



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 Dr. Kate Winthrop

From: Deputy State Director, Division of Resources

Subject: Fiscal Year 2014 Cultural Resources Management Program Annual Report

This is in response to Washington Office Information Memorandum No. 2014-103, dated June 16, 2014, 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) 2014 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, 2013 to July 31, 2014, thus remaining consistent with prior reporting.

Part I: Major FY 2014 Accomplishments associated with the management of cultural and paleontological resources, including the associated collections and data, and tribal consultation:

#1 Resource protection project:

MITIGATION DATA RECOVERY ON FRANKLIN CREEK, FORTYMILE MINING DISTRICT

The Eastern Interior Field Office fielded four archaeologists and two volunteers to conduct data recovery over five days in June 2014 at an historic mining domestic cabin ruin site on Franklin Creek (49-EAG-00346), a tributary of the South Fork of the Fortymile River. Both Franklin and the South Fork are contributing river sections of the Fortymile National Wild & Scenic River system. The site dates to about the 1930s and is related to placer gold mining activities. Excavations in and around the log cabin foundation reveal that the miner(s) left abruptly, leaving many useable items and tools behind. This archaeological signature may be a reflection of the abandonment of most mining claims on this creek in the late-1930s, when catastrophic flooding destroyed all of the placer mining infrastructure along the

creek (e.g., dams, flumes, ditches), causing many of the claimants to leave and never come back. The associated trash dump next to the cabin was also excavated. This mitigative excavation was prompted by the site's proposed destruction in 2015 by modern mining efforts on Federal mining claims. Numerous artifacts were recovered which will aid in our understanding of the lifestyle and economics of mining in this remote Alaskan setting.

Photos:

“Mills Franklin Cabin EAG346 - 1”. The log cabin foundation prior to excavation. Photo by Robin Mills.

“Mills Franklin Cabin EAG346 - 2”. The log cabin foundation during excavation. Left to right: Robert King, BLM Alaska SO Archaeologist (back to camera), Steve Lanford (BLM Archaeologist seasonal technician, behind Robert King), Stacie McIntosh (BLM FDO Supervisor), Fawn Carter (BLM volunteer), Tamara Lincoln (BLM volunteer). Photo by Robin Mills.

“Mills Franklin Cabin EAG346 - 3”. The log cabin foundation following excavation. The all collapsed roof and structural elements, including intact wooden floorboards, have been removed, exposing the sub-floor joist system. The subterranean floor cellar in the lower right is frozen and remains unexcavated. Photo by Robin Mills.

“Mills Franklin Cabin EAG346 - 4”. BLM SO Archaeologist Robert King excavating around the cast iron stove inside the log cabin foundation. Photo by Robin Mills.

“Mills Franklin Cabin EAG346 - 5”. BLM volunteer Tamara Lincoln excavating a large saw blade outside of the log cabin foundation. Photo by Robin Mills.

“Mills Franklin Cabin EAG346 - 6”. Stacie McIntosh (BLM FDO Supervisor), Fawn Carter (BLM volunteer), and Steve Lanford (BLM Archaeologist seasonal technician) excavating outside of the log cabin foundation. Photo by Robin Mills.

“Mills Franklin Cabin EAG346 - 7”. The trash dump located adjacent to the cabin was completely excavated, as shown in this photo. The excavation here measured 18 square-meters. Photo by Robin Mills.

“Mills Franklin Cabin EAG346 - 8”. Access to and from the remote site was via helicopter, which transported all crew and supplies to the site. Most supplies and camp equipment were transported via sling loads, such as is seen in the foreground. Photo by Robin Mills.

#2 Resource protection project:

FORTYMILE DRAINAGE & STEESE NCA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYS - 2014

The Eastern Interior Field Office Archaeologist organized two cultural resources surveys this year: along the Fortymile River drainage via hovercraft; and a Steese National Conservation Area helicopter and pedestrian survey. The BLM manages 1- 2 million acres of land throughout the Fortymile River drainage, and 1.2 million acres in the combined Steese NCA, and yet limited archaeological surveys have occurred

in these areas. The survey in the Fortymile came about because the Field Office will be preparing an Environmental Assessment on a series of new Long Term Camp sites for users inside the Fortymile Wild & Scenic River corridor. The Steese NCA survey was examining an area of the remote southeastern part of the NCA that had never been culturally surveyed before. During the summer, the surveys inventoried 3000 acres at the Class III level of survey, and recorded 25 new archaeological sites, both historic and prehistoric. The Steese survey combined together the Eastern Interior and the Central Yukon field offices cultural staff.

Photos:

“Mills EIFO surveys 2014-1”. Kevan Cooper next to hovercraft, inside the Fortymile Wild & Scenic River corridor. Photo by Robin Mills.

“Mills EIFO surveys 2014-2”. Kevan Cooper inside of a low log cabin foundation, inside the Fortymile Wild & Scenic River corridor. Photo by Robin Mills.

“Mills EIFO surveys 2014-3”. Tobacco tin found at a placer gold miner’s log cabin ruin site, inside the Fortymile Wild & Scenic River corridor. Photo by Robin Mills.

“Mills EIFO surveys 2014-4”. Kevan Cooper next to a partially submerged historic bulldozer, inside the Fortymile Wild & Scenic River corridor. Photo by Robin Mills.

“Mills EIFO surveys 2014-5”. Kevan Cooper amongst the trace remains of a placer gold prospector’s campsite, inside the Fortymile Wild & Scenic River corridor. Photo by Robin Mills.

“Mills EIFO surveys 2014-6”. Rows and rows of tailings from a placer gold mining dredge, inside the Fortymile Wild & Scenic River corridor. Photo by Robin Mills.

“Mills EIFO surveys 2014-7”. Hand-stacked tailings piles and walls, with an assortment of artifacts. Evidence of a large-scale placer gold mining activities, inside the Fortymile Wild & Scenic River corridor. Photo by Robin Mills.

“Mills EIFO surveys 2014-8”. Upper alpine ridgelines surveyed for prehistoric sites, southern unit of the Steese National Conservation Area. Note the helicopter that was the means of traversing this remote area. Photo by Robin Mills.

“Mills EIFO surveys 2014-9”. Steve Lanford recording a prehistoric lithic scatter on an alpine ridgeline, southern unit of the Steese National Conservation Area. Photo by Robin Mills.

“Mills EIFO surveys 2014-10”. Bill Hedman surveying in the southern unit of the Steese National Conservation Area. On the open, raised knob in the center of the photo was found a large prehistoric lithic scatter. Photo by Robin Mills.

“Mills EIFO surveys 2014-11”. Close up of prehistoric lithic tool: expedient chert flake tool with micro-flaking along one edge to produce a sharper edge. Photo by Robin Mills.

“Mills EIFO surveys 2014-12”. Close up of prehistoric lithic biface: possibly a knife or projectile point in-the-making. Photo by Robin Mills.

“Mills EIFO surveys 2014-13”. The remains of a Sikorsky H-5 helicopter in the southern unit of the Steese National Conservation Area. Further research found that this aircraft crashed in 1950 and was a military medical airlift ship. . Photo by Robin Mills.

#3 Resource protection project:

CENTRAL YUKON MAGNETOMETER SURVEY

Central Yukon Field Office archeologist supported 3809 surface management staff with Ground Penetrating Radar and Magnetometer surveys of mining claims in the vicinity of Coldfoot, AK. Work was undertaken throughout the spring of 2014 in coordination with ongoing Law Enforcement investigations. Work identified the potential for various remote sensing tools and methods for investigating potential burial of solid and hazardous wastes on federal mining claims. Work resulted in the discovery of significant deposits of unauthorized solid waste.

#4 Resource protection project:

CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR TOOLIK FIELD STATION

Cooperative work with the National Science Foundation and University of Alaska at Toolik Field Station on Alaska's North Slope was continued in an effort to create a Cultural Resource Management Plan for Toolik Field Station. Work involved extensive helicopter inventory and probability mapping. Work done in 2013 and 2014 is currently being used to develop a scope of work for contracted archaeological inventory in the vicinity of Toolik Field Station; continued work will be funded by the National Science Foundation in support of the BLM's permitting needs.

#5 Resource protection project:

KANUTI RIVER DRAINAGE HELICOPTER SURVEY

3) Extensive helicopter supported archeological surveys were undertaken from a remote field camp in the Kanuti River drainage of northern interior Alaska by Central Yukon Field Office archaeology staff and volunteers. Work was undertaken over ten days by a small volunteer crew of university students under the direction of field office archeologist. 25 prehistoric archeological sites were identified. Survey flights were also conducted at this time throughout the Ray Mountains in support of ongoing Central Yukon Management Plan, as well as Biology and Realty subactivities.

#6 Museum Collections Management:

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

The Eastern Interior FO archaeologist 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 \$20,000 from the BLM cultural program in FY2014 to continue to upgrade, catalog, and properly curate existing legacy collections of fossils. In addition, the Archaeology Department at UAM received \$58,000 in FY14 from a variety of funding sources, including the cultural program, the Challenge Cost Share program, and from the Washington Office. Cooperative agreements exist between the BLM and both departments to facilitate this ongoing work. The BLM has more than 1,300 accessioned archaeology collections at UAM, with an estimated 500,000 - 700,000 artifacts present in these collections. UAM Earth Sciences has the largest collection of fossils in Alaska, the biggest including Cretaceous dinosaurs & Ice Age mammals. About 1/3 to 1/2 of these collections come from BLM-managed land: more than 140 accessions from 1000 localities, including 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 almost 10 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. Relatively less work was accomplished in FY2014 relative to other years: Archaeology: prior year funds had run out by the beginning of the current fiscal year, and no funds were transferred in time for any artifacts to be worked on in time for this report. Paleontology: 590 fossils were re-housed, catalogued, and entered into the online UAM Earth Sciences database by the end of the 3rd quarter in FY14. Only a portion of FY13's allocated funds were expended in FY14, and as a result fewer fossils were curated and catalogued than in years past. A lack of applications from suitable students to perform the work was the primary reason for this deficiency, a situation that the curator will make efforts to amend in the future.

#7 Resource Protection Project:

PORT CLARENCE

As reported in last year's annual report, in June and July 2013, the BLM and cooperating archaeologists conducted a salvage excavation of a late prehistoric site located near Teller, Alaska. It is on a BLM withdrawal managed by the US Coast Guard (USCG), with the site having been intensively looted since 2010. This multiyear project is a cooperative effort among the BLM, the US Coast Guard, and Portland State University (PSU), with funding from the National Science Foundation. The activity at this site is part of a larger problem of looting of archaeological sites on the western Seward Peninsula of Alaska, including the looting of human burials. While no fieldwork was conducted in 2014 at the late prehistoric Port Clarence site, lab work continued. Dr. Shelby Anderson of PSU and her graduate students continued to analyze artifacts and data collected from the site in previous years. They also planned on conducting more fieldwork in 2015.

#8 Outreach and Education Activities Project:

ANCHORAGE OUTDOOR WEEK

The Anchorage Field Office (AFO) continued its outreach efforts in Alaska's largest city including by again featuring special educational activities as part of Anchorage Outdoor Week, which celebrated its 40th year in 2014. The AFO archaeologist, with help from BLM AK State Cultural Heritage Program Lead Robert King, Anchorage Museum of History and Art Educator Kelly Gwynn, Matanuska-Susitna Borough archaeologists Amethyst and Nathan Harmston, and National Park Service Archaeologist Dael Davenport, organized and ran an archaeology station. It taught about 500 sixth grade students from the Anchorage School District about prehistoric hunting in Alaska during Outdoor Week in May 2014. Children and teachers also learned how to throw darts using atlatls at this joint effort between the BLM AFO's Campbell Creek Science Center and the Anchorage School District.

Photo Caption 1: Students learning to throw a spear using an atlatl at Outdoor Week at the BLM Campbell Creek Science Center, May 2014. Photo by Robert King.

#9 Resource Protection Project:

COOPERATIVE DENALI HIGHWAY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY PROJECT

The Glennallen Field Office and the State of Alaska's Office of History and Archaeology (OHA) conducted jointly funded archaeological surveys on both State of Alaska and BLM managed lands along the Denali Highway. This area contains a variety of prehistoric and historic sites, trails and other resources, including the National Register Tangle Lakes Archaeological District (TLAD). The goal of these surveys was to better understand heritage resources that cross land management boundaries and can inform resource management decisions on geographically related resources separated only by differing public land ownership. Costs were shared between the two agencies, enabling the use of helicopter support for transporting two OHA archaeologists and three BLM archaeologists to remote survey areas, which would normally be difficult to access on adjacent State of Alaska and BLM managed lands.

These surveys located two areas that have been significant for travel through the area in both the distant past as well as in the last century. We located a long ridge system over twenty miles long, which was left behind by retreating ice at the end of the last ice age. This series of contiguous, narrow esker ridges appears to have been an ancient travel corridor connecting some of the oldest concentrations of archaeology in the TLAD with the Maclaren River valley, and potentially with, archaeological sites near the Susitna River valley far to the west. If the archaeological sites located along this esker ridge system are in fact related to those farther west, then this route may have been traversed by some of the earliest Native Alaskans to reach the Copper River Basin more than 11,000 years ago.

In more recent times some of the earliest gold prospectors and miners entering this part of Alaska in the early 1900s followed a variety of routes to reach gold fields throughout the Copper River Basin. One of their routes to gold claims in the historic Valdez Creek Mining District was the Paxson to Valdez Creek Trail, which roughly followed the modern Denali Highway. Although much of that original gold route was destroyed during the building of the highway in the late 1950s, this year's archaeological surveys have located and mapped portions of the older route on both BLM and State of Alaska managed lands. The route largely consists of deep and well

defined ruts across flat and occasionally wet tundra, which was likely a more effective route for early miners using pack animals and possibly wagons or sledges than the current highway route.

Figure 1. A view along a portion of the historic Paxson to Valdez Creek Trail.

Figure 2. A crew of BLM seasonal archaeologists records a prehistoric site in the Tangle Lakes

#10 Paleontology outreach:

EXPANDED PAMPHLET: “Dinosaurs on Alaska’s North Slope”

The BLM State Archaeologist (and State Paleontology Lead) worked to expand the popular “Dinosaurs on Alaska’s North Slope” pamphlet. This was done in cooperation with Dr. Patrick Druckenmiller, Paleontologist and Curator of Earth Sciences, University of Alaska Museum of the North. The expanded pamphlet now includes not only new dinosaur discoveries on BLM and other lands in Alaska, but also new information on additional topics including: 1) other Cretaceous life on the North Slope (plants and animals), 2) oldest North Slope plant and animal fossils, and 3) oldest fossils anywhere in Alaska. The final version will be completed in September 2014, with paper and web versions to follow.

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

- **National Programmatic Agreement implementation and State Protocol Revision**
 - ✓ On Feb. 5, 2014, Alaska became the first state to sign a revised State Protocol under the new National PA.
 - ✓ The State Office Archaeologist provided training in March 2014 on the 2012 National PA and 2014 Alaska Protocol to the new Glennallen Field Office manager. Also sitting in was the Glennallen Field Office archaeologist who provided additional Field Office specific information.
 - ✓ The State Office Archaeologist continued assisting the National Training Center (NTC) in Phoenix with planning and execution of Cultural Heritage Program courses including reviewing taped segments of the 8100-01 “Fundamentals for Managing the Cultural Heritage Program.” In late August 2013, he also reviewed another transcript prior to filming and in September 2013 traveled to the NTC to assist with review 8100-08 Historic Resource Management materials developed in prior years as well as to further assist with other 8100-01 work.
 - ✓ The State Office Archaeologist provided an annual report to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) on FY 2013 accomplishments related

to fulfilling terms in the 2012 National PA. A similar report on FY 2014 accomplishments will be provided to the ACHP prior to Sept. 30, 2014.

- ✓ The Alaska State Office (ASO) developed a new 5-year assistance agreement with the Alaska State Office of History and Archaeology to replace the prior 5-year assistance agreement that expired. Once completed prior to 9/30/2014, it will allow the transfer of \$16,000 of Cultural Resources Data Sharing Partnership (CRDSP) money received from the Washington Office to. ASO will be adding an additional \$1,000 for Project Archaeology work under the same agreement. (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.)
- ✓ In March 2014, Central Yukon Field Office Archeologist, Bill Hedman, again chaired the annual Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) Advisory Board meeting held in conjunction with the 2014 Alaska Anthropology Meeting held in Fairbanks. These meetings bring together cultural specialists from state federal and private agencies and organizations to discuss the management of Alaska's statewide cultural resource database.

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

- ✓ Note: See our statistics on the attached form that provide a summary of this work. Section 106 work was done in support of numerous other programs, as usual.

- **Identification, recordation, and evaluation of heritage resources**

- ✓ Note: See earlier information in Part I that fits this category.

- **Stabilization, rehabilitation, and other preservation activities**

- ✓ The Glennallen Field Office continued annual monitoring of two late prehistoric archaeological sites within the Paxson Lake Campground under a past agreement that includes the local Ahtna people whose ancestors likely caused the sites to be there.
- ✓ Note: See also earlier information in Part I that also fits this category.

- **Monitoring and site stewardship**

- ✓ In the spring of 2014, the Glennallen Field Office archaeologist discovered that a researcher from Texas A&M University had been conducting archaeological inventories and testing on BLM managed lands in the mistaken understanding that the lands belonged to the State of Alaska and were covered by permits issued by them. One of the sites tested was a site selected for future conveyance to the local Native Alaskan regional corporation and a nearby Native Village under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act's (ANCSA) Section 14(h)1 as a historic or cemetery selection. Since the discovery, the BLM has been working extensively with Ahtna Incorporated, Cantwell Native Village and Texas A&M to ensure full consultation about the incident and to develop mutually agreed upon mitigation for the unintentional disturbance of the site. The incident also revealed ongoing disturbance from off highway vehicle traffic to another nearby ANCSA 14(h)1 site with a locally well-known historic gravesite. The Glennallen Field Office will continue working with both Ahtna Incorporated, Cantwell Village, and the State of Alaska's State Historic Preservation Officer to determine the appropriate mitigation for the site and its grave.

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

- ✓ The Port Clarence Project (see discussion in prior section) is a multi-faceted project that included research and data recovery from a looted archaeological site. As noted, while no fieldwork was conducted in 2014 at the late prehistoric Port Clarence site, lab work continued. Dr. Shelby Anderson of PSU and her graduate students continued to analyze artifacts and data collected from the site in previous years. They also planned on conducting more data recovery fieldwork in 2015 that will aid their research on this vandalized site.

- **Notable planning accomplishments for heritage resources**

- ✓ The Anchorage Field Office (AFO) archaeologist participated in land use planning efforts during FY 2014 by meeting several tribes for government to government consultation regarding the Bering Sea/Western Interior (BSWI) RMP. The AFO also continues to work on the AMS and on developing alternatives for the BSWI RMP. It is anticipated that work on this RMP will continue into 2015 and 2016. Other planning efforts expected to continue in FY2015 include the Haines Block Plan Amendment to the Ring of Fire RMP, and the Campbell Tract Special Recreation Management Area Plan Amendment to the Ring of Fire RMP.
- ✓ The State Office Archaeologist, with help from the Alaska State Office of History and Archaeology, the Alaska Museum of the North, and the Glennallen and Fairbanks BLM offices, developed an annual progress report in March 2014 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.

- **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 Central Yukon Field Office continued follow-up work that started in 2008 with the unauthorized removal of parts from a rare F-82 aircraft on Army lands in 2008. Under a settlement agreement, BLM received funding to visit the site and access what remains of this rare airplane after significant material was looted that triggered the initial enforcement action. (Note: More details will be found in reports that Washington Office 240 is receiving directly from enforcement reports.)

- **Heritage Education, Interpretation, Outreach, and Tourism**

- ✓ Anchorage Field Office organized a Fireside Chat lecture at the Campbell Creek Science Center on zooarchaeology by University of Alaska Anchorage Professor of Anthropology Dr. Diane Hanson. The zooarchaeology lecture was recorded and later broadcast on the local Anchorage public radio station, KSKA, on the show “Addressing Alaskans.”

Photo Caption 2: Title slide for a zooarchaeology talk given at the Campbell Creek Science Center that was recorded and rebroadcast on Anchorage NPR station KSKA. Courtesy of Diane Hanson.

- ✓ Anchorage Field Office organized a presentation and demonstration on atlatls by Mike Richardson, for the Science Center’s Midsummer Night Science series at the Campbell Creek Science Center.
- ✓ The Glennallen Field Office archaeologist along with National Park Service staff and the Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment conducted an archaeology, atlatl and dart demonstration for fourth grade students from the Copper River School District during Earth Discover Day.
- ✓ The Glennallen Field Office archaeology staff, during National Public Lands Day on July 26, 2014, gave an atlatl and dart demonstration and interpretive

walk in the Tangle Lakes Archaeological District to volunteers participating in a clean-up event along the Denali Highway.

- ✓ The Glennallen Field Office hosted two archaeology student volunteers from colleges in Alaska and Colorado. One of these interns from the Student Conservation Association was employed using Executive Orders Program funding and provided outstanding assistance with Alaska Native consultation efforts as well as implementing cultural resource program goals.
 - ✓ FY 2014 work included the continuing oversight and day-to-day maintenance work at Fort Egbert National Historic Landmark at Eagle, Alaska, which is a favored destination for heritage tourism in the area.
 - ✓ The Alaska State Office (ASO) Archaeologist in FY 2014 added new historical information to the BLM-AK cultural heritage program website on the Richardson Highway, Alaska's earliest road with its origin in the gold rush days of over a century ago. He also added information on BLM icon, Johnny Horizon.
 - ✓ The ASO Archaeologist wrote an illustrated article for the "BLM Daily" for April 21, 2014, during Earth Day week. It was more on the Legacy of the Johnny Horizon Program, BLM's major environmental protection campaign launched in 1968.
 - ✓ The Alaska State Office (ASO) Archaeologist continued throughout FY 2014 providing assistance on the subject of homesteading to the National Park Service at the Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice, Nebraska.
 - ✓ The ASO Archaeologist gave 2 PowerPoint papers at the Alaska Anthropology Association Annual Meeting in Fairbanks in March 2014, on the results of BLM-funded work accomplished during the summer of 2013 at the National Boy Scout Jamboree in West Virginia. This work involved teaching Scouts certain requirements of the Archaeology Merit Badge.
 - ✓ The ASO Archaeologist gave an invited PowerPoint talk on the history, archaeology, and management of the Iditarod National Historic Trail at the Anchorage Genealogical Society meeting in Anchorage on February 19, 2014.
- **Tribal consultation and coordination**
 - ✓ Native American consultation efforts by the Anchorage Field Office (AFO) in FY 2014 focused on the Red Devil Mine and the Bering Sea/Western Interior Resource Management Plan (RMP). As previously noted, the AFO met with

several tribes for government to government consultation regarding the Bering Sea/Western Interior (BSWI) RMP. Resource specialists also furthered Native American outreach efforts through their attendance at Resource Advisory Council Meetings to discuss subsistence concerns with tribal officials and local tribal members, and through their contacts with tribal members while visiting rural communities.

- ✓ The Glennallen Field Office hosted two archaeology student volunteers from colleges in Alaska and Colorado. One of these interns from the Student Conservation Association was employed using Executive Orders Program funding and provided outstanding assistance with Alaska Native consultation efforts as well as implementing cultural resource program goals.
- ✓ BLM-Alaska is reporting 2,267 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.

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

- ✓ Consultation continued in FY 2014 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.
- ✓ Two Notices of Inventory Completion were printed on December 3, 2013 in Federal Register for grave goods removed from St. Lawrence Island that are now in the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. One is unique in that living descendants were found for a man who died in the 1910s, whose grave had items removed in the 1940s. This required extensive historical and genealogical research as well as consultation with St. Lawrence Island Alaska Natives.
- ✓ Work continued in FY 2014 to resolve NAGPRA and other issues for BLM-AK collections housed at the Peabody Museum in Cambridge. BLM-Alaska has been trying to remove these collections for some years with the aid of the BLM National Curator.
- ✓ In FY 2014, BLM-AK received certain NAGPRA materials found to be in storage at the University of Michigan. These were mostly very small samples of human bone that had been archived for radio-carbon dating. Work will continue in FY 2015 to address these in the context of NAGPRA compliance.

- **Paleontology**

- ✓ Note: See prior information on the expanded “Dinosaurs on Alaska’s North Slope” pamphlet, plus information about providing funding to the University of Alaska Museum of the North for upgrading/rehousing paleontology collections
- ✓ “BLM Alaska’s “Frontiers” publications for Winter 2011/2012 (Issue 116) and Spring/Summer 2014 (Issue 120) both featured new dinosaur discoveries from BLM lands in Alaska on the North Slope. See this website for copies: <http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/info/frontiers.html>

- **Museum collections management**

- ✓ As reported earlier as one of our featured accomplishments (see that entry for further details), the University of Alaska Museum (UAM) Earth Sciences Department (which curates BLM’s paleontological collections) received \$20,000 from the BLM cultural program in FY2014 to continue to upgrade, catalog, and properly curate existing legacy collections of fossils. In addition, the Archaeology Department at UAM received \$58,000 in FY14 for similar purposes for archaeological collections from a variety of funding sources, including the cultural program, the Challenge Cost Share program, and from the Washington Office. Cooperative agreements exist between the BLM and both departments to facilitate this ongoing work.
- ✓ Work continued in FY 2014 with the University of Alaska Museum of the North, under the BLM-developed Accountability Plan for Pipeline Legacy Collections, to further account for collections made during construction of the 1970s Alaska Pipeline. At the March 2014 annual meeting for the accountability, assessment, and curation of artifacts collected in the past along the Trans-Alaska Pipeline corridor, letters of inquiry sent out by the UAM were discussed. They had gone out to principal archaeologists on that 1970s project, with the purpose of the letters to help bring closure to ongoing work to track collections.

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.

11 Attachments

- 1 – Annual Report Statistical forms (XX pp.)
- 2 – FY 2013 & 2014 Heritage Projects and Partnerships form (1 p.)
- 3 – Historic Structures listing (1 p.)
- 4 – LOOT forms (1 p.)
- 5 – Museum Collection forms (7 pp.)
- 6 – NAGPRA Repatriation data form (3 pp.)
- 7 – Repository Receipt dated 6/30/2014 Perot Museum of Science-Nature (5 pp.)
- 8 – Repository Receipt dated 12/19/2013 UA Museum of the North (5 pp.)

- 9 – Repository Receipt dated 1/29/2014 UA Museum of the North (3 pp.)
- 10 – Repository Receipt dated 2/20/2014 UA Museum of the North (4 pp.)
- 11 – Photo CD

cc w/attachments #1-6 only:

- AKA01 Alan Bittner
- AKA01 Jenny Blanchard
- AKA02 Dennis Teitzel
- AKA02 John Jangala
- AKA00 Karen Kelleher
- AKF00 Steve Hartmann
- AKF01 Lon Kelly
- AKF02 Lenore Heppler
- AKF03 Shelly Jacobson
- AKF02 Robin Mills
- AKF01 Stacie McIntosh
- AKF03 Bill Hedman