

Archaeological Research Center Activities June 28, 2023–August 28, 2023

In-House Contracts Research

South Dakota Department of Transportation

- 13 surveys completed
- 8 reports completed
- 5 record search letters submitted
- 4 new archaeological sites and 25 new structures recorded
- 3 previously recorded sites/structures revisited

Private contractors

- 8 surveys completed
- 5 reports completed
- 5 record search letters submitted
- 1 new archaeological sites and 2 new structures recorded
- 1 previously recorded sites/structures revisited

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks

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

GIS

GIS staff entered or updated 145 survey boundary features and 138 site boundary features in the ARMS geodatabase. 80 external and 27 internal record search requests were fulfilled. GIS program staff has been fully cross trained. Existing features and records in the ARMS geodatabase are being checked for accuracy and undergoing edits where necessary. Work on a geospatial archaeological site predictive model pilot project has begun in partnership with Minnesota State University, Mankato's EARTH Systems Laboratory and Dr. Elizabeth Hobbs, who oversaw MNDOT's statewide archaeological site predictive model.

NAGPRA/Burial Activities

7 New Burial Reports

- Lawrence County – bone ID for SDDOT Project 084K; non-human and non-cultural
- Pennington County – bone ID for Pennington County Sheriff's office; non-human and non-cultural
- McCook County – consulted with SHPO about preservation and caretaking of historic Ramsey Pioneer Cemetery
- Buffalo County – discovery of funerary objects in ARC collections from site 39BF11
- Stanley County – request for burial records from 39ST15 from Megan Ernst, archaeologist at US Army Corps of Engineers, Oahe Project

- Call from the Archaeology Lab at Augustana about human remains and funerary objects identified in a basement lab at the college – Augustana has qualified staff and will handle the discovery on their own
- Minnehaha County – call from Minnehaha County Highway Department about pre-construction guidance to avoid potential human remains for upcoming project

No forensic and osteological reports were produced during this time. Osteological data collection for 2022-23 (Donation from DCI from Marshall County) was completed and report is in progress. Osteological analysis of North Sioux City Cemetery remains is ongoing, with work being completed as staff is available.

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

Comments received from NPS; ARC staff is working on revisions.

Outreach

- The ARC fielded a handful of outreach requests related to artifact identifications, donation requests, and landowner discoveries.
- The ARC is co-hosting a Girl Scout archaeology badge event on September 9th with Black Hills National Forest. Approximately 15 Girl Scouts will come to the ARC for a Q&A with archaeologists and a look through our comparative lab. In the afternoon, ARC archaeologists will assist Black Hills NF archaeologist with field-based activities. ARC staff is currently preparing for this event.
- ARC signed up to be a vendor for the Girl Scout BIG event in October. We did this last year and had a good experience.
- Planning has intensified for the upcoming Plains Anthropological Conference, hosted by ARC from October 18-21, 2023. We expect about 300 attendees.

Repository and Records Archives

- Four artifact and two photo collections accessioned; one new collection donation received in early July.
- Curation assistant Lynn Griffin continues with 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. Lynn also cataloged artifacts from a site in Buffalo

County for an upcoming research loan. Curation technician Katie Anderson completed the initial processing of a collection from a cave site in the Northern Black Hills and assisted ARC field staff in processing artifacts from a recently excavated site in Lawrence County.

Mining Reviews and State Land Permits

- Reviewed 9 permits for sand and/or gravel mining, 2 oil/gas, 2 Large Scale, 4 Exploration Notice of Intent, and 0 Special, Critical, Exceptional, or Unique.
- 1 State Land permit was issued

Other

- Staff updates:
 - Matthew Busch has moved from an Archaeologist to a Senior Archaeologist
 - Curation Technician Katie Anderson (temp staff) finished her time at ARC and is headed to graduate school in Scotland
- ARC will be hosting the 80th annual Plains Anthropological Conference in Rapid City from October 18-21, 2023