

## **Archaeological Research Center Activities** **March 21, 2023 – June 28, 2023**

### **In-House Contracts Research**

#### South Dakota Department of Transportation

- 11 surveys completed
- 11 reports completed
- 3 record search letters submitted
- 5 new archaeological sites and 34 new structures recorded
- 4 previously recorded sites/structures revisited

#### Private contractors

- 15 surveys completed
- 14 reports completed
- 25 record search letters submitted
- 3 new archaeological sites and 7 new structures recorded
- 0 previously recorded sites/structures revisited

#### South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

- 3 surveys completed
- 2 reports completed
- 0 record search letters submitted
- 3 new archaeological sites and 1 new structure recorded
- 1 previously recorded sites/structure revisited

### **GIS**

- 60 internal record search requests fulfilled
- 195 external record search requests fulfilled
- 415 survey boundary features added to ARMS database
- 267 new or updated site boundary features added to ARMS database
- 154 new or updated sites entered into the site database
- 152 archaeological reports entered in the report archives database
- Field methodologies for using newly acquired GNSS equipment are being refined to consistently allow for high-accuracy geospatial data collection and usage during archaeological surveys.

### **NAGPRA/Burial Activities**

#### 10 New Burial Reports

- Pennington County – Bone ID for Rapid City Police Department – nonhuman
- Codington County – Inquiry from private citizen about upcoming development that may impact an area potentially containing undocumented mounds and/or archaeological resources
- No Prov/Hughes County – Discovery of possible UFOs in Cultural Heritage Center Museum’s collection

- Custer County – Report from concerned citizen about upcoming demolition of Custer State hospital and its impact on associated cemetery.
- Out of State (North Dakota) – Call from Andy Clark, North Dakota Historic Preservation Officer, about help with forensic identification of possible Japanese World War II skull.
- Southeast SD (No county given in report) – Email from Cutler Law Firm inquiring about information or steps to take in the event of an inadvertent discovery of human remains on private property in South Dakota
- Brule County – Report from Bill Chada, USACE Archaeologist, of human remains discovered at 39BR0013 – reburied on site after tribal consultation
- Roberts County – Call from a concerned citizen about a bone or potential cultural artifact that he collected from Sica Hollow State Park years ago - Has not returned my calls to talk more about the artifact or bone
- Yankton County – Call from concerned citizen, which was forwarded to the ARC from SHPO, about a gravel mining operation on property her father used to own. She was concerned that the gravel mining may be affecting potential unmarked/unrecorded burials and archaeological sites.
- McPherson County – Call from concerned citizen about a possible unmarked/undocumented historic homesteader grave on his great grandfather’s property
- Hughes County – Bone ID for Pierre Police Department - nonhuman

No forensic and osteological reports were produced during this time. BR 2022-18 (Donation from Augustana), 2022-19 (Donation from Augustana), 2022-23 were cleaned, sorted, and re-boxed. Osteological data collection for 2022-23 (Donation from DCI from Marshall County) was completed and report is in progress.

No NAGPRA publications were produced or published.

### **Miscellaneous**

Plans and coordination for the reburial in Harding County (BR 2022-15) continue. Landowner was last contacted on 06/26/2023. He is still very open to reburial; however, stated that the river crossing to access the preferred reburial location is too high currently to cross safely. Will continue to monitor the situation over the coming weeks and plan for a time when the area is accessible.

### **Grants – Burial Mounds NRHP Nomination**

Waiting to hear back from NPS. Chris projected hearing back from NPS in late 2022 or early 2023; however, there has been no update from NPS or SHPO regarding the status of the NPS review.

### **Outreach**

- The ARC fielded several outreach requests related to artifact identifications, donation requests, and landowner discoveries. In

- particular, a landowner from the Edgemont area brought in stone tools for identification and Brandon-area residents dropped in to inquire about a groundstone artifact that they discovered.
- The ARC provided outreach staff for the annual Kid's Archaeology Camp, as sponsored by the SHPO and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the site of Fort Pierre II. Between June 6th and 8th, camp participants excavated, cleaned, and identified artifacts, and visited local historic sites of interest. One of the most interesting historic artifacts ever found in the Pierre-Fort Pierre area, a serpent-shaped metal side plate from a Northwest Trade Gun (dating to the mid-late 18th Century into the early 19th Century), was discovered this year! An upcoming curation contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will provide funding for the collections recovered at the site over the last several years.

### **Repository and Records Archives**

- Three artifact and two photo collections accessioned; one new collection donation will be received in early July.
- On May 2nd, the Archaeological Research Center received a transfer of 100+ boxes from Lead's 1993-1994 Homestake Open Cut expansion project. Dr. Tony Krus of USD received an Outside of Deadwood grant to help cover the initial collection transfer costs; curation staff and volunteers have begun to rebox and stabilize the collection, which includes a wide-range of artifacts dating to the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Some of the more interesting boxes contain complete pieces of clothing as found in privies, whole bottles, industrial equipment related to mining, and coconuts (?!).
- Curation assistant Lynn Griffin is approximately halfway done drafting a digital catalog record for the collection recovered during the evaluation of site 39MD87, which included the excavation of articulated bison skeletal elements along the Belle Fourche River. Curation technician Katie Anderson has almost completed the initial processing of a collection from a cave site in the Northern Black Hills.

### **Mining Reviews and State Land Permits**

- Reviewed 11 permits for sand and/or gravel mining, 4 oil/gas, 0 Large Scale, 1 Exploration Notice of Intent, and 0 Special, Critical, Exceptional, or Unique.
- 3 State Land permits were issued

### **Other**

- Staff updates:
  - Joe Jones has taken over the Contracts Manager position
  - Logan Bullard, archaeologist, departed ARC on May 31, 2023 (so we're currently going through the hiring process)
- Fieldwork has been busy, which is good. We don't have any large-scale projects so far this year, but numerous smaller projects going on across the state.