

BLM Wyoming FY12 Annual Report Narrative Cultural Heritage Program

The following is BLM Wyoming's report of activities within the Cultural and Paleontological Resources and Tribal Consultation program. In general, Wyoming continues to work through a heavy National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 workload to accomplish program goals under Section 110. Additional focus on tribal consultation outreach through the new Department of Interior policy and the national Programmatic Agreement has generated more attempts at face to face meetings with tribes by both staff and management. This effort has not always been successful and we look forward to additional direction from Washington as we continue to make progress on this course. The regional paleontologist continues to focus on outreach activities, working with curation facilities and permittees, as well as with the Washington Office and other regional paleontologists on guidance for the program. Our accomplishments may seem limited compared to other BLM states, but temper that with the number and complexities of our compliance workload and it becomes clear that our achievements are due to the excellent team that comprises BLM Wyoming.

National Register of Historic Places Listings

Wyoming BLM had two nominations selected for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) during 2012: the Muddy Creek Site Complex and the Southsider Rockshelter. The Muddy Creek Site Complex is a series of three Late Archaic sites covering 110 acres and dates to around 1720 years before present. Muddy Creek is a strong example of the Besant Cultural Complex which was prevalent on the Northern Plains (extending from Wyoming up into Canada). As one of the southernmost Besant sites currently known to exist, it contains



identifying Besant features such as a bison drive lane, bison pound, religious features associated with the bison pounding operations, and a habitation area consisting of numerous stone circles. Muddy Creek was listed for its importance to the further understanding of the Besant Cultural Complex and as one of the best examples of big game hunting lifestyle, the main adaptation in central Northern America for over 10,000 years. Below is a photograph of the Muddy Creek landscape, administered by the Rawlins Field Office.

The Southsider Rockshelter, photograph below, is located in the foothills of the Bighorn Mountains. It contains a stratified record of human occupation spanning the Early Paleoindian (ca. 9000 BC) to the Late Plains Archaic (1800 AD) periods. Scientific excavations of the shelter have uncovered dozens of diagnostic projectile points and other chipped stone tools, a faunal collection of approximately 2,000 elements, 35 hearths, and two storage pits. The data recovered from the shelter has added to the understanding of cultural history, prehistoric subsistence, and mobility in the Bighorn Basin. Southsider Shelter was listed on the NRHP on August 1, 2012, and is administered by the Worland Field Office.



National Programmatic Agreement implementation

State Office personnel meet with the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) staff on a monthly basis. This coordination effort identifies compliance issues early and works toward resolution before problems escalate. We have jointly met with internal state agencies, such as the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, as well as with industry, to work out processes for accomplishing National Historic Preservation Act goals. We also participate in meetings with the State Review Board, discussing BLM properties that are being reviewed for nomination to the NRHP. Finally, we highlighted the SHPO's Preserve Wyoming conference in May, by encouraging BLM managers and archaeologists to participate in the conference as well as a pre-conference landscape training featuring personnel from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) and the NRHP. The SHPO spoke to the Wyoming Management Team in January, highlighting accomplishments shared by both partners. We held two annual protocol meetings this year in order to accommodate travel budgets and we conducted two protocol training sessions for new managers and archaeologists.

Due to the efficiencies within the State Protocol, several offices were able to conduct Section 110 inventories this year. For instance, our Rawlins Field Office staff recorded the Shirley Basin Landscape, identifying three stone alignments, over 337 stone circles and more than 60 prehistoric cairns. The site extends for 12.5 miles and is 2.5 miles from the Muddy Creek Site Complex mentioned above. Further recordation of this very large complex will take place over subsequent years. The photograph below shows several stone circles within the landscape.



The Newcastle Field Office was assisted by students from the University of Wyoming in mapping drive lines on the Little Missouri Antelope Trap, including previously known trap structures and newly discovered trap wings. Six more wing alignments were mapped. Two wings had erosion extending across segments of the juniper drive line that had resulted in some of the alignment wood washing downslope. Over 300 acres of the trap landscape were intensively recorded.

DOI tribal consultation policy implementation

Managers and archaeologists from the High Plains District (HPD), which includes the Buffalo, Casper and Newcastle Field Offices, conducted tribal outreach to over 15 tribes in Wyoming, Montana, North and South Dakotas and Nebraska. Personnel traveled to and hosted meetings in Lander (WY-June) and Pierre (SD-July) with little success, as only a single Tribal Historic Preservation Officer attended. A third meeting scheduled for Miles City (MT) was cancelled due

to lack of tribal response. This effort was in keeping with Washington Office advice for BLM to travel to the tribes, rather than asking tribal officials to travel to BLM offices. In addition, HPD personnel participated in two more successful tribal outreach meetings with the Montana BLM. In these two cases, tribes were compensated for their travel costs to a central meeting location.

In July, the State Director and others, conducted telephone interviews with three tribes in Nebraska (Omaha, Santee Sioux, Winnebago) and two tribes in Wyoming (Eastern Shoshone, Northern Arapaho) regarding the proposed hydraulic fracturing rule. In addition, the State Director and others met with the Joint Business Council of the Wind River Reservation in early August on the proposed rule. Members of the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes highlighted concerns with the rule's language and offered suggestions for improvement.

Field offices continue to request tribal input at project on-sites for Section 106 purposes, gathering their input for determinations of eligibility and effect in preparation for SHPO consultation. In most cases, industry has compensated tribes for travel costs and paid for tribal monitors during construction activities. However, in those cases where industry has chosen not to do this, we have found that tribes will then choose not to participate in Section 106. They also then deem that BLM has not fully complied with the government-to-government consultation required under the regulations. This issue remains problematical for BLM Wyoming.

On a very positive note, our Casper Field Office received youth funding in FY12 which allowed for the initiation of a cooperative agreement with the anthropology department of Central Wyoming College (CWC) to sponsor a field school. CWC is located on the Wind River Reservation and Native American students participated in the field school. This year the field school participants completed almost 900 acres of Class III inventory. In addition, the field office hired a Native American work crew and these youths completed field projects benefitting the



recreation, engineering and forestry programs. Each project had an educational element; below is a photograph of one of the Native American youth coring a tree during the educational component of a forestry project.

Resource protection projects

Buffalo Field Office again hosted a Passport in Time project, this year working near the Hole-in-the-Wall, an area known for its infamous outlaws, such as Butch Cassidy. Despite challenging heat and heavy smoke from area fires, these hardworking volunteers contributed a total of 160 hours over five days. The volunteers learned about the prehistory and history of the area, cultural resource laws, site recording procedures, as well as ethics and the importance of the archaeological record. Over 150 acres were surveyed and seven new sites, eight isolated resources and three previously recorded sites were identified. The photographs below show the crew recording a site and hiking down the Hole-in-the-Wall trail.



Data recovery at two sites in Casper Field Office associated with the Greencore CO2 pipeline occurred this year. Both sites produced an array of lithic tools, groundstone, processed bone and thermal features, including steep-walled roasting pits. Small amounts of pottery were also found at one site. Tribal members from the Eastern Shoshone, Fort Peck Assiniboine-Sioux, Northern Arapaho, Northern Cheyenne, and Yankton Sioux Tribes participated in the data recoveries, as well as monitored construction along the pipeline corridor.

In May 2012 Wyoming BLM took receipt of the final deliverables for the Wyoming portion of a multi-state American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) project. Overall, seven states were involved and work included cultural resource and visual resource inventories, analyses, and

products. The Wyoming portion of the project included BLM land in Casper, Lander, Rock Springs and Kemmerer Field Offices and took in 247 linear miles along the Oregon, Mormon, California and Pony Express National Historic Trails. The inventory documented 206 trail segments, 130 associated sites and 64 isolated resources. A visual setting inventory was completed at various observation points along the corridor and included a historic landscape integrity analysis at each point. Wyoming BLM is working to make the various data sets available to internal and external customers.

National Trails Day saw the Cody Field Office and the Nez Perce Trail Foundation (NPTF) partner to search for evidence of alternate routes of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail near Clark, Wyoming. The Nez Perce NHT follows the 1877 flight of Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce along a 1,170 mile long route that begins in Oregon and ends in Montana. One section of the trail follows the Clark Fork of the Yellowstone River out of Wyoming and into Montana.

Volunteers walked transects near the trail, looking for alternate routes. They discovered a collapsed coal mine adit, several historic debris scatters and an isolated scraper. Due to the positive response from the volunteers, Cody FO hopes to continue inventory efforts next year.



Above, Jim Evans of the NPTF provides an educational program about the history of the trail.

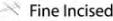
In the fall of 2011, the BLM Lander Field Office (LFO) hired professional rock art conservators to trace the panels at the Castle Gardens Rock Art Site in central Wyoming. Castle Gardens was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1969 for its distinctive style of shields. While the site has been studied and photographed for nearly 75 years, the rock art panels have never before been professionally traced. These tracings provide the first accurate representation of the rock art elements and their surrounding natural rock features. A total of 52 rock art panels, some containing dozens of individual elements, were traced. The rock art conservators used great care to ensure that no damage would occur to the rock art panels or surrounding rock surfaces during the tracing process. LFO is currently working on interpretation of the site for the public. These tracings not only have scientific value, but will be used in the interpretive panels.



The rock art conservators provided color and black and white versions of each panel tracing, along with a layered photoshop document allowing tailoring of the panel presentation to BLM's needs. The photograph below shows a rock art conservator working on tracing a panel. The weighted tripods were used to hold the tracing film in place, minimizing the need for tape. On the next page is a drawing showing the digitized tracing from one panel.



Key

-  Incised
-  Fine Incised
-  Abraded
-  Pigment
-  Natural
-  Spall/Eroded

0 10cm 20cm 30cm

The 2011 Whoopup Fire damaged petroglyphs in the Whoopup Canyon Petroglyph Site ACEC and assessments of petroglyph damage were started immediately after the fire by Newcastle Field Office staff. Emergency photography of the fire-affected panels also began shortly after the fire and focused on high resolution photography to preserve the remaining imagery. An archaeological contractor completed site damage assessments of habitations, hearths, stone alignment sites, and other prehistoric remains that were damaged by the fire. In addition, students from the Wyoming Conservation Corps (WCC) helped BLM complete emergency stabilization to protect the petroglyphs. As shown in the photograph below, the crew cut small fire-killed junipers that were close to rock art panels and dragged them away from the panels. Hand tools were used near the panels to keep chain saw fumes and oil from contaminating the rock art, thus allowing future researchers to still be able to date the rock surfaces. This work was highly labor intensive. Some woody debris had to be dragged across the stream channel to the other side of the drainage to prevent it from becoming a fire hazard in any future wildfires. WCC projects also have an educational aspect and the BLM archaeologist taught the students about the



significance of the petroglyphs, how old they are, how to date petroglyphs, and how fire damages the fragile images. Each day of work included a tour of the nearby petroglyph panels. The crew also helped the

BLM stabilize archaeological habitation sites that were damaged by the fire. They enjoyed learning how to identify and pin-flag artifacts on sites so that landscape fabric could be placed where it was most needed. They hand-seeded areas of fire-exposed soil under strips of excelsior matting that were laid across the slopes to stop erosion of the archaeological deposits. Finally, during a public presentation at the Newcastle public library, the WCC crew explained to the public about what WCC does and showed their accomplishments from the Whoopup Fire stabilization project.

Also in the Newcastle Field Office, Dr. Rick Weathermon, University of Wyoming, completed inventory of another 800 acres of the Little Missouri Antelope Trap landscape under a contract with the BLM. He located multiple previously unknown drivelines that extend the identified area of the trap to the west and northwest and to the east. Weathermon also located a number of extensive lithic scatters on the trap landscape that date to Late Archaic, Besant, Avonlea, and Late Prehistoric times. A few sites also had Early Archaic and Middle Archaic components.

Heritage tourism developments

In cooperation with the Sublette County Historical Society (SCHS), the Pinedale Field Office (PFO) educated and informed groups from around the world about the cultural sites in the area. Rock art groups from Australia and groups from the southwestern United States were provided tours of PFOs major rock art sites.

PFO also completed the mitigation efforts subscribed in the Lander Road Programmatic Agreement in partnership with SCHS and other partners. The final kiosks were placed at the crossing of the Lander Road and Highway 191. An installation ceremony is slated for this fall. Text from the signs is found in attachment 1.



The Rock Springs Field Office cultural and recreation programs combined efforts to work on the Malinda Armstrong grave site, 48SW4791. Malinda died on August 15, 1852, on the Cherokee Trail, as her family was returning to Texas from California. Her gravesite was covered in vegetation and the existing wire fence was in disrepair. BLM staff cleared the vegetation and replaced the wire fence with a white picket-style fence. Before and after photographs are provided below.



BLM Rawlins archaeologists worked with the BLM National Sign Shop to install signs for the JO Ranch (48CR1203), including a directional marker, and identification sign, and several no camping/no parking signs at the property, which is currently a day use area. Photograph below.



Notable planning accomplishments

The Draft Lander RMP was published for public comment, and is now in WO for approval of the Final RMP. The major cultural resources accomplishment at this point is landscape-scale protection of the National Historic Trails corridor through the southern part of the Lander Field Office. This protection is ground-breaking in its scope.

In addition, the Bighorn Basin RMP's Final EIS is expected shortly and work continues on the Buffalo and Rock Springs RMPs.

Museum collections management

The State Office continued to fund UWAR's box-by-box inventory. Lander Field Office curated a total of 1260 artifacts associated with 7 sites and 3 isolated resources found during the Class III Inventory and site testing for the Granite Creek Rocks Fence, an in-house range improvement project. The majority of the artifacts (1170) came from 48FR6926 where archaeologists dug three shovel tests and two test units to evaluate site eligibility, uncovering dense lithic debitage, bone, and a possible house pit. Pinedale Field Office curated a number of isolated artifacts found during on-sites and site inspections.



The Buffalo Field Office hosted a Passport in Time Project to curate a backlog of 30+ years of artifacts. Two volunteers contributed a total of 140 hours over a two week period. They read through field notes, identified where artifacts came from, cleaned, photographed and catalogued the artifacts and prepared them for curation at the University of Wyoming’s Archaeological Repository (UWAR). The volunteers were able to catalog artifacts from 86 sites, making a sizable dent in the curation backlog. Above, PIT volunteers Mary Fowlkes and Steve Waylett are photographed in the “curation conference room.”

NAGPRA compliance

Tribal consultation occurred for two NAGPRA discoveries. Both the Cody and Kemmerer Field Offices worked with interested tribes to stabilize inadvertent discoveries of human remains. In addition, Casper Field Office has been working with the Northern Arapaho Tribe to complete a transfer of custody. This effort will be reported on in FY13. Finally, RFO archaeologists participated in the Rawlins High Education Center’s Native American Symposium. The staff presented a power point about the history and implementation of NAGPRA.

Heritage outreach and education efforts

Cody Field Office partnered with the Greybull River Sustainable Landscape Ecology (GRSLE) non-profit for the fourth year in a row and offered a Take it Outside “Living Landscapes” training to local youth groups. By increasing landscape awareness and sharpening observation and documentation skills, the students learn that they are an integrated part of their ecosystem. Three sessions with the Meeteetse Recreation District summer youth program and the Rocky Mountain Middle High School summer school focused on stratigraphy, stone circles, tipi

construction and the always popular alt-alt throw. Below is a photograph of students standing in a stone circle, also called a tipi ring.



Attendees at the 2011 Oregon-California Trails Association Convention were treated to stories about nearby historic sites and events when a Kemmerer Field Office (KFO) archaeologist served as their tour guide along the National Historic Trail from Rock Springs to Fort Bridger. KFO also hosted a tour this spring of the National Historic Trails along the high priority Gateway West Transmission Line. Approximately 30 representatives of state and county governments, as well as congressional representatives took the tour and expressed their appreciation for how much they learned about the emigrant era.

Lander Field Office sponsored a NPLD event at the Castle Gardens Rock Art site, providing service learning opportunities in archaeology and heritage education. Over the course of the day



trash was picked up, three unauthorized modern fire rings were dismantled and rehabilitated, two aging picnic tables were removed from the site, several damaged signs and posts were removed, and three new carsonite signs were installed at the site's parking area marking the limit of allowable motorized vehicle use. In addition to cleaning up the site and replacing aging signs, volunteers toured the site with BLM

personnel, discussing the rock art, archaeology, the importance of heritage preservation, and how their volunteer work fits into planned visitor facility upgrades at the site. The BLM first developed the site in the late 1960s with an access road, parking lot, vault toilet, picnic tables, and fences around the six main rock art panels. A walking path, new parking lot, and interpretive panels are now planned and will be installed over the next 2-3 years as part of an ongoing effort to enhance the visitor experience and increase understanding of the site, as well as increase protection of the delicate rock art panels. The picture above shows BLM staff and volunteers removing an old picnic table.

Newcastle STEP archaeologist, Devin Pettigrew, participated in two sessions of the Upton Junior High School summer camp program. He talked to the students about how to make and use atlatls and taught them how to throw darts with an atlatl. It was the students' favorite activity during the week long camp.

PFO staff produced an article regarding paleontological resources and cadastral survey in the *History of the BLM* volume due to be completed in September 2012.

Rawlins archaeologists hosted a Cultural Resources and Section 106 compliance exhibit at the annual Rawlins Industry Conference and spoke to the TRACKs Across Wyoming group about the proposed Chokecherry Sierra Madre Wind Farms and other major projects. The staff also assisted the Carbon Cemetery Board by educating Hanna Middle School students and other public at the annual cemetery clean-up about the historic mining towns of Carbon and Hanna. The Carbon Cemetery was reported in last year's highlights when it was listed on the NRHP. BLM is heading an effort to formally map all the known and unknown grave sites and create a searchable data base of the people buried there. Below are two photographs from the clean-up



effort, one overall and one of a headstone.



Rock of Ages
AGNES
DAISY
DIED IN HANNA EXPLOSION
JUNE 30, 1903
AGED 19 YRS. 11 MS.

*Remember, friends, as you pass by,
That all mankind are born to die,
Then let your cares on Christ be cast,
That you may dwell with him at last.*

Rawlins also highlighted four educational/interpretive projects that were completed for mitigation efforts on Section 106 compliance projects. These include a poster presented at the 2012 Society for American Archaeology meeting entitled “48SW1157: A Middle and Late Archaic Camp Site in the Wyoming Basin”, a context document entitled “Archaeological Research Context for the Rockies Express/Entrega Pipeline, Southern Wyoming” and a public document entitled “Archaeology along the Entrega/Rockies Express Pipeline in Southern Wyoming.” The fourth project was an Overland Trail brochure, completed for the Overland Pass Pipeline project, which also was highlighted by the Rock Springs Field Office. A copy of the poster and the brochure are found in attachment 4.

Questions regarding these highlights or any other aspect of BLM Wyoming’s Cultural and Paleontological Resources and Tribal Consultation programs should be directed to Deputy Preservation Officer Ranel Stephenson Capron at rcapron@blm.gov or 307-775-6108.