**Archaeological Research Center – Board Report**

**Cassie Vogt, State Archeologist**

**June 25, 2025 to August 22, 2025**

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

Projects for South Dakota Department of Transportation

* 7 surveys completed
* 5 survey reports completed
* 6 record search letters submitted
* 2 archaeological sites and 6 structures recorded and/or revisited
* 2 archaeological sites evaluated
* Artifact analysis and cataloging for 39HT0150 is currently in progress. Report writing will begin this month.
* Contract for PCN 06RY is currently under review. This project involves an extensive survey south of Brandon, SD for the expansion of SD Highway 11.

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

* MOA between SDGFP and ARC for FY26 is under review; SDGFP projects are on hold until this has been signed by both agencies
* 4 surveys completed – 2 reports in progress
* 1 construction monitoring project completed
* 3 survey reports completed
* 8 record search letters submitted
* 1 archaeological site recorded
* 2 archaeological sites revisited
* The Lewis and Clark Recreation Area site 39YK0036 site evaluation fieldwork has been completed; lab and report work is in progress.

Project for US Army Corps of Engineers

* The Swan Creek NRHP research project report was submitted in May, after 3 years of effort. ARC received edits from USACE on August 28, 2025. Once edits are made, the final report will be submitted and the contract completed.

**GIS**

* ARC staff entered or updated a total of ~379 survey boundary features, ~585 site boundary features, ~3 investigation boundary features, ~1037 subsurface testing features, and ~0 NRHP boundary features in the ARCH geodatabase. (Site boundary feature totals include Megan Ostrenga Fabricius’s contribution)
* Existing features and records in the ARCH geodatabase continue to be checked for accuracy and are undergoing edits where necessary.
* The replacement web map for ARMS Online to keep ARMS Online’s web map active, following scheduled server upgrades, is currently undergoing improvements to include additional feature classes and script-based updating.
* ~84 external and ~21 internal record search requests were fulfilled
* ~11 internal projects were prepared for archaeological survey
* One-meter-resolution LiDAR digital elevation models and corresponding hillshades have been completed for every South Dakota county, to assist in archaeological and historic preservation reviews, and are available on the Archaeological Research Center’s I-drive. The only areas lacking processed LiDAR data coverage consist of small portions of counties where data was not collected in error and off-reservation tribal lands associated with the Rosebud Sioux Tribe.

**Burial/NAGPRA Reports**

14 New Burial Reports

* Walworth County – Tracking number for Over Collection Individual 11516 found at UW-Madison – Notice submitted to National NAGPRA
* No Prov – Anonymous drop off at ancestral human remains at the Cultural Heritage Center
* Pennington County – Report of possible historic graves and campsite near Sheridan Lake – forwarded to USFS since it is within the Mystic Ranger District
* Multiple Counties – Tracking number for additional UW-Madison Over collection ancestral remains catalogued under previous USACE contract.
* Lake County – Report from Matt Busch about historic infant grave marker in Lake County – recorded as 39LK0091
* Lawrence County – Report of possible historic grave during VPS survey – confirmed to be lumber sale or mining claim marker.
* Hughes County – Inadvertent discovery at 39HU0006
* Pennington County – Bone ID for Rapid City Police Department - nonhuman

Two forensic and osteological reports were produced during this time. One was for the inadvertent discovery in Deadwood (BR 2025-18) and the second was for the anonymous drop off at the Cultural Heritage Center (BR 2025-21). Katie Lamie also completed draft Notices for 47 accessions and completed, which completed our work order with the USACE for NAGPRA inventories. One Notice of Inventory Completion was sent to National NAGPRA on 07/30/2025 and was received by them for review on 08/01/2025. Draft Notice for BR 2025-21 was completed on 08/21/2025, reviewed by the burial committee, and sent to tribes for consultation on 08/26/2025.

**Burials - Miscellaneous**

* Plans and coordination for the reburial in Harding County (BR 2022-15) continue; however, it seems unlikely it will occur this year due to the offices busy schedule and nearly being September. Last contact from them was 02/20/2025, but did not receive a reply. I will continue to reach out to Courtney and Tyrel this fall to see if we can move this forward as it has been years at this point.
* Scanning of all active burial files was completed. The active NAGPRA project spreadsheet and NAGPRA database updates are approximately 95% complete. Twenty-two entries remain to be entered onto the spreadsheet. Repatriation efforts have been shifted from focusing on single projects or those with the best provenience and collection history and will be focused on planning and executing a large scale NAGPRA summit within the next 18-24 months. The summit will be modelled after the work at KU with Carlton Shield Chief Gover and his team. Cassie Vogt and Dustin Lloyd have a meeting planned with the Department of Tribal Relations on 09/09/2025 at 10AM to discuss how our offices could work together to ensure this is planned in a cultural appropriate manner.

**Grants – Burial Mounds NRHP Nomination**

No further details about this are available from Chris regarding another round of nominations; however, current pressure on federal funding has likely deterred these efforts for the foreseeable future.

**Outreach**

* The ARC fielded six public outreach requests during this timeframe pertaining to artifact identifications, reported site locations, and informational requests referencing documented site locations and general prehistory questions. Outreach site visits currently remain prioritized for the summer/fall field season in Custer County and Mellette County.
* On July 7, Matthew Busch represented the ARC at the headstone dedication and military funeral honors ceremony held at the Carbonate Cemetery for Civil War veteran and Black Hills pioneer Pvt. Joseph Nathaniel Ritter
* On July 11, Matthew Busch and volunteer (retired ARC archaeologist Roger Williams) conducted an outreach site visit at a Pre-Contact quarry site in Custer County to collect specimens for the ARC lithic comparative collection and assess future site recordation needs.
* On July 17, Katherine Lamie visited Oakwood Lakes State Park and opportunistically documented the well-known 1859/1864-1865 Oakwood Lakes Historic Breastworks as a formal archaeological site.
* On August 1, Matthew Busch documented the original and relocated site location of a late 1800s/early 1900s historic period horse carving on a glacial boulder in Lake County.
* The ARC registered/committed to the upcoming fall annual public education events: Rapid City Area School District (RCAS) 8th Grade College and Career Fair, the Girl Scouts—Dakota Horizons Big Event, and archaeology student guest lecture at the University of South Dakota (USD).

**Repository and Records Archives**

* 72 new archaeological sites entered into the site database
* 10 updated archaeological sites entered into the site database
* 79 new archaeological reports entered into the report database
* 2 closed archive numbers fixing duplicates in database
* Five new artifact collections were accessioned. These accessions are related to in-house projects and are being processed in the lab.
* Lynn Griffin is cataloging the collection recovered from site 39HT0150 during last year’s mitigation project. She is assisting with artifact identification and diagnostic information (manufacturing marks, patents) in preparation for analysis in the final report, which will be submitted to the SDDOT in December.
* In early August, repository staff completed a multi-year curation contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In addition to finishing the collection processing of the materials recovered from previous Archaeology Camps, staff prepared NAGPRA documentation and draft *Federal Register* publications to assist with forthcoming U.S. Army Corps of Engineers NAGPRA repatriations. The 47 deaccessions that were presented to the Board for approval in May are associated with this project.

**Mining Reviews and State Land Permits**

* 3 Sand/gravel licenses (2 Intent to Mine, 1 Small Scale Extension, and 0 Intent to Continue Operations), 0 SECUL (DTRC), and 0 EXNI applications reviewed.
* 0 State Land permits reviewed.

**Other**

* Nothing to report