

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Consultation and Repatriation, Fort Union National Monument

Type of Project: Technical Assistance

Funding Agency: National Park Service

Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Colorado at Boulder

Effective Dates: 9/7/2004 - 6/30/2008

Funding Amount: \$40,450

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Investigator: Steve Lekson, Museum-Administration, University of Colorado at Boulder, 218 UCB Boulder, CO 80309-0218, (303) 492-6671, lekson@colorado.edu

Project Abstract:

This scope of work addresses the need for American Indian cultural affiliation work for Fort Union National Monument (FOUN), New Mexico. The goal of this project is to identify and then individually and collectively consult with American Indian tribes for the purpose of repatriation of human remains and to proceed with publication of the notice of inventory completion in the national register to meet the requirements of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990. This project should ensure that accurate, complete, fair, and impartial determinations are made on the cultural affiliation of these particular human remains. Fort Union's museum collection contains human remains of 5 individuals. Four of the remains were inadvertently discovered when construction of the park's housing area was taking place in 1958. The remains of these 4 individuals are stored at WACC. A skull cap was also located in the privy of the hospital. Although little research has been done on this piece of human skull, the proximity to the hospital and the nature of the cut through the bone suggests an autopsy was performed.

There were task agreements approved in both FY 04 and FY05 to fund this project.

Project Objectives:

1) Conduct ethnohistoric research for FOUN to produce a brief report to make recommendations regarding the potential cultural affiliation of the human remains at the fort.

2) Provide a draft "Notice of Inventory Completion" to be published in the Federal Register to meet the requirements of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990.

3) Facilitate consultation meetings between potentially affiliated American Indian tribes and Fort Union NM leading to the potential repatriation of the human remains in the park's collections.

Outcomes with Completion Dates:

List of Products: 1) Draft cultural affiliation report; 2) final affiliation report; 3) draft federal register notice for completion of NAGPRA inventory for FOUN; and 4) facilitation of consultation meetings potentially leading to repatriation of park NAGPRA collections. All products due June 30, 2008.

Keywords: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), Fort Union National Monument, University of Colorado at Boulder, cultural affiliation, repatriation.

For Administrative Use Only:

Date Annual Report Received:
Date Final Report Received:
Publications, etc. on file: