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September 17, 1997

RB: Implementation of the Final Draft of the Wyoming Cultural Properties Form

Dear Colleague:

This letter is to answer questions and address concerns which have been raised in response to the announcement of the final draft "Wyoming Cultural Properties Form" and "Draft Wyoming Cultural Properties Form Guidelines", dated August 28, 1997.

Most of the comments received to date came from the Bureau of Land Management field offices and from a few private consultants. We understand that there are concerns with the timing of the transition and that people are having difficulty getting the form set up on their computers. We had hoped to step up the time frame on the implementation of the new form in response to previous concerns expressed by BLM managers that the form be sent out for use as soon as possible. However, in response to comment and concern from the field offices we are revising the implementation schedule. This will result in a delay in production of the final product but due to concerns raised by some segments of the archaeological community and the wishes of federal agency management, we believe such a delay is warranted.

The revised schedule for implementation of the new form is as follows:

Any field projects commencing prior to December 31, 1997 may submit site document at ion on the IMACS form, the short form, or the revised Wyoming isolate form as appropriate. This includes projects which have been bid on but field work has not yet begun, on-going field work, and projects which are in the report writing phase. Those of you who choose to begin field testing of the new cultural properties form prior to this date are encouraged to do so. We request that any sites located during projects commencing after December 31, 1997 be recorded on the final draft "Wyoming Cultural Properties Form" or the revised Wyoming isolate form as appropriate. Constructive comments to improve the form will be accepted until December 31, 1998. After this date, appropriate modifications will be made and the form will be finalized. The final product will result in an automated tool which will allow for remote data entry into the State's master cultural resources database.

In response to concerns regarding the format of the new form, if you do not have Internet access please let us know and we will send you a copy of the form in your preferred format on diskette. Note that we are not able to provide 5 1/4" diskettes. The Word Perfect 5.1 format conversion was not as simple as we had hoped. We do have a fairly good format in 5.1 thanks to Dave Reiss at the State Archaeologist's Office, however we will be working on improving this format. If you are currently using Word Star we can convert this version to this software, but it is likely to contain some problems in the format.

THE STATE OF WYOMING
Jim Geringer. Governor

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Gene Bryan. Director

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We are aware that another issue of Concern is the current information available on the web site database. We will be adding more information to the site database addressing site type and site use sometime within the next week. Implementation of "site and projeCt" queries, which will return a more robust file search similar to the format Currently used for consultants doing Class III projects, has proven to be a little more diffiCult than we expected. The Current software package we are using does not Support this complicated report return. We also are striving to incorporate our accounting package to this step. This will enable us to allow full access to private Consultants who Choose to obtain or already have Internet access. As the Current software does not support a Capture of our billing stream, we have been investigating other web-based software. This is a priority for us to complete and we hope to have a Solution to this within the next few weeks.

Please bear with us during this transition period. We are open to your Constructive comment and concerns. Change is difficult for all of us and we have no intention of leaving anyone out of the process. You may comment in writing, by phone, or in person to myself, Mary, or Judy.

Sincerely,

/s/ John T. Keck
John T. Keck
State Historic Preservation Officer