

## Resource Protection Efforts

The Rock Springs Field Office (RSFO) recently hosted an effort to document the damage occurring to the La Barge Bluffs petroglyph site in western Wyoming. This site dates from Late Prehistoric through Historic and has nine panels of petroglyphs ranging from anthropomorphic and zoomorphic figures to narrative battle and dance scenes and two historic period locomotives. The site has been damaged by graffiti, chalk, bullets, paint and the removal of panels. Sixteen volunteers from the BLM, Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists, Wyoming Archaeology Society (WAS) and the Northern Ute Indian Tribe participated in the documentation efforts of seven of the nine panels. In addition, a site steward has been monitoring the site for the past year. Upcoming efforts include completion of all panel documentation as a baseline to measure any future damage and nomination of the site to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in FY14.



Volunteer documenting vandalism at La Barge Bluffs Petroglyph Site above; volunteer group photo below



The Wyoming State Office AML archeologist, Lander Field Office (LFO) archeologists, and the LFO Youth Resource Crew worked on a historic cabin threat remediation project in the South Pass area in FY 2013. The cabin, part of the historic B&H Mine (48FR1438), was slowly being pushed over by soil, rock, and debris accumulating against its northern wall. The threat remediation project was designed to remove the debris, soil, and rock while collecting artifacts through screening as work progressed. The project took only three work days to complete because of the efforts of the large crew of workers. The area around the north wall of the cabin was sloped back and covered with fabric and rocks, and a layer of rock was put under the newly exposed sill logs to provide support to the wall. The cabin is now more stable and no longer being twisted and torqued. Future work includes additional stabilization and interpretation of the cabin. The following three pictures show the cabin prior to, during, and after the remediation work.

B&H Mine cabin prior to remediation work



B&H Mine cabin during remediation work



B&H Mine cabin after remediation work



The Cody Field Office partnered with the Park County Historic Preservation Commission to document a prehistoric open camp site. The site contained a lithic scatter, hearths, stone circles and petroglyphs and pictographs. Volunteers assisted in identification of surface artifacts, completed plan drawings of stone circles and panel descriptions of incised rock art motifs displaying shield bearing warriors, bustles, and decorative pigment.



Volunteers look at a rock art panel

For the third year in a row, staff archaeologists from Buffalo Field Office have sponsored a Passport in Time project in the Hole in the Wall area, where volunteers provide inventory and recordation assistance. This year, the volunteers contributed a total of 160 hours of time and surveyed 230 acres, discovering nine new sites and eight isolated resources.



Volunteers record stone features at an archaeological site during the PIT project above; volunteer group photo below



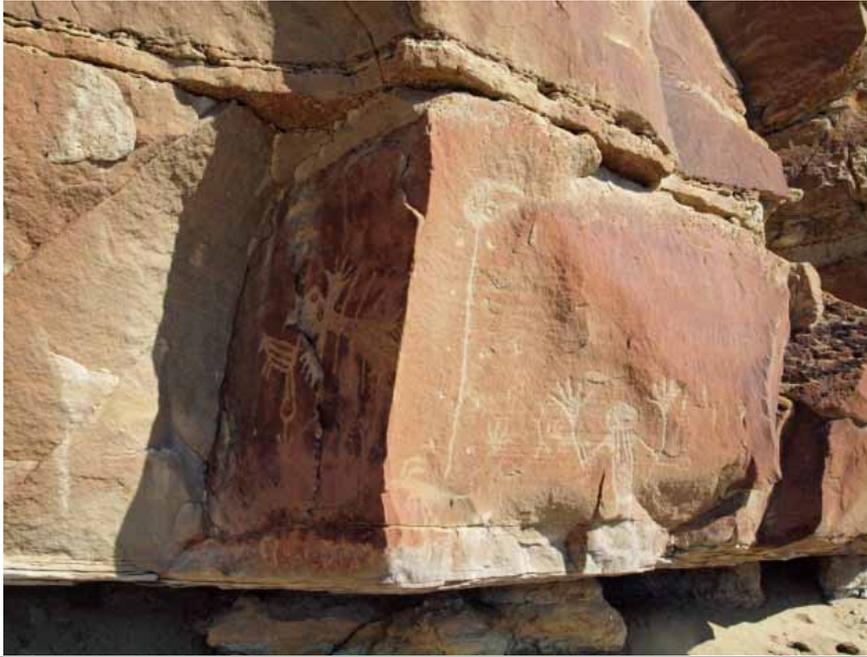
During a routine monitor of a prehistoric rock art site (48HO154), Worland Field Office staff noted that a panel had fallen off the cliff face. The now-detached boulder containing Dinwoody style elements was hanging suspended from the rock face it was previously attached to. A local researcher was contracted to complete a detailed recordation of the entire site, which included photogrammetric documentation. It will not be possible to prevent the panel from succumbing to gravity, but detailed information now exists for future use.

Arrow shows location of fallen panel in top photo; bottom photo is detail of fallen panel



Minot State University (MSU) continued their work in Coal Draw under a cooperative agreement with the Worland Field Office. This year they focused on site monitoring and recording sites located during the 2012 field season. The college students and local volunteers spent over 350 hours in the field. Recordation of the rock art sites included photographs, field sketches and panel tracing.

Rock art panel at 48HO692



Tracing of 48HO692



The Casper Field Office received some youth funding in support of a BPS project that sustained a cooperative agreement with Central Wyoming College's Western American Studies program. The college field school class included Native American students from the Wind River Reservation. The group completed two field projects, recording, testing and evaluating sites in support of three recreation area improvement projects and one multiple-year fuels reduction project. The photo below shows the field school class while in the field.



In addition, the Newcastle Field Office benefitted from another Native American student work crew as well. The crew contributed a 40-hour work week to repair and stabilize sites that were damaged during the bulldozing of a fire line. They worked on Native American ceremonial sites situated on the ridge top overlooking a large concentration of petroglyphs. The BLM archaeologist taught the students and crew leaders how to recognize stone tools and debitage prior to screening soil from the dozer berms to recover artifacts. The work experience provided the students with an understanding of archaeological site conservation and preservation issues.

Native American students screening soil from fire berm and looking for artifacts



Last year we highlighted Rawlins Field Office's efforts documenting the Shirley Basin site complex and this year the staff added 126 new stone circles and 21 new cairns, for a total of 463 stone circles and 81 cairns.

#### National Programmatic Agreement implementation

The Wyoming State Office has been working with the Wyoming SHPO to update the State Protocol. Over 400 comments have been received to date on the initial draft. This fall, the team plans to visit the District Offices and meet with tribes and interested parties regarding the proposed changes. The goal is to have the new protocol ready for signature in January 2014. In addition, the State Office staff provided five training sessions on the current state protocol to 23 people in FY13.

A large part of Wyoming's workload revolves around agreement document negotiations. This year we have completed memoranda of agreement (MOA) for several data recovery projects, including Mexican Flats, Jack Sparrow, Sun Dog to Brown Cow, AR Federal Pipeline, an MOA for the 9 Mile Hill CCC Wind Break and a programmatic agreement (PA) for the WyoBen Meeteetse Draw project. We processed two amendments for the Overland Pass MOA and the Jonah PA. We continue to work on PAs for 9 projects: Aspen Mountain, Sublette Mule Deer, Nominally Pressured Lance, Gateway West, Energy Gateway South, TransWest Express, and Green River Drift; MOAs for two projects, the MCC Quarry Expansion and the Simplot Land Sale; and the mitigation plan for the Chokecherry and Sierra Madre project.

#### DOI Tribal Consultation Policy implementation

Representatives from the Wyoming State Office and the High Plains District continued to meet with tribes from Wyoming, Montana, North and South Dakota in FY13, to discuss existing projects and future efforts regarding a consultation agreement. In response to a solicitation for comments on the draft state protocol, two tribes have indicated they would like to work independently on a consultation memorandum of understanding. Sample agreements have been provided to these two tribes and meetings will be scheduled in FY14.

Staff from Pinedale Field Office provided a presentation to the Shoshone Tribal Council regarding work in the Jonah Field and the upcoming revision to the Jonah PA.

## Heritage tourism developments

In FY13, the Lander Field Office (LFO) continued their efforts to enhance the visitor experience and increase protection of world-class rock art at the Castle Gardens Site in central Wyoming. Visitors now have a crushed fine gravel walking trail through the site and foot bridges to ease the crossing of deep drainages. Volunteers from Central Wyoming College's (CWC) Western American Studies program excavated five hearths that were exposed near the walking trail. Seven pieces of Shoshone-style pottery were found. Very little pottery has been found near Castle Gardens, so this discovery provides invaluable evidence about the prehistoric use of the site. Future work at Castle Gardens will include a new parking area and connecting segment of walking trail and new interpretive panels. All of these improvements are designed to reduce the amount of vandalism through increased understanding of the site and better visitor facilities.

## Visitors on the new walking trail and bridge at Castle Gardens



CWC students during excavation near a Castle Gardens rock art panel



BLM Rawlins staff continued working with the Carbon Cemetery Board on the clean-up at the National Register listed site. This year BLM showcased a GIS map of the Carbon Cemetery and described the scoping for a planned interpretive trail that will terminate at a hill that overlooks both the historic cemetery and the town site.



Above and below, volunteers on a cleanup day at the Carbon Cemetery



### Select Section 106 Efforts

The Buffalo Field Office (BFO) continued to conduct Class III inventories for applicants of fluid minerals and coal projects this fiscal year. These inventories are performed at no cost to the project applicant and, to date, have resulted in timelier project approvals. This year BFO inventoried over 1300 acres, which was 4% of all acreage inventoried within the field office. The office plans to continue using this positive model in the future.

BLM archaeologists from the Worland, Lander, Cody and Casper Field Offices conducted a joint mission to test the remaining three unevaluated sites within the Westside Irrigation District Land Transfer Project. As a result of their work, Section 106 consultation was completed and the land transfer authorized by Public Law 106-485 in 2000 will be able to proceed.

### Notable planning accomplishments

The Lander Field Office expects their resource management plan to be signed by the end of this fiscal year. Protective efforts for trail resources were highlighted in last year's annual report.

The Buffalo Field Office draft resource management plan is out for public comment. They identify the need to develop cultural resource protection plans for the Pumpkin Buttes, the South Bighorns and areas associated with Red Cloud's War and the Great Sioux War. They also plan to establish agreements that will provide tribal access to the Pumpkin Buttes and other, as yet unidentified traditional cultural properties or sacred sites on BLM-administered surface.

The Rock Springs Field Office is finalizing the bookend alternatives and spending quite a bit of time on their travel management plan for the entire field office.

The Bighorn Basin draft resource management plan covers the Cody and Worland Field Offices. Some of the cultural efforts planned in the preferred alternative include working to acquire the private land portions of the Legend Rock Petroglyph Site from willing landowners (preferably through an exchange); protecting the foreground of important cultural sites up to three miles, where setting is an important aspect of integrity for the site; and preparing activity plans for important sites such as the Hanson Site, the many rock art sites along the Ten Sleep Road and near the Minick Sheep Camp Raid site, historic trails such as the Bridger Trail and the Fort Washakie to Red Lodge stage route.

### Museum collections management

The regional paleontologist conducted repository assessments for several entities this year. The State Office provided funding to the University of Wyoming Archaeological Repository to support an internship for the box-by-box inventory. Several field offices curated collections. This information will be reported more fully in the museum report due in October.

### Heritage education and outreach efforts

Staff from the Wyoming State Office moderated a “Tribal Perspectives on Landscapes” Panel at the Wyoming SHPO’s Preserve Wyoming Conference. Rawlins FO staff also presented at the conference and led a field trip for attendees to visit nearby historic trail resources.

Previously in this report, we have mentioned the cooperative efforts of BLM and Central Wyoming College’s Western American Studies program. For the third year in a row, the student archaeologists have presented papers at the spring meeting of the Wyoming Archeology Society (WAS). Their papers are based on fieldwork from BLM administered lands and BLM is often cited as supporting their work. This year, one student was recognized with the “Best Student Paper” of the conference and each student was awarded a WAS scholarship to assist with their travel costs.

Archaeologists from the Kemmerer Field Office provided field tours to visit historic inscription sites at Emigrant Springs/Slate Creek and the Johnston Scout Rock to the Lincoln County Historical Society. They also presented papers at the Plains Anthropological Conference on the Bridger Antelope Trap and the Society for California Archaeology Conference on rock art.

The Rawlins Field Office staff had a banner year for public outreach. Among their efforts include hosting a cultural resources/Section 106 table at the annual Industry Conference; providing professional level presentations at the Carbon County Historical Society meeting and the WAS conference, flintknapping at the Carbon County Museum’s American Heritage workshop; conducting field tours for the Colorado Rock Art Society and the Wyoming State Review Board; and providing talks at Saratoga High School, Rawlins Cooperative High School and Rock River High School (highlighted in a BLM Daily submission) and Rawlins Elementary school’s summer outreach program.

### Students have questions for the BLM Rawlins archaeologist





Eager Rawlins elementary students with questions about archaeology

Archaeologists from the Pinedale Field Office provided a presentation at the National Trust for Historic Preservation meeting on the Lander Road PA, the associated historical research and resulting mitigation that included property acquisition. They also presented talks to the Sublette County Professional Land Surveyors Society, the local schools and to students from the Wyoming Conservation Corps working in the area.

To complete Section VII's Public and Professional Outreach and Education Item H. from Attachment 1, public enhancement projects were completed for the following locations: Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite paleontology podcast (WY 930), 48PA3294 and 48PA251 (Cody FO), Castle Gardens Site (Lander FO), and Little Sandy Crossing interpretive sign (Rock Springs FO). In addition, for Item I of the same section, the following educational or interpretive projects were created: Nez Perce National Historic Trail Traveling interpretive signs (Cody FO) and two lesson plans for junior high students on Whoopup Canyon rock art, "Messages in Symbols" and "Creating and Protecting Rock Art" (Newcastle FO).

Additional volunteer support not involved in specific reports above includes 11 volunteers who worked for 89 hours on 7 sites for the Cody Field Office.

If you have any questions about the Wyoming report, please contact Ranel Stephenson Capron, Deputy Preservation Officer at 307-775-6108 or [rcapron@blm.gov](mailto:rcapron@blm.gov).