



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

December 2008

Historical Happenings

Notes on Cultural Resource Management in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Historical Happenings provides information on the USFWS Cultural Resources Management program. Information comes from sources such as the Regional Historic Preservation Officers, websites, new sources, as well as other cultural resource management professionals.

Issues are also available on the USFWS Cultural Resources website <http://historicpreservation.fws.gov>. Submissions are encouraged and can be made via email. Please contact Eugene Marino at Eugene_Marino@fws.gov for submission guidelines.

FWS Regional News:

Washington Office—

Eleven applications for the 2008 Preserve America grants have been received and will be reviewed later this month. Recipients of the grants will be announced early in 2009!

Our own Debbie Corbett of Region 7 is the winner of the first annual Secretary of the Interior's Historic Preservation Award. Debbie's award is in the Federal Preservation Officer category. This is a very important honor for Debbie as it pays tribute to her outstanding work and dedication to cultural resources.

Congratulations Debbie!

Gold! Gold in the Klondike in 1897 and at Nome in 1898 brought gold seekers by the tens of thousands north to Alaska. Seeking an All-American route to the goldfields the U.S. Army Alaska Road Commission sent Colonel Walter Goodwin and three others to scout an overland trail in 1908. That year on Christmas Day two prospectors hit gold on the Iditarod River, triggering Alaska's last big gold rush. Goodwin rushed to mark the trail with wooden tripods during the winter of 1909/1910, so 10,000 newly arrived miners could rush to the gold fields. This influx of people to Alaska led to the formal establishment of Alaska as a Territory in 1912.

Officially called the Seward to Nome Mail Trail, the route became known as the Iditarod Trail. It was used only in the winter to speed people and goods in massive freight sleds across Alaska. The trail was heavily used through 1924/5 when airplanes came into widespread use. Land based trails were neglected, then forgotten, until the revival of long distance sled dog racing in the 1960's renewed interest in mushing. The Iditarod National Historic Trail was one of the first National Trails designated by Congress in 1978. The designation commemorates the Trail that led to the creation of the Alaska Territory in 1912. In February 2008 Alaska governor Sarah Palin, declared the Iditarod National Historic Trail Centennial to be celebrated over four years from 2008 through 2012. The Centennial covers several milestones including the survey of the trail in 1908, the first Seward to Nome traffic in 1909-1910 and the creation of the Alaska Territory in 1912.



Debbie Corbett (R7) with her award from Secretary Kempthorne.

Region 7—The Iditarod Centennial on Innoko National Wildlife Refuge

Over 140 miles of the main trail route crosses the heart of the Innoko NWR. Ironically this refuge, today one of the most isolated and remote parts of Alaska, was the heart of a vast transportation and support network,

servicing mining camps at Iditarod, Flat, Ganes Creek, Ruby, and Ophir. Towns and roadhouses sprang up to support this far flung development. In the heart of the refuge, the town of Dishkakak, a small Ingalik Indian village, became a commercial hub, with warehouses, a roadhouse, stores and a post office. The main Trail connected with four others at Dishkakak, linking to gold camps east and north of the refuge. Other towns within the refuge included Dikeman, Dishna, Simels and Innoko City. Roadhouses were critical for travelers. Spaced 20 miles apart, over 14 are known to have existed on the refuge. Most of these have never been accurately located. In fact, except for a web of trails leading out of Dishkakak, and a stretch along the southern edge of the refuge, most of the trail is untraceable on the ground. Used in the winter for only about 25 years, not even faint traces left on tundra vegetation are visible.

Since the creation of the Innoko NWR in 1980 the staff has researched the history of the trail to understand its importance to the refuge. In 1994 refuge historian Sally Collins and Regional Archaeologist Debra Corbett visited and mapped Simels Trading post, and Dishkakak. We found Simels old paddlewheel steamer abandoned in a slough, and located the town of Innoko City at the mouth of the Dishna River. In 1996 a University of Alaska graduate student opened a field school at Dishkakak. The crew excavated in the historic town for six weeks and located the old Native village. The project was burned out by wildfire the next summer and never completed. In 2001 Corbett returned and with Collins and refuge maintenance man Joe Reid visited and documented Rennies Landing, not officially associated with the trail but a later support center for gold mines at Ganes Creek, Ophir, and Cripple.

The Historic Iditarod Trail Alliance secured Fish and Wildlife Service Challenge Grant matching funds of \$16,000 in 2008. Funds from this grant will allow survey of the southernmost segment of the trail from Iditarod to Dikeman. This is the stretch of trail most likely to receive public use. Plans are to locate and record the four known sites, plot the trail route and mark the sites and trail with well placed signs. This contribution to the broader Centennial is an outstanding opportunity to highlight the role of the trail in the refuge's past.

The Iditarod National Historic trail is unique. It is the only National Historic Trail to preserve the appearance and conditions of the trail as it was 75 years ago. As stewards of this remarkable treasure we anticipate working cooperatively with our Partners, the Historic Iditarod trail Alliance and local trailblazers groups, the Bureau of Land Management and the USDA Forest Service to preserve and celebrate this remarkable symbol of America's past.



Figure 1. Located along the Iditarod, Dishkakak this is the last standing cabin in Dishkakak



Figure 2. Simels steamboat paddlewheel found along the trail.

Region 8—will be hosting a Cultural Resources training course in Las Vegas NV the week of December 1, 2008. Registration will be through DOI Learn. Contact Eugene Marino or Nick Valentine for more information.

Other Agency News

White House—will announce a new National Monument dedicated to the War in the Pacific. Among the sites being protected under the monument are several from FWS lands. The announcement is scheduled for Friday, December 5th in the Oval Office. The new monument will include Pearl Harbor and Midway as well as sites in Alaska. FWS was instrumental in helping develop the new monument and many of its historic properties are included within the monument's boundaries.

One of the FWS contributions for the planning of the monument:

Kiska Mini-Submarines

The Japanese stationed 6-8 *Ko-hyoteki* midget submarines in Kiska for defensive purposes. Only 50 of these craft were built and deployed during the war. They most famously saw combat at Pearl Harbor, in Sydney Harbor and at Diego Suarez on Madagascar Island.

The mini-sub base is in Kiska Harbor, at the head of the southern lobe just south of Trout Lagoon.

- The base is in the heart of the Japanese base on Kiska. The entire area is owned by the US government and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the Alaska Maritime NWR.
- The minibus base, consisting of the remains of the sub pen and surrounding buildings, with a spectacularly preserved mini-sub, is right on the beach and readily accessible to visitors arriving by ship. It is the most visited portion of the Kiska National Historic Landmark.
- The mini-sub on Kiska is one of five on display and accessible to visitors worldwide. Parts of at least two others are also visible on the beaches at Kiska.

NPS—Kempthorne Dedicates First Centennial Initiative Project at Yosemite's Historic Overlook



Secretary Kempthorne joins the hundreds of well-wishers who attended the dedication ceremony for the refurbished Tunnel View Overlook at Yosemite National Park, above. Below, the original dedication ceremony of the historic Overlook in 1933. Hi-Res



Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne announced the completion of a much-needed makeover to the historic Tunnel View Overlook, the first project of the National Park Service Centennial Initiative. "The rededication of this famous site shows that we can rise to the challenge of reinvigorating our national parks with stunning results," Kempthorne said. "It is our hope that this project and vistas like this will inspire support and interest in preserving our national parks into the next century." Hundreds attended the ceremony

marking completion of the overlook, a place photographed by thousands daily for its expansive views of Yosemite Valley, El Capitan, Bridalveil Fall, and Half Dome. The celebration was modeled after the dedication marking the opening of the site in 1933 with vintage automobiles, an honor guard and a blessing by Native Americans.

NPS—A New Publication in the Studies in Archeology and Ethnography Series A new Archeology Program report is available. "A Decade of Study into Repository Fees for Archeological Curation," www.nps.gov/archeology/PUBS/studies/STUDY06A.htm authored by NPS archeologist S. Terry Childs and former NPS intern Seth Kagan, presents the results of a third study investigating fees for the long-term curation of archeological collections charged by non-Federal repositories. Issues examined in the study include the types of repositories that charged fees, how repositories calculated their fees, and how the repositories use the fees collected during 2007/2008. This report also examines trends in the costs of archeological collections management over the last decade, based on informal surveys conducted in 1997/1998, 2000, and 2007/2008. The study builds upon and expands the analysis in an earlier report, "Costs of Curating Archeological Collections: A study of repository fees in 2002 and 1997/98" (www.nps.gov/archeology/TOOLS/feesStud.htm) by S. Terry Childs and Karolyn Kinsey.

Studies in Archeology & Ethnography is a series of reports on substantive investigations in public archeology. "A Decade of Study into Repository Fees for Archeological Curation" is the sixth in this series. All are available on the Archeology Program's website.

The National Archeological Database, Reports module has been updated The National Archeological Database, Reports module (NADB-R) is an expanded bibliographic inventory of over 350,000 reports on archeological investigation and planning, mostly of limited circulation. The database is managed through a partnership between the NPS Archeology Program and the Center for Advanced Spatial Technology at the University of Arkansas. NADB-R has been updated by the addition of two new fields, "Prepared By" and "Submitted To," which provide new opportunities for searching NADB-Reports. "Prepared By" is the name of the company or organization that undertook the investigation and wrote the report. "Submitted To" is the name of the organization, such as a Federal or state government agency, that contracted for or required the preparation of a particular report. NADB-R can be found on the web at www.cast.uark.edu/other/nps/nadb/nadb.mul.html

Dr. Bennie C. Keel Receives the Southeastern Archaeological Conference's Highest Honors

Bennie C. Keel, recently retired NPS archeologist and former Departmental Consulting Archeologist, was honored by his peers during the 65th annual meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference, held November 12-15, 2008, in Charlotte, NC. At the meeting, Keel received the Conference's Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his long and distinguished career in American archeology and his great influence and impact as a government archeologist for 32 years with the NPS and the Department of the Interior. In a special symposium entitled "The Archaeology of North Carolina" more than a dozen of Keel's colleagues presented 10 papers honoring his lifetime contributions to the field, and to southeastern archeology in particular. For more information about the symposium, see Session 14 in the Conference program at www.southeasternarchaeology.org/PDF/Preliminary%20program%20SEAC%202008.pdf

NAPA Report on NPS Park Cultural Resource Management In early November, the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) released a report entitled "Saving Our Future: A Review of National Park Cultural Resource Programs." The report, written by a National Academy panel of experts, describes various aspects of the current NPS program for managing cultural resources in the parks. It also presents eighteen recommendations to improve stewardship of cultural resources in national park units. Recommendations address general topics as well as specific activities related to historic structures, archeological sites, museum collections, cultural landscapes, and park histories. The panel identified ways that NPS can improve stewardship of these important national resources by strengthening performance-based management, ensuring park superintendent accountability, increasing flexibility in the use of funds, strengthening national leadership, and seeking additional funds and staff to reduce risks to cultural resources of national significance.

USFS—has repatriated archaeological collections from a Traditional Cultural Property in Kootenai National Forest. For more information see the Federal Register notice here <http://frwebgate5.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/TEXTgate.cgi?WAISdocID=385590113984+1+1+0&WAIAction=retrieve>

Legislative News

Senate Omnibus Lands Package.

The Senate leadership announced that it will take up a 150-bill omnibus lands package that will be attached as an amendment to a wilderness bill (HR 5151) in an abbreviated, post-election, lame duck session the week of November 17th. The omnibus package includes two key preservation bills which are caught up in the mire of negotiations over the lands package — S. 2262, a bill authorizing the Preserve America and Save America's Treasures programs, and S. 1139, a bill codifying the National Landscape Conservation System, which was previously listed on the National Trust's Eleven Most Endangered Historic Places list. Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK) has signaled he will continue to raise his previous objections to various elements of the lands package, but Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) has indicated that he believes the Democratic majority has the 60 votes needed to overcome Coburn's objections and win approval of these key preservation bills.

Training, Upcoming Events, Education, and Volunteers and Friends News

There are a number of activities at the Cathlapotle plankhouse. For information on these events take a look at www.plankhouse.org