



Resource Management and Research Division: Cultural Resources Program Brief, 2014

Introduction

The Resource Management and Research Division oversees both natural and cultural resources in Zion National Park, Cedar Breaks National Monument, and Pipe Spring National Monument. The division includes seven programs: Wildlife Management, Vegetation Management, Physical Sciences, Cultural Resource Management, Environmental Planning, Geographic Information Systems, and Museum and Curatorials Services. The resource programs administer numerous research activities that are conducted by outside universities and other agencies. Additionally, we receive support for long-term monitoring by the Northern Colorado Plateau Network. (Visit <http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/ncpn/> for more information about what this program is doing in each park.) The resource programs are involved with various outreach projects, including Zion Canyon Field Institute courses. This handout describes the Cultural Resource Management Program and its ongoing projects in 2014 and 2015.

The metadata combined with the 3D models will also be used to create informative tours of the park. Each of these educational tours will focus on the history of the roads through Zion National Park as well as the methods used to construct the features found alongside them.



Documenting Historic Features

This year CRM is undertaking a project to document the historic features along the park highway and scenic drive. These features include bridges, retaining walls, curbs, tunnels, the park entrance monument, fences, and more. Each of these features will be photographed, sketched, and metadata will be collected for each feature. Metadata such as height, width, construction material, condition, aspect, and more will be collected.

During this process CRM will be using new technology and software to create 3D images of each of the features that are being documented. The 3D models that are created will be accurate to 1 mm. Using this technology, CRM will be able to create 3D pdf files that can be opened by anyone with Adobe Reader installed on their computer. Anyone that is interested can open the files and obtain measurements of each of the features, or elements of features in the models.

Archaeology Field Days

In 2012 the Cultural Resource Program began a program called Thursday Field Days. Each Thursday, CRM staff conduct archaeology field work inside the park. The field work consists of conducting cultural resource surveys, site stabilization, archaeology site documentation, creating 3D models of resources, documenting artifacts, and removing visitor impacts such as graffiti.

To foster cooperation and understanding between programs and divisions, CRM invites park staff that is interested in participating in these field days to come along and learn about archaeology and help the park archaeologists perform field work. This is a wonderful opportunity for those interested to learn more about the cultural history and hike in some of the more remote areas of the park.



Artifact Analysis and Inventory

In 2013 CRM began a project to inventory, photograph, and collect data about each artifact cataloged in the park collections. This project began analyzing and inventorying over 15,000 artifacts. After beginning work on this project CRM decided that this project would provide a great opportunity to cooperate with a local university to complete the inventory and analysis. Southern Utah University was chosen and a cooperative agreement was made to continue working on this project cooperatively.

Working in a cooperative manner with a university that has archaeologists that are very familiar with the cultural history of Zion National Park is beneficial to the park and the university. This agreement will provide the park with much needed help in completing this project as well as provide opportunities for university archaeologists to work with students to further develop their knowledge of the cultural history of Southern Utah and Northern Arizona. It is expected that this project will continue through FY 2015, FY 2016, and be completed early in FY 2017.



Once the inventory, metadata collection, and analysis is completed, it will allow researchers and archaeologists to answer questions about the cultural history of the park. Many of these questions that would have previously taken months or years to answer will be answered in minutes. Future planned CRM projects will use the results of this project to make previously unavailable data available to the public and to universities.

Public Education and Outreach

Beginning in 2012 CRM began a project to reach out to the public using cultural demonstrations, lectures, and other events. In FY 2015 as part of this project, CRM will continue to work with ZNHA, the Interpretive Division, and the Southern Paiutes to continue these demonstrations, lectures, and events.

Planned events are the ZNHA/Archaeology field days in October, demonstrations of traditional tool making, ceramic vessel construction methods, traditional Southern Paiute dances, and several lectures through a grant from the National Park Foundation in conjunction with ZNHA.

In the summer of 2014 a traveling trunk was created by the CRM program to be used by the Interpretive Division of the park. The traveling trunk contains supplies for educational activities for middle school-aged students. Many of these activities help teachers educate students on what archaeology is, the cultural history of Zion National Park, and instill a sense of stewardship of the cultural resources of the park. The traveling trunk will be used for the first time in FY 2015 in classrooms throughout Southern Utah and potentially other surrounding regions and states.



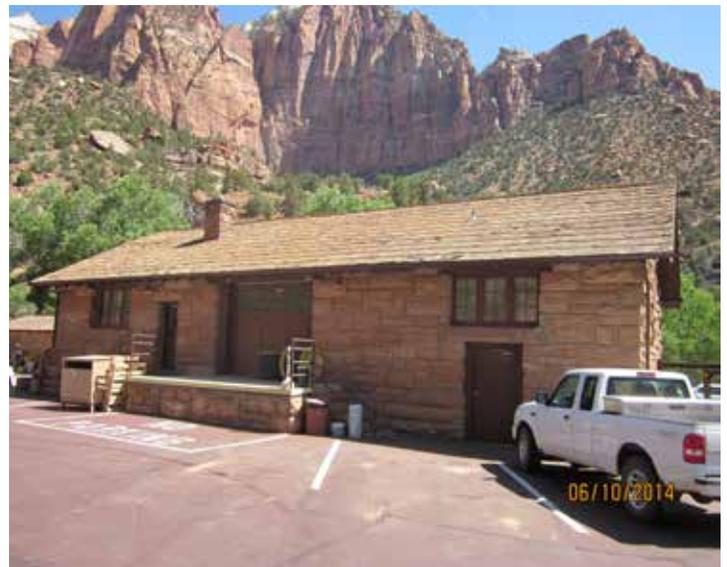
Utah Prehistory Week archaeology demonstration.



National Register Amendment Cooperative Agreement

During 2014 and 2015, CRM is working with Colorado State University to update and amend the National Register documentation for the Oak Creek Historic District. Working with one graduate student and one professor from the university, Zion is collecting spatial data and metadata about the historic features in the Oak Creek Historic District (Oak Creek Housing and the Maintenance Yard). Photographs of each of the features have been collected as well as descriptions for each feature. These features include walkways, bridges, culverts, drainages, curbs, roads, walls, and other features that are found in the district. Many of these features are still functional and many people that live and work in Oak Creek interact with these features every day. Better and more current documentation will help the park and the public better understand how Oak Creek has changed, and remained the same, through the last century.

Using the data collected, the documentation for the district will be updated with more descriptions, photographs, and the narrative for the district amended. New maps of the district will be created that show the locations and extent of the features that make up the historic district.



Administrative History of the Park

In FY 2015, CRM will begin to assemble an administrative history of the park. Using documents cataloged in the park collections, public records, and other sources, CRM will create a definitive history of how the park has been managed throughout its 100 year history. This project is expected to begin early this fiscal year and be completed by the end of 2015.

The administrative history of the park will provide information about past management decisions, managers, employees, contracts, and construction projects in the park. Many of those who have worked in the park know bits and pieces of the administrative history of the park, and there are several documents that give a little piece of history of the park, but there is no definitive document that compiles all of this information into one place that is easily accessible. This project will create an easily accessible document that contains an in-depth and complete history of the administration of the park. This document will be a valuable reference in researching when and how decisions were made over the last 100 years of Zion's history.