



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
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8100 (AK-931)

## Memorandum

To: Director (240), LS, Room 204  
Attention: Dr. Byron Loosle and Ms. Ranel Capron

From: Deputy State Director, Division of Resources

Subject: Fiscal Year 2016 Cultural Resources Management Program Annual Report

This is in response to Washington Office Information Memorandum No. 2016-126, dated July 8, 2016, requesting information for the Cultural Heritage Program annual report.

The requested statistical information table is attached. Below are narrative summaries of our Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 accomplishments. They are arranged by the requested headings and are generally annotated to show which Bureau of Land Management (BLM) offices in Alaska (AK) or personnel were involved. As requested by your office, our report covers the 12-month period August 1, 2015 to July 31, 2016, thus remaining consistent with prior reporting.

### **Part I: Major FY 2016 Accomplishments associated with the management of cultural and paleontological resources, including the associated collections and data, and tribal consultation:**

Resource protection project:

#### **FORTY MILE DRAINAGE & STEESE NCA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYS - 2016**

The Eastern Interior Field Office Archaeologist, Robin Mills, organized three proactive, cultural resources surveys this year along the Fortymile River drainage of eastern central Alaska, utilizing helicopters and river rafts. The BLM manages 1-2 million acres of land throughout the Fortymile River drainage, including the Fortymile Wild & Scenic River (WSR) corridor, and yet limited archaeological surveys have occurred in these areas. The surveys in the Fortymile in 2016 occurred along the Middle Fork, South Fork, Dennison Fork, and Mosquito Forks, all in the Fortymile WSR system. Partnering with archaeologists from the

University of Alaska Museum of the North and a student intern from the Student Conservation Association (SCA), Sarah Polachek, the Fortymile projects used, in part, helicopters to gain access to remote settings. In addition to 1255 acres surveyed and 37 known sites monitored, 27 new archaeology sites were discovered, including both historic and prehistoric sites.

**Photos:**

“Mills 40mile surveys 2016-1”. Archaeological float trip survey in the Fortymile Wild & Scenic River corridor. Student Conservation Association archaeology intern Sarah Polachek resting during a cultural resource float trip along the Dennison Fork.

“Mills 40mile surveys 2016-2”. Archaeological float trip survey in the Fortymile Wild & Scenic River corridor. BLM volunteer Sam Coffman (University of Alaska Museum of the North, Fairbanks) investigating a possible prehistoric site. Note the 1,200 year old White River Ash layer in profile.

“Mills 40mile surveys 2016-3”. Archaeological float trip survey in the Fortymile Wild & Scenic River corridor. BLM seasonal archaeology Steve Lanford and BLM volunteer Sam Coffman (University of Alaska Museum of the North, Fairbanks) recording a historic trapper’s cabin.

“Mills 40mile surveys 2016-4”. Archaeological float trip survey in the Fortymile Wild & Scenic River corridor. BLM seasonal archaeology Steve Lanford and BLM volunteer Sam Coffman (University of Alaska Museum of the North, Fairbanks) digging an archaeological test pit at a newly discovered prehistoric site overlooking the Mosquito Fork.

Resource protection project:

**NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE – ALASKA, COASTAL SURVEY**

The Eastern Interior Field Office Archaeologist, Robin Mills, and former Central Yukon Field Office Archaeologist, Bill Hedman, accompanied by a Student Conservation Association archaeology intern, Sarah Polachek, conducted a survey of known archaeological sites along the north coast of Alaska, inside the boundaries of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, managed by Fairbanks District Office’s Arctic Field Office. This was a project directly funded by WO-240 in the Annual Work Plan. Extensive erosion has dramatically affected certain sections of Alaska’s northern coastline over the past century, which has had unknown but potentially disastrous effects upon the cultural resources along the coast. Climate changed and the accelerating warming of northern Alaska has only exacerbated this problem. Many known cultural sites had not been visited in years. As expected, some sites along extensively eroded areas no longer exist, whereas others were found to be actively eroding, while still others were found to be in secure locales and not under threat. All sites east of Barrow, Alaska were examined, but the surveys to the west of Barrow were curtailed owing to ongoing caribou subsistence hunting along the coast. Further funding is planned for 2017 and further assessment work will continue. Decisions by BLM management need to be made on how to mitigate the sites that are currently being eroded. Ideas include partial or full excavation, partnering with other agencies (State, Bureau of Indian Affairs, North Slope Borough), and conducting oral history investigations.

**Photos:**

“Mills NPRA survey 2016-1”. Survey of coastal sites along the National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska. Student Conservation Association archaeology intern Sarah Polachek recording the ruins of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century winter sod house. 49-HAR-00030.

“Mills NPRA survey 2016-2”. Survey of coastal sites along the National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska. Location of where a winter sod house once was located, now eroded away. 49-HAR-00029.

“Mills NPRA survey 2016-3”. Survey of coastal sites along the National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska. Student Conservation Association archaeology intern Sarah Polachek assessing the remains of a late-19<sup>th</sup> century Nantucket style whaling boat. 49-HAR-00046.

“Mills NPRA survey 2016-4”. Survey of coastal sites along the National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska. Central Yukon archaeologist Bill Hedman inside the foundation of a large bermed domestic dwelling. 49-HAR-00027.

“Mills NPRA survey 2016-5”. Survey of coastal sites along the National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska. Location of where a human settlement once was located, now eroded away. 49-HAR-00026.

“Mills NPRA survey 2016-6”. Survey of coastal sites along the National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska. Location of an eroding and seriously deflating prehistoric site. 49-HAR-00002.

“Mills NPRA survey 2016-7”. Survey of coastal sites along the National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska. Portion of an historic reindeer corral. 49-HAR-00007.

“Mills NPRA survey 2016-8”. Survey of coastal sites along the National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska. A large bermed building (foreground) partially eroded away, with an intact log and plank domestic dwelling only meters from the erosion edge (background). 49-*TES*-00028.

“Mills NPRA survey 2016-9”. Survey of coastal sites along the National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska. An intact log and plank domestic dwelling only meters from the erosion edge. 49-*TES*-00028.

Resource protection project:

### **MIDDLE FORK FORTY MILE RIVER ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEST EXCAVATIONS**

Eastern Interior Field Office Archaeologist, Robin Mills, organized helicopter-based, test excavations at four prehistoric sites along the Middle Fork of the Fortymile River in eastern-central Alaska. Proactive archaeological survey along the Middle Fork in 2015, drawing together an initial helicopter survey of potential locales followed up by a 5-person raft trip, discovered 9 prehistoric sites. The most promising of these, those with cultural surface depressions and/or buried deposits, were chosen for investigation in 2016. The 2016 excavations confirmed the presence of at least one house pit depression at two of the sites, caribou bone-filled cache pits at one, a hearth at one, and extensive buried artifacts at all. Little to nothing is known about the prehistory in the Fortymile River drainage owing to a paucity of previous investigations in the area.

#### **Photos:**

“Mills 40mile excavations 2016-1”. Test excavations at four prehistoric sites along the Middle Fork of the Fortymile River. Aerial view of 49-EAG-00863, a site with one prehistoric dugout building and at least three storage cache pits.

“Mills 40mile excavations 2016-2”. Test excavations at four prehistoric sites along the Middle Fork of the Fortymile River. Steve Lanford (BLM seasonal archaeology technician) screening fill deposits from a prehistoric dugout house feature at 49-EAG-00863.

“Mills 40mile excavations 2016-3”. Test excavations at four prehistoric sites along the Middle Fork of the Fortymile River. BLM volunteers Sam Coffman and Holly Smith (University of Alaska Museum of the North) profiling the side wall of an archaeological test trench through a prehistoric dugout house feature at 49-EAG-00863.

“Mills 40mile excavations 2016-4”. Test excavations at four prehistoric sites along the Middle Fork of the Fortymile River. Steve Lanford (BLM seasonal archaeology technician) enjoying a break during excavations at a high prehistoric overlook site, 49-EAG-00866, overlooking the Middle Fork.

“Mills 40mile excavations 2016-5”. Test excavations at four prehistoric sites along the Middle Fork of the Fortymile River. Student Conservation Association archaeology intern Sarah Polachek excavating a test pit at a newly discovered prehistoric site high on a bank overlooking the Middle Fork Fortymile River. Several promising localities near to tested site 49-EAG-00865 were evaluated.

Museum Collections Management:

#### **UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA MUSEUM OF THE NORTH, ARCHAEOLOGY & EARTH SCIENCES DEPARTMENTS' BLM COLLECTIONS**

Eastern Interior FO Archaeologist, Robin Mills, continued to manage assistance agreements with the University of Alaska Fairbanks, regarding existing BLM-owned artifacts and fossils at the University of Alaska Museum (UAM). The UAM Earth Sciences Department (which curates BLM's paleontological collections) received no additional funds from the BLM cultural program in FY2016 – they have enough existing funds from prior years to continue upgrading, cataloging, and properly curating existing legacy collections of fossils for the time being. In addition, the Archaeology Department at UAM received \$81,000 in FY16 from two BLM funding sources, the Challenge Cost Share program and the Washington Office for help with returning BLM collections at the Peabody Museum at Harvard to Alaska. 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 250,000 artifacts present in these collections. UAM Earth Sciences has the largest collection of fossils in Alaska, with the biggest including Cretaceous dinosaurs and 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 more than 19,000 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 about 15 years ago and has continued annually since that time with varying levels of funding. UAM full-time staff hires, trains, and supervises students to perform this work. The following are statistics on the work accomplished during last year, from the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of FY15 to the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of FY16: Archaeology: 20,515 artifacts in 233 separate

accessioned collections were catalogued and brought up to modern curatorial standards. Paleontology: 6,609 fossils in 76 separate accessioned collections were re-housed, catalogued, and entered into the online UAM Earth Sciences.

**Photos:**

“Mills Museum Collections 2016-1”. Boxes of legacy paleontological material awaiting processing. Most such specimens have been entered into the museum’s Arctos database but have not been photographed, rehoused, or entered in the barcode tracking system.

“Mills Museum Collections 2016-2”. Legacy paleontological material that have undergone processing and brought up to modern archival standards. The barcodes on the specimen cards and drawers are scanned into the tracking system so specimens can be easily located in the collection.

“Mills Museum Collections 2016-3”. Legacy paleontological dinosaur materials undergoing conservation. Curatorial assistants Eliza Rorabaugh and Heather MacFarlane.

“Mills Museum Collections 2016-4”. Legacy paleontological dinosaur long bones in opened plaster jackets awaiting conservation and stabilization.

“Mills Museum Collections 2016-5”. Boxes of legacy archaeological material awaiting processing after fumigation into the museum, and prior to rehousing.

“Mills Museum Collections 2016-6”. Boxes of legacy archaeological material awaiting prior to rehousing.

“Mills Museum Collections 2016-7”. Boxes of legacy archaeological material following rehousing to modern curatorial standards.

Outreach and Education Activities Project:

**FAIRBANKS OUTDOOR WEEK**

The Fairbanks District Office continued its cultural outreach efforts in Fairbanks. In cooperation with National Park Service and University of Alaska Museum of the North archaeologists, Eastern Interior Field Office Archaeologist, Robin Mills, organized and ran an archaeology excavation education station at Outdoor Days. This program, jointly run by US Fish & Wildlife Service, BLM, and private partners since the early 1990s, provides three days of outside activities for 6th graders in the spring. Groups of students and chaperones traverse along one of three trails spread across a wooden landscape at the University of Alaska Fairbanks (Blue, Red, Green), and spend ½ hour each at 6 stations along their trail, before moving on to the next one. Stations include archaeology, gold panning, fisheries, Leave No Trace, ecology, aquatics, forestry, and, when the weather is good, Alaska fire Service smokejumpers jump from airplanes and land among the students and lecture on what they do. The archaeology station provides a brief lecture (5 minutes) on what archaeology is, and then the students undertake mock excavations in two 5’x5’

sandboxes with real, surplused artifacts and faunal remains buried in the sand. Groups usually contain about 16 students each, resulting in about 288 students reached during the three days of Outdoor Days.

Resource protection project:

### **2016 GLENNALLEN FIELD OFFICE PROACTIVE SURVEYS**

The Glennallen Field Office, led by BLM Archaeologist, John Jangala, conducted surveys in a largely unexamined portion of the Tangle Lakes Archaeological District (TLAD) and the Delta Wild and Scenic River. This area was covered by 1,500 acres of pedestrian survey, locating 20 newly located prehistoric sites and 5 previously located but poorly documented sites within the river corridor. This area is notable for having one of two known bedrock tool stone sources for Landmark Gap Argillite in the district. Although another material source is suspected in the area, no additional sources were discovered during this year's investigations. This project funded the hiring of a GS-07 Archaeology Technician and supported a Student Conservation Association archaeology intern, who both made the completion of this project possible.

#### **Photos:**

TLAD #1: SCA student Intern GPSes a TLAD site

TLAD #2: GFO Archaeology Crew Records a Lithic Scatter in the Delta WSR

Resource protection project:

### **NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT SECTION 106 COMPLIANCE**

The Glennallen Field Office, led by BLM Archaeologist, John Jangala, conducted archaeological investigations of abandoned mines remaining on BLM lands that may require some form of clean-up for hazardous substances. A total of five historic mining sites reported on public lands in various areas of the field office were inventoried this year in preparation for additional environmental analyses. These historic mining sites span from 1917 through the 1950s and include open shafts and adits, large mining and mill equipment, as well as fuel drums and tanks. One mine, in a heavily used recreation area near Palmer, Alaska, may include operations that utilized cyanide heap leaching in the 1940s and 1950s. This year's work mainly consisted of initial GPS-ing and recording of each site's features, but will likely require additional research, investigation, and coordination with the State of Alaska prior to the approval of any remedial action in the future.

#### **Photos:**

Mining #1: A circa 1917 mining adit with pump and generator in Hatcher Pass

Mining #2: Pre-WWII riveted oil barrels high on a mountainside mine near Valdez

Mining #3: An adit with an intact and full mining cart at the Minnie Mine near Valdez

Outreach and Education Activities Project:

## **ANCHORAGE FIELD OFFICE OUTDOOR WEEK OUTREACH AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

The Anchorage Field Office (AFO) continued its outreach efforts in Alaska's largest city through various activities for both youth and adults. The AFO Archaeologist, Jenny Blanchard, organized and ran an archaeology station for about 200 sixth grade students from the Anchorage School District about prehistoric hunting in Alaska during Outdoor Week in May 2016. 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. Archaeologists who volunteered their time for this event included BLM Alaska State Archaeologist, Robert King, National Park Service Archaeologist, Dael Devenport, Knik Tribe Archaeologist, Fran Seager-Boss, graduate student archaeologist, Joanna Wells, and CRM archaeologist, Morgan Blanchard.

### **Photos:**

May 13 2016 Anchorage Outdoor Week atlatl instruction 1: 6th graders throwing atlatl

May 13 2016 Anchorage Outdoor Week atlatl instruction 2: 6th graders throwing atlatl

May 13 2016 Anchorage Outdoor Week atlatl instruction 3: BLM archaeologist Jenny Blanchard instructing 6th graders about throwing atlatl

Resource Protection Project & Associated Outreach and Education Activities:

## **TERRA KOTZEBUE MITIGATION AND EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH**

For the Anchorage District Office, some of the best education and outreach successes this year were the result of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) developed under Section 106 to protect prehistoric remains in deposits at Kotzebue, Alaska. The BLM was the federal lead agency for the multi-year TERRA Kotzebue project, involving building broadband repeaters in several locations in western Alaska including on BLM land. In late 2013, there was an inadvertent discovery of a significant prehistoric site while trenching for a fiber-optic cable on a privately-owned parcel of land at Kotzebue in western Alaska. An MOA was developed among GCI (the proponent), the BLM, the SHPO, and KIC (the landowner and an Alaska Native Corporation), to mitigate the adverse effects to the prehistoric site. Several excellent educational products came out of this MOA, including a website detailing the discovery:

<http://www.kotzebueartifacts.info/#intro>

The website includes information about prehistoric Kotzebue, and about the site and artifacts found. It also includes photos and a video of the classroom presentation and public open house conducted by the project proponent and a CRM archaeologist. The site also has a link to a 2/2/2016 article written about the discovery in the local newspaper, *The Arctic Sounder*, which was reprinted in the statewide Alaska Dispatch News, Alaska's largest newspaper.

**Photo:**

Kotz classroom presentation: January 2016, students from Kotzebue Middle/High School examine artifacts found during trenching activities in Kotzebue Alaska. (Photo courtesy of GCI.)

Paleontology Project:

**DINOSAURS ON ALASKA’S NORTH SLOPE PAMPHLET & WEBSITE UPDATES**

In March 2016, the BLM State Archaeologist, Robert King, made a further update to the popular “Dinosaurs on Alaska’s North Slope” publication that has expanded in recent years to include other information on prehistoric life in Alaska. It was also placed on the Alaska BLM website.

**Photo link:**

<http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/cultural/paleontology/dinosaurs.html>

**Part II: Other Accomplishments (organized by 13 topics, as requested):**

• **National Programmatic Agreement implementation and State Protocol Revision**

- ✓ The State Office Archaeologist, Robert King, in February 2016, taught sections on the National Programmatic Agreement and State Protocols as well as on Proactive work at the 6<sup>th</sup> offering of the 8100-01 class at the National Training Center (NTC): “Fundamentals of the Cultural Heritage Program.”
- ✓ Bill Hedman, former Central Yukon Field Office Archaeologist, who entered a management position in the same office in early 2016, also participated in the same February 2016 training session at the NTC. It was on behalf of the WO-200 Cultural Resources Data Partnership and Bill’s continuing role as leading the national Data-Sharing Program for WO-240. Bill’s presentation focused on the need for increased consistency and coordination across BLM in the tools and methods BLM uses to create, manage, and share cultural resources data within the BLM and with our partners. A highlight of the discussion was the introduction of a mobile application for use with iPads and other inexpensive mobile devices to collect and monitor site and survey data in the field. This application provides seamless, real-time connectivity between the field and internal BLM data systems.
- ✓ The State Office Archaeologist in May and June of 2016 gave two training sessions to three new managers on the 2012 National Programmatic Agreement for Section 106 compliance and the 2014 Alaska State Protocol with the Alaska SHPO. The training also included a PowerPoint overview of Alaska’s cultural resources and their management.



- ✓ The State Office Archaeologist provided an annual report to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) and Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on FY 2015 accomplishments related to fulfilling terms in the 2012 National PA. A similar report on FY 2016 accomplishments will be provided to the ACHP and SHPO prior to Sept. 30, 2016.
  - ✓ The Alaska State Office (ASO) transferred \$20,000 of Cultural Resources Data Sharing Partnership (CRDSP) money received from the Washington Office to the Alaska State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). ASO added an additional \$8,000 for Project Archaeology work under the same agreement beginning development of a Project Archaeology Shelter Module for an Ahtna Indian traditional house. (Note: The CRDSP money is to assist in an ongoing partnership project between BLM and the State Office of History and Archaeology, with the funds used in developing, maintaining, and enhancing the statewide archaeological sites database. The money also may in part support a Youth hire.)
- **National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Compliance**
    - ✓ Note: See Part 1 for our story of the TERRE Kotzebue project that was triggered by Section 106 compliance work.
    - ✓ Section 106 work was also done in support of numerous other programs, as usual, for their proposed undertakings.
- **Stabilization, rehabilitation, and other preservation activities**
    - ✓ The Eastern Interior Field Office continued its ongoing work maintaining five major historic buildings at Fort Egbert within the Eagle Historic District National Landmark at Eagle, Alaska. These structures were stabilized and rehabilitated using federal money from work that began decades ago.
- **Identification, recordation, and evaluation of heritage resources**
    - ✓ See earlier information on archaeological survey projects in Part I, including one related to climate change-connected erosion along the Arctic Coast that was done with money directed in the Annual Work Plan from WO-240.
    - ✓ Note: In FY 2016, BLM-Alaska did not have fulltime archaeological staffing for summer field work in two of its three field offices in northern Alaska, with the consequence of fewer projects being completed than originally hoped. The staffing problem hopefully will be solved in FY 2017.

- **Monitoring and site stewardship**

- ✓ The Glennallen Field Office, led by BLM Archaeologist, John Jangala, 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.
- ✓ In FY 2016, the BLM Glennallen Field Office and the National Park Service's (NPS) Sitka National Historic Park were working on an interagency agreement to transfer daily management of a 1960s-built replica of a Russian Blockhouse in Sitka, Alaska. The replica blockhouse was originally built by the NPS on BLM managed lands near the center of Sitka, with the original management of the structure given to BLM. Because of the area's remote location from any BLM Alaska offices, the Sitka National Historic Park's superintendent and the Sitka community requested that the BLM transfer management of the structure to the local NPS unit. It is thought that local NPS management will serve this structure better for monitoring and site stewardship actions.

- **Research, field schools, and data recovery projects**

- ✓ Research was a focus of the Climate change-related Arctic Coastal survey project featured in Part I that was done under money provided in the FY2016 Annual Work Plan.
- ✓ BLM issued a paleontological research permit for two scientists studying Pleistocene remains on Alaska's North Slope.

- **Notable planning accomplishments for heritage resources**

- ✓ In FY 2016, the Anchorage Field Office Archaeologist, Jenny Blanchard, participated in land use planning efforts for the Bering Sea/Western Interior (BSWI) Resource Management Plan (RMP). It is anticipated that work on this RMP will continue into 2018. This plan provides the opportunity to proactively manage several important cultural resources for the future, including the Iditarod National Historic Trail, and several potential Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) with cultural values.
- ✓ The State Office Archaeologist, with help from the Alaska Museum of the North, and the Fairbanks BLM offices, developed an annual progress report in March 2016 for a prior-developed 2007 Accountability Plan for site records and excavated artifacts developed after ratification of a 2005 Programmatic Agreement (PA) that BLM-Alaska wrote 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 (TAPS). The 2007 Accountability Plan that came from it was reported as completed in 2015, although a related effort was added to find funding for a final report of all the archaeological work done in the 1970s when the TAPS pipeline was being built. Another related effort has been to rehouse even more legacy archaeological collections related to the TAPS beyond just those excavated in the 1970s.

- **Tribal consultation and coordination**

- ✓ The Glennallen Field Office conducted consultation efforts with the Chilkat and Chilkoot tribes for a controversial mining plan of operation near the community of Haines. Issues developed centered around the potential effects of the project to the local salmon fishery as well as environmental justice for local native communities.
- ✓ The Glennallen Field Office (GFO) also consulted with the Chilkoot and Chilkat tribes when concerns were raised about a BLM hazmat clean-up of an old shooting range and road construction camp in southeastern Alaska near Haines. The concern was that the clean-up might adversely affect undiscovered remains of a historic hooligan fish camp on the Chilkat River, which had previously been determined ineligible for the National Register for lack of intact archaeological deposits. Because of the tribe's concerns, the GFO Archaeologist travelled to the site and monitored the clean-up excavations. These monitored excavations showed that the site had been heavily disturbed in the recent past and no undiscovered portions of the hooligan camp site were located. Subsequent consultation with the affected tribes resolved the concerns and no additional concerns have been raised.
- ✓ Other notable Native American consultation efforts in FY 2016 involved the multi-year Red Devil Mine Cleanup effort and the Bering Sea/Western Interior Resource Management Plan (RMP).
- ✓ BLM-Alaska is reporting 1,847 instances of Native American coordination and consultation on the statistics table portion of this report (Attachment 1), with the majority of those actions due to our lands program, including survey work, which fulfills various entitlement mandates for Alaska Natives such as land transfers under the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

- **Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. (NAGPRA) activities**

- ✓ In November, 2015, the Fairbanks District BLM Office published in a local paper a Notice of Intended Disposition for Alaska Native human remains found at a site

along the Steese Highway in August 2011. Six tribal groups had been contacted with agreement reached on the appropriate final disposition.

- ✓ Much of Alaska's NAGPRA work done in FY 2016 involving legacy collections focused on trying to retrieve BLM-owned collections with known NAGPRA materials in them from the Peabody Museum at Harvard University. These collections have not been returned to BLM-Alaska despite many years of requests and discussion. It was hoped in FY 2016 that a detailed report dated 7/31/2015, which was prepared jointly by WO-240 and BLM-Alaska (after WO-240 staff met in Cambridge with Peabody officials) and supplied to the Peabody Museum, would lead to resolution of this problem in FY 2016. Thus, it was planned that FY 2016 would see the completion of an inventory of the BLM collections at the Peabody Museum when returned to Alaska, plus the completion of one or more NAGPRA Notices of Inventory Completion for certain items in those collection. Unfortunately, that turned out impossible to accomplish. Despite what seemed to be promising initial cooperation by the Peabody Museum, its Director refused to turn over the long-requested collections, and instead wrote to the Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell for guidance in March 2016. Much effort was expended during the remainder of FY 2016 to work with her office to obtain a reply, but that effort was still inconclusive on 7/31/2016, although progress may yet be made before the end of FY 2016. Note: WO-240 has been of great help in this effort for many years, including providing special money in July of 2016 for the eventual transfer of the Peabody collections to the University of Alaska Museum of the North. That will be very helpful once the collections are finally returned to BLM-Alaska control.

- **Paleontological resources management**

- ✓ See earlier information in Part I on the update of the BLM-Alaska pamphlet "Dinosaurs on Alaska's North Slope," which was also put on the BLM Alaska website at: <http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/cultural/paleontology.html>
- ✓ BLM issued a paleontological research permit for two scientists studying Pleistocene remains on Alaska's North Slope.
- ✓ On July 6, 2016, BLM obtained an updated DM411 short checklist for paleontological collections at the Perot Museum of Nature and Science in Dallas, Texas (see Attachment 8).

- **Museum collections management**

- ✓ See Museums Collection Management information in Part I.

- ✓ On July 7, 2016, BLM obtained an updated DM411 short checklist for collections at the University of Alaska Museum of the North in Fairbanks, Alaska (see Attachment 9).
  - ✓ Although work was completed in FY 2015 by the University of Alaska Museum of the North to comply with terms of the 2007 BLM-developed Accountability Plan for Trans-Alaska Pipeline Legacy Collections from the 1970s, further work continued on other related collections in FY 2016 resulting in the upgrading and rehousing of more legacy BLM collections.
- **Enforcement of heritage protection authorities (e.g., Section 6 of Archaeological Resources Protection Act and Section 3606 of the Paleontological Resources Protection Act) and related activities**
    - ✓ The Glennallen Field Office continued proactive protection/enforcement work by ranger patrols within the Tangle Lakes Archaeological District. This work is reflected in statistics provided in Attachment 1.
- **Heritage Education, Interpretation, Outreach, and Tourism**
    - ✓ The Glennallen Field Office Archaeologist, John Jangala, participated in Earth Discovery Day in conjunction with the Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment, as well as the National Park Service to introduce archaeology to 4th grade students through an atlatl and dart curriculum.
    - ✓ The Glennallen Field Office archaeology staff gave a presentation to local youth through Prince William Sound Community College's youth career fair.
    - ✓ Anchorage Field Office outreach activities, led by BLM Archaeologist, Jenny Blanchard, included four evening lectures at the Campbell Creek Science Center in Anchorage, and two presentations at the annual Iditarod Trail in Every Classroom (iTREC) teacher training.
    - ✓ Of note, Bill Hedman, former Central Yukon field Office Archaeologist and presently a manager for that office, is the current President of the Alaska Anthropological Association (AkAA). This adds to the tradition of BLM archaeologists in Alaska being heavily involved in the professional community. As President of the AkAA, Bill attended its annual meeting in Sitka, Alaska in March 2016. There, he participated in the annual meeting of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) Advisory Board, a body initiated by the BLM in 2010 to enhance professional collaboration on the creation, management, and sharing of cultural resources data within the state of Alaska. The meeting included a presentation by Bill on the current functionality of the BLM Archaeology Web GIS and use of state supplied data. This presentation also included an overview

of data management and data sharing systems and protocols across the western BLM states with an emphasis on the emergence of web-served data and development of mobile applications and hardware.

- ✓ The Alaska State Office (ASO) Archaeologist, Robert King, on Oct. 17, 2015 gave an invited PowerPoint talk on early dog mushers of Alaska (involving BLM land) as the keynote speaker at the Knik Historical Society Annual Meeting and Dinner.
- ✓ The ASO Archaeologist gave a talk on a claimed early Alaska Native expert (involving BLM land) at the Alaska Anthropological Association Annual Meeting on March 3, 2016 in Sitka, Alaska.
- ✓ The ASO Archaeologist gave two invited PowerPoint talks at the Lands Records and Genealogy Conference at Beatrice, Nebraska on July 15-16, 2016. This was sponsored and paid for by the Southeast Community College at Beatrice and the Homestead National Monument of America. King also prepared an exhibit of early types of land records for loan through the fall of 2016 to the Monument museum.
- ✓ The ASO Archaeologist later provided information on homestead history for use by the Homestead Monument in its August newsletter.

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.

#### 13 Attachments

- 1 – Annual Report Questionnaire (6 pp.)
- 2 – Projects & Partnerships (1 p.)
- 3 – Historic Structure Listing (1 p.)
- 4 – Loot forms (1 p.)
- 5 – Museum Collection forms (2 pp.)
- 6 – NAGPRA Repatriations (3 pp.)
- 7 – Photo CD
- 8 – DM 411 Short Checklist dated 7/6/ 2016 for Perot Museum
- 9 – DM 411 Short Checklist dated 7/7/ 2016 for U of AK Museum of the North
- 10 – New BLM Collections at U of AK Mu of North from Alutiiq Mu 6/30/ 2016
- 11 – U of AK Mu of North Repository Receipt dated 12/8/ 2015 for collection of 5 bones specimens under paleo permit AA-93310
- 12 – U of AK Mu of North Repository Receipt dated 4 Dec 2015 for collection of 85 bones specimens under paleo permit AA-094014
- 13 – U of AK Museum of North Arch & Paleo collection update details - 25 Aug 2016 from Robin Mills

cc w/attachments #1-7:

Ms. Judith E. Bittner  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
State of Alaska, Office of History and Archaeology  
550 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Suite 1310  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565

Mr. Reid Nelson, Director  
Att: Ms. Nancy Brown  
Office of Federal Agency Programs  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
401 F Street NW, Suite 308  
Washington, DC 20001-2637

cc w/attachments #1-6 only:

AKA01 Alan Bittner  
AKA01 Jenny Blanchard  
AKA02 Dennis Teitzel  
AKA02 John Jangala  
AKA00 Mark Spencer  
AKF00 Geoff Beyersdorf  
AKF01 Stacie McIntosh  
AKF02 Lenore Heppler  
AKF03 Tim LaMarr  
AKF02 Robin Mills  
AKF03 Bill Hedman