



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 2015 Cultural Resources Management Program Annual Report

This is in response to Washington Office Information Memorandum No. 2015-096, dated May 22, 2015, 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) 2015 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, 2014 to July 31, 2015, thus remaining consistent with prior reporting.

Part I: Major FY 2015 Accomplishments associated with the management of cultural and paleontological resources, including the associated collections and data, and tribal consultation:

Resource protection project:

FORTYMILE DRAINAGE & STEESE NCA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYS – 2015

The Eastern Interior Field Office Archaeologist organized two cultural resources surveys this year: #1 along the Fortymile River drainage via helicopter and rafts; and #2 within the Steese National Conservation Area (NCA) via 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 occurred along the Middle Fork, North Fork, and main stem of the Fortymile Wild & Scenic River. Partnering with archaeologists from the University of Alaska Museum of the North, the Fortymile project used a helicopter to first identify high potential prehistoric site locales along the float route, and then walked in to those locales from the river

during the float trip. In addition to 800 acres surveyed and 18 known sites monitored (mostly historic cabin ruin sites), 11 new sites were also discovered: an historic cabin ruin site, a Pleistocene paleontological site, and nine prehistoric sites. The latter prehistoric sites include two with house depressions, being unique finds indeed in the Fortymile drainage. The Steese NCA survey was focused on the southern unit of the conservation area, a place little-examined for cultural resources. The surveys inventoried 500 acres and recorded seven new prehistoric archaeological sites. The Steese survey included the archaeologists from both the BLM Eastern Interior and the Central Yukon field offices, as well as an archaeologist from the National Park Service.

7 Photos:

“Mills EIFO surveys 2015-1”. Archaeological float trip survey in the Fortymile Wild & Scenic River (W&SR) corridor. Five archaeologists from the BLM and partner University of Alaska Museum of the North, in Fairbanks, Alaska, floated in two rafts along 80+ miles of the much larger Fortymile W&SR.

“Mills EIFO surveys 2015-2”. Archaeological float trip survey in the Fortymile Wild & Scenic River corridor. Jacob Adams and Sam Coffman archaeologists from the University of Alaska Museum of the North, in Fairbanks, Alaska, evaluating a potential prehistoric site locality.

“Mills EIFO surveys 2015-3”. Archaeological float trip survey in the Fortymile Wild & Scenic River corridor. Sam Coffman, archaeologist from the University of Alaska Museum of the North, in Fairbanks, and Steve Lanford, seasonal BLM archaeology technician, Alaska, record a food cache pit at a newly discovered prehistoric site.

“Mills EIFO surveys 2015-4”. Archaeological float trip survey in the Fortymile Wild & Scenic River corridor. View from a newly discovered prehistoric housepit and cache pit site, overlooking a floodplain, with the Middle Fork of the Fortymile River in the background.

“Mills EIFO surveys 2015-5”. Archaeological float trip survey in the Fortymile Wild & Scenic River corridor. Monitoring a known log cabin ruin associated with mid-20th century trapping along the Middle Fork of the Fortymile River.

“Mills EIFO surveys 2015-6”. Archaeological helicopter survey in the Steese National Conservation Area. BLM Central Yukon Field Office (FO) archaeologist Bill Hedman examining a newly discovered prehistoric cairn.

“Mills EIFO surveys 2015-7”. Archaeological helicopter survey in the Steese National Conservation Area. National Park Service archaeologist Jeff Rasic recording a newly discovered prehistoric lithic scatter site.

Resource protection project:

EARTHSOPE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

From its website, Earthscope is a huge project focused on exploring North America to better understand what it is made up of, and how it works! As part of this over-reaching goal, Earthscope has been setting up seismic stations throughout the continent. In 2015, Earthscope contacted the BLM with its plans to set up seismic installations. The Alaskan project consists of a large deployment (approximately 294) of ground motion sensors (seismometers) throughout Alaska and western Canada at a nominal spacing of 85 km (51 miles) over the next 4 years. Stations will remain in place for up to 5 years, at which time the equipment will be recovered and sites will be restored to their original state. Rolling station removals are expected to start in 2018. The typical station will occupy a footprint not to exceed 20 x 20 ft. Access to all sites on BLM-managed lands by the installation crew will be via helicopter.

After reviewing the details of each of the proposed sites on BLM-managed lands, including photographs, BLM archaeologists determined that three of the locations required an on-the-ground assessment, primarily because they were determined to high potential for prehistoric sites. All three sites were examined by qualified cultural resource specialists in June and July, including Central Yukon Field Station and Eastern Interior Field Station archaeologists, and a contracted specialist from the University of Alaska Museum of the North, in Fairbanks, Alaska. No cultural resources were found. Project organizers were notified to proceed.

2 Photos:

“Mills Earthscope survey 2015-1”. Assessment of several proposed seismic stations. This photo is from proposed site E23K-3, a location in the Alaskan Brooks Range, overlooking the Chandalar Shelf, a broad valley encompassing the upper headwaters of the Chandalar River. Seen at the bottom of the mountain slope is the Dalton Highway, leading up to Prudhoe Bay, and beyond that a straight line of disturbance vegetation indicating the buried Trans-Alaskan Pipeline.

“Mills Earthscope survey 2015-2”. Assessment of several proposed seismic stations. This photo is from proposed site E23K-3, a location in the Alaskan Brooks Range, overlooking the Chandalar Shelf, a broad valley encompassing the upper headwaters of the Chandalar River. Seen in the distance is a State of Alaska Department of Transportation camp and airstrip.

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 no additional funds from the BLM cultural program in

FY2015 – they have enough existing funds from prior years in order to continue to upgrade, catalog, and properly curate existing legacy collections of fossils for the time being. In addition, the Archaeology Department at UAM received \$51,000 in FY15 from a variety of funding sources, including the BLM cultural program, the Challenge Cost Share program, and 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 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. Collections from BLM land include about 140 accessions and more than 21,000 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 more than 10 years ago and which has continued annually with varying levels of funding. UAM full-time staff hires, trains, and supervises students to perform this work.

Work accomplished during last year: Paleontology: *3,603 fossils* were re-housed, catalogued, and entered into the online UAM Earth Sciences database during the timeframe of the ending of 3rd quarter 2014 through the ending of 3rd quarter 2015. Archaeology: *15,141 artifacts* in 130 separate accessioned collections were catalogued and brought up to modern curatorial standards, during the timeframe of the ending of 3rd quarter 2014 through the ending of 3rd quarter 2015. A significant project that was tackled in 2015 was processing the Sikoruk site materials. In May of 2014, BLM contractors traveled to New York State to box up and send to UAMN ~ 250 cubic feet of artifacts, faunal remains, and archaeological samples that were collected by Dr. Edwin S. Hall from sites on BLM land in northern Alaska. These collections were made in the 1960s and 1970s and have been stored in Dr. Hall's private laboratory in upstate New York since that time. Most of these collections are from the Sikoruk Site at Tukuto Lake in the central-western Brooks Range, a late prehistoric native village site. These collections arrived at the museum in need of reorganization, cataloging, and archival rehousing. When all was said and done, a total of **8,841** artifacts were processed, inventoried, catalogued, rehoused, and organized into the collections storage range. See the photos associated with this project, which are representative of the larger collective effort that UAMN Archaeology is doing with BLM legacy collections that it houses.

7 Photos:

“Mills Museum Rehousing 2015-1”. Three of four pallets of Edwin S. Hall collections arriving at the museum.

“Mills Museum Rehousing 2015-2”. A portion of the Edwin S. Hall collections as they arrived at the museum.

“Mills Museum Rehousing 2015-3”. Inside one box of the Sikoruk collections prior to rehousing.

“Mills Museum Rehousing 2015-4”. Documentation associated with the Edwin S. Hall collections on 3.5” floppy disks. This information will be permanently curated on the museum's server.

“Mills Museum Rehousing 2015-5”. A box of fauna from the Sikoruk Site after rehousing.

“Mills Museum Rehousing 2015-6”. A box of wooden artifacts from the Sikoruk Site that were transferred into a drawer after rehousing.

“Mills Museum Rehousing 2015-7”. The rehoused portion of the Sikoruk collections in their permanent location in the museum collection range.

Resource Protection Project:

PORT CLARENCE SITES ASSESSMENT & MONITORING

The AFO Archaeologist assisted with 2015 fieldwork at the late prehistoric Port Clarence site, located on a US Coast Guard (USCG) withdrawal. The site has been intensively looted since 2010. This multiyear project is a cooperative effort between the BLM, the US Coast Guard, and Portland State University (PSU), with the majority of funding coming 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, including the looting of human burials. This type of activity is often called “subsistence digging.” In 2015, Dr. Shelby Anderson of PSU and her graduate students conducted two weeks of fieldwork at Port Clarence. The focus of this work was on collecting data and samples from sites identified in 2013, and on completing survey of Point Spencer that began in 2013. One new site was identified by the 2015 survey. Testing resulted in collection of artifacts and datable samples from 9 sites. 8 of these sites have already been significantly impacted by looting activities, which has continued since fieldwork began in 2013. Lab analysis of collected materials will continue into 2016, with a final report completed in summer 2016.

1 Photo:

“Port Clarence 2015”: Archaeologists test excavating a looted archaeological site at Port Clarence. The abandoned US Coast Guard station is in the background, along with a herd of muskox.

Outreach and Education Activities Project:

ANCHORAGE OUTDOOR WEEK

The Anchorage Field Office continued its outreach efforts in Alaska’s largest city through various activities for both youth and adults. The AFO archaeologist, with help from BLM AK State Cultural Resource Lead Robert King and US Air Force archaeologist Karlene Leeper, organized and ran an archaeology station for about 200 sixth grade students from the Anchorage School District about prehistoric hunting in Alaska during Outdoor Week in May 2015. 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. Other outreach

activities included two Fireside Chat lectures at the Campbell Creek Science Center: one on dinosaur fossils found in Denali National Park, and one on the historic NIKE Site Summit.

1 Photo:

“AFO Outreach 2015”: A 6th grade teacher practicing throwing a spear with an atlatl at the archaeology station, at Outdoor Week at the BLM Campbell Creek Science Center, May 2015.

Resource Protection Project:

TANGLE LAKES ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISTRICT SURVEY & MONITORING

The Glennallen Field Office conducted surveys in an unexamined portion of the Tangle Lakes Archaeological District (TLAD) that divides the Delta Wild and Scenic River drainage, which flows north into Tanana River, from the Gulkana Wild and Scenic River, which flows south into the Copper River. This area is one of several ancient esker ridge travel corridors potentially connecting up to three watersheds in the TLAD, which has been an area of heavy prehistoric use dating back as far as 12,000 years before present. These surveys located 8 prehistoric sites along a small portion of a several mile long, sinuous ridge that spans between the two river systems. Our surveys are delineating a prehistoric breadcrumb trail of prehistoric archaeology linking the Tanana Valley with the Copper River Basin, and which offers a clue to at least one of the prehistoric subsistence rounds of the people who used the Tangle Lakes several thousand years ago.

2 Photos:

“TLAD Survey 2015_01”: GFO Archaeology Crew Prepares for Rain in TLAD

“TLAD Survey 2015_02”: GFO Archaeology Crew Records a Lithic Scatter in TLAD

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

- **National Programmatic Agreement implementation and State Protocol Revision**
 - ✓ The State Office Archaeologist in late August 2014, taught sections on the National Programmatic Agreement and State Protocols at the 5th offering of the 8100-01 class at the NTC: “Fundamentals of the Cultural Heritage Program”
 - ✓ The State Office Archaeologist provided an annual report to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) on FY 2014 accomplishments related to fulfilling terms in the 2012 National PA. A similar report on FY 2015 accomplishments will be provided to the ACHP prior to Sept. 30, 2015.

- ✓ 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). ASO added an additional \$5,000 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.)

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

- ✓ The Glennallen Field Office conducted helicopter supported archaeological surveys on both BLM and State of Alaska lands within the State of Alaska's Department of Natural Resources Forestry Division's proposed Alphabet Hills Prescribed burn unit at the headwaters of the BLM managed West Fork of the Gulkana Wild and Scenic River. These surveys located a historic trapping cabin as well as a prehistoric lithic scatter in an area of dense black spruce forest and wetlands. Given the density of vegetation and limited soil visibility in the area, these limited surveys indicate that additional undiscovered prehistoric heritage resources are likely to be present in the burn unit. The BLM will therefore coordinate with the Alaska SHPO as well as affected federally recognized tribes this fall to determine any appropriate mitigation for undiscovered heritage resources prior to approving the State of Alaska's burn plan.

1 Photo:

"ABCHills_2015_01": GFO Crew Records a Collapsed Historic Cabin within a Proposed Burn Area

- ✓ **Linda Creek Historic Inventory:** Central Yukon archaeologist Bill Hedman was joined by archeologists from the Eastern Interior Field Office and BLM student volunteers for an inventory of historic mining remains in the vicinity of Linda Creek near Coldfoot, Alaska. A number of historic features were identified and site locations corrected.
- ✓ **Dalton Highway Mineral Material Source Inventories:** In late July, Central Yukon archeologist Bill Hedman conducted several inventories of proposed gravel material sale sites along the Dalton Highway between Coldfoot and Atigun Pass. In addition to material source inventories, several known historic sites were monitored for impacts from recreation and mining in the vicinity of Coldfoot and Wiseman.
- ✓ 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**

- ✓ Planned archeological inventory of the Ray Mountains, in the Central Yukon Field Office, was cancelled due to intense fire activity surrounding the proposed survey area. The Ray Mountains Inventory will be conducted in 2016. Efforts will be made to draw upon any funds made available for burned area recovery.
- ✓ Note: See earlier information on archaeological survey projects in Part I.

- **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.

- **Monitoring and site stewardship**

- ✓ **Cultural Resources Data Partnership (CRDP).** Central Yukon Field Office archeologist, Bill Hedman, spent several weeks this past spring working out of the Washington Office while gearing up for his role as the CRDP coordinator and attending the ESRI Federal Users Conference. Effort was also focused on sharing some of the GIS tools that have been developed in BLM Alaska with WO staff. A national meeting was held in Utah in May which brought the CRDP team together for several days of productive meetings. Following this meeting, Bill traveled in June to Grand Junction, CO to share CRDP happenings with the BLM Preservation Board. In August Hedman traveled to Boise to participate in development of the GIS training course for archaeologists.
- ✓ **Fire Activity.** Alaska had one of the busiest fire seasons on record in 2015, with much of the fire activity being within the Central Yukon Field Office. A number of planned projects were cancelled or delayed due to intense fire activity and dense smoke which hampered aviation work. CYFO archaeologist Bill Hedman responded to a request for an archaeologist to the Healy Lake fire where he coordinated with firefighters, command staff, and tribal members in the establishment of dozer lines and hand lines to protect cultural resources and the remote village of Healy Lake. The Healy Lake fire was followed by a flight to Galena where Hedman coordinated with staff of the Ruby and Galena area fires. Upon return to the office work in support of fire was consistent through the month of July with regular requests for information regarding potential impacts to cultural resources as a result of fire-related activities. (Note: As of late August 2015, wildfires have burned over 8 million acres throughout the USA,

with over 5 million of those 8+ million acres burned being in Alaska! Over 5 million acres is about the size of the state of Massachusetts.)

1 photo:

“AK_Fire_Map_2015”: Extent of fire activity in Alaska, summer 2015.

- ✓ 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 to 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. During 2015, the BLM has continued to work with the Cantwell Village Council, Ahtna Inc., and Texas A&M University to resolve concerns about the unauthorized work. Toward that end both the involved researcher from Texas A&M and the BLM met with both the tribe and the ANCSA corporation in the spring of 2015 to explain the research and to offer an apology for the unauthorized work. Both Ahtna Inc. and Cantwell Village Council accepted the apology and requested that the researcher include a note in his dissertation about the event as well as copies of his doctoral dissertation at the conclusion of the research. Additionally, the BLM agreed to protect a historic grave in a nearby BLM managed ANCSA Section 14(h)1 site, which is being impacted by hunters in off highway vehicles (OHVs). In July 2015, the BLM placed a geotextile fabric over the grave and built a rock cairn to protect the grave from OHVs. When the Texas A&M researcher completes his dissertation, the BLM will review it and ensure that both the Cantwell Tribe and Ahtna Inc. receive copies.
- ✓ The BLM Glennallen Field Office and the National Park Service’s (NPS) Sitka National Historic Park are working on an interagency agreement to transfer daily management of a 1960s-built replica of a Russian Blockhouse in Sitka, Alaska. The replica blockhouse was originally built by the NPS on BLM managed lands near the center of Sitka, and management of the structure has since fallen on the BLM. Because of the area’s remote location from any BLM Alaska offices, the Sitka National Historic Park’s superintendent and the Sitka community have requested that the BLM transfer management of the structure to the local NPS unit.
- ✓ The BLM Eastern Interior and Central Yukon Field Offices monitored 26 known historic and prehistoric sites during various projects this summer 2015, including a float trip on the Fortymile WSR, a road trip up the Dalton Highway in the vicinity of Coldfoot and Wiseman, and during a Steese NCA helicopter survey. 123 sites were monitored by cultural resource specialists working for the U.S. Army on the Donnelly Training Area in 2014 and reported in 2015.

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

- ✓ Read about the Port Clarence project in Part I.
- ✓ The BLM and the State of Alaska's Office of History and Archaeology (OHA) jointly funded and conducted a project with the University of Alaska, Fairbanks (UAF) Department of Anthropology and the Alaska Quaternary Center to collect paleo-environmental data from two locations in the Tangle Lakes Archaeological District. This year, the project's participants are collecting a sediment column from one of the oldest human occupation sites in the area as well as pollen cores from the bed of an ancient lake. Analyses of sediment samples and pollen cores from these two locations will provide a better understanding of the region's past environmental conditions and their effects upon almost 12,000 years of human occupation in the Tangle Lakes. A report summarizing the results of these detailed analyses at UAF is expected to provide insights into some of the most significant events in the Tangle Lakes prehistory, including the timing of an early Holocene pro-glacial lake outburst flood that may have changed human use patterns of the area.

- **Notable planning accomplishments for heritage resources**

- ✓ The AFO archaeologist participated in land use planning efforts during FY 2015 for the Bering Sea/Western Interior (BSWI) RMP. It is anticipated that work on this RMP will continue into 2017. Similarly, the EIFO archaeologist participated in planning efforts for the Eastern Interior RMP, which will hopefully be signed in 2016, and the CYFO archaeologist continued efforts with the new Central Yukon RMP, which is still in the early stages of development. Other planning expected to continue in FY2016 include the Campbell Tract Special Recreation Management Area Plan Amendment to the Ring of Fire RMP.
- ✓ 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 2015 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.

- **Enforcement of heritage protection authorities (e.g., Section 6 of Archaeological Resources Protection Act and Section 3606 or the Paleontological Resources Protection Act) and related activities**

- ✓ The Eastern Interior and Central Yukon Field Offices continued follow-up work that started in 2008 with the unauthorized looting or removal of parts in 2008 from a rare F-82 aircraft on BLM-owned land that is managed by the Army as part Ft. Wainwright military base. Under a settlement agreement, BLM received funding to mitigate the looting activity that occurred at this site. These funds were transferred via an assistance agreement to cultural resource specialists working for the U.S. Army out of Colorado State University. As part of the agreement, CSU personnel will evaluate the site, produce a DOE, and design and produce public information educational panels about the F-82 aircraft at Ft. Wainwright, and the effects of looting on archaeological sites.

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

- ✓ The Glennallen Field Office archaeologist presented a paper at the 2015 Alaska Anthropological Association's 2015 annual meeting, which covered last year's joint archaeological survey work with the State of Alaska's Office of History and Archaeology in the Tangle Lakes Archaeological District.
- ✓ The Glennallen Field Office archaeology staff gave a presentation to the Copper River Watershed Committees annual youth stewardship group about ancient pro-glacial Lake Atna.
- ✓ The Glennallen Field Office archaeologist presented a summary of archaeological research in the northern Copper River Basin in conjunction with The Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment community science lecture series in the town of Glennallen.
- ✓ FY 2015 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 ASO Archaeologist gave an invited PowerPoint talk on Homesteading in Alaska for the Mountain View Lion's Club in Anchorage on 11/30/2014
- ✓ The ASO Archaeologist gave a talk on early Alaska Dog Mushing (involving BLM land) at the Alaska Anthropological Association Annual Meeting on 3/7/2015 in Anchorage

- ✓ The ASO Archaeologist gave 4 separate 44-minute talks on the history and archaeology of the Iditarod National Historic Trail to all the freshman and sophomore high school students in Valdez, AK on 3/12/2015
- ✓ The ASO Archaeologist a similar talk in Valdez also on 3/12/2015 to home-school children
- ✓ The ASO Archaeologist gave an invited keynote 90-minute evening talk at the Valdez, AK Library on early Alaska Dog Mushing for a special Valdez Museum-organized conference on 3/12/2015
- ✓ The ASO wrote an article entitled “Alaska’s Heritage: Roadhouses” for the Summer 2015 issue of “Frontiers” that was printed in late July 2015
- ✓ The ASO Archaeologist gave 3 more separate 44-minute talks on the history and archaeology of the Iditarod National Historic Trail to 3 junior high school classes in Valdez, AK on 3/13/2015
- ✓ The ASO Archaeologist gave a 90-minute talk in the BLM Campbell Creek Science Center Fireside Chat Series on curious early stories of Alaska long-distance dog mushing 1890s-1930s, on 3/18/2015
- ✓ The ASO Archaeologist gave the same 90-minute talk to the Alaska Prospectors Club in Anchorage on 6/23/2015

- **Tribal consultation and coordination**

- ✓ Native American consultation efforts in FY 2015 have focused on the Red Devil Mine and the Bering Sea/Western Interior Resource Management Plan (RMP). Early outreach for the RMP made up the majority of the Anchorage Field Office’s consultation efforts this year. 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.
- ✓ Red Devil Mine project has benefitted from early and frequent consultation. Superfund law requires agencies to consult with affected tribes before selecting a proposed plan for contaminated sites like the Red Devil Mine, a former mercury mine on the Kuskokwim River in Western Alaska. BLM Alaska decided it could do better. BLM began meeting with concerned tribes and communities at the start of the Red Devil Mine investigation in 2010. Years of regular consultation with the concerned and engaged tribal members of the region have created a positive working relationship between BLM and tribes. In June BLM was invited to the 2015 Annual Tribal Gathering of the Village of

Lower Kalskag. This was BLM's seventh visit in the last five years to this traditional Yup'ik community on the Kuskokwim River. BLM updated the tribe on the progress of the investigation and listened carefully to tribal members' issues and concerns about the Red Devil Mine site. When BLM returns to the Village of Lower Kalskag with a proposed cleanup plan for the Red Devil Mine site in the spring of 2016, it will do so as a familiar face. The residents and tribal members of Lower Kalskag know BLM will listen and consider their concerns before selecting a remedy.

- ✓ The Glennallen Field Office began consultation efforts with two Southeast Alaskan tribes for the helicopter assisted recreation portion of the Haines Block amendment to the Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan. The use of helicopters for recreation has been a controversial issue for the Haines community, including with the area's two federally recognized tribes. Consultation efforts will continue as the plan amendment proceeds.
 - ✓ BLM-Alaska is reporting 2,006 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 Notice of Inventory Completion was printed on Nov. 17, 2014 in the Federal Register for 39 partial sets of human remains from the Barrow area deposited in the Univ. of AK Museum of the North. Those 39 partial sets were subsequently repatriated on March 16, 2015 to the Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government for reburial.
- **Paleontology**
 - ✓ The ASO Archaeologist gave a PowerPoint talk on Dinosaurs in Alaska based on the new BLM pamphlet on the same topic (entitled "Dinosaurs on Alaska's North Slope") to 4 Campfire groups in Anchorage on 7/24/2015
 - ✓ The ASO issued 2 new Paleontological Resources Use Permits.

- **Museum collections management**

- ✓ See Museums Collection Management in Part I.
- ✓ Work was completed in FY 2015 by 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. This was reported at the March 2015 annual meeting for the accountability, assessment, and curation of artifacts collected in the past along the Trans-Alaska Pipeline corridor.

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.

7 Attachments

- 1 – Annual Report Questionnaire (8 pp.)
- 2 – Projects & Partnerships (1 p.)
- 3 – Historic Structure Listing (1 p.)
- 4 – Loot forms (1 p.)
- 5 – Museum Collection forms (8 pp.)
- 6 – NAGPRA Repatriations (3 pp.)
- 7 – Photo CD

cc w/attachments #1-7:

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cc w/attachments #1-6 only:

AKA01 Alan Bittner
AKA01 Jenny Blanchard
AKA02 Dennis Teitzel
AKA02 John Jangala

AKA00 Mark Spencer
AKF00 Geoff Beyersdorf
AKF01 Stacie McIntosh
AKF02 Lenore Heppler
AKF03 Shelly Jacobson
AKF02 Robin Mills
AKF03 Bill Hedman