



Archeology Program

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



February 2016 Archeology E-Gram

This month, four of our stories are about bison! Check them out!



NPS NEWS

Robert Bryson Named NPS Midwest Region Associate Regional Director for Cultural Resources

Bob Bryson, a 14-year veteran of the NPS, has been selected as the Associate Regional Director for Cultural Resource Preservation in the Midwest Region. He is currently the Manager of the Midwest Archeological Center (MWAC) in Lincoln, Nebraska and continues in that role after assuming his expanded duties.

Bryson came to the NPS Midwest Region from Mojave National Preserve, where he served as Chief of Resource Management from 2008-2013 and Park Archeologist from 2001-2008. He was also the lead of the Paleontological and Cultural Resources Advisory Team serving the California Desert Managers Group and served on the Pacific West Region (PWR) Cultural Resource Advisory Committee. Bryson represented the PWR to the Archeological Sites and Abandoned Mine Lands Work Groups and on the Vanishing Treasures Program Advisory Committee.

Bryson holds an M.S. and Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Oregon. Prior to joining the NPS, he was a researcher at the Center for Climatic Research at the University of Wisconsin, helping to develop a macrophysical method of paleoclimatic modeling which he applied to archeological issues in a variety of world settings.



By Lauren Blacik

President Obama Uses Antiquities Act to designate Three New National Monuments

President Obama has protected more than 1.8 million acres of California desert with the creation of three national monuments: Castle Mountains, Mojave Trails and Sand to Snow. The new monuments will connect three existing sites — Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks and the Mojave National Preserve — to create the second-largest desert preserve in the world.

Obama has protected more than 260 million acres of America’s lands and waters under the Antiquities Act of 1906, which gives the president power to safeguard federal lands that have cultural, historic or scientific value. The White House has identified two main criteria for naming monuments this year: areas that help foster resilience to climate change or are “connected to people and communities that have not been historically represented” in national parks and other federal sites.

Other possible future designations include Bears Ears, a sacred site for Native American tribes in southeastern Utah; Stonewall, the site of a 1969 riot by members of New York City’s gay community; the New England Coral Canyons and Seamounts; the historic headquarters of the National Woman’s Party, the Sewall-Belmont House in Washington, D.C.; and Nevada’s Gold Butte, where rancher Cliven Bundy and his supporters have defied federal authorities. The armed occupation of Oregon’s Malheur NWR may have hurt the prospects for increased protections around that state’s Owyhee Canyonlands.

A group of Hawaiians are lobbying to expand Papahānaumokuākea NM, whose islands and atolls are home to 1,750 marine species found nowhere else on Earth. That would make it 520,000 square miles, or nine times its current size.



The Senate considered an amendment that would have reversed national-monument designations if Congress and lawmakers in the affected states did not explicitly approve them within three years of designation. It was narrowly defeated 48 to 47.

President Obama has set aside more of America’s lands and waters for conservation protection than any of his predecessors, and he is preparing to do even more before he leaves office next year. The result may be one of the most expansive environmental and historic-preservation legacies in presidential history.

From story by Juliet Eilperin, Washington Post

Navy Sunken and Terrestrial Military Craft Permitting Guidelines Affect National Parks

The Department of the Navy (DON) regulations implementing the Sunken Military Craft Act (SMCA) and establishing permitting requirements for conducting intrusive activities on sunken and terrestrial military craft under its jurisdiction go into effect March 1, 2016.

Published in the Federal Register August 31, 2015, the revised regulations establish a permitting process for intrusive activities that may injure, disturb, or remove DON sunken and terrestrial military craft for archaeological, historical, or educational purposes. The rule also identifies guidelines for inclusion of foreign or other Department of Defense sunken military craft under DON’s permitting program, and establishes the process by which enforcement provisions of the SMCA will be implemented.

National Parks manage significant numbers of terrestrial and sunken DON craft. A 2015 interagency agreement (IA) emphasizes coordination and consultation between agencies when activities are directed at military craft on NPS lands. In that event, the IA specifies that NPS will remain the authority, in consultation with the Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC), to issue permits for activities directed at Heritage Military Craft on NPS lands. It also allows for the NPS and its agents, including contractors, to conduct activities under the SMCA, without permits, provided they consult and coordinate with NHHC. "Heritage Military Craft" includes sunken military craft and terrestrial military craft as defined in 32 CFR Part 767 that may also be considered archeological resources.

The SMCA, enacted in 2004, affirmed the United States' right, title and interest in and to its military craft remains in perpetuity, unless expressly divested. Those who disturb, remove, or injure sunken military craft without authorization may face enforcement action. The permitting process provides a means through which individuals and organizations may seek the required authorization. Recreational divers or commercial and sport fishermen may continue to operate over and around DON sunken military craft without requiring a permit as long as they do not intentionally or negligently disturb, remove, or injure them and their contents.

Since publishing Final Rule 32 CFR 767, the NHHC has developed information about the new program and its associated processes. Related documents and outreach materials are available on the NHHC web site at:

<http://www.history.navy.mil/research/underwater-archaeology/policy-and-resource-management.html>.

The full text of the Final Rule is available at <https://federalregister.gov/a/2015-20795>

National Park Service Awards over \$5.3 Million to Protect 1,640 Acres at 17 Civil War Battlefields

The NPS announced more than \$5.3 million in Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to help preserve 1,640 acres at 17 of America's Civil War battlefields. The grants are administered by the NPS American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP), one of more than a dozen programs administered by the NPS that provide states and local communities technical assistance, recognition, and funding to help preserve their own history and create close-to-home recreation opportunities.

Consideration for the grants is given to battlefields listed in the NPS Civil War Sites Advisory Commission's 1993 *Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields* and the ABPP's 2007 *Report to Congress on the Historic Preservation of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 Sites in the United States*. Grants are awarded to units of state and local governments for the fee simple acquisition of land, or for the non-federal acquisition of permanent, protective interests in land (easements). Private non-profit groups may apply in partnership with state or local government sponsors. In addition to the grantees listed below, partnership organizations involved in the grant projects included the Civil War Trust, the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, the Georgia Piedmont Land Trust, Kentucky State Parks, Maryland State Park Service, and the Tennessee Historical Commission.

Since its establishment in 1964, the LWCF has conserved land in every state and supported tens of thousands of state and local projects. The fund does not use taxpayer dollars; the primary source of income derives from fees paid by oil and gas companies drilling offshore in waters owned by the American people.

President Obama is proposing full funding for the LWCF in the FY 2017 budget, and pursuing permanent authorization in annual mandatory funding for the Fund’s programs beginning in 2018.

Guidelines for grant eligibility and application forms are available online at www.nps.gov/abpp.

Grantee, State	Amount
Historic Preservation Program, Department of Arkansas Heritage, AR	
Elkins Ferry Battlefield, 448.00 acres (Fee Simple)	\$496,087.50
Department of Natural Resources, GA	
Rocky Face Ridge Battlefield, 308.46 acres (Fee Simple)	\$703,060.00
Department of Natural Resources, MD	
South Mountain Battlefield, 5.24 acres (Fee Simple)	\$139,505.00
Department of Archives and History, MS	
Champion Hill Battlefield, 315.89 acres (Fee Simple)	\$668,926.00
McNairy County, TN	
Shiloh Battlefield, 235.00 acres (Easement)	\$95,200.00
Department of Conservation and Recreation, VA	
Appomattox Court House Battlefield, 1.13 acres (Fee Simple)	\$69,247.50
Department of Conservation and Recreation, VA	
Deep Bottom II Battlefield, 4.92 acres (Fee Simple)	\$68,800.00
Department of Conservation and Recreation, VA	
Glendale Battlefield, 1.68 acres (Fee Simple)	\$71,380.00
Department of Conservation and Recreation, VA	
Kernstown I Battlefield, 37.40 acres (Fee Simple)	\$357,900.00
Department of Conservation and Recreation, VA	
Opequon Battlefield, 5.00 acres (Fee Simple)	\$79,275.50
Department of Historic Resources, VA	
Opequon Battlefield, 5.00 acres (Fee Simple)	\$125,783.00
Total	\$2,875,164.50

Introduced Bill Will Expand Ocmulgee National Monument

Congressman Sanford Bishop, Georgia, has introduced House Bill 482 to redesignate Ocmulgee National Monument in the State of Georgia and revise its boundary. The bill would rename the unit the Ocmulgee Mounds National Recreation Area, expand the boundary by 2,100 acres, and authorize a special resource study of lands in the vicinity. The bill was amended to provide for acquisition only by donation and to require owners’ consent for land to be included in the boundary.

National Park Service Partners With Google

A partnership between the NPS and Google has created the Google Cultural Institute, a digital platform which makes hundreds of historically and culturally significant objects in NPS museum collection available online. The Google Cultural Institute uses technologies similar to Google’s Street View –providing 360-degree views on Google Maps of locations around the world -- to photograph and virtually map important artifacts, photos, records and works of art to share with global audiences and digitally preserve them for future generations.

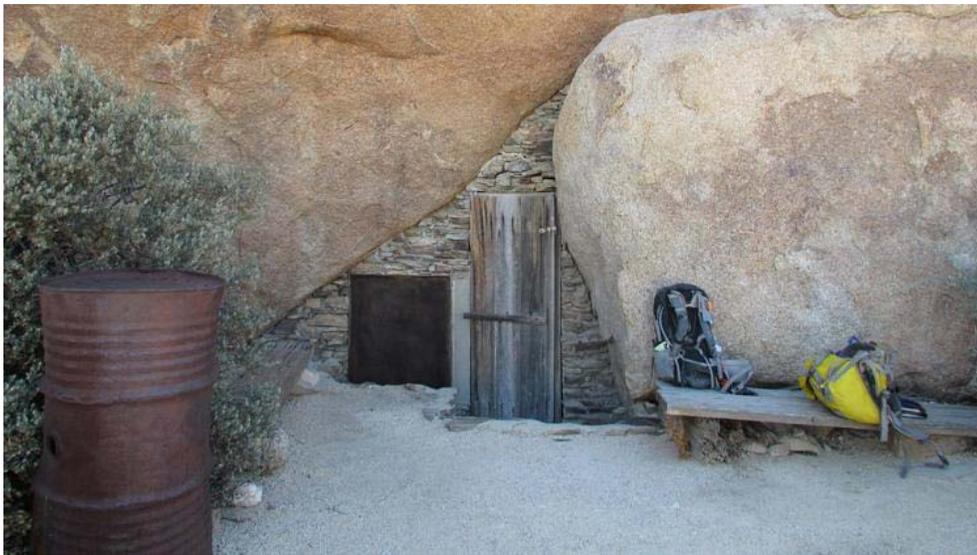
Visitors to the NPS “channel” will be able to view more than 3,800 works of art, artifacts and records. Exhibits will include a Centennial Virtual Exhibit, which features a significant museum object from over

350 national park sites, and "interior street views" offering virtual tours of 8 national historic sites and historical parks.

To visit the NPS "channel" on the Google Cultural Institute, go to <https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/u/0/project/national-park-service>

Looting Prompts Closures at Mining Sites in Joshua Tree National Park

Two areas of Joshua Tree NP noted for their mining artifacts have been closed indefinitely because of looting. The areas include Carey's Castle and El Sid Mine, in the southeast area of the park. They will be closed until cultural artifact teams can inventory and record the areas, and while the park devises an enforcement and surveillance strategy.



Carey's Castle, an abandoned mining homestead in Joshua Tree NP. (Photo by Geoffrey Mohan)

Carey's Castle, north of Chiriaco Summit, was built during the Great Depression in the hollow beneath a boulder that also was visited by Native Americans. El Sid, at the far eastern edge of the park, was first prospected in the late 19th century, though most of its artifacts date from the Depression era to recent decades. Neither site attracted many but the most intrepid cross-country hikers, until a newspaper recently printed a two-page spread about day hiking to Carey's Castle. Soon after, the ranger's office received six calls in one day about the site, compared with about that many visits by individual hikers per month.

Several other areas of Joshua Tree NP, including Barker Dam and Rattlesnake Canyon, were closed for short periods over the last three years because of graffiti and other types of vandalism. Last year, Andre Saraiva, a French graffiti artist known as "Mr. Andre," was publicly shamed after displaying boulders he tagged within the park. That and an anti-graffiti program created by Otis College of Art and Design in Los Angeles have helped dissuade that activity.

The NPS has many abandoned mines on its properties -- there are 531 mining-related features in Joshua Tree NP, of which about 58 still required protection measures, according to a 2013 national inventory. Nationwide, it will cost the NPS \$55.6 million to protect 2,869 abandoned mine features.

From story by Geoffrey Mohan, Lost Angeles Times

Theodore Roosevelt National Park Initiates Study of Ancient Bison DNA

Archeologists and wildlife biologists are working with researchers at the University of North Dakota to trace the genetic historic of bison herds at Theodore Roosevelt NP. Twenty nine bison were reintroduced to the South Unit of the park in 1956, and twenty animals were transplanted from the South Unit to the North Unit in 1962. No other bison have been introduced to either park unit since, increasing the likelihood for genetic problems because of small genetic diversity.

Igor Ovtchinnikov will lead efforts to extract and amplify bison DNA at the Human and Forensic Genetics Laboratory. The project will select up to 200 bison teeth from archeological sites dating from several thousand years ago up to A.D. 1845 and teeth from park herds for DNA analyses.

Samples of bison teeth will be collected from several Northern Plains Indian village sites within the homelands of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara peoples. The introduction of the horse to the Northern Plains occurred during the mid-18th century and changed hunting and mobility patterns for people and bison in North America. Bones and teeth dating to these transitional periods preserve molecular information chronicling species and population dynamics relevant to modern conservation of bison.

This project will provide information important for tracking future genetic stability. Genetic and phylogenetic statistical analysis will be employed to elucidate genetic diversity, divergence, and ancestry of individuals and population subsets. This research will also evaluate ancestry and relatedness of living and historic bison. The work will provide insights about the heritage and natural history of bison at the park by evaluating phylogenetic relationships of park animals with their extirpated predecessors.

This project will provide a direct visitor benefit through science-based interpretation of the historic, current, and future status of bison herds from biological, archeological, and cultural perspectives. Findings will be delivered to the public through classroom presentations, pod casts, and interpretive programs. Final results and products are expected in 2018.

Contact: Jay Sturdevant, 402-437-5392 x124

See related "Bison Bellows" article (<http://www.nature.nps.gov/biology/bisonbellow/bisonbellow.cfm>).

Rogue Bison Pose a Quandary for Grand Canyon National Park

Federal officials are pondering the fate of a herd of bison on the northern side of Grand Canyon National Park. The bison, which are probably not native to the canyon and have been crossbred with cattle, trample local water sources and vegetation and can also damage archeological sites.

The Arizona herd represents an unusual chapter in the history of bison. 30- 60 million once roamed North America, until near extinction by the 1880s. In the early 1900s Charles Jesse Jones, a former buffalo skinner who had seen the bison's demise firsthand, brought a herd to northern Arizona. Jones endeavored to "atone" for his past, he told one interviewer, by developing a captive herd.

In the early 1900s, Jones moved the herd by train to southern Utah, then drove the bison onto the Kaibab Plateau, a grassy, forested expanse north of the Grand Canyon. President Theodore Roosevelt set aside a portion of the Grand Canyon Forest Reserve as a wildlife refuge, where hunting was illegal; the NPS would not be created for another decade. The herd soon moved from the Kaibab Plateau to the high desert of House Rock Valley, just north of Grand Canyon NP.

A 1926 survey of the American Bison Society listed the number of bison in the Arizona herd, which the state had begun to manage, at 80. Arizona soon began a lottery for an annual buffalo hunt, which was eventually carried out by the Arizona State Game and Fish Department. In 1950, Game and Fish entered into an agreement with local ranchers, the USFS and the BLM. In it, the agency agreed “to keep the buffalo confined to their designated range,” a couple of grazing allotments in House Rock Valley.

The department kept the herd to 90 to 100 animals with regular culls in which the animals were corralled and permit holders shot them. The “corral shoots” ended in 1972. Eventually, hunting pressure made the animals wary. Experienced buffalo handlers retired, fences fell into disrepair and, as the herd looked for safe havens, the bison became a growing, free-ranging herd.

The bison, wild but perhaps not native, not cattle yet not pure bison, confound ideas about preservation, nature and resource management. Big, furry and charismatic, their story of near-extinction and recovery is one of the nation’s original attempts at conservation. The bison is on the logo of the NPS and the DOI, and both agencies have been instrumental in bringing them from the brink of extinction.

Arizona Senators Jeff Flake and John McCain introduced a bill calling for the Arizona Game and Fish Department to work with the NPS to come up with a culling plan. The NPS received a number of comments on the herd during a National Environmental Policy Act review process, ranging from “we love them” to “we hate them” and everything in between. No decisions have been made.

From story by Ron Dungan, The Arizona Republic

FEDERAL NEWS

Montana’s National Bison Range May Revert to Confederated Salish/Kootenai Tribes

The FWS supports legislation that would hand over management of the National Bison Range to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Indian Reservation in Montana, where the federal refuge lies. The National Bison Range is a unique jewel in the National Wildlife Refuge System. Dating to 1908, it is one of the oldest such designations and covers nearly 19,000 acres. Created to offer protection to bison when these animals were close to extinction, it also provides a home for pronghorn antelope, mule and white tailed deer, elk, bighorn sheep, mountain goats and black bear. The bison population ranges up to about 500 animals.

The Consolidated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have worked to become more involved with management of the bison range since the 1994 Self Governance Act. The new legislation would transfer the property to the tribes. Since it would require Congressional approval, such a measure could take months.

“This proposal was not sought out by the tribe,” tribal spokesman Rob McDonald said. “We were surprised but happy by the opportunity. We think this proposal makes historical and managerial sense, but there will be no change to access. If somehow this would change public access to bison, I’m sure FWS would not have considered this an option.”

“This continues federal ownership but is a trend toward increasing local control as opposed to management from Washington, D.C.,” he said. “The U.S. government will still hold this land in trust for us, yet the management will be local as done by us.”

From story by Jack McNeel, Indian Country Today

Oregon Militia Standoff Spotlights Federal-Tribal Quandary over Artifacts

Leaders of Oregon's Burns Paiute tribe are demanding that authorities investigate whether the armed occupiers stole or damaged any of thousands of tribal artifacts housed on public lands since the standoff began in October. Shortly before he was killed last month, LaVoy Finicum, the Oregon militia's de facto spokesman, posted a video that showed the occupiers rummaging through Paiute artifacts in one of the federal buildings.

The conflict over management of the Malheur NWR thrust the tribe into the middle of an impasse between federal officials and anti-government forces. Tribal Chairperson Charlotte Rodrique rejected the group's overtures, stating that she had received racist emails from the group's members. Rodrique has insisted that federal officials start to account for Paiute artifacts as soon as the standoff ends.

The American Anthropological Association voiced its support for the tribe and echoed its concerns about the artifacts in a January letter to Dan Ashe, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service director. The association noted that "the problems with these artifacts being held hostage are numerous, and our fear is that they may be altered, destroyed, or sold illegally."

The federal government plays an outsized role in the preservation of the Burns Paiute artifacts, protecting the tribe's property under the terms of an 1868 treaty. With fewer than 400 members, the tribe must rely almost entirely on the government's assistance. Rodrique said that the tribe has maintained a productive relationship with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which manages the refuge under a 2013 conservation plan developed in conjunction with the tribe, environmental groups, ranchers, farmers, and local and state government officials.

"We're such a small tribe, we can't afford a building to store this volume of artifacts," says Rodrique. The collection numbers more than 4,000 pieces, including stone arrowheads, woven baskets, site records, maps, and confidential documents that pinpoint other archeological sites in the refuge.

The plan catalogues the sensitive sites requiring protection, including burial grounds, rock art, hunting blinds, vision quest sites, as well as the remains of winter villages. Federal officials also have established guidelines that prohibit access to these sites. ARPA and NAGPRA discourage looting of archeological sites through power to prosecute anyone who disturbs sites or steals artifacts.

From story by Isaac Park, American Prospect

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Increased Corrosion of Shipwrecks

The 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill significantly altered microbial communities near shipwrecks in the Gulf of Mexico, potentially changing these diverse ecosystems and degrading the ships they live on. The findings are also revealing how decades-old, or even centuries-old, shipwrecks can be used to monitor the health of marine ecosystems, and the effects of oil and gas activity. Not only did these studies show that the spill affected these ecosystems, but they also provide a new way to monitor the spill's effects. In addition to their cultural significance, historic shipwrecks also serve as artificial reefs, supporting a rich deep-sea ecosystem.

In 2014, a multidisciplinary team of scientists launched a project investigating the effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on shipwrecks and the microbial communities forming the base of marine ecosystems. The project is the first of its kind to study deep-sea shipwreck microbiomes and the long-term impacts of an oil spill. There are more than 2,000 known historic shipwrecks sitting on the ocean

floor in the Gulf of Mexico, spanning some 500 years of maritime history: from the time of the 16th century Spanish through the World War II era.

Scientists found that the presence of a shipwreck influences species composition of microbes on the seafloor, and that the release of 4 million barrels of oil from the Macondo well for 87 days significantly altered community structure and function of nearby shipwreck microbial communities. Laboratory studies found that, even four years later, the dispersant used to clean up the oil spill significantly altered the shipwreck microbial community that forms the foundation for other life, like coral, crabs and fish.

The laboratory studies also found that oil exposure increases metal corrosion caused by microbes, showing that the oil spill could potentially speed up degradation of the steel-hulled shipwrecks.

The team used 3-D laser and sonar technology to obtain high-resolution images of the vessels to document their current state of preservation. In one case, a World War II German U-boat that has been previously examined several times since its discovery in 2001 was found to be buried by more sediment than was observed prior to the spill, although the researchers are working to determine if it was a natural process or related to the oil spill. The team plans to repeatedly scan the shipwrecks to document how they change over time.

The new findings show that shipwrecks could be used for long-term monitoring of deep-sea ecosystems. Understanding this ecosystem could aid in protecting and conserving it – both the animals that live on the shipwrecks, and the ships themselves, they said. Information about these shipwrecks could also aid scientists who research the deep sea, and companies performing activities there.

By American Geophysical Union

GRANTS AND TRAINING

Petrography for Archeologists

The NPS National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT), the NPS Southern Arizona Office, Friends of NCPTT, and the University of Delaware Center for Historic Architecture and Design will offer a two-day, hands-on course on thin-section petrographic analysis of archeological specimens. Thin-section petrography (polarized light microscopy) of stone and ceramics is a crucial tool for the study of objects. The course will be taught by Chandra Reedy who has developed workshops and online courses through the Preservation Technology and Training Grants Program.

The workshop will begin with an introduction to polarized light microscopy as a method for identifying minerals. Subsequent sessions will focus on analysis of cultural materials made of stone (igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic) and on pottery, terracotta sculptures, bricks, tiles, and clay core materials from bronze castings.

This course will be useful to archeologists, conservators, conservation scientists, preservation professionals, and students, among others. The cost for the course is \$375.00.

The course will be held at the NPS Southern Arizona Office, 3636 North Central Avenue #410, Phoenix, AZ 85032.

Contact for course syllabus and hotel information: Tad Britt, NCPTT, tel. (318) 351-5641

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site Archeology Field School

Portland State University; Washington State University, Vancouver; and the NPS will hold a field school in historical archeology at Fort Vancouver NHS. The field school will be held June 21- July 30, 2016.

The award-winning program will introduce the methods and theories of fieldwork in historical archaeology and is ideal for students entering the field of cultural resources management (CRM). Students will participate in pedestrian and subsurface survey, laying out excavation units, excavation by shovel and trowel, mapping, drawing, digital photography, and cleaning, identifying, and analyzing artifacts. The project will use tablet computers to digitally record excavations and document grave monuments. The season also includes lectures by guests and staff.

The NPS and its partners are committed to sharing cultural resources and preservation values with the public. As part of their training, students will participate in a special cultural sensitivity workshop and learn how to interpret to the public using a unique public engagement model. On a rotating basis, students will discuss the field school activities with visitors, including interpreting the significance of the site and the educational purposes of the project.

Fort Vancouver NHS is an unparalleled archeological laboratory, comprising the remains of Fort Vancouver, the ca.1825-1860 regional headquarters and supply depot for the Hudson's Bay Company, and Vancouver Barracks, the first (ca. 1849-2010) permanent U.S. Army post in the Pacific Northwest.

For more information and an application go to: <http://go.usa.gov/cmehF>;
www.nps.gov/fova/learn/news/fieldschoolaward.htm;
www.manevonline.com/doi/10.1179/2051819615Z.00000000044

Wildland Fire Resource Advisor Training Course (N-9042) Flagstaff, Arizona (Hosted by Grand Canyon National Park)

This course will provide participants with the foundation to serve as Resource Advisors (READs) during wildland fire incidents. Resource Advisors generally work with fire managers to convey concerns about natural, cultural and wilderness resources. The objectives are to improve communication between READs and fire managers, present rationales for prioritizing and determining an appropriate response to those resource issues, demonstrating how READs can contribute to the management of an incident and provide expectations of professional READs. The course will focus on roles and responsibilities, and will provide participants with strategies and tools for evaluating specific resource concerns.

Information will be presented in sufficient detail to serve as a refresher for present resource advisors, and general enough to be basic READ training for those who have never served in this capacity. Much of the information can be applied in the All-Hazard, or All Risk READ environment as well. This course (N-9042) fulfills the requirement for READ on a red card.

Employees that frequently serve as READs include fire managers, botanists, ecologists, biologists, hydrologists, geologists, foresters, GIS specialists and cultural resource specialists. The local Fire Management Officer will authorize the inclusion of "READ" as a qualification on the wildland fire certification Red Card. A Red Card is not required prior to participating in this course. The course is also valuable for those managing resources on public lands, but with no interest in serving as READs, to become familiar with fire management organizations and the types and formats of resource data that benefit the READ during the course of his or her duties.

The course will be held April 19-20, 2016, at The Coconino National Forest Supervisor's Office NPS large conference room (2nd Floor), 1824 S. Thompson Street, Flagstaff, AZ. Directions and logistics information will be provided upon selection for the course. The course will begin promptly at 0800 and will continue until 1700. While the course has no tuition fee, the participant's home unit(s) must cover travel expenses. Submit nominations by Friday April 8, 2016.

Contact: Chris Marks (Christopher_Marks@nps.gov) (928-638-7417)

SLIGHTLY OFF TOPIC: Osage Nation Wins Bid for Turner Ranch – Bison Not Included

The Osage Nation has won a bid to buy the 43,000-acre Bluestem Ranch from Cable News Network founder Ted Turner, restoring some of the 1.2 million acres the tribe owned until the early 1900s. Financial terms were not disclosed, but the Osage reported that their bid had been accepted and that they were about to close on the property, which county records said are worth more than \$3.3 million. "We are extremely pleased to reverse 200 years of loss of our lands," Assistant Principal Chief Raymond Red Corn said, adding that further details would have to wait until "additional steps are completed."

The Osage Nation quickly moved to buy the land as soon as they heard it was up for sale in December. The tribe has also set aside money to buy the ranch's bison, though that is not included in the purchase. The Osage intend to "keep the majority of this property as a working bison ranch" and use it "to connect our children and youth to nature," the tribe wrote in a letter to Turner, outlining their plans for the land.

"We can think of no better learning environment for our children than these lands," the letter said. "Land is central to the culture, traditions and history of the Osage people. This land is perfectly centered between our traditional towns of Wa-hock-o-li (Pawhuska), Zon-zo-lin (Hominy) and Pah-su-li (Grayhorse). The Osage Nation will hold this property as a contiguous land base at the heart of the Osage Nation."

Archeology E-Gram, distributed via e-mail on a regular basis, includes announcements about news, new publications, training opportunities, national and regional meetings, and other important goings-on related to public archeology in the NPS and other public agencies. Recipients are encouraged to forward *Archeology E-Grams* to colleagues and relevant mailing lists. The *Archeology E-Gram* is available on the *News and Links* page www.nps.gov/archeology/public/news.htm on the NPS Archeology Program website.

Contact: Karen Mudar at dca@nps.gov to contribute news items and to subscribe.