

Archaeological Research Center Activities
March 15, 2024 – June 17, 2024

In-House Contracts Research

Projects for South Dakota Department of Transportation, Private Contractors, and South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks

- 29 surveys completed
- 1 mitigation project initiated (Hutchinson Co.)
- 17 reports completed
- 20 record search letters submitted
- 6 new archaeological sites and 31 new structures recorded
- 23 previously recorded sites/structures revisited
- The FY25 SDDOT-ARC annual contract has been signed and finalized.

Project for US Army Corps of Engineers

- Swan Creek NRHP research project – report in progress, updated deadline May 2027 (plan to have draft report submitted to USACE by Sept. 2024)

GIS

- 105 survey boundary features were entered or updated in the Archaeological Resources Management System (ARMS) geodatabase
- 71 site boundary features were entered or updated in ARMS
- 124 external and 58 internal record search requests were fulfilled
- Existing features and records in the ARMS geodatabase continue to be checked for accuracy and are undergoing edits where necessary
- Work continues on South Dakota archaeological site predictive model pilot base data generation
- A contract between ARC and SHPO has been signed to create a map of properties within the Deadwood National Historic Landmark. Project due date is May 2025.
- Tony DeLuca, ARC GIS Specialist, was on leave for 7 weeks while completing research for his PhD dissertation at an archaeological site in Jalisco, Mexico. Tony returned to ARC at the end of May.

Burial/NAGPRA Reports (n=18)

- Minnehaha County – Consult for SHPO letter concerning housing development near 39MH241.
- Corson County – Notification of potential NAGPRA items in Deadwood Historic Preservation Office’s collections.
- Union County – Consultation/advisement about upcoming survey for a project by the Archaeology Lab at Augustana University near 39UN6.
- SD General – Letter received from Office of Army Cemeteries requesting to be consulting partner on future Section 106 projects.
- Marshall County – Request from NRCS for a portion of Marshall County Mortuary Feature Survey.
- Pennington County – Bone ID for Barry Young, RCPD – nonhuman.

- Multiple Counties – Request from Smithsonian for RBS faunal/botanical remains partially transferred from the ARC to the Smithsonian.
- Charles Mix – Request from NRCS for information/records of a potential unmarked grave in their project area.
- Oglala-Lakota County – Bone ID for Kevin Seymore, FBI – nonhuman.
- Hughes County – Site file request for 39HU41 from University of Tennessee-Knoxville (UTK) for upcoming consultation.
- Multiple Counties – Request from UTK for multiple sites/NAGPRA inventories that were transferred from ARC to UTK in the early 1980s to the early 1990s.
- Spink county – Report of potentially unrecorded/unmarked cemetery in Spink County (Peck Cemetery).
- Buffalo County – Request from Dave Williams, State Archaeologist of Nebraska, for records and site information for 39BF11 and 39BF209.
- Multiple Counties – Transfer of Euro-American HRs from Smithsonian. HRs are extremely fragmentary/small as the Smithsonian used them in destructive testing.
- Stanley County – Report from private citizen of human remains collected along the river by his father in 1961/1962. The USACE has taken NAGPRA responsibilities for this case.
- Pennington County – Report from ARC staff of bones found during South Rochford Road monitoring – nonhuman.
- Corson County – Tracking number for Jefferson Peace Medal Repatriation.
- Bon Homme – Report of human remains from a private citizen collected during the 1960s near Tabor, SD. The USACE is discussing how to proceed.
- No forensic and osteological reports were produced during this time.
- Tempest Mellendorf collected osteological data from 16 sets of human remains from 9 sites from USACE collections, which the ARC is tasked with cataloguing and identifying prior to NAGPRA consultation and repatriation under contract with USACE. Reports are forthcoming.
- The 30-day waiting period for the joint repatriation with UTK passed on 05/15/2024. Neither institution received any counter claims. Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe (FSST) has agreed to schedule a time in August for transfer of the funerary objects from the ARC. FSST is working independently with UTK for the transfer of the ancestral human remains.

Burials – Other

- Plans and coordination for the reburial in Harding County (BR 2022-15) continue. Tyrel Iron Eyes and John Eagle are still open to the idea; however, their office is very busy so scheduling a time for this has been difficult. Last contact was mid-October.
- Consultation plans for the University of North Dakota (UND) discoveries and ancestral human remains from 39CA102 are currently on pause. Per an email received from Pemina Yellow Bird on 05/23/2024, Three Affiliated Tribes wish to directly conduct consultation with UND for these ancestral remains. Additionally, all the previously unaccounted for ancestral human remains were found at UND and will be repatriated to Three Affiliated Tribes following

consultation. Pemina said she would update our office of any future updates or if any consultations require input or information from the ARC.

- On 06/14/2024, the ARC mailed letters to members of the Three Affiliated THPO (Pemina Yellow Bird and Allen Demaray) and 14 other tribes to notify them that the ARC and the SD Historical Society intends to repatriate the Jefferson Peace Medal to the Three Affiliated Tribes, based on reasonable evidence. Consultation date is forthcoming; however, the news was received favorably by Pemina and Three Affiliated Tribe THPO. Have received no official reply from other THPOs contacted in the letter.
- A consultation is planned for 06/28/2024 with Robin Zephier concerning the human remains from 39UN73. Assuming he consents to osteological analysis, Tempest Mellendorf, under the supervision of Dustin Lloyd, will begin to collect osteological data from this site.
- No further updates on the Burial Mounds NRHP nominations. Four of the seven sites originally surveyed have been accepted by NPS. Chris from SHPO continues to work on edits and resubmissions as time allows.

Outreach

- The Camp Collier landowner was initially contacted via a mailed letter to coordinate their interest in an archaeological investigation at the site. This grant-funded project is on hold due to redistribution of SHPO funds.
- On March 15, Fidel Martinez Greer gave a Turtle Soup presentation at the Journey Museum about his fieldwork uncovering a historic railroad roundhouse in Deadwood.
- Lynn Griffin has begun posting on the Society's Facebook page on behalf of ARC.
- Katie Lamie, Lynn Griffin, and Megan Ostrenga Fabricius assisted the Journey Museum by cleaning and resetting the archaeology display on April 10. Work to update the content of the display will be ongoing.
- Cassie Vogt and Katie Lamie hosted a meet & greet and tour of ARC for 16 USD archaeology field school students, led by Dr. Tony Krus on May 7. Katie L. and Lynn Griffin visited the USD archaeological field school at Ft. Meade Laundress Quarters on May 10 to lead the students in an afternoon of artifact cleaning and processing.
- Katie Lamie and Matt Busch assisted SHPO and USACE with the Kids Dig at Ft. Pierre II on June 4-6.
- Katie Lamie gave a presentation on South Dakota archaeology to the Western Dakota Gem & Mineral Society on June 13
- Lynn Griffin prepared a temporary artifact display of the Fort Meade Laundress Quarters artifacts for the Sturgis History Day on June 15. The artifact display was requested by the Bear Butte Creek Historic Preserve, a supporter of the volunteer and field school excavations at the site.
- Alec Anton, ARC GIS Coordinator, hosted a meeting for the South Dakota Archaeological Society (SDAS), as group of professional and avocational archaeologists in South Dakota, on June 19. Pre-COVID, ARC hosted, led, and coordinated SDAS meetings on a regular basis.

Repository and Records Archives

- 43 new archaeological sites entered into the site database
- 28 updated archaeological sites entered into the site database
- 132 new archaeological reports entered into the report database
- 32 closed archive numbers fixing duplicates in database
- Records Archaeologist, Megan Ostrenga Fabricius, is now entering new archaeological sites to the ARMS geodatabase as they are received, thereby updating the geodatabase in real-time (previously, this was done on by our GIS Specialist as time allowed).
- No new artifact and photo collections were accessioned. Three curation agreements were renewed.
- Curation assistant Lynn Griffin continued NAGPRA documentation work on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers collections under the current curation contract.

Mining Reviews and State Land Permits

- 12 Sand/gravel licenses (6 Intent to Mine, 1 expansion, 5 Intent to Continue Operations), 1 uranium project exploration SECL, and 4 EXNI applications reviewed
- 6 State Land permits reviewed and issued

Other

Staff updates: Kayleigh Johnson has been hired as a Senior Archaeologist and started May 28. ARC's seasonal fieldwork intern, Katherine Kvale (current USD Anthropology major), started her part-time position on May 13. Daniel Fabricius has started as a new seasonal field archaeologist as of June 17.