



# United States Department of the Interior



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8100 (AK-931)

## Memorandum

To: Director (240), LS, Room 204  
Attention: Dr. Richard Hanes and Dr. Kate Winthrop

From: Deputy State Director, Division of Resources

Subject: Fiscal Year 2012 Cultural Resources Management Program Annual Report

This is in response to Washington Office Information Memorandum No. 2012-139, dated June 4, 2012, requesting information for the Cultural Resources Management Program annual report.

The requested statistical information table is attached. Below are narrative summaries of our Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 accomplishments, though modified, per instruction, to actually cover the period August 1, 2011 to July 31, 2012. They are arranged by the requested headings and are generally annotated to show which Bureau of Land Management (BLM) offices or personnel were involved.

### **Part I: Major FY 2012 Accomplishments associated with the management and protection of archaeological, historical, and paleontological resources and museum collections:**

#### **#1 Iditarod National Historic Trail (INHT) National Register Nomination work, plus survey and monitoring work:**

The Multiple Properties Nomination for the INHT is currently under review by the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and will soon be submitted to the Keeper of the National Register. Anchorage Field Office (AFO) Section 110 cultural resource work in FY 2012 focused on the Iditarod National Historic Trail (INHT). The AFO Archaeologist continued to monitor the Iditarod Historic District. She also conducted low level aerial surveys of two BLM-managed segments of the INHT. The formal Determinations of Eligibility for these segments are currently being finalized for submittal to the SHPO.

## #2: Two Glennallen Field Office Section 110 survey projects:

a) The Glennallen Field Office (GFO) conducted Section 110 surveys in high probability areas within the Slana Homestead area in the Mentasta Mountains. Over 2335 acres of river riparian areas, Off Highway Vehicle trails and alpine ridges were surveyed by BLM-GFO staff and youth hires. Low bare ridges overlooking the historic Slana-Batzulnetas trail and the Ahtna people's Suslota Lake village were thoroughly inspected. However, surveys failed to locate any previously undiscovered cultural resources. This year's surveys have led GFO to conclude that compared to other areas in the Copper River Basin, prehistoric use of the area was limited. Further, although ethnographic information and consultation with the area's Native Villages indicates that the Mentasta Mountains have been used for sheep hunting and other subsistence activities, the Ahtna's historic uses of this portion of the basin have poor visibility in the archaeological record.

### Photo:

- Figure 1. A member of the GFO cultural resource crew examines a log jam on Suslositna Creek prior to portaging an inflatable canoe around the obstacle during surveys in the Slana area.

b) A project planned for the Bering Glacier uplands was funded by Climate Change monies this year for vegetation and archaeological surveys. However, due to the unexpected closure of the Bering Glacier Research Camp and the logistic difficulties of operating in the area without the camp's support, these surveys were shifted to the Mentasta Mountains, where fourteen high alpine ice patches were investigated by the BLM-GFO wildlife biologist and cultural resources staff. These investigations examined the development of vegetation communities and surveyed for archaeology around ice patches, where global warming has accelerated the melting of ice. Ice patches have been attractive for both wildlife escaping summer heat as well as the human hunters pursuing them, leaving behind organic artifacts that aren't normally preserved.

This year's investigation was hampered by a cooler than normal summer and only early summer availability for a helicopter to reach these remote locations, leaving more of last winter's snow un-melted on ice patches identified with past aerial photography. Despite these conditions, a rock hunting blind was discovered near one ice patch. While another ice patch had melted sufficiently to expose potentially old caribou and Dall sheep remains that have been preyed on by either humans and/or other predators. This ice patch demonstrated that despite a cool summer, it has been melting dramatically in recent years, leaving a foreground that is just starting to be colonized by sparse mosses and lichen.

### Photos:

- Figure 2. A member of the GFO cultural resource crew GPSes an ice patch with animal remains melting from around it.
- Figure 3. A member of the GFO cultural resources crew poses in a rock hunting blind near ice patches.

### **#3: Steele Creek Townsite Rehabilitation & Enhancement**

In mid-July 2012, continuing restoration efforts were underway at the Steele Creek townsite (49-EAG-144). The Steele Creek townsite is situated at the mouth of Steele Creek on the main stem of the Fortymile River, and is located inside the Fortymile Wild & Scenic River corridor, in the Fairbanks District Office's Eastern Interior Field Office. Originally founded in the late 19th century, the site became the center of a small community that catered to the summer riverine and winter overland trail system that connected the Fortymile drainage to the rest of the Alaskan interior. It ceased final operations following the construction of the Taylor Highway in the early 1950s.

In 2012, a small dirt excavator was brought in overland 6 miles to the site from the Taylor Highway. The excavator contoured around two of the buildings at the site (the Roadhouse; Structure C) with serious seasonal runoff problems that would have affected the restoration efforts that have been performed at the site over the past decade. It also excavated a drainage ditch upslope of Structures B and C for the same purpose. In addition, BLM maintenance staff built a modern insulated hanging joist floor in Structure C, which is being turned into an emergency shelter cabin, and replaced a dilapidated porch on the west side of the Roadhouse that had to be removed during earlier wall log restoration efforts.

#### Photos:

- “Mills Steele Creek 2012-1”. Excavator improving drainage around the south side of Steele Creek Structure C.
- “Mills Steele Creek 2012-2”. Excavator digging a drainage ditch upslope of Steele Creek Structure B and Structure C.
- “Mills Steele Creek 2012-3”. Excavator improving drainage around the north side of the Steele Creek Roadhouse.
- “Mills Steele Creek 2012-4”. Excavator improving drainage around the south side of the Steele Creek Roadhouse.
- “Mills Steele Creek 2012-5”. Finished improving drainage all around the Steele Creek Roadhouse. View to the southwest.
- “Mills Steele Creek 2012-6”. Installing an insulated hanging floor inside Steele Creek Structure C.
- “Mills Steele Creek 2012-7”. Rebuilding an overhanging porch on the west side of the Steele Creek Roadhouse.

### **#4 Resource protection project: Mitigation Data Recovery on Mary Louise Fork, Circle Mining District:**

The Eastern Interior Field Office (EIFO) fielded nine archaeologists to conduct data recovery at an historic mining cabin ruin on Mary Louise Fork (49-CIR-00087), a tributary of Ketchum Creek near the town of Central, in the Circle Mining District. One 1930s-40s domestic cabin ruin (10' x 10', with a 6' covered extension) and its three associated trash scatters were completely excavated over the course of 2 ½ days. This mitigative excavation was prompted by the site's proposed destruction in 2013 by modern mining efforts on Federal mining claims.

Numerous artifacts were recovered which will aid in our understanding of the lifestyle and economics of mining in this remote Alaskan setting. The project was staffed by three archaeology employees of the BLM Eastern Interior Field Office (one full-time; two seasonal technicians), and six BLM archaeology volunteers, which included employees from the archaeology department at the University of Alaska Museum of the North, Fairbanks, the National Park Service, and Northern Land Use Research (a private consultant archaeology firm in Fairbanks, AK).

Photos:

- “Mills Mary Louse Fork 2012-1”. An overview of the Mary Louise Fork cabin ruin (CIR-087), facing east.
- “Mills Mary Louse Fork 2012-2”. Excavating inside the main 10’x10’ room of the Mary Louise Fork cabin ruin (CIR-087).
- “Mills Mary Louse Fork 2012-3”. Excavating inside the main 10’x10’ room of the Mary Louise Fork cabin ruin (CIR-087).
- “Mills Mary Louse Fork 2012-4”. Excavating inside the 6’ extension storeroom of the Mary Louise Fork cabin ruin (CIR-087).
- “Mills Mary Louse Fork 2012-5”. Wooden floor exposed in the main 10’x10’ room of the Mary Louise Fork cabin ruin (CIR-087).
- “Mills Mary Louse Fork 2012-6”. Tallying the contents of one of the trash dumps associated with the cabin excavation.

**#5 Resource protection project: Eastern Interior Field Office Archaeological Surveys:**

The Eastern Interior Field Office Archaeologist organized a Fortymile River Drainage Archaeological Reconnaissance project, and a Beaver Creek Wild River Archaeological Reconnaissance project. The BLM manages 1- 2 million acres of land throughout the Fortymile River drainage, and 1 million acres in the combined White Mountains National Recreation and Beaver Creek Wild River (which runs through the WMNRA), and yet limited archaeological surveys have occurred in these areas. During the summer of 2012, archaeological surveys occurred in several drainages throughout the Fortymile, through a variety of means (helicopter, ATV, pickup truck). In addition, a float trip was organized along Beaver Creek, specifically geared toward identifying buried prehistoric sites. In addition almost 3000 acres were surveyed, 21 known sites were monitored, and 15 new sites were discovered and recorded.

Photos:

- “Mills survey 2012-1”. BLM seasonal technicians surveying on Franklin Creek Wild and Scenic River in the Fortymile drainage. The man is on a hand-stacked tailings pile created in the early-20th century by placer gold miners working along the creek.
- “Mills survey 2012-2”. BLM seasonal technician surveying along Beaver Creek Wild River.
- “Mills survey 2012-3”. Surveying along Beaver Creek Wild River.
- “Mills survey 2012-4”. Monitoring of known site 49-EAG-00081, the blacksmith shop associated with the Boundary Gold Dredge Camp (early 20th century).

- “Mills survey 2012-5”. Recording a collapsed stilt cache associated with a placer gold mining camp along Franklin Creek Wild & Scenic River in the Fortymile drainage.
- “Mills survey 2012-6”. Recording a flattened/collapsed log cabin along the Walker Fork of the Fortymile River.

#### **#6: Northwest Drainages Archaeological Survey & Raven Bluff Excavation, Kivalina River, Northwest Alaska:**

Central Yukon Field Office archaeologists returned to the Kivalina River remote camp to conduct archaeological survey and to support research at the Raven Bluff archaeological site. A fourteen person team conducted survey over approximately 1500 acres of BLM lands and continued test excavation at the Raven Bluff site. Project participants included researchers from the University of Alaska Museum of the North, University of Cologne, Central Washington University, and the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Dr. Rasic’s National Science Foundation funding again helped the Central Yukon Field Office focus funds on the continued survey of this remote corner of Alaska. For the third year the project was joined by a volunteer teacher from the NSF funded PolarTrec program. As a special bonus to the project BLM was able to fly two high school students from the nearby village of Kivalina out to join us for a few days of excavation and survey.

#### **#7: American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) Abandoned Mineland Survey and Hazard Inventory Project:**

The Central Yukon Field Office’s Abandoned Mineland Survey and Hazard Inventory Project is a cooperative project among the BLM, Michigan Technological University (MTU), and the University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA). A combined team of archaeologists from BLM, MTU and UAA conducted an intensive survey on approximately 2800 acres of BLM managed lands in the vicinity of Fairbanks and the Upper Koyukuk River drainage. This work resulted in the documentation of several hundred mining related features and over 70 archaeological sites. Additionally, the team recorded a number of physical and environmental hazards that will be assessed for remediation in coming years.

#### **Part II: Other Accomplishments (organized by 11 topics):**

- National Programmatic Agreement implementation
  - ✓ The Glennallen Field Office has begun implementing the new BLM National Programmatic Agreement and DOI Tribal Consultation Policy by discussing anticipated changes to existing MOUs with three of the area’s tribes and villages during our annual consultation meetings.
  - ✓ The Alaska State Office transferred \$18,100 of Cultural Resources Data Sharing Partnership (CRDSP) money received from the Washington Office to the

Alaska State Office of History and Archaeology under terms of Cooperative Agreement LO9AC15336 CRDS. (Note: This is to assist in an ongoing partnership project between BLM and the State Office of History and Archaeology, with CRDSP funds use in developing and maintaining the statewide archeological sites database. The money also in part supports a Youth hire.)

- ✓ CRDSP funds were also used to support the annual AHRS Advisory Board Meeting held in Seattle (see below), for programming work on the statewide database, and to support youth hire within the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology (OHA). CRDSP funds were also held within Alaska BLM to fund youth hires to digitize files and create data for the BLM's Archaeology Data System prior to migrating data into the OHA managed database.
- ✓ For the third consecutive year the BLM co-sponsored and chaired the annual Alaska Heritage Resources Survey State Inventory of Sites (AHRS) Advisory Board Meeting held in conjunction with the annual Alaska Anthropological Association meeting in Seattle. Once again this meeting provided a venue for state, federal, and private archaeologists to gather and discuss the management and direction of the State of Alaska's cultural sites database. The creation of this stake-holder group and annual meeting format was initiated by BLM-Alaska in 2009 with the first meeting in March 2010 co-sponsored by BLM and OHA.
- ✓ Alaska Archaeology Data System: Connected to the goals of the CRDSP, 2012 saw the successful implementation of an internal BLM statewide cultural resources database. This work is the culmination of several years of development toward a shared database that allows our archeologists to create and view GIS site and survey data and retrieve and store all manner of cultural resource data. The new Archeology Data System uses utilizes Esri online services to build, store and retrieve a variety of site and survey data and has proven to be a model for similar data systems being constructed for other sub activities in BLM Alaska.
- ✓ The State Office Archaeologist provided training in May 2012 on the 2012 National PA and 1998 Alaska Protocol to the new Anchorage District Office manager. Also sitting in was the Branch Chief for AK-931 and the Anchorage Field Office archaeologist.
- ✓ The State Office Archaeologist continued to assist the National Training Center in Phoenix with planning and execution of Cultural Heritage Program courses including the 8100-01 "Fundamentals for Managing the Cultural Heritage Program" to be taught Sept. 17-21, 2012. Also, he was filmed in September 2011, teaching a portion of this course for distance learning. He also assisted a Utah Manager, Shelley Smith, in her development of another distance learning

module. These are BLM training opportunities promoted under the 1997 National PA.

- ✓ The State Office Archaeologist provided comments to WO-240 involving revisions to the 1997 National PA prior to the signing of a revised National PA on Feb. 9, 2012. He also participated in a Preservation Board workshop in June 2012 for purposes of discussing implementation of the new agreement and to help review and revise, as needed, the BLM 8100 series manuals.
  - ✓ The State Office Archaeologist provided an annual report to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation on FY 2011 accomplishments related to fulfilling terms in the 1997 National PA.
  - ✓ The State Office Archaeologist has begun preliminary discussion with the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer on developing a new State Protocol under the new National PA.
- Department of the Interior tribal consultation policy implementation (and Native American coordination and consultation)
    - ✓ Native American consultation efforts in FY 2012 by the Anchorage Field Office focused on the Red Devil Mine and the Seldovia 17b Easement issues. Resource specialists also furthered Native American outreach efforts through: 1) their attendance at Resource Advisory Council Meetings to discuss subsistence concerns with tribal officials and local tribal members, and 2) through their numerous contacts with tribal members while visiting rural communities.
      - Photo 1: AFO staff discusses cleanup efforts at the Red Devil Mine in a meeting with local tribal members in the village of Nunapitchuk, April, 2012. BLM AFO staff members are at left and include Alaska State Fisheries Lead Matthew Varner, AFO Subsistence Biologist Geoffrey Beyersdorf, AFO Field Manager Jim Fincher, and AFO Public Affairs Officer Teresa McPherson.
    - ✓ As noted, the Glennallen Field Office has begun implementing the new BLM National Programmatic Agreement and DOI Tribal Consultation Policy by discussing anticipated changes to existing MOUs with three of the area's tribes and villages during our annual consultation meetings.
    - ✓ BLM-Alaska is reporting 3,258 instances of Native American coordination and consultation on the statistics table portion of this report, with the majority of those actions due to our lands program (including survey work) that fulfills various entitlement mandates for Alaska Natives such as land transfers under the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

- Resource protection projects activities (including identification, recordation, evaluation, stabilization, rehabilitation, monitoring, and data recovery projects)
  - ✓ The Glennallen Field Office continued annual monitoring of two late prehistoric archaeological sites within the Paxson Lake Campground under a past agreement that includes the local Ahtna people whose ancestors likely caused the sites to be there.
  - ✓ See also earlier information in Part I that fits this category.
  
- Heritage Tourism developments
  - ✓ See information in the earlier Part 1 section on rehabilitation and enhancement work done in the summer of 2012 at the Steele Creek Townsite.
  
- Notable Planning accomplishments
  - ✓ The AFO archaeologist participated in land use planning efforts during FY 2011 by initiating SHPO consultation regarding the Haines Block Plan Amendment to the Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan (RMP). It is anticipated that this Amendment will be completed in FY 2013. Other planning efforts expected to continue in 2013 include the Bering Sea/Western Interior (BSWI) Planning Area RMP, the final planning area in BLM Alaska without a modern RMP, and the Campbell Tract Special Recreation Management Area Plan Amendment to the Ring of Fire RMP.
  - ✓ Continuing Follow-up to implement Accountability Plan for Pipeline Legacy Collections: The State Office Archaeologist, with help from the Alaska State Office of History and Archaeology, the Alaska Museum of the North, and the Glennallen and Fairbanks BLM offices, developed an annual progress report in March 2012 for the accountability, assessment, and curation of artifacts collected in the past along the Trans-Alaska Pipeline corridor. This annual report fulfilled yearly requirements outlined in an overall BLM Accountability Plan written in 2007 following the ratification of a 2005 Programmatic Agreement (PA) that BLM-Alaska developed and signed with the Advisory Council, the Alaska State Historic Preservation Office, and others. The PA was for the consideration and management of historic properties affected by operations and maintenance activities along the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System. The 2007 Accountability Plan that came from it addressed the retrieval and care of legacy museum collections.
  - ✓ The State Office Archaeologist assisted the Washington Office in various planning actions for special BLM activities and events in FY 2012, to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the 1862 Homestead Act. He also

continued compiling extensive nationwide information including some already placed on the national BLM Homestead Commemoration website that debuted in early 2012.

- Museum collections management
  - ✓ In Sept. 2011, historic archaeological collections from the Dalton Cache, a National Register property in Southeast Alaska, were relocated from the Sheldon Museum to the University of Alaska Museum of the North. Details were provided to the Washington Office Acting Curator after the last annual report was submitted last year that did not cover post August 1, 2011 actions.
  - ✓ Museum Collections Management -- University of Alaska Museum of the North: The University of Alaska Museum (UAM) Archaeology Department AND Earth Sciences Department (which curates BLM's paleontological collections) received \$40,000 each from the BLM Challenge Cost Share program in FY2012 to continue to upgrade, catalog, and properly curate existing legacy collections of artifacts and fossils. Cooperative agreements exist between the BLM and both departments to facilitate this ongoing work. The BLM has more than 1,300 accessioned archaeology collections at UAM, with an estimated 500,000 - 700,000 artifacts present in these collections. UAM Earth Sciences has the largest collection of fossils in Alaska, the biggest including Cretaceous dinosaurs & Ice Age mammals. About 1/3 to 1/2 of these collections come from BLM-managed land: more than 140 accessions from 1000 localities, including an estimated 10,000 - 30,000 specimens. Only a fraction of either of these collections was properly curated and accessioned to modern standards, prior to the current re-housing effort that began almost 10 years ago and has continued annually since that time with varying levels of funding. UAM full-time staff-hire, train, and supervise students to perform this work. In sum for FY2012: 30,092 artifacts and 6,650 fossils were re-housed, catalogued, and entered into online UAM databases. See Museum Property reporting sheets for further details.
  - ✓ Legacy collections from Dr. William Laughlin discovered at the University of Connecticut at Storrs in 2010 were transferred to the University of Alaska (UA) Museum of the North under BLM-Alaska expense, arriving there on 2/14/2012. These include eight boxes of uncatalogued mostly faunal remains, which are being catalogued. When that work is completed, we will be able to report details but only at that time. Certain materials subject to the Native American Graves Protection Act were temporarily relocated to the Smithsonian for analysis and there will be further follow up on those in FY 2013.
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) compliance

- ✓ Native American Consultation for NAGPRA purposes following an inadvertent discovery of human remains: In 2011, the Eastern Interior Field Office fielded nine staff and volunteer archaeologists to conduct test excavations in late summer at the Cripple Creek site (CIR-003), a late prehistoric caribou processing and storage site along the Steese Highway.

Discovered in 1976 and with limited tests in 1978, the site underwent more extensive tests in 2011 as part of a joint BLM-University of Fairbanks Alaska test excavation. One of the areas of the site that was tested included a known meat cache pit (Feature 1). During the fall processing of the finds at the University of Alaska, a single 2-3 year old human child's complete incisor was discovered, along with a few tiny cranial fragments likely from the same individual. The finds derived from a small hearth feature next to the caribou cache pit; the hearth was likely a cremation hearth for the individual. Physical characteristics of the tooth indicate that the individual was likely a Native American.

As all radiocarbon dates so far run for the site indicate a late prehistoric occupation in the 200-300 year old timeframe, it is assumed that the skeletal remains are those of a prehistoric Alaska Native. As a result, the BLM opened consultation, per NAGPRA, with six local federally recognized tribes that surround the excavation site (Minto, Nenana, Circle, Ft. Yukon, Beaver, Birch Creek), in order to determine ownership of the remains and to work towards their final disposition. All parties agreed or acquiesced that the Circle Traditional Council was determined to be the best candidate to fulfill the consultation process.

As a result, representatives from the BLM and the Tanana Chiefs Conference (a non-profit Alaska Native organization representing many interior Athabaskan native communities) met with members of the Circle Traditional Council in the village of Circle in early May, 2012. It was jointly agreed that a special blessing ceremony needed to be held at the site prior to removal of the remainder of the cremation feature. Consultations continue.

- ✓ The Alaska State Office archaeologist submitted an inventory on 10/31/2011 that he wrote for a Federal Register notice for the Cherni Island NAGPRA case (#9). It was subsequently published in the Federal Register on 12/23/2011, with notifications to all tribes involved that the remains could hereafter be claimed were sent on 2/8/2012. No claims have yet been made for the remains.
- ✓ As also noted under museum collections management, the Alaska State Office archaeologist in FY 2012 coordinated the relocation to the University of Alaska Museum of eight boxes of mostly faunal collections from the Aleutian Islands left by the late William Laughlin at the University of Connecticut at Storrs. Earlier, four partial sets of human remains discovered there in 2010 from the Chaluka Mound materials were transferred during summer 2011 to the Smithsonian where they were inventoried for BLM. Further NAGPRA work will occur on these NAGPRA remains in FY 2013, which may result in a

second revision to the NOIC written previously for other Laughlin collections from the Aleutian Islands that was published on 5/4/2010.

- ✓ Still more Laughlin legacy collections with NAGPRA materials were discovered at the University of Oregon Museum in late April 2011. Work continued in FY 2012 to complete appropriate Federal Register NAGPRA notifications and other NAGPRA work.
  - ✓ Works continued in FY 2012 with the American Museum of Natural History to address their St. Lawrence Island NAGPRA collections. That work includes consultation with tribal members to identify descendants of a person now identified as having faunal remains from his grave in the collection.
- Key Archaeological Resources Protection Act prosecutions (including effective related resource protection projects, methods, or techniques employed)
    - ✓ The Central Yukon Field Office and Enforcement staff continued investigations and enforcement work on the unauthorized removal of parts from a rare F-82 aircraft on Army lands in 2008. New discoveries in the case in FY 2011 have expanded its scope significantly, with work continuing into FY 2012 and FY 2013.
  - Key 16 U.S.C. 470aaa (paleontological) prosecutions (including effective related resource protection projects, methods, or techniques employed)
    - ✓ The Office of Law Enforcement and Security, Region 2, successfully obtained the conviction of a man who stole fossil mammoth tusks off BLM public land in Alaska. The man was convicted on two counts: theft of government property and conspiracy to violate federal law. He paid a \$100,000 fine and was sentenced to three years' probation and 300 hours of community service. This is believed to be the first successful criminal prosecution citing the Paleontological Resources Protection Act of 2009.
  - Heritage program publications, videos, podcasts, and brochures produced (including web publications)
    - ✓ The State Office Archaeologist wrote a new 12-page booklet on the history of homesteading in Alaska that was printed and included with the BLM-created 2012 Alaska Archaeology Month poster mailings.
    - ✓ The State Office Archaeologist, with aid from the Office of Communication, launched a new Alaska Homesteading Website that presently has 9 pages and a 10<sup>th</sup> for downloading the 12-page booklet listed above.

- ✓ The State Office Archaeologist led the creation and funded the 2012 Alaska Archaeology Month poster, which featured the 90-year history of homesteading in Alaska, 1898-1988.
  - ✓ The State Office Archaeologist added more information to the prior Iditarod National Historic Trail website that he created in an earlier Fiscal Year
  - ✓ A podcast was created by KSKA, Anchorage Public Radio, of the 4/11/2011 History of Alaska Homesteading talk that the State Office Archaeologist gave at the BLM Science Center. It has been linked to this BLM-Alaska website: [http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/cultural/centennial\\_anniversary\\_celebrations/homestead\\_act\\_150.html](http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/cultural/centennial_anniversary_celebrations/homestead_act_150.html)
  - ✓ Another podcast was created by KSKA, Anchorage Public Radio, of the 1/18/2012 BLM Campbell Creek Science Center sponsored talk by Dr. Morgan Blanchard entitled: “Wires, Wireless, and Wilderness--Alaska's WAMCATS Communication System.” Here’s the link and more information: <http://www.alaskapublic.org/2012/02/08/wires-wireless-and-wilderness-alaskas-wamcats-communication-system/>
- Other Notable Work or Events: Public Outreach, Interns, National Register Work, etc.
    - ✓ The Anchorage Field Office continued its outreach efforts in Alaska’s largest city through various activities for both youth and adults. The AFO archaeologist, with help from State of Alaska Office of History and Archaeology archaeologist Richard Vanderhoek, BLM AFO Resource Manager Douglas Ballou, and National Park Service Archaeologist Jeremy Karchut, taught sixth grade students from the Anchorage School Districts about prehistoric hunting in Alaska during Outdoor Week in May 2012. Children and teachers also learned how to throw darts using atlatls at this joint effort between the BLM AFO’s Campbell Creek Science Center and the Anchorage School District.
      - Photo 2: National Park Service Archaeologist Jeremy Karchut shows sixth graders how to use an atlatl during Outdoor Week, May 2012. Photo by Jenny Blanchard.
      - Photo 3: Sixth grader aims a spear at a bear target using an atlatl during Outdoor Week, May 2012. Photo by Jenny Blanchard.
    - ✓ The AFO archaeologist also assisted with the annual Archaeology Month Atlatl Fun Throw in April 2012, teaching over 100 participants how Native Alaskans used kayaks and atlatls to hunt marine mammals.

- ✓ The Glennallen Field Office archaeologist along with National Park Service staff and the Wrangell Institute for Science and environment conducted an archaeology, atlatl and dart demonstration for children from the Copper River School District during Earth Discover Day.
- ✓ The Glennallen and Anchorage Field Office archaeologists as well as the Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment conducted an atlatl and dart demonstration for children and adults in the Tangle Lakes Campground, followed by a hike and discussion of the archaeology in the Tangle Lakes Archaeological District.
- ✓ The Glennallen Field Office hosted one archaeology youth hire from Dennison University.
- ✓ The Eastern Interior Field Office archaeologist has worked the past two winters with local historian George Lounsbury on cataloguing and digitizing 1717 historic and more recent photographs that Lounsbury has accumulated over the past 40 years on the history of the upper Koyukuk mining district. All original photos and digital copies have now been accessioned to the University of Alaska, Rasmuson Library, Alaska Polar Regions archives. Copies of the digital photos have also been deposited with the local non-profit Pioneer Museum in Fairbanks.
- ✓ A book on the archaeology and history of placer gold mining in Alaska and the Yukon Territory, edited by the Eastern Interior Field Office archaeologist, came into print during the past year. The book, “Eldorado! The Archaeology of Gold Mining in the Far North” (Society of Historical Archaeology's Historical Archaeology in the West Series. University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, Nebraska), came out in late 2011, and was edited by Catherine Spude, Robin Mills, Karl Gurcke, and Roderick Sprague. It includes chapters by current BLM archaeologists Robin Mills and Robert King, and retired BLM archaeologist Howard Smith.
- ✓ The Eastern Interior Field Office archaeologist presented a paper at the local annual meetings of the Alaska Anthropological Association (February 29 – March 3, 2012, Seattle, Washington) titled “DendroArchaeology on the Fortymile River, Alaska, or ‘Get the Yeti!’.” (co-authored by Tiffany Ann Curtis and Robin Mills).
- ✓ The Fairbanks District Office cultural resource staff (archaeologists with the Eastern Interior, Central Yukon, and Arctic field offices) continued its annual participation in Fairbanks Outdoor Days, an environmental education effort aimed at the area's fifth graders. The archaeologists conduct mock excavations in sandboxes with buried artifacts to groups of 10-14 students that cycle through a trail system. Approximately 210 students listened to a lecture and excavated in 2012.

- ✓ The BLM Arctic Field Office Archaeologist, Michael Kunz, presented a lecture on the archaeology of the North Slope as part of the Campbell Creek Science Center's NPR-A lecture series in April 2012.
- ✓ The BLM Alaska State Archaeologist, Robert King, presented two evening lectures at the Campbell Creek Science Center: April 11, 2012 on the Story of Alaska's Homestead History for the 150th Anniversary of the Homestead Act, and July 11, 2012 on Alaskan dinosaurs and recent discoveries.
- ✓ The BLM State Archaeologist gave a series of three lectures for the University of Alaska-Anchorage Ongoing Learning Experience Program: 11/4/2011 -- 75 minute talk on early dog mushers of the Copper River Valley; 11/11/2011 -- 75-minute talk on the history of homesteading in Alaska; and 11/18/2011 -- 75-minute talk on early Alaskan photos and postcards.
- ✓ The BLM State Archaeologist created a public display on the history of Homesteading in Alaska for the Alaska State Office, followed by a 60-minute talk on the same subject in the Alaska State Office for employees
- ✓ The State Office Archaeologist presented a paper on 3/1/2011 at the 2012 Alaska Anthropological Association Annual Meeting in Seattle on Alaska homestead history and the new Alaska Archaeology Month poster
- ✓ The State Office Archaeologist on 3/29/2012, presented a paper on the history of homesteading in the USA at the BLM symposium (which he organized) at the "Making of the Plains 1862-2012" Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska.
- ✓ The State Office Archaeologist helped create a large BLM display on the History of Homesteading in Alaska used at the Great Alaska Sportsman Show in Anchorage in late March – early April 2012, which he also helped staff.
- ✓ The State Office archaeologist gave a paper on 4/19/2012 at a BLM Homesteading symposium he co-organized for the Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting held in Memphis, Tenn.
- ✓ The State Office Archaeologist, at the invitation of the Idaho Bureau of Land Management and the Idaho State Historical Society, presented a series of three events for Idaho Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month. This included two original 90-minute lectures on the history of homesteading, with special emphasis on Idaho's unique homesteading history. These were done on 5/8/2012 in Twin Falls and 5/10/2012 in Boise. He also gave a 3-hour workshop at the Idaho State Archives in Boise on researching homestead records and information on homesteaders. It was attended principally by librarians, museum employees, and archivists, with people turned away after the

advance enrollment was filled with about 40 attendees. His trip was funded through money provided by BLM-Idaho to the Idaho State Historical Society.

- ✓ The State Office Archaeologist was an active participant with the BLM State Director, Bud Cribley, and others at the very successful special July 4, 2012 BLM-Alaska Homestead Commemoration Event held in Anchorage. Further information about this event and photos can be seen written up at the July 19, 2012 “Daily BLM Feature” archives site, and also at: [http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/cultural/centennial\\_anniversary\\_celebrations/homestead\\_act\\_150.html](http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/cultural/centennial_anniversary_celebrations/homestead_act_150.html)
- ✓ The State Office Archaeologist, as invited by the Glennallen Field Office, gave a PowerPoint talk on 7/28/2012 at a special Lands Day event at Slana, Alaska. His talk was on the history of the last settlement area in the USA (North and South Slana) where a form of homesteading was possible until Oct. 21, 1986. He repeated this talk on 8/10/2012 at the Alaska State Office, and then revisited Slana on 8/12/2012 to interview homesteaders.
- ✓ The State Office Archaeologist, also as invited by the Glennallen Field Office, gave a PowerPoint talk on 8/11/2012 at the Kenny Lake, Alaska fair. His talk was on the history of homesteading in the Kenny Lake area in the 1940s-70s.
- ✓ The State Archaeologist on 9/1/2012 is to give a talk on the history of homesteading at the annual Wasilla-Knik Historical Society picnic at the Knik Museum.
- ✓ The State Office archaeologist continued throughout FY 2012 providing assistance on the subject of homesteading to the National Park Service at the Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice, Nebraska, including assembling and mailing a packet of homesteading information in July 2012 to add to their records on Alaskan homesteaders.
- ✓ The State Office archaeologist, with assistance from the Office of Communication staff, in March 2012 printed five special homestead posters commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Homestead Act. They used antique postcard images from the early 1900s of typical homesteading scenes. The project was in cooperation with the Homestead National Monument of America that also helped fund the posters. Educational information was included on the posters. These were shared with other BLM states and proved to be popular. They were also used as special handouts in the various conferences and events held here in Alaska that were listed above.

If you have any questions, please contact our State Archaeologist, Robert King, at the above address, by e-mail [r2king@blm.gov](mailto:r2king@blm.gov) or by phone at 907-271-5510.

7 Attachments

- 1 – Annual Report Statistical forms (10 pp.)
- 2 – FY 2010 & 2011 CCS & Cooperator projects (1 p.)
- 3 – CCS Log (1 p.)
- 4 – BLM Historic Structure Listings (2 pp.)
- 5 – LOOT forms (1 p.)
- 6 – BLM Museum Collection forms (7 pp.)
- 7 – Photo CD

cc w/attachments #1-6 only:

- AKA01 Field Manager (acting)
- AKA01 Jenny Blanchard
- AKA02 Beth Maclean
- AKA02 John Jangala
- AKA00 Karen Kelleher
- AKF00 Steve Hartmann
- AKF01 Lon Kelly
- AKF02 Lenore Heppler
- AKF03 Shelly Jacobson
- AKF02 Robin Mills
- AKF01 Mike Kunz
- AKF03 Bill Hedman