmental conditions. Climate change requires archeologists to think carefully about whether to save or document archeological sites that will fall prey to erosion, desiccation, more frequent and hotter fires, and sea level rise.

### Public Explores Early 19th Century Shipwrecks, Thanks to NOAA and BOEM

In April 2012, the NOAA ship *Okeanos Explorer* provided a look at the wreck of an early 19th century armed and copper sheathed sailing ship. *Okeanos Explorer* reached audiences around the world through live streaming Internet video. As members of the public watched, they became “citizen explorers,” sharing in the discovery with maritime archeologists.

A Shell Oil sonar survey had located this and two other anomalies in about 4,000 feet of water nearly 200 miles offshore in the northern Gulf of Mexico. A change in the

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management policy facilitated the discoveries of these and 17 other vessels in 2012.<sup>1</sup>

An expedition returned to the site on the *Nautilus* in July 2013.<sup>2</sup> Using the Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) *Hercules*, the team completed photo and video documentation and created detailed photo-mosaic and acoustic maps of the site.

The *Nautilus* also investigated the two additional shipwrecks identified by the Shell Oil sonar scan. To the archeologists’ astonishment, both sites proved to be historic shipwrecks with artifacts similar to those from the first wreck, suggesting that all three vessels sank during the same time period.

One appears to be an unarmed merchant ship transporting animal hides, blocks of tallow, and unopened crates. Surprisingly, much of the ship’s wooden hull has survived the ravages of nearly 200 years beneath the sea.

The third, largest of the three vessels, was also copper-sheathed and unarmed. It had a substantial amount of stone ballast, suggesting that the vessel did not carry a cargo at the time she slipped beneath the waves.

Considered together, the three vessels appear to be a privateer or pirate vessel armed with a pivot gun, carronades, and muskets, in convoy with two captured ships. This may be the first time archeologists have discovered a privateer/pirate ship with its prizes.



Copper hull of a possible 19th century privateer. The arm of the ROV Hercules is on the left. (NOAA)

<sup>1</sup> The agency reconsidered its approach to Section 106 reviews of plans and permit applications from the oil and gas industry on the Outer Continental Shelf, moving from a high probability model approach to a consideration of the merits of requiring bottom survey on all applications under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Section 101(b)(4) and 40 CFR 1502.22 (Incomplete or Unavailable Information).

<sup>2</sup> Science partners included the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University, Ocean Exploration Trust, NOAA (OER and Office of National Marine Sanctuaries), BOEM, BSEE, the Texas Historical Commission, the University of Rhode Island, Maryland Historical Trust, Texas A&M’s Conservation Research Laboratory and Texas A&M University, Galveston.

## DOE Archeologists Identify WWII Crash Site, Return Class Ring to Family

During verification of an airplane crash site, the Department of Energy archeologists found a poignant memento of the lives lost. During World War II, eastern Idaho was home to the Arco Naval Proving Ground that became part of the Idaho National Laboratory, managed by the Department of Energy. The Army Air Corps used lands adjacent to the proving ground for high altitude bombing training. Second Air Force heavy bombers ran training missions there from September 1943 until the end of the war. On January 8, 1944, a B-24J Liberator from the 464th Bomb Group, 776th Bomb Squadron, Pocatello Army Air Base, crashed, killing all seven men on board. Tragically, all were under the age of 30, and several left young families.



Class ring retrieved from 1944 crash site, Pocatello, Idaho.

While studying World War II-era plane crashes in eastern Idaho, a Pocatello historian and airplane enthusiast came upon the story of aircraft 42-73365 and notified the Idaho National Laboratory that the crash may have occurred on DOE land. Using non-invasive archeological methods, DOE cultural resource specialists and archeologists were able to locate the crash site and, surprisingly, retrieve a class ring belonging to the wife of one of the men. They returned the ring to a daughter of the crewmember.

## Archeological Inventory at National Wildlife Refuge Reveals Rare Site

Paleoindian sites are relatively rare, and usually deeply buried under layers of soil. Archeologists from the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes; and paleontologists from the Idaho Museum of Natural History have mapped and inventoried a Paleoindian site and a more recent site along the shores of Lake Walcott in Minidoka National Wildlife Refuge, Idaho.



Stone tool recovered from site in Minidoka NWR.

Lake Walcott is formed by impounding the Snake River. A drawdown of the lake revealed archeological sites. One site consisted of a large scatter of mineralized bones and several dark areas that appear to be hearths. Archeologists and paleontologists identified birds, horses, camels, sloths, rabbits, carnivores, and bison. Stone tools were also collected. Several bones had cut marks and damage from being struck by a heavy object.



Bison vertebra from site at Minidoka NWR.

The second site was a scatter of bison bones with different mineralization patterns, suggesting that they are younger than the first site. Stone flakes, arrowheads, stone tools, and numerous hearths were identified.

In addition to the archeological sites, a gravel deposit containing bones from extinct fauna (camels, horses, and sloths) was also inventoried. Most of these bones were aligned with the river current. This deposition event occurred during the Late Pleistocene epoch and appears to be the result of seasonal flooding. It may be related to one of the Bonneville Floods — catastrophic events from the last Ice Age that released water from glacial Lake Bonneville and sent it raging down the Columbia River.

### What is International Archaeology Day?

International Archaeology Day highlights the efforts of archeological organizations that plan and organize public outreach events, invite wider media attention, and provide a central information source via the Archaeology Day website, all to generate greater understanding of the discipline.

Each year since then, the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) organized, hosted, and sponsored public outreach programs across the U.S. and Canada.

International Archaeology Day was first celebrated on October 22, 2011, and was known as National Archaeology Day. The day was officially recognized by Congress. While International Archaeology Day is now officially held on the third Saturday in October, events are held throughout the month. Events include lectures, archeology fairs, site visits, lab open houses, special museum tours and exhibits, student presentations, excavations, and film screenings; but there have also been special kayaking tours, pub crawls, ancient fashion shows, and spear throwing contests!

In 2012, over 60,000 people participated in approximately 275 events with 125 collaborating organizations. Participation included events in 49 U.S. states; 8 Canadian provinces; and Australia, Egypt, France, Germany, Ireland, and the United Arab Emirates.

In 2013, the name of the event was changed to International Archaeology Day to better reflect the worldwide participation. 375 events were planned and the list of collaborating organizations swelled to 188. Despite a few larger events being canceled due to a 16-day shutdown of the U.S. government, approximately 75,000 people participated. Nine new countries were added to the growing number of places around the world celebrating International Archaeology Day.



A young student ponders an exercise on International Archaeology Day (Archaeological Institute of America)

## Project Archaeology: Discover the Past-Shape the Future

*A little girl in Washington DC learns about a slave cabin during a lesson from Investigating Shelter and comments how she never learned about her own ancestors in school before.*

*After a rock art lesson from Intrigue of the Past, when asked what students will retain from the lesson in ten years, kids say they will remember how defacing rock art hurts the living descendants of those who put them there.*

Project Archaeology's mission is to save archeological sites, protect the human past, and honor the memory of past peoples. Archeological sites are threatened by destruction, looting, and vandalism. The best way to protect these sites is by educating the public. Project Archaeology connects teachers and students to the human past through discovery.

Project Archaeology, funded by the Bureau of Land Management, is dedicated to teaching scientific and historical inquiry, cultural understanding, and the importance of protecting our nation's rich cultural resources. The organization delivers high-quality educational materials and professional development courses to teachers and students nationwide. Through Project Archaeology, educators can help schoolchildren know and experience America's cultural heritage.

Through a national network of state and regional programs, master teachers, and 12,000 Project Archaeology educators, materials and instruction reach an estimated 250,000 learners every year in 37 states. Project Archaeology received the Society for American Archaeology Excellence in Public Education Award in 2010 and the Secretary of the Interior's Partners in Conservation Award in 2011.



Teachers learn archeological mapping skills in a Project Archaeology Field School (Bureau of Land Management)

## USFS Passports in Time: Connecting People with Archeology

Passport in Time (PIT) is a volunteer archeology and historic preservation program coordinated by the U.S. Forest Service. The goal of PIT is to preserve the nation's past with the help of the public. PIT volunteers work alongside archeologists and historians on archeology projects on public lands. The volunteers learn and have fun while helping care for historic properties. One of the most important outcomes for the program is an educated public that understands and supports archeology and historic preservation.

PIT's success is due to its grass-roots origin and ground-up organization. The first PIT project, in 1988, on the Superior National Forest in the upper Midwest was in direct response to public interest in archeology that quickly became a demand for active involvement. It grew to include 117 national forests in 36 states. In 2006, PIT was expanded to provide other Federal and state agencies the opportunity to have their projects advertised through the PIT Clearinghouse.

Agencies proposing to host a project that uses volunteers may advertise their projects on the PIT website. Volunteers learn about projects that needed assistance through an online clearinghouse. Projects may be around the corner or across the country; all create opportunities to connect with our country's rich heritage. As of 2014, over 500 PIT volunteers have provided 1,586,855 hours of service on 2,727 projects. Early PIT volunteers who volunteered with their parents are now adults, teaching their own children about the benefits of maintaining cultural resources.



El Rito High Country Survey Crew -Carson National Forest, New Mexico, 2011

## DHS Supports Study of Mexican-American War Earthen Fort

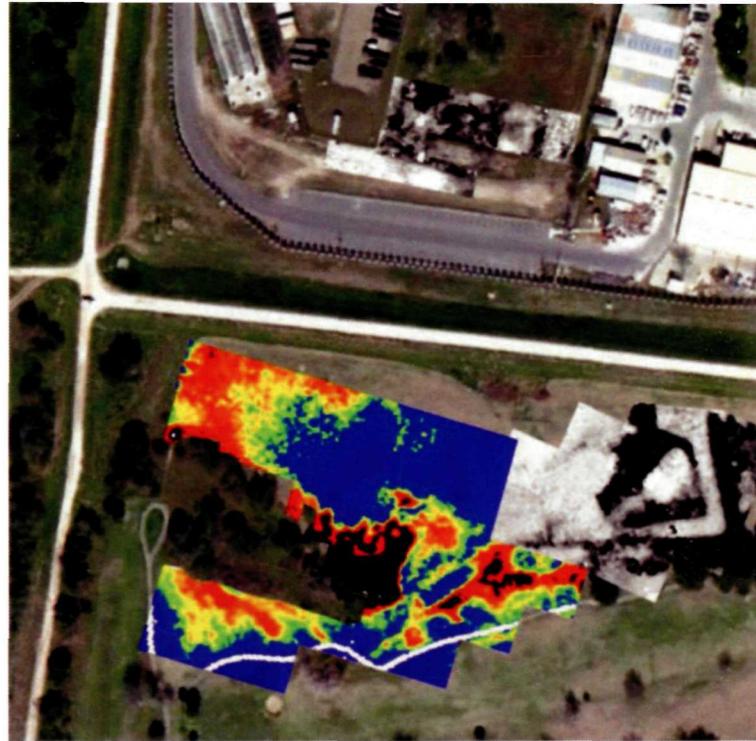
Historic Fort Brown on the northern bank of the Rio Grande River in Brownsville, Texas, defended lands newly annexed from Mexico in 1846. Constructed from earth, the fort was abandoned shortly after the end of the Mexican-American War. Over time, the earthen walls have eroded and suffered other damage. Thanks to efforts by the Department of Homeland Security, the National Park Service Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park, and the International Boundary and Water Commission, however, the footprint of this important site has not been lost.

General Zachary Taylor's construction of the fort led to a two-year war with Mexico. In 1848, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the war and provided terms of peace. The U.S. acquired land that would eventually become California, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, and parts of Colorado and Wyoming.

The treaty also allowed Mexican citizens to stay in the transferred territory, become U.S. citizens, and retain title to land granted by Spain or the Republic of Mexico. The ratification of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo created a large number of American citizens of Mexican descent. Although many struggled to retain their lands and to be treated as equal, these new American citizens were part of the foundation of our modern Mexican American community and culture.

The land occupied by Fort Brown is now owned by the IBWC. The area of the earthen fort has been part of a stable, a polo field, a drill field and a golf course. In the 1950s much of the structure was bulldozed to build a levee along the Rio Grande River.

When Palo Alto Battlefield NHP and the NPS Midwest Archeological Center hosted the 21st annual workshop for geophysical archeology at the site in 2011, archeologists feared that much of the fort was lost. Results from the magnetic and ground penetrating radar surveys, however, suggested the presence of intact buried archeological features and artifacts associated with the fort. The resistivity data provided the best indications; one bastion, along with the ditch surrounding the parapet wall, is clearly outlined in the



Resistivity data from 2011 ground penetrating radar investigations at Fort Brown, Brownsville, Texas. The southeast bastion is clearly visible.

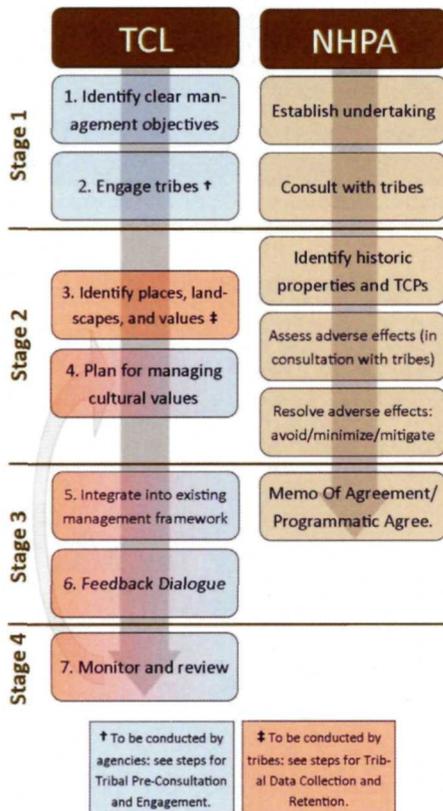
data. Armed with data collected during the workshop and subsequent investigations funded by DHS, NPS staff will continue a partnership with the IBWC and the University of Texas at Brownsville/Texas Southmost College to explore, preserve, and interpret this important site.

## Working Collaboratively: The Tribal Cultural Landscapes Project

The Tribal Cultural Landscapes project is a collaborative effort involving Federal agencies and tribes to integrate historical, archeological, and traditional knowledge about landscapes. The goal is to develop best practices for identifying and communicating about holistic cultural landscapes of tribal significance. The Federal agencies are committed to developing a proactive approach to working with Native American communities to identify areas of tribal significance that need to be considered in the planning process for offshore renewable energy.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM); the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and National Marine Protected Areas Center; a Tribal Facilitator; and the Tribal Historic Preservation Offices of the Yurok Tribe in California, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde in Oregon, and the Makah Tribe in Washington are working on the project.

In 2013, each of the three partner tribes hosted a two-day inter-tribal workshop. Based on the workshop findings, the project team is developing best practices guidance that demonstrates how a Tribal cultural landscape approach aligns with requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). These important laws provide a process for ensuring that cultural and natural resources on Federal and tribal lands are recognized and that resource information is preserved.



Aligning recommendations for developing a tribal cultural landscape with requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act.

## Linking Hispanic Heritage Through Archaeology

Linking Hispanic Heritage Through Archaeology was a 2013 spring and summer program for Hispanic youth ages 14-18 years old that used regional archeology as a bridge to connect urban Hispanic youth and their families to their own cultural history. This project partnered the National Park Service, University of Arizona School of Anthropology, and Arizona State Museum, and the Environmental Education Exchange. Through

participation in an archeological dig and artifact analysis, along with visits to national parks, local museums, and university archeology laboratories, students engage in the study of Southwest archeology from the pre-contact to the historical periods with emphasis on the Hispanic heritage of the American Southwest. They also observe and participate in activities associated with past cultural practices. The program targets a historically underrepresented community that has very low levels of engagement with the National Park Service and archeology.



Students learn about archeological excavation methodology.

## Acknowledgements

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Information about Federal Archeology Reports, including numerical data and previous reports, is available on the NPS Archeology Program website at <http://www.nps.gov/archeology/SRC/INDEX.HTM>

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Photos on Front Page (Clockwise from upper left): Teachers learn archeological mapping skills in a Project Archaeology Field School (Bureau of Land Management). Students photograph artifacts in a Linking Hispanic Heritage Through Archaeology field exercise (National Park Service) A young student compares artifacts on International Archaeology Day (Archaeological Institute of America). A young student picks artifacts from a screen on International Archaeology Day (Archaeological Institute of America).