

**Archaeological Research Center – Board Report
June 18 to August 23, 2024**

In-House Contracts: fieldwork completed by ARC archaeologists

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

- 40 surveys completed
- 1 mitigation project ongoing (Hutchinson Co.)
- 1 construction monitoring project ongoing (Pennington Co.)
- 12 survey reports completed
- 16 record search letters submitted
- 18 archaeological sites and 33 structures recorded and/or 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

- 103 survey boundary features were entered or updated in the ARCH geodatabase
- 189 site boundary features were entered or updated in ARCH geodatabase
- 115 external and 29 internal record search requests were fulfilled
- Existing features and records in the ARCH geodatabase continue to be checked for accuracy and are undergoing edits where necessary
- New feature classes for investigations have been added to the ARCH geodatabase.
- 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.

Burial/NAGPRA Reports (n=7)

- Brookings County – Consulted with ALAC about recent survey in Oakwood Lakes State Park
- Multiple Counties – Request for portions of Marshall and Day Counties and Beadle, Spink, and Clark Counties Mortuary Feature Survey Reports.
- Davison County – Consulted on and site visit for City of Mitchell and Lakeview Golf Course for golf course improvements.
- Brown County – Bone ID for private citizen – nonhuman
- Oglala-Lakota County – Bone ID for FBI – nonhuman
- Hughes/Stanley County – Letter/Research Request from private citizen concerning reburial of James Bell and Arkansas Joe at Piedmont Cemetery
- Pennington County – Bone ID from S. Rochford Road Project – nonhuman
- Pennington County – Bone ID for private citizen – nonhuman
- Other: no forensic and osteological reports were produced during this time. Tempest Mellendorf collected osteological data from 30 sets of human remains

from 10 sites from both USACE and state collections. Data collection and full inventories are ongoing for Sioux Point Cemetery 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 September 2024; however, their office is very busy so scheduling a time for this has been difficult. Last contact was August 22, 2024. Lloyd has not received any additional details from SRST or OST concerning dates for the reburial.
- Representatives from Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe (FSST) plan to travel to the ARC to receive funerary objects at some point in the first two weeks of September 2024. They are currently traveling to Tennessee to receive ancestral human remains from the University of Tennessee, which are part of this repatriation. No date has been set yet, but ARC will host them at their earliest convenience.
- Plans continue for the Jefferson Peace Medal consultation and repatriation. The Board of Trustees will vote on deaccession during the September 13th meeting. Per a phone call with Pemina Yellow Bird on 08/22/2024, MHA THPO would like to plan a formal consultation on 09/06/2024 or at some point during the week of 09/16/2024 depending on THPO's schedule and availability. After this consultation and receipt of a Request for Repatriation, Lloyd will complete a Notice of Intended Repatriation for publication in the Federal Register.
- Tempest Mellendorf spent all of July and half of August collecting osteological data from the Sioux Point Cemetery human remains. She completed initial inventories of all burial features; however, the human remains found in the back dirt piles for each feature and from the initial installation of the utility line still need to be rematched to individuals where possible. After a final inventory is complete, the ARC plans, with the consent of Robin Zephier (descendant), to send portions of the remains for DNA testing.
- Updates on the Burial Mounds NRHP nominations: sites 39ML00002 and 39RO0073 were accepted for listing on the NRHP on July 10, 2024, and August 16, 2024, respectively. Site 39ML0032 is the last remaining site which remains under review with NPS.

Outreach

- Archaeological Research Center curation staff will present an artifact processing workshop and evening presentation at the University of South Dakota on September 4 as a follow-up to this summer's Fort Meade Laundress Quarters field school project.
- A late September outreach event is being planned for the Timber Lake Area Museum. Some archaeological records will also be transferred to the Archaeological Research Center at that time.
- Alec Anton, ARC GIS Coordinator, hosted a meeting for the South Dakota Archaeological Society (SDAS), a group of professional and avocational archaeologists in South Dakota, on August 13.

Repository and Records Archives

- 32 new archaeological sites entered into the site database
- 47 updated archaeological sites entered into the site database
- 118 new archaeological reports entered into the report database
- 4 closed archive numbers fixing duplicates in database
- Two new artifact and four photo collections were accessioned. Two 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

- 10 Sand/gravel licenses (3 Intent to Mine, 0 expansions, 2 Intent to Continue Operations, 5 permits to license conversions), 1 SECL, and 2 EXNI applications reviewed
- 3 State Land permits reviewed, and 1 was issued (the other 2 are waiting on additional information)

Other

Update on the mitigative fieldwork at NRHP-Eligible site 39HT0150 near Milltown: The project fieldwork is about halfway completed but will also include construction monitoring based on the contractor's schedule. The site, located in the historic village of Milltown, includes structural remnants, some of which likely date to 1872, and involve the use of rammed-earth construction techniques. It is also immediately adjacent to an intact wagon road cut that has been identified as a segment of the Yankton to Fort James (later Firesteel) trail. On August 9, Andrea Bierle and Emily Calhoun from the SDDOT toured the site area.