



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 2017 Cultural Resources Management Program Annual Report

This is in response to the draft Washington Office Information Memorandum No. 2016-xxx, dated July 6, 2017, 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, 2016 to July 31, 2017, thus remaining consistent with prior reporting.

Part I: Major FY 2017 Accomplishments associated with the management of cultural and paleontological resources, including the associated collections and data, and tribal consultation:

Cultural Resources proactive survey project:

2017 GLENNALLEN FIELD OFFICE PROACTIVE SURVEY PROJECT IN SEGMENT OF TAHINI AND CHILKAT RIVERS REGION

The Glennallen Field Office conducted aerial and ground surveys of a short section of the Tahini and Chilkat Rivers near Haines, Alaska. A limited survey of the Tahini River in the late 1980's had located a rare rock shelter with Tlingit pictographs. Because of this known, culturally significant site in the area, the project engaged members of the Chilkat Indian Village in its planning through consultation. Ultimately, our surveys on these short segments of river, which

were accessed by helicopter and jet boat, located three rock shelters, two of which contained fading red paintings.

Data from the project and additional consultation with local tribes will help guide BLM planning efforts in the next two years in determining if the area warrants ACEC status for both its cultural and wildlife values. This project funded the complex logistics required for accessing this extremely remote area as well as work months for a GS-07 Archaeology Tech. It also supported a Student Conservation Association archaeology intern in the field. Together, the crew of permanent and seasonal staff made the safe completion of the first phase of this project possible. Since this project covered only a small portion of the BLM managed Chilkat and Tahini Rivers, future surveys along these rivers is likely to yield significant archaeological resources, which are also important to the history of the area's tribes.

Photos:

“01_GFO”: GFO Crew recording a Tahini River rock shelter with faded red rock art

“02_GFO”: GFO Crew documenting Chilkat River rock shelter with stone tools and soot stains

“03_GFO”: Tahini Rock Shelter pictograph, detail view

Proactive resource protection project including surveys and monitoring:

FORTYMILE DRAINAGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYS & MONITORING- 2017

The Eastern Interior Field Office Archaeologist, Robin Mills, organized one proactive, cultural resources surveys this year along the Fortymile River drainage, utilizing helicopters and river rafts. The other crewmembers included BLM Arctic DO archaeologist Joe Keeney, BLM seasonal archaeology technician Steve Lanford, and BLM volunteer and employee of the University of Alaska Museum of the North Sam Coffman. The BLM manages 1- 2 million acres of land throughout the Fortymile River drainage, including the Fortymile Wild & Scenic River corridor, and yet limited archaeological surveys have occurred in these areas. The surveys in the Fortymile in 2017 occurred along the North Fork and main stem of the Fortymile River, all in the Fortymile WSR system. The Fortymile projects used, in part, helicopters gain access to remote settings.

In addition to 115 acres surveyed and 10 known sites monitored, 13 new sites were discovered, including 12 prehistoric sites and one new paleontological locality. In addition, testing at 49-EAG-00154 (Walker Fork 2 site) was undertaken, a site that was last investigated through block excavation in 1983. The object of the testing was to obtain a charcoal sample for dating this significant, though undated prehistoric site. In this regard, we were successful in obtaining carbon samples for dating.

Photos:

“Mills 40mile surveys 2017-1”: Archaeological float trip survey in the Fortymile Wild & Scenic River corridor. Monitoring of a rare, prehistoric *inuksuk*, i.e., a caribou driveline cairn.

“Mills 40mile surveys 2017-2”: Archaeological float trip survey in the Fortymile Wild & Scenic River corridor. Portion of the North Fork Fortymile Wild River; note in the background one of the two survey rafts involved.

“Mills 40mile surveys 2017-3”: Archaeological float trip survey in the Fortymile Wild & Scenic River corridor. BLM archaeologist Joe Keeney excavating a test pit at a promising prehistoric lookout locality, on a bluff overlooking the North Fork Fortymile River.

“Mills 40mile surveys 2017-4”: 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 prehistoric lookout site overlooking the North Fork Fortymile drainage.
“Mills 40mile surveys 2017-5”: Archaeological float trip survey in the Fortymile Wild & Scenic River corridor. BLM volunteer Sam Coffman (University of Alaska Museum of the North, Fairbanks) recording a test unit at the Walker Fork 2 prehistoric site (49-EAG-00154).

Cultural Resources proactive survey & monitoring project:

MIDDLE FORK KOYUKUK RIVER – SURVEY & MONITORING - 2017

In June, Central Yukon Field Office archaeologist Crystal Glassburn, along with Eastern Interior FO archaeologist Robin Mills, Arctic DO archaeologist Joe Keeney, seasonal archaeologist Steve Landford, and volunteer Eric Neumeyer, floated the Middle Fork Koyukuk River between Wiseman and Chapman, which is located in the Dalton Highway corridor. Proactive work in the Central Yukon FO in 2017 focused on the Dalton Highway corridor owing to the relatively high impacts through infrastructure development, mining, hunting, tourism, and recreation found in this area. The float covered a distance of approximately 40 miles. Along the way, the group pedestrian surveyed drainages along the west side of the river that were known to have mining activity during the Koyukuk Gold Rush, but had never been inventoried before. These drainages included Moose Creek, Emma Creek, Kelly Gulch, Porcupine Creek, and Mailbox Creek. Approximately 600 acres of BLM land were surveyed during this trip, 10 new sites were recorded, and four sites were monitored.

Photos:

- “Middle Fork Koyukuk River Survey 2017-1”: view north of seasonal archaeologist Steve Lanford and volunteer Eric Neumeyer floating the Middle Fork Koyukuk River near Wiseman.
“Middle Fork Koyukuk River Survey 2017-2”: Arctic DO archaeologist Joe Keeney, seasonal archaeologist Steve Landford, and volunteer Eric Neumeyer crossing Emma Creek during pedestrian survey.
“Middle Fork Koyukuk River Survey 2017-3”: Eastern Interior FO archaeologist Robin Mills and volunteer Eric Neumeyer recording historic mining equipment at new site, 49-WIS-00448, during pedestrian survey of Kelly Gulch.
“Middle Fork Koyukuk River Survey 2017-4”: historic cabin, housing an intact and complete steam boiler that dates to the early 20th Century, at known site 49-WIS-00292. The cabin shows significant deterioration since the last visit in 2012.

Cultural Resources proactive monitoring & excavation project:

GALBRAITH AND TOOLIK LAKES – MONITORING & EXCAVATION - 2017

In July, Central Yukon Field Office archaeologist Crystal Glassburn, along with BLM volunteer Briana Doering, excavated for four days at a prehistoric site (49-PSM-00067) in the Atigun River valley that is actively eroding into a lake. Previously, little was known about the site. However, over 300 artifacts were excavated this year, including lithic, bone, and charcoal samples, and a bone processing area was identified. A hearth was also uncovered which dates to 1642-1805 cal AD (2-sigma, Beta-471545); work is ongoing with Dr. Buonasera at the University of Arizona on

compound-specific stable isotope analysis to identify the lipids in two soil samples from the bone processing area. Additionally, Crystal and Briana monitored a total of 10 known sites near Galbraith and Toolik Lakes which have heavy recreation and research impact, and recorded seven new sites. Approximately 400 acres were also surveyed.

Photos:

“Galbraith & Toolik Lakes Excavation and Survey 2017-1”: view west of volunteer Briana Doering working at 49-PSM-00067. The site is located in close proximity to the Dalton Highway, which is located in the background.

“Galbraith & Toolik Lakes Excavation and Survey 2017-2”: view south of the excavation area at 49-PSM-00067, showing proximity to an erosional face along Mosquito Lake. The Trans-Alaska Pipeline is in the background.

“Galbraith & Toolik Lakes Excavation and Survey 2017-3”: volunteer Briana Doering holding up a chert scraper recovered at 49-PSM-00067.

“Galbraith & Toolik Lakes Excavation and Survey 2017-4”: Central Yukon FO archaeologist Crystal Glassburn taking notes at known site 49-PSM-00256, located along an active erosional face near Galbraith Lake.

“Galbraith & Toolik Lakes Excavation and Survey 2017-5”: view north of Central Yukon FO archaeologist Crystal Glassburn recording a tent ring at new site, 49-PSM-00619, near Toolik Lake.

Cultural Resources proactive mitigation project:

**NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE – ALASKA, COASTAL EROSION
MITIGATIVE EXCAVATIONS**

Arctic DO archaeologist Joe Keeney, Eastern Interior FO archaeologist Robin Mills, Central Yukon FO archaeologist Crystal Glassburn, BLM Fairbanks DO seasonal archaeologist Steve Lanford, and Eastern Interior FO realty specialist Kevan Cooper conducted excavations in the summer of 2017 at three known archaeological sites along the north coast of Alaska, inside the boundaries of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, managed by BLM’s Arctic DO. Erosion has dramatically affected areas along Alaska’s northern coastline over the past century, which has had unknown but potentially disastrous effects upon the coastal cultural resources. Following survey and assessments of sites along the Beaufort Sea coast in 2016 and successful consultations with Alaskan Native tribes on the North Slope, the 2017 crew returned in 2017 to three of the most threatened sites to record information about the sites before they erode into the ocean and are lost forever.

Two sites are located on BLM-managed lands: the remains of a sod house occupied in the early 20th Century that belonging to Horace Ahsogeak (49-HAR-000018), and an historic reindeer corral that operated during the early 20th Century (49-HAR-000014). The third site, which is located on an Alaska Native allotment owned by Lillian Nageak of Utqiagvik, AK (formerly Barrow), contains the remains of several structures, including the well-preserved and partially-standing structure of the sod house Ms. Nageak lived in up until the early 1940s (49-TES-000028). The crews were accompanied and assisted by Charlotte Ahsogeak of Utqiagvik with excavating the remains of her stepfather’s sod house, and Kunneak (Tommy) Nageak, also of Utqiagvik, with excavations and detailed recordings at the site of his mother’s sod house. Work is planned to continue at other threatened sites in 2018, and include continued cooperation with Iñupiat tribes

and living descendants to preserve site materials and information before they are lost to continued erosion.

Photos:

“NPRA excavations 2017-1”: 2017 Archaeological field crew with Charlotte Ahsogeak (living descendant of Horace Ahsogeak) along the Beaufort Sea of the Arctic Ocean. Left to right: Steve Lanford, Charlotte Ahsogeak (foreground), Joe Keeney, Robin Mills, Crystal Glassburn, Kevan Cooper.

“NPRA excavations 2017-2”: Crew excavating the remains of the sod house once occupied by Horace Ahsogeak at 49-HAR-000018. Note the close proximity of the erosional face to the house feature.

“NPRA excavations 2017-3”: Charlotte Ahsogeak and Robin Mills discussing the site of her stepfather’s sod house at 49-HAR-000018.

“NPRA excavations 2017-4”: Example of remains from the early 20th Century reindeer corral at 49-HAR-000014.

“NPRA excavations 2017-5”: Caribou around the archaeology helicopter near a site.

“NPRA excavations 2017-6”: Well-preserved remains of the sod house at 49-TES-000028 in which Lillian Nageak lived as a child until around 1945. Note the frame of the porch and the opening for the front door to the house in the foreground, and that part of the roof is still intact.

“NPRA excavations 2017-7”: Excavated feature at 49-TES-000028. Originally thought to be the remains of another house on the site, this feature was determined to be a storage structure based on the presence of an internal ice cellar (seen in the center) and the recovery of tools and hunting, trapping, and fishing equipment, but no household artifacts. This was confirmed by Lillian Nageak to have been a storage building used by the family of Morgan Sakageak.

“NPRA excavations 2017-8”: Robin Mills prepares to get back to work on excavations at the storage structure at 49-TES-000028.

“NPRA excavations 2017-9”: Kunneak Nageak and Joe Keeney discussing the site in front of his mother’s sod house at 49-TES-000028.

Museum Collections Management:

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA MUSEUM OF THE NORTH, ARCHAEOLOGY & EARTH SCIENCES DEPARTMENTS’ BLM COLLECTIONS

Eastern Interior FO archaeologist Robin Mills continues to manage assistance agreements with the University of Alaska Fairbanks, regarding existing BLM-owned artifacts and fossils at the University of Alaska Museum. The UAM Earth Sciences Department (which curates BLM’s paleontological collections) received \$15,000 additional funds from the BLM cultural program in FY2017 in order to develop a technical report evaluating the geological units in Alaska for their Potential Fossil Yield Potential (PFYC). Unfortunately, the Archaeology Department at UAM did not receive any additional funding in FY1; however, work continues to be performed on existing BLM collections due to funds provided in previous fiscal years.

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, 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 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 rehousing 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.

Work accomplished during last year, from the end of the 3rd quarter of FY16 to the end of the 3rd quarter of FY17: Archaeology: 10,781 artifacts in 162 separate accessioned collections were catalogued and brought up to modern curatorial standards. Paleontology: none- all “legacy” collection fossils in the museum that can be re-housed, catalogued, and entered into the online UAM Earth Sciences have been, by the end of FY16.

Photos:

“Mills Museum Collections 2017-1”: Boxes of legacy archaeological material awaiting processing after fumigation into the museum, and prior to rehousing.

“Mills Museum Collections 2017-2”: Boxes of prehistoric fauna after processing and rehousing.

“Mills Museum Collections 2017-3”: Inside of a box of prehistoric pottery after rehousing.

Individual pieces of pottery were previously wrapped in acidic tissue paper and stored inside acidic brown paper bags.

Outreach and Education Activities Project:

ANCHORAGE OUTDOOR WEEK ON BLM’S CAMPBELL TRACT

The Anchorage Field Office 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 400 sixth grade students from the Anchorage School District about prehistoric hunting in Alaska during Outdoor Week in May 2017. Children and teachers learned how to throw darts using atlatls at this joint effort between the BLM’s Campbell Creek Science Center and the Anchorage School District. Archaeologists who volunteered their time for this event include BLM AK State Archaeologist Robert King, NPS Archaeologist Dael Devenport, Knik Tribe Archaeologist Fran Seager-Boss, USAF Archaeologist Karlene Leeper, and Cultural Alaska Archaeologist Monty Rogers.

Photos:

“AFO Outdoor Week May 2017”: USAF Archaeologist Karlene Leeper helps a student from the Anchorage School District throw a spear at a seal target using an atlatl.

“AFO Outdoor Week May 2017a”: AFO BLM Archaeologist Jenny Blanchard teaches a student from the Anchorage School District throw a spear using an atlatl.

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, BLM Fairbanks District Office and Arctic District Office archaeologists 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, surplus 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.

Proactive Iditarod National Historic Trail Work:

IDITAROD NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL SECTION 110 WORK

The BLM Anchorage Field Office (AFO) administers the Iditarod National Historic Trail (INHT), the only winter trail in the NHT system, and the only NHT in Alaska. The AFO supported Section 110 work along the INHT this year in a number of ways. We have continued our work supporting the State of Alaska, the majority landowner of the INHT, and the Alaska SHPO in their work on a Multiple Property Nomination for the INHT and its associated resources.

The AFO Archaeologist also hired a Student Conservation Association intern in 2017 to work on Section 110 work for the INHT. Carrie Cecil is a graduate student in historical archaeology at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. She is writing historic contexts for the two large segments of the INHT that the AFO manages, the Kaltag Portage and the Farewell Burn, and she is developing determinations of eligibility for the NRHP for the trail segments and for the historic Ten Mile Cabin site.

Photo: "AFO SCA Intern Ten Mile cabin Iditarod 2017": Student Conservation Association intern Carrie Cecil documents the Ten Mile Cabin site along the Iditarod National Historic Trail.

Outreach and Education Activities Project:

2017 NATIONAL BOY SCOUT JAMBOREE

During July 19-27, 2017, Scouts and Scouters attending the 2017 National Boy Scout Jamboree near Beckley, West Virginia, who visited the BLM tent along the Conservation Trail, were introduced to three different BLM fields in novel and fun ways: #1 archaeology and paleontology, #2 energy development, and #3 invasive plants. Robert King, the BLM's State Archaeologist from Alaska and a veteran of five earlier jamborees, designed and staffed the Archaeology and Paleontology station. King's area was centered around a key question that he wanted folks to be able to answer when they left: "What's the difference between archaeology and paleontology." With more than half of all who came by not knowing the difference, Scouts and Scouters were given a 2-4 minute interactive educational talk and saw displays to answer this question. The point was also to instill a better understanding of the relevance of both

archaeology and paleontology for understanding today's world, and the importance of protecting archaeological and paleontological sites.

To do this quickly, but in a meaningful yet entertaining way, King used an array of eye-catching artifacts and fossils. These ranged from replica prehistoric paleoindian stone tools from over 10,000 years ago, to 200-year-old ivory and bone prehistoric artifacts from Alaska, to an unusual fork, can, and can opener from over 100 years ago, to items as recent as 40-50-year-old Coke cans and bottles. It was emphasized that all are artifacts (human-made items) that were created by past people and reflect both their culture and technology worth knowing about and saving.

Then for paleontology, folks could handle fascinating replica 280-million-year old pre-dinosaur trackways from New Mexico, real 150-million-plus year-old dinosaur bones from Utah, and a 70-million-year-old stone slab with plant fossils from Alaska. The latter included both modern-like plants found in Alaska today and also extinct plants from a distant time when dinosaurs roamed far-off Alaska.

Many Scouts and Scouters took photos and asked questions. Others shared their experiences. Many also had fun proving what they had learned by playing a game to "show what you know." They sorted 24 picture cards that pertained to either archaeology or paleontology. And by doing that, they further learned more about the wide array of both archaeological and paleontological sites not only on BLM public lands but elsewhere around the world. Particularly gratifying were the Scouts who showed special interest and stayed on to ask questions, some even about pursuing a career in archaeology or paleontology. The exhibit also included information on where Scouts could learn more about archaeology, by earning the archaeology merit badge elsewhere at the jamboree. Also gratifying were the thanks and handshakes of many Scouts and their leaders who said they learned a lot.

Note: Robert King would like to thank Jeanne Moe, BLM Education specialist, for her suggestions for the educational exhibit, and Janet Lacey and Brianna Candelaria for their support, including Brianna's wonderful banner and four large signs with bulleted information about archaeology and paleontology. Finally, King would like to thank Doug Blankinship for key role in organizing the event and ensuring its success.

Photos:

“2017 BSA Jamboree 1” : Robert King at 2017 National Boy Scout Jamboree site entry

“2017 BSA Jamboree 2” : Some of the BLM staffing at the BLM tent along the Conservation Trail: left to right: Kenneth Keever, Scott Richardson, Gina Ramos, Kerry Jacobson, Louise Jacobson, Doug Blankinship, Robert King

“2017 BSA Jamboree 2a” : Some of the BLM staffing at the BLM tent along the Conservation Trail: left to right: Kenneth Keever, Doug Blankinship, Walker Willis, Jackson Willis, Dee Lloyd, Robert King

“2017 BSA Jamboree 3” : Robert King standing behind Archaeology & Paleontology learning station in the BLM tent along Conservation Trail

“2017 BSA Jamboree 3a” : Archaeology display at learning station in the BLM tent along Conservation Trail

“2017 BSA Jamboree 3b” : Paleontology display at learning station in the BLM tent along Conservation Trail

“2017 BSA Jamboree 4” : Scout playing the Archaeology & Paleontology learning game that was sorting cards to distinguish between those fields; in the BLM tent along Conservation Trail

“2017 BSA Jamboree 4a”: Scouts playing the Archaeology & Paleontology learning game that was sorting cards to distinguish between those fields; in the BLM tent along Conservation Trail

Part II: Other Accomplishments (organized by 13 topics):

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

- ✓ The State Office Archaeologist in February 2017 was a member of the BLM Education team working on the redesign of the BLM 8100-01 “Fundamentals of Managing of Cultural Heritage Program” in advance of this revised course being taught in Phoenix at the National Training Center in 2018
- ✓ The State Office Archaeologist provided a copy of last year’s FY 2016 annual report to the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). It detailed accomplishments completed between August 1, 2015 and July 31, 2016 related to fulfilling terms in the 2012 National PA for Section 106 compliance. This current report on FY 2017 accomplishments will be provided to the ACHP prior to Sept. 30, 2017.
- ✓ The Alaska State Office (ASO) transferred \$15,000 of Cultural Resources Data Sharing Partnership (CRDSP) money received from the Washington Office to the Alaska State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). (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 and maintaining the statewide archeological sites database. The money also may in part support a Youth hire and assist with SHPO travel to CRDSP meetings.)
- ✓ The Alaska State Data Share representative attended the annual CRDSP meeting in Vancouver, Washington along with Bill Hedman who served as the National CRDSP coordinator for WO-240.
- ✓ The Alaska State Archaeologist provided several training sessions to new field office archaeologists and managers on the 2012 National Programmatic Agreement for Section 106 compliance, and the 2014 Alaska State Protocol with the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer.

- **National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Compliance**

- ✓ The Glennallen Field Office conducted archaeological investigations of Valdez Creek Historic Mining District as part of NHPA Section 106 compliance for a mining exploration notice. Road improvements in the Lucky Gulch drainage were proposed as part of the notice, which could have affected two sites, the John Babel Cabin and the Lucky Gulch Sod House. In addition to surveys of the entire drainage, these two features were recorded and mapped in detail. Because these

two cabin features are two of four remaining sites from historic mining in the area, the BLM GFO is completing determinations of eligibility for the two sites in preparation for future mining in the area.

Photos:

“04_GFO- GFO”: crewmember creating a detailed drawing of the John Babel Cabin

“05_GFO- AFO”: seasonal assisting recording of a flume gate at the Lucky Gulch Sod House

- ✓ The Anchorage Field Office (AFO) had many complex section 106 compliance projects in FY2017. It continued implementation of the GCI TERRA Programmatic Agreement. The PA manages section 106 compliance for several years of construction that will bring broadband and cell service to rural Alaska, and compliance for several sites was completed this year.
- ✓ The AFO has also been providing critical section 106 expertise for the Donlin Mine project. The project involves an open pit mine, port facilities, and a 315-mile long natural gas pipeline. While the Army Corps of Engineers is the lead federal agency for the project, there is no Corps archaeologist in the regulatory division of the Alaska Region, so the AFO Archaeologist, with the help of a third party contractor, has been providing substantial support on the development of a PA for the Donlin project.
- ✓ The AFO cultural resource and mining compliance programs have also been working together to manage historic resources at the historic Platinum Mine. The Platinum Mine Historic District (XHI-00092) was surveyed and evaluated by a contractor, which resulted in a dramatic expansion of the district’s boundaries and a formal determination of eligibility under criteria A and B. The AFO is currently in the process of formally initiating the MOA development process with the SHPO and the mine operator.
- ✓ The AFO is working on two major construction projects on its Campbell Tract Facility (CTF) in Anchorage. The AFO completed a Section 106 survey and evaluation for the demolition of the Anchorage Field Office’s main office building on CTF. Because the building is historic, a Section 106 evaluation was needed. The building was documented by BLM temporary Archaeologist Erin Leifeld, and the Alaska SHPO concurred with her recommendation that ANC-4319 is not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. Demolition has begun on the building.
- ✓ The AFO is also working with the Alaska DOT and the FHWA to realign the intersection and entrance to the BLM Campbell Tract Facility to improve safety and expand the trailhead. While the NEPA work is not yet complete for the road realignment, the Section 106 is nearly complete; a survey has been completed of the proposed route, with no cultural resources found, and an archaeologist monitored the geotechnical drilling associated with the project.

- ✓ 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 2017 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, with that work reported as completed in the March 2015 meeting.
 - ✓ BLM issued 5 permits for archaeological work on BLM land related to Section 106 compliance for oil and gas or other development projects.
 - ✓ Note: See our statistics on the attached form that provide a summary of this Section 106 work, which was done in support of numerous other programs.
- **Identification, recordation, and evaluation of heritage resources**
 - ✓ In FY 2017, BLM-Alaska hired two new archaeologists, one each in the Central Yukon FO (vacant 1 year) and the Arctic District office (vacant 3 years). For the first time in 3 years, the cultural program in BLM-Alaska was fully staffed at the beginning on calendar year 2017. The three archaeologists working out of the Fairbanks office worked closely together this year on their field projects, to ensure consistency in management practices.
 - ✓ Note: See earlier information on archaeological survey projects in Part I.
- **Monitoring and site stewardship**
 - ✓ The BLM Glennallen Field Office monitored a trespass clean-up action for a historic cabin site at Jay Creek. This project required archaeology staff to fly out to the clean-up site by helicopter to ensure that historic elements of the site were not removed or burned. This was part of the removal of recent gold dredging and living debris on public lands.
 - ✓ The BLM GFO continued summer monitoring of two archaeological sites in the BLM's Paxson Lake Campground, in compliance with an MOU with the local ANCSA regional corporation, Ahtna Inc.

- ✓ The BLM GFO continued monitoring and re-signage of designated and non-designated Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) trails in the Tangle Lakes Archaeological District (TLAD). These signs help protect sites within TLAD from the large numbers of seasonal OHV users from Anchorage and Fairbanks that hunt the Nelchina Caribou herd.
- ✓ The BLM GFO monitored a native elder's gravesite on public lands, which the BLM constructed a rock cairn over in 2014 to protect the site from Off Highway Vehicles. These protection measures are being undertaken at the request of a local Federally Recognized Tribe. This mitigation has successfully been protecting the grave from OHVs since 2014.
- ✓ Note: See earlier information on monitoring projects in Part I.

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

- ✓ Research was a focus of the Climate change-related Arctic Coastal survey and mitigative excavation project featured in Part I. It was done under money provided in the FY2017 Annual Work Plan.
- ✓ BLM issued a paleontological research permit for two scientists studying Pleistocene remains on Alaska's North Slope.
- ✓ BLM permitted access to NPS personnel and academic researchers to conduct non-invasive, geomagnetic surveys in the Brooks Range foothills within the NPR-A.

- **Notable planning accomplishments for heritage resources**

- ✓ The Anchorage Field Office archaeologist continued participating in land use planning efforts during FY 2017 for the Bering Sea/Western Interior (BSWI) RMP, a 16-million-acre planning area in western Alaska. It is anticipated that work on this RMP will continue into 2019. This plan provides the opportunity to proactively manage several important cultural resources for the future, including the Iditarod National Historic Trail, and several potential ACECs with cultural values. The AFO has been developing alternatives, reviewing the affected environment chapter, and working on several supporting reports, including the ACEC and Wild and Scenic River eligibility reports.
- ✓ Planning and National Environmental Policy Act work: The Anchorage Field Office Archaeologists supported several NEPA projects in FY2017. The AFO continued its review of the Donlin Mine and Pipeline EIS; developed NEPA analysis for the Campbell Tract Road realignment; wrote an EA for the Campbell Tract Facility building replacement project; and began the NEPA process for an

EA to review Special Recreation Permit applications for use of the Iditarod National Historic Trail.

- **Tribal consultation and coordination**

- ✓ The Arctic District Office (ArDO) consulted with the Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope (ICAS, the regional tribal entity for North Slope communities) and others regarding efforts to recover data from rapidly-eroding coastal sites as discussed in Part I. Two sites on BLM-managed lands identified as threatened during the 2016 survey were determined to be eligible for the NRHP, and ArDO archaeologist Joe Keeney consulted with ICAS and living descendants associated with the sites. With the support of the tribe and family members, ArDO successfully executed two data recovery projects within the NPR-A.
- ✓ ArDO consulted with the Native Village of Barrow (NVB, the local tribal entity for the community of Utqiagvik (formerly Barrow)) and others regarding efforts to recover data from a rapidly-eroding coastal site on a privately-owned Alaskan Native allotment as discussed in Part I. This unique site was identified as threatened and determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and ArDO offered to provide the support necessary to recover information and artifacts from the endangered site for the landowner and her family. ArDO archaeologist Joe Keeney consulted with NVB and the landowner, who lived at the site as a small child. With the support of the landowner, her family, and the tribe, ArDO successfully executed the data recovery project.
- ✓ The Glennallen Field Office has continued consultation efforts with the Chilkat and Chilkoot tribes for a controversial amendment to last year's 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) began consulting with the Chilkat tribe regarding the upcoming Amendment to the Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan for the Haines Planning Block, regarding recreational use of the area. Our consultation focuses on the analysis of a portion of the planning area with both culturally significant rock art and a culturally significant goatherd. The tribe has stated during a previous planning effort that the goatherd, in specific areas, is culturally significant because of wool harvesting for traditional Tlingit ceremonial clothing.
- ✓ BLM-Alaska is reporting 1,466 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. Also, some of the consultation occurred in

the Arctic Field Office due to continuing, sometimes weekly, coordination with various Alaska Native villages and corporations regarding the planning of oil and gas activities in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska.

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

- ✓ Consultation continued in FY 2015 concerning a partial set of human remains found by the Eastern Interior Field Office at the Cripple Creek site (CIR-003), a late prehistoric caribou processing and storage site along the Steese Highway.
- ✓ One Inventory of NAGPRA materials was completed for a set of human remains excavated in the 1960s near Tukuto Lake in northern Alaska. Work is ongoing including consultation with 3 Tribes in anticipation of printing a Notice of Inventory Completion in the Federal Register in FY 2018.
- ✓ A major effort involving many people over nearly two decades, including the Alaska State Archaeologist since the late 1990s, finally resulted in the July 2017 return to Alaska of several archaeological collections with NAGPRA materials owned and long-requested by BLM-Alaska. These items were being held against federal wishes at the Peabody Museum in Cambridge, Mass. This long-stalled matter was raised to the attention of the Secretary of the Interior in 2016, who personally interceded in January 2017, providing specific written direction to the Peabody Museum to release these long-requested federal collections to the BLM and some to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Note: A special thanks goes to Emily Palus of WO-240 for leading a team to go to this museum and personally retrieve and pack for shipment to Alaska these federal collections. The team traveling to Cambridge from Alaska included personnel from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Univ. of AK Museum of the North. National Park Service staff also aided this effort in Cambridge.

- **Paleontological resources management**

- ✓ BLM issued a paleontological research permit for two scientists studying Pleistocene remains on Alaska's North Slope.
- ✓ Alaska organized and hosted a paleontology workshop led by newly-designated Alaska Regional Paleontologist, Brent Breithaupt, in the spring of 2017 at the BLM office in Fairbanks
- ✓ On July 31, 2017, efforts were underway to have the Univ. of Alaska Museum of the North complete a revised Potential Fossil Yield Classification tool for BLM-Alaska

- ✓ Alaska worked with Dr. Patrick Druckenmiller, paleontologist at the Univ. of Alaska Museum of the North, on issues involving management of Pleistocene fossils, including some collected for a long-term research project under BLM permits
- **Museum collections management**
 - ✓ Work began on Phase 1 (of 3), to create a final report on the archaeological work done for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline Project in the 1970s. Construction of this 800-mile-long pipeline from Prudhoe Bay in northern Alaska to Valdez in southcentral coastal Alaska, involved hundreds of excavations with the new report finally to bring all this information together in a form that will aid BLM Management. Work is being funded from special funding for museum collections work managed by the National Park Service.
 - ✓ Finding funding for upgrading into better museum packaging with new cataloging of certain BLM collections were again discussed at the March 2017 annual meeting that looks at the accountability, assessment, and curation of artifacts collected in the past along the Trans-Alaska Pipeline corridor. These collections were generated by the early 1980s Northwest Gas Pipeline Project, which otherwise did not pay for their cataloging and curation as should have been the case.
 - ✓ The Museum of the Aleutians at Dutch Harbor, Alaska, and the Alutiiq Museum at Kodiak, Alaska completed facility checklists in FY 2017, with copies provided to the Washington Office.
 - ✓ See prior section about featured story on Museum collections management actions at the Univ. of Alaska Museum of the North.
 - **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**
 - ✓ BLM Rangers continued work in the Tangle Lakes Archaeological District to enforce of rules for Off-Highway Vehicle use that were developed to protect archaeological resources from damage.
 - **Heritage Education, Interpretation, Outreach, and Tourism**
 - ✓ ArDO archaeologist Joe Keeney, in collaboration with a colleague, presented to the archaeological community results from a pilot study conducted on public lands using a non-invasive geomagnetic probe to identify archaeological features.

Results were delivered as a talk and a poster at the annual meetings of the Alaska Anthropological Association and Society of American Archaeologists, respectively.

- ✓ EIFO archaeologist Robin Mills, in collaboration with a colleague from the University of Alaska Museum of the North, presented results of their archaeological surveys for prehistoric sites in the Fortymile Wild & Scenic River corridor at the 2017 annual meetings of the Alaska Anthropological Association. A poster on the results, and a public presentation outlining the results, were provided.
- ✓ See featured stories in the prior section about BLM involvement in Outdoor Week activities in Anchorage and Fairbanks, Alaska.
- ✓ A BLM GFO cultural intern and a public outreach staff member gave a 30-minute presentation on the historical and cultural sites within Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve and on BLM Glennallen Field Office managed lands, specifically the Kennecott Copper Mines and the Tangle Lakes Archaeological District. The presentation included an interpretive talk as well as an interactive scavenger hunt within the NPS Exhibit Hall.
- ✓ A BLM GFO cultural intern and a public outreach staff member attended the Copper River Basin Job Fair and provided information to the public and local high school students on current job openings at the BLM Glennallen Field Office as well as general education on job announcements on USAJobs.gov.
- ✓ The Glennallen Field Office archaeologist 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 archaeologist gave a presentation and archaeology hike to local youth through a joint project with the Wrangell Institute For science and Environment.
- ✓ The Glennallen Field Office archaeologist gave a presentation on the archaeology of the Copper River Basin to the Copper Basin Chamber of Commerce.
- ✓ The Glennallen Field Office archaeologist gave a presentation to the local ANCSA regional corporation, including Ahtna Inc.'s, Land Committee, on the archaeology of the Tangle Lakes Archaeological District. He also participated in discussions about the oral history of the region.
- ✓ In February 2017, an article written by the Alaska State Archaeologist on homesteading was printed in the Homestead National Monument of America's online newsletter.

- ✓ The state archaeologist gave two talks on early Alaska Dog Mushing involving BLM land at the Alaska Anthropological Association's annual meeting in Fairbanks on March 1st and 2nd 2017.
- ✓ On March 15, 2017, the ASO Archaeologist gave a 90-minute talk in the BLM Campbell Creek Science Center Fireside Chat Series on the curious story of a woman connected to Alaskan dog mushing.
- ✓ See Section 1 for information and photographs about the July 2017 participation by the Alaska State Archaeology in teaching Boy Scouts and Scouters attending the 2017 National Boy Scout Jamboree about archaeology and paleontology.

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

9 Attachments

- 1 – Annual Report Questionnaire (13 pp.)
- 2 – Projects & Partnerships (1 p.)
- 3 – Historic Structure Listing (2 pp.)
- 4 – Loot forms (1 p.)
- 5 – Museum Collection forms (8 pp.)
- 6 – NAGPRA Repatriations (2 pp.)
- 7 – Long-Term Loan Agreement w/ Alutiiq Museum (4 pp.)
- 8 – Facilities Checklist for Museum of Aleutians 4/3/2017 by USFWS (24 pp.)
- 9 – Photo CD

cc w/attachments #1-9:

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