



Archeology Program

National Park Service
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Natural Bridges National Monument Celebrates Centennial

Natural Bridges NM, will celebrate the centennial of establishment through the Antiquities Act in April, 2008. Located in southwest Utah, the park features the second and third largest natural bridges in the world. In 1883, gold prospector Cass Hite found three magnificent bridges that water had sculpted from stone. National Geographic Magazine publicized the bridges in 1904 and, in 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed Natural Bridges NM. In honor of the Native Americans that made this area their home, the bridges are named "Kachina," "Owachomo," and "Sipapu."

Repeatedly occupied and abandoned during prehistoric times, the area was first used around 7000 B.C. Only the rock art and stone tools left by hunter-gatherer groups reveal that humans lived there at that time. At approximately A.D. 700, ancestors of modern Puebloan people moved onto the mesa tops to farm. They later left as the natural environment changed. By A.D. 1100, migrants from across the San Juan River were living in small, single-family houses near the deepest and best-watered soils. In the 1300s the ancestral Puebloans migrated south, in response to an extended drought. Navajos and Paiutes lived in the area during later times, and Navajo oral tradition holds that their ancestors lived among the early Puebloans.

The International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) designated Natural Bridges NM as its first International Dark Sky Park in a program recognizing exceptional commitment to dark sky preservation and restoration of public lands. IDA challenged the monument to minimize its nocturnal impact and share its magnificent starry sky with the park's 95,000 annual visitors. The park retrofitted light fixtures, shielding them so all the light points downward. Most of these outdoor fixtures utilize 13-watt compact fluorescent light bulbs that provide ample light but do not interfere with the campground and backcountry. "This is one of the darkest national parks in the country," says Chief Ranger Ralph Jones, referring to a comprehensive study of night sky quality conducted by the National Park Service.

To celebrate "One Hundred Years of National Parks in Utah," various interpretive programs will be held from April to October, including Night Sky Programs that take advantage of Natural Bridges designation as the first and only International Dark Sky Park.

To learn more about Natural Bridges NM, go to <http://www.nps.gov/nabr/>. To learn more about the Antiquities Act, go to <http://www.nps.gov/archeology/sites/Antiquities/index.htm>.

Vandals Sentenced in Looting of Archeological Sites in Buffalo National River

In January 2006, rangers at Buffalo NR investigated a report of possible looting in the Lower Wilderness area of the park. They discovered 45 holes in a known archeological site; over 2,000 cubic feet of dirt had been excavated from the six acre site. The rangers and the park archeologist recovered evidence from the site that helped them to identify a suspect. In addition, rangers had observed the suspect in the area of the archeological site between October 2005 and January 2006.

Rangers interviewed Carl Ray Henderson in February 2006, who confessed to digging at the site. Over the next six months, Henderson recovered and returned artifacts from the site, as well as artifacts and human bones from other sites he had looted.

In March 2007, Henderson was indicted by a Federal grand jury for a felony violation of the Archaeological Resource Protection Act (ARPA; 16 USC § 470ee-mm). He pled guilty to this offense in July, but failed to appear for his sentencing. A warrant was issued for his arrest. Henderson was arrested by U.S. Marshals in February 2008 and held until sentencing. Henderson was sentenced to 21 months in Federal prison, a year's supervised probation, and ordered to pay \$2,720 in restitution for a felony conviction under ARPA.

NPS Cultural Resources GIS Facility developing Spatial Data Standard

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) is an organization within the Federal government that is dedicated to promoting coordination and reducing redundancy in the creation of spatial data. As part of its responsibilities, the FGDC provides the framework for creating spatial data standards for all Federal agencies. OMB Circular A-16, revised 2002, designated the NPS as the lead agency for the cultural resource spatial data theme, which includes archeological resources.

Within NPS, the Cultural Resource GIS Facility (CRGIS) has the responsibility for tasks associated with this lead agency status, including assessing current best practices, developing cultural resource spatial data standards, creating tools and guidance for those utilizing those standards, and disseminating cultural resource data more widely.

In December 2007, CRGIS submitted a proposal "Need of Cultural Resource Spatial Data Standard" to the FGDC Standards Working Group. The proposal is the first step in creation of a standard for collection, maintenance, and distribution of cultural resources spatial data by Federal agencies and, extension, State and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices. On February 27, 2008, the FGDC Standards Working Group met and unanimously accepted the proposal. The CRGIS now has FGDC official endorsement to establish standards for cultural resources spatial data that will apply for all Federal agencies.

Projects in Parks: Multiple Lines of Evidence: Searching for the Sand Creek Massacre Site by **Alexa Roberts**

The search for the location of the 1864 Sand Creek Massacre site was a collaborative effort among the NPS, State of Colorado, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, Northern Cheyenne Tribe, and Northern Arapaho Tribe. The location of the massacre site was confirmed through a combination of archaeological, oral historical and archival research, although the archaeological evidence had different meanings for tribal, NPS, and other stakeholders. This report provides an overview of the project and how the partners relied on different lines of evidence to interpret the archaeological record.

Archeology E-Gram readers can access the full report through the *News and Links* page www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm on the Archeology Program web site. NPS employees who can access the NPS intranet can read the full report by going to **Projects in Parks** <http://inside.nps.gov/waso/custommenu.cfm?lv=3&prg=279&id=3670> on InsideNPS.

Archeology E-Gram, distributed via e-mail on a regular basis, includes announcements about news, new publications, training opportunities, national and regional meetings, and other important goings-on related to public archeology in the National Park Service and other public agencies. Recipients are encouraged to forward *Archeology E-Grams* to colleagues and relevant mailing lists. The *Archeology E-Gram* is available on the *News and Links* page www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm on the Archeology Program web site.

Projects in Parks is a feature of the *Archeology E-Gram* that informs others about archeology-related projects in national parks. Prospective authors should review information about submitting photographs on the *Projects in Parks* webpage on InsideNPS. The full reports are available on the *Projects in Parks* web page inside.nps.gov/waso/custommenu.cfm?lv=3&prg=279&id=3670 on InsideNPS or through individual issues of the *Archeology E-Gram* on the on the *News and Links* page <http://www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm> on the Archeology Program web site.

Contact: dca@nps.gov to contribute news items, stories for “Projects in Parks,” and to subscribe.