

Archaeological Research Center Activities August 29, 2023–November 15, 2023

In-House Contracts Research

South Dakota Department of Transportation

- 1 survey completed
- 5 reports completed
- 2 record search letters submitted
- 1 new archaeological site and 1 new structure recorded
- 2 previously recorded sites/structures revisited

Private contractors

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

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

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

GIS

GIS staff entered or updated 239 survey boundary features and 164 site boundary features in the ARMS geodatabase. 147 external and 28 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 on a geospatial archaeological site predictive model pilot project continues in partnership with Minnesota State University, Mankato and Dr. Elizabeth Hobbs. GIS staff has acquired two new computers with 4TB SSDs, 128GB RAM, 16GB Dedicated VRAM, and i9 3.0Ghz 24 core processors. These new computers will aid in conducting record searches, creating archaeological project maps, processing LiDAR data and drone and traditional aerial imagery, and in running statistical scripts on large geospatial datasets.

NAGPRA/Burial Activities

15 New Burial Reports

- Buffalo County – Discovery in collections, 39BF11
- Stanley County – Inquiry from the USACE about 39ST15 burial records for 1986 and 1991 reburials
- Minnehaha County – Call from Sioux Falls Highway Department for burial related record search

- Minnehaha County – Discovery in collections of human remains at Augustana University Archaeology Lab
- Non-human bone identified from Butte County; non-human bone identified for Pennington County Sheriff's Office; non-human bone identified for Rapid City Police Department
- McCook County – Request for comments from SHPO regarding the preservation of historic Ramsey Pioneer Cemetery
- Spink County – Request for confidential burial records from EXP for upcoming project
- Union County – Report of possible Inadvertent Discovery in North Sioux City during utility project. Dustin Lloyd could find no details in paper or through other contacts to verify this and was unable to follow up with original reporter despite multiple attempts
- Sully County – Request for information and collaboration for NAGPRA repatriation from Sully County Historical Society
- Multiple Counties – Collection discovery at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville for South Dakota ancestral human remains
- Fall River County – Record search for private landowner prior to property sale
- Charles Mix County – Inadvertent Discovery near Catholic Cemetery in Marty, SD; assisted Yankton Sioux Tribe with field identification
- Out of State – Tracking number for University of North Dakota requests from their 2022 inadvertent collections/lab discoveries

No forensic and osteological reports were produced during this time. No NAGPRA publications were produced or published. An initial consultation with a descendant of two of the probable families represented at the 39UN73 historic burial site in North Sioux City was conducted. Historic, archaeological, and genealogical research is ongoing in preparation for formal report documentation prior to reburial.

Miscellaneous

Plans and coordination for the reburial in Harding County (BR 2022-15) continue. Landowner was last contacted on 09/13/2023. In October, Tyrel Iron Eyes of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe expressed interest in reburial yet this year, weather dependent.

Grants – Burial Mounds NRHP Nomination

Comments received from NPS; ARC staff is working on revisions. Chris Nelson of SHPO completed edits for site 39BK0003. They were accepted by the NPS and the site is now listed on the NRHP. Nelson is currently working to complete edits for the other sites.

Outreach

- The ARC hosted a career exploration booth at Rapid City Area Schools 8th Grade Career Fair at the Monument Event Center on November 8th. A few hundred students stopped by the booth and local media covered the event!
- On Saturday, October 14th, the ARC again hosted a vendor booth for the Girl Scout BIG event.

Repository and Records Archives

- Two artifact and no new photo collections were accessioned; one new collection donation was received in September from a family estate.
- 39 new sites entered into the site database
- 140 updated sites entered into the site database
- 74 new reports entered into the report database
- Records and GIS staff coordinated efforts to correct multiple report and survey area entries, as discovered during record searches and GIS checks.
- Curation assistant Lynn Griffin completed the digital catalog record for the collection recovered during the evaluation of site 39MD87 and is finalizing the catalog record for the collection recovered during evaluative testing at site 39LA7.
- Two research loans were returned at the Plains Conference. During the conference, two researchers also accessed collections for research purposes.

Mining Reviews and State Land Permits

- Reviewed 20 Sand/gravel licenses and four Exploration Notice of Intent applications
- 1 State Land permit was issued to NRCS for their annual projects

Other

- Staff updates: The job announcement for the vacant Senior Archaeologist position was posted on November 6, 2023 and will remain open for three weeks (tentative closing date of November 24).
- The ARC successfully hosted the 80th Annual Plains Anthropological Conference in Rapid City from October 18-21, 2023. Over 80 papers and posters were presented in conference sessions, with four submissions from ARC staff. Overall, the conference was attended by about 300 professionals and students from around the country.