**Archaeological Research Center – Board Report**

**November 15, 2024 to March 24, 2025**

**In-House Contracts: fieldwork completed by ARC archaeologists**

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

* 13 surveys completed
* 1 construction monitoring project ongoing (Ziebach Co.)
* 16 survey reports completed
* 35 record search letters submitted
* 20 archaeological sites and 88 structures recorded and/or revisited
* Soil and artifact processing from 39HT0150 is nearly complete and are ready for analysis. Report writing will begin soon.

Project for US Army Corps of Engineers

* Swan Creek NRHP research project – report in progress

**GIS**

* GIS staff entered or updated 122 survey boundary features and 217 site boundary features in the ARCH geodatabase.
* 139 external and 75 internal record search requests were fulfilled.
* 22 internal projects were prepared for archaeological survey.
* Existing features and records in the ARCH geodatabase continue to be checked for accuracy and are undergoing edits where necessary.
* Tony DeLuca created an NRHP feature class to contain the formally recognized geospatial boundaries of archaeological properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This feature class currently contains 328 boundary features.
* 308 features have been added to the recently created investigations feature class resulting in a grand total of 422 features in the feature class, which contains digital geospatial boundaries of non-survey related archaeological projects like NRHP evaluations, archaeological mitigations, burial reports, and archaeological monitoring. Many of these boundary features have been transferred and removed from the ARCH geodatabase’s survey feature class.
* Historic GLO water feature digitization has been completed for the South Dakota archaeological site predictive model pilot project. These GLO water features are currently being coded along with modern water features from the National Wetlands Inventory, National Hydrography Dataset, and SDGF&P’s Statewide Waterbodies feature class for inclusion in the pilot archaeological site predictive model’s historic hydrographic model.

**Burial/NAGPRA Reports (n****=7)**

* Minnehaha County – Renaming Split Rock Creek Protective Easement
* Oglala-Lakota County – Bone ID for OST Law Enforcement officer – nonhuman.
* Buffalo County – Request from Blondo Consulting for reports containing burial site information - 39BF205, 39BF206, and 39BF211.
* Out of State - Bone ID for artifact owned by private citizen. Tracked as Outreach Request OR-2025-02
* Meade County - Request from James Larson to assist with disinterment of relative from unmarked grave near Opal, SD.
* Marshall County – Request from USFW for information on food plots located south of Fort Sisseton State Park.
* Oglala Lakota County – Bone ID for OST Law Enforcement officer – nonhuman.
* No forensic and osteological reports were produced during this time.

**Burials – Other**

* Plans and coordination for the reburial in Harding County (BR 2022-15) continue; however, it seems unlikely it will occur this year. Last contact from them was August 22, 2024. Lloyd has attempted to reach out to SRST THPO and tribal archaeologist on 02/20/2025, but did not receive a reply.
* The Jefferson Peace Medal was successfully repatriated to representatives of Three Affiliate Tribes on 3/17/2024. This concludes our NAPGRA responsibilities under the law for this item. All documents have been forwarded to National NAGPRA and published when appropriate.
* Scanning of all active burial files was completed. The active NAGPRA project spreadsheet and NAGPRA database updates are approximately 95% complete. Two to three entries are required on the spreadsheet and nine NAGPRA database entries need to be updated or entered into the database. Repatriation efforts will focus on those with the best provenance or previous consultations including MHA ancestors from 39MH6 and other sites and the collection of funerary objects from Oklahoma and Arkansas belonging to the Caddo, Quapaw, Osage, or Tunica tribes.
* Initial inventories of all burial features are complete for North Sioux City; however, some osteological work remains. After this is complete, Lloyd will produce an osteological report on the findings and work with Katie Lamie to combine any historical and artifactual details to make more definitive individual identifications.
* Concerning the Burial Mounds NRHP Nomination: all sites have been accepted at this time.

**Outreach**

* Last fall, Katie Lamie and Daniel Fabricius visited with a private landowner outside of Sturgis to inspect an unrecorded historic site related to 1878 Camp Sturgis. On February 14, Katie gave a well-attended presentation at the Journey Museum about the project during their Turtle Soup lunch series.
* Archaeologists visited a large ranch in Hermosa to investigate site leads at the request of the private landowner. Further documentation is planned.
* The ARC responded to over 20 outreach requests during this timeframe, many of which involved artifact identifications and various informational requests. Interestingly, the location of a Lake County site lead from the late 1970s/early 1980s was able to be confirmed when the private landowner unexpectedly contacted the ARC. The original site lead consisted of an unlabeled black and white photograph of a boulder, which contained historic graffiti from 1891 and 1931.

**Repository and Records Archives**

* 65 new archaeological sites entered into the site database
* 91 updated archaeological sites entered into the site database
* 144 new archaeological reports entered into the report database
* 6 closed archive numbers fixing duplicates in database
* Six new artifact and six photo collections were accessioned. Five curation agreements were finalized. The ARC accepted an incoming transfer, coordinated the receipt of a donation, and completed an outgoing transfer of educational artifacts to the Natural Resources Conservation Service.
* Curation assistant Lynn Griffin continued NAGPRA documentation work on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers collections under the current curation contract, which will wrap-up in August 2025. In coordination with the USACE, deaccessions covering these NAGPRA collections will be presented to the Board at the May 2025 meeting.

**Mining Reviews and State Land Permits**

* 65 Sand/gravel licenses (10 Intent to Mine, 0 expansions, 54 Intent to Continue Operations, 1 permits to license conversions), 1 SECL, and 1 EXNI applications reviewed
* 1 State Land permit received

**Other**

* The 2025 History Conference is planned for May 7-9 in Deadwood, SD. ARC staff has been busily working to coordinate presenters, finalize logistics, and promote the conference. We’re excited for this event and can’t wait to see you there.