

Deer Medicine Rocks



Projects 3 and 4: multiple sites

Recent Successes

Deer Medicine Rocks Designated a National Historic Landmark

On March 5, 2012, Deer Medicine Rocks, a sandstone rock formation in the Rosebud Valley of Montana, was designated a National Historic Landmark. Deer Medicine Rocks is nationally significant for its associations with the Great Sioux War of 1876-1887, and specifically for its associations with the Battle of the Little Bighorn. Petroglyphs cover the walls of Deer Medicine Rocks, including a rock inscription of the prophecy of tribal victory at Little Bighorn. The prophecy was revealed to Hunkpapa Lakota medicine man Sitting Bull during a Sun Dance held in the Rosebud Valley in June 1876, approximately two weeks prior to the Indians' victory over Lieutenant Colonel George A. Custer's Seventh Cavalry command at the Battle of the Little Bighorn on June 25-26. Sitting Bull's prophecy appeared as an etched drawing on the face of the rocks and is interpreted as "many soldiers falling into camp." The rock formation, which Northern Cheyenne regard as a living being, has been a major spiritual and cultural site to American Indian tribes for perhaps as long as two thousand years.

continued on page 2

Current Projects and Partners 2012

- 1. Interpretive Signage for Wolf Mountains Battlefield National Historic Landmark** - Northern Cheyenne Tribe
- 2. Nomination of First Peoples Site as a National Historic Landmark** - Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and Montana Preservation Alliance
- 3. Mountain States Transmission Intertie (MSTI) Transmission Line Consultation** - Bureau of Land Management
- 4. African American Soldiers in the West, 1866-1891 Study** - Organization of American Historians

Find out more about each project starting on page 4.

Deer Medicine Rocks (Cont.)

The National Park System includes a number of sites associated with the Great Sioux War but Deer Medicine Rocks is the only non-battle site to be designated as a National Historic Landmark, and the only one that tells the story of the Battle of Little Bighorn from a Native American perspective. The effort to nominate Deer Medicine Rocks as a National Historic Landmark began several years ago at the request of members of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, and the tribe played a lead role in the nomination project. The site is on private land, and has been owned by the same family for nearly five generations.

Restoration of “Enemy Aliens” Courtroom at Fort Missoula

A \$50,000 grant from the NPS Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program helped restore the courtroom at Fort Missoula that was the site of “Enemy Alien” loyalty hearings during World War II. The courtroom, now restored to its 1942 appearance by the



Restored courtroom – Photo courtesy: Historical Museum of Fort Missoula

Historical Museum at Fort Missoula, was dedicated on September 24, 2011, during the Montana History Conference – entitled “No Ordinary Time:

War, Resistance and the Montana Experience.” Kara Miyagishima and Alex Hernandez of the NPS Japanese American Confinement Sites Grants Program – the purpose of which is to preserve and interpret sites where

Japanese Americans were confined during World War II – participated in the dedication ceremony. The “Enemy Aliens” courtroom restoration project was part of a larger project to restore the T-1 Post Headquarters of Fort Missoula, which served as a Department of Justice internment camp during the war and includes several other buildings associated with the internment.



T-1 Post Headquarters of the former Department of Justice Fort Missoula Internment Camp – Photo courtesy: Tom Bauer, *The Missoulian*, Missoula, Montana. Used by permission

Approximately 1,000 Japanese American resident aliens, 1,200 non-military Italians, 23 German resident aliens, and 123 Japanese Latin and South Americans were interned at Fort Missoula during the war. The Japanese internees – all of whom were U.S. residents prevented by law from becoming American citizens – were subjected to loyalty hearings that were held in the now-restored courtroom. These men, most of whom were at least 60 years old at the time, included some of America’s most successful Japanese residents. Although Japanese nationals were investigated at Fort Missoula and other camps during World War II, none was ever charged with an act of disloyalty. More information on the Japanese American internment at Fort Missoula is available at: <http://www.fortmissoulamuseum.org/aliendetention.php>

ABOUT US

The Heritage Partnerships Program of the National Park Service (NPS) Intermountain Region includes several programs that provide technical and financial assistance to partner organizations to encourage the preservation of our Nation’s most significant places. Through these activities, which are funded through National Recreation and Preservation (NR&P) Programs, the NPS works collaboratively with partners to extend the core mission of the National Park Service beyond the boundaries of our national parks. These programs include: National Historic Landmarks, Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), and Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS) documentation programs, and the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program.

WE'RE HERE FOR YOU

Could your project benefit from Heritage Partnerships Program Staff Assistance?

Contact us to find out.

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Manuel Lisa Fort Project: Site Location Study and Signature Rock Stabilization Plan

The 2011 publication of *Selected Papers of the 2010 Fur Trade Symposium at the Three Forks* (Three Forks, MT: Three Forks Area Historical Society) included the results of a study by Heritage Partnerships Program staff Lysa Wegman-French and Charles Haecker to locate the site of historic Manuel Lisa Fort. The fort – also known as “Manuel’s Fort” – was established in 1807 at the junction of the Bighorn and Yellowstone rivers in Montana. The project began in 2009 at the request of a local resident whose land includes a sandstone boulder that bears two inscriptions: *M Lisa 1807* and *Colter 1810*. The boulder, locally called Inscription Rock, is believed to have been associated with two famous people in western history: fur trade entrepreneur Manuel Lisa, and legendary mountain man John Colter. The owner of the property asked the NPS for help regarding the long-term preservation of the boulder, as well as an assessment of the site as a possible National Historic Landmark. Working with the Montana State University Civil Engineering Department, HPP staff developed a stabilization report providing the property owner with specific recommendations for preserving the stone and inscriptions. Although Manuel’s Fort is nationally significant as the first fur trading post in the western region, its actual location has long eluded historians and archeologists. The presence of Inscription Rock, bearing the names of two mountain men who were at Manuel’s Fort, was an indicator that the remains of the fort may have been in that vicinity.



Colter 1810 inscription

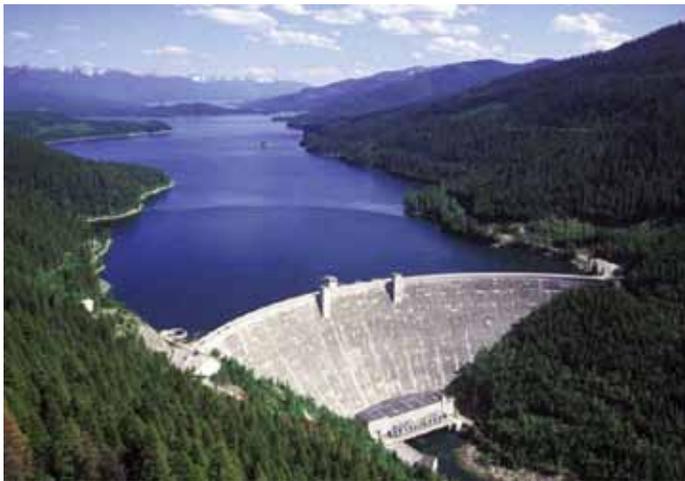
In an effort to locate the fort, NPS staff researched historical documents, examined historic aerial photographs for evidence of manmade soil anomalies near the confluence of the Bighorn and Yellowstone river, and acquired the services of a hydrologist to produce a map showing the likely arrangement of the confluences in the early nineteenth century. With these data sets, HPP staff conducted a reconnaissance-level metal-detection survey of approximately 300 acres in the vicinity of the Bighorn and Yellowstone rivers. Although no physical evidence of the fort was found, the survey produced several nineteenth-century artifacts, some of which may be historically linked to Manuel’s Fort. Nevertheless, the resultant report, which was presented by NPS staff at the 2010 Fur Trade Symposium at Three Forks, provides a strong foundation for future efforts to find Manuel’s Fort. As part of the project, NPS staff also conducted in-depth analysis of Inscription Rock, and provided the land owner with recommendations toward its long-term stabilization.



Archeologists conduct a metal-detection survey

“Water in the West” Online Travel Itinerary includes Historic Dams in Montana

In partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, and the NPS Heritage Education Services, Heritage Partnerships Program staff added a new segment to the NPS Discover Our Shared Heritage Travel Itinerary.



Hungry Horse Dam - Bureau of Reclamation photo

Titled *Bureau of Reclamation Historic Dams and Water Projects: Managing Water in the West*, the online itinerary focuses on 25 BOR dams that are eligible to be listed or are on the National Register of Historic Places. Separate essays, all researched and written by Heritage Partnerships staff member Shirl Kasper, explain the mission of the BOR, its engineering achievements, and the crucial importance of water in the arid American West. The dams and their associated reservoirs and canals, built in the 20th century for irrigation and hydroelectric power, dramatically transformed life in the West. Featured in the itinerary are two water projects in Montana: Gibson Dam and Hungry Horse Dam.

Launched in February 2012, the Historic Dams travel itinerary includes not only essays, but also photographs, maps, and lesson plans that highlight the challenges and complexities of constructing these historic water projects. Today as in the past, BOR projects have a sweeping impact on irrigation and municipal and industrial water supplies, hydroelectric power, navigation, flood control, and recreational opportunity. The itinerary is just one piece of the growing online travel series, which supports historic preservation, promotes public awareness of history, and encourages visits to historic places throughout the country.

Current Projects

1. Interpretive Signage for Wolf Mountains Battelfield National Historic Landmark

Project Partner: Northern Cheyenne Tribe

HPP Contact: Christine Whitacre

Location: Birney vicinity

Project Goal:

Design interpretive signage for the Wolf Mountains Battlefield National Historic Landmark

HPP Role:

Provide funding and technical assistance.

2. Nomination of First Peoples Site as a National Historic Landmark

Project Partner: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

HPP Contact: Charles Haecker

Location: Cascade County



Wolf Mountain - (center) looking north



First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park

Project Goal:

Create a successful National Historic Landmark nomination that will demonstrate the high level of physical integrity and national significance of this property, resulting in designation by the Secretary of the Interior.

HPP Role:

Provide funding, advice, and guidance to the authors of the nomination.

3. Mountain States Transmission Intertie (MSTI) Transmission Line Consultation

Project Partner: Bureau of Land Management

HPP Contact: Christine Whitacre, Tom Keohan

Project Goal:

Avoid and/or minimize adverse impacts to the Butte-Anaconda, Burton Wheeler, and Three Forks of the Missouri National Historic Landmarks from a proposed transmission line in the area.

HPP Role:

Consult with BLM, which is the lead agency on the project, regarding the potential impacts to the National Historic Landmarks.

4. African American Soldiers in the West, 1866-1891 Study

Project Partner: Organization of American Historians

HPP Contact: Lysa Wegman-French

Location: Western United States, including Montana

Project Goal:

Complete a National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form that will document the history and significance of the men known popularly as the Buffalo Soldiers, and identify properties associated with that history, including sites in Montana.

HPP Role:

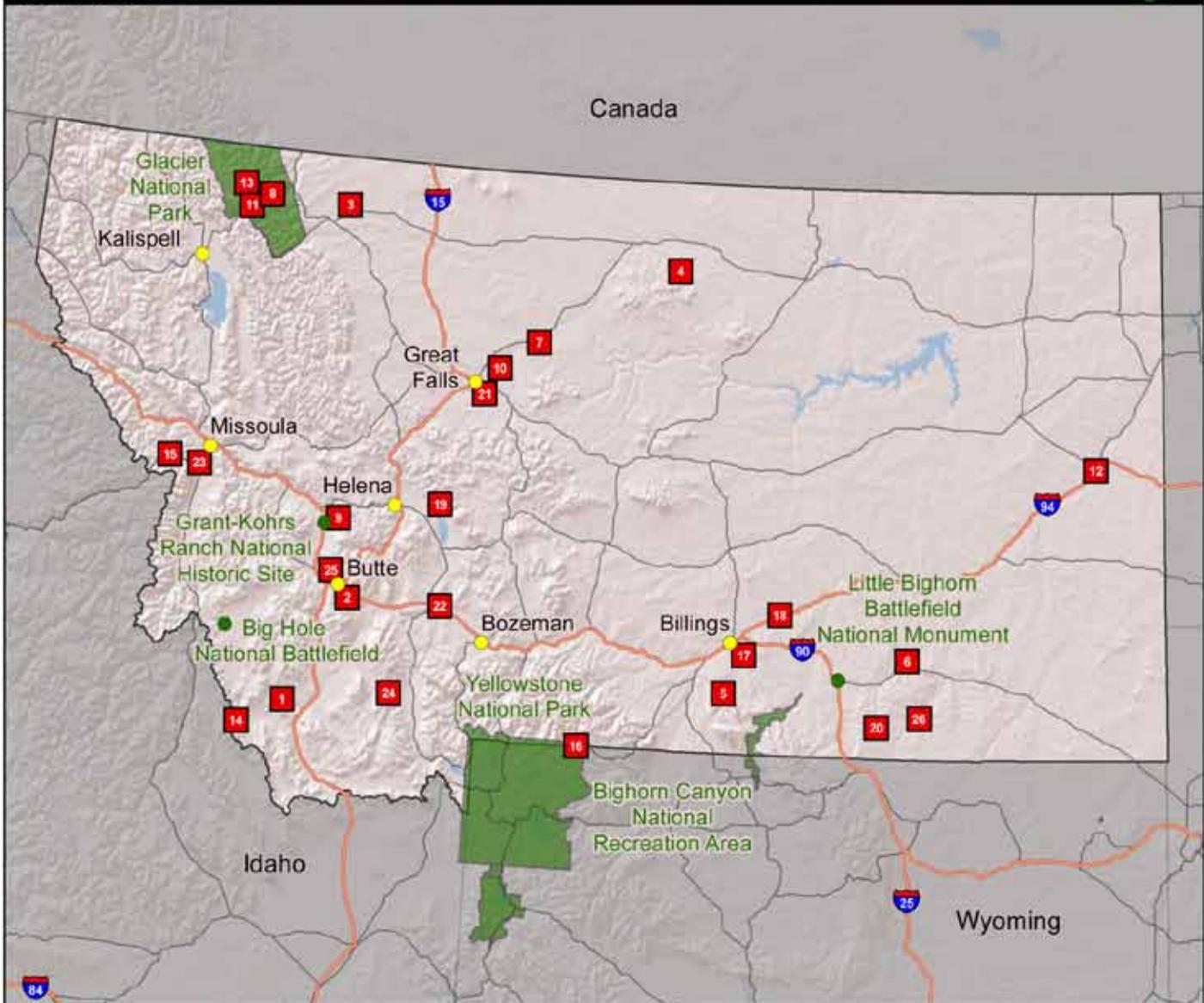
Provide funding for the project, as well as expertise, guidance and advice regarding National Register and National Historic Landmarks guidelines.



10th Cavalry Buffalo Soldiers at St. Mary's, Montana

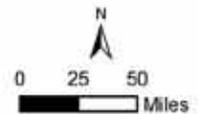
National Historic Landmarks (NHL) Intermountain Region Montana

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Legend

- National Historic Landmarks
- Cities
- Interstates
- Major Highways
- National Parks



Landmarks

- | | |
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| 1 Bannack Historic District | 14 Lemhi Pass |
| 2 Butte-Anaconda Historic District | 15 Lolo Trail |
| 3 Camp Disappointment | 16 Northeast Entrance Station |
| 4 Chief Joseph Battleground of Bear's Paw | 17 Pictograph Cave |
| 5 Chief Plenty Coups (Alek-Chea-Ahoosh) Home | 18 Pompey's Pillar |
| 6 Deer Medicine Rocks | 19 Rankin Ranch |
| 7 Fort Benton | 20 Rosebud Battlefield/Where the Girl Saved Her Brother |
| 8 Going-to-the-Sun Road | 21 Charles M. Russell House and Studio |
| 9 Grant-Kohrs Ranch | 22 Three Forks of the Missouri |
| 10 Great Falls Portage | 23 Traveler's Rest |
| 11 Great Northern Railway Buildings | 24 Virginia City Historic District |
| 12 Hagen Site | 25 Burton K. Wheeler House |
| 13 Lake McDonald Lodge | 26 Wolf Mountains Battlefield/Where Big Crow Walked Back and Forth |