

**Lolo National Forest**  
**2015 Annual Heritage Program Report**



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**Lolo National Forest Heritage Program**  
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## Executive Summary

The Lolo National Forest 2015 Annual Heritage Program Report provides a summarized account of the Forest Heritage Program accomplishments during the calendar year. The report also satisfies an annual requirement of the Region One Programmatic Agreement (PA)<sup>1</sup> for documenting Forest Service program administration in accordance with Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The calendar year presented Forest Heritage Program staff with numerous small and large National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) projects as well as the required Section 110 responsibilities. As a result, 43 individual projects were reviewed under Section 106 or Section 110. In accordance with the 2014 PA and standard review practices, 16 required inventories (or field investigations) and 27 yielded No Inventory (or no field investigation) decisions. All inventoried projects resulted in findings of No Effect or No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties. Four new sites were recorded and added to the forest inventory as a result of project investigations. They all received NRHP eligibility status. Three additional legacy sites were evaluated for NRHP eligibility.

Throughout the year, the Lolo National Forest Heritage Program consulted with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) of the Flathead Nation and the Nez Perce Tribe regarding Section 106 reviews of projects and Section 110 actions. Face to face visit with CSKT Tribal Preservation Department members occurred in February, March, and April. In April, Karuzas, met with both CSKT elder councils discussing a prehistoric travel route and requested permission to record it and associated features. Two site visits were made with CSKT representatives during the field season. A face to face visit with the Nez Perce Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) occurred in November. The forest continues to consult effectively with each party in person, by mail, phone and electronic communication.

Several Section 110 projects were conducted on the Lolo National Forest this year. These projects include the annual Savenac Nursery Passport in Time (PIT) project, Heritage Stewardship Enhancement (HSE)-funded project Phase III of the Big Hole Peak Lookout PIT project, and 43 site inspections - including 20 Priority Heritage Asset (PHA) site visits. The Friends of Rock Creek continue their hard work on the Morgan-Case, Hogback and Rock Creek Cabins. A Montana Site Stewardship training was held at the Ninemile Ranger Station, resulting in several new recruits for cultural resource protection.

Educational outreach was delivered to school students, teachers and members of the community during the 2015 Forest Discovery Days, Nature Walk, Willard Alternative High School, Bonner Middle School and Stark Schoolhouse Centennial presentations. Karuzas presented at Superior and Plains -Thompson Falls district orientations educational information about cultural resources and what employees should do when they find a potential cultural resource.

For 2015, the Lolo NF Heritage Program consisted of Sydney Bacon and Erika Karuzas continuing their roles as East Zone (Missoula, Ninemile and Seeley Lake Ranger Districts) and West Zone (Superior and Plains/Thompson Falls Ranger Districts) Archaeologists, respectively. We had the good fortune to employ three field technicians to assist in the survey of several large projects. The majority of the fieldwork was focused on the West Zone, and two project surveys on the East Zone.

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<sup>1</sup> *Programmatic Agreement Among the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Region (Montana), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Montana State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding Cultural Resources Management on National Forests in the State of Montana (1995).*

Bacon and Karuzas prepared the portions of this report relative to their Zone; therefore, questions or concerns should be addressed to the corresponding Zone Archeologist.

Attendance of trainings and conferences was limited due to agency budget and travel limitations in 2015. We took advantage of several free training opportunities offered locally and online.

In February, Bacon attended a University of Montana (UM) class session on the Past Perfect archaeological collections database computer program. In April she attended the Comprehensive Wellbeing, Radio and Axe Training as part of the Northern Region University (NRU). Later in the month, she attended the Montana Archaeological Society (MAS) Annual meeting in Paradise, Montana. Bacon continues to serve on the Education Committee.

Bacon continues the position of Region One Heritage INFRA data steward; and attended the National Heritage Infrastructure Management Initiative (NHIMI) Regional Leaders Team meeting in Steamboat Springs, CO on October 19-23. She continues to provide guidance for the imperfect INFRA Heritage Module to heritage staff across the region.

Bacon and Karuzas signed up for an Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) training class that was unfortunately cancelled.

Karuzas was restricted in training for the 2015 season. Due to the large amount of Section 106 work and NEPA, her training was reduced to accomplish large forest targets. The West Zone only allows one conference every other year for their employees, and 2015 was the off year for Karuzas. However, outside of heritage training, Karuzas was selected as the Civil Rights Chairperson, and is involved with American Indian and Alaskan Native special emphasis program manager.

The Lolo NF had a few considerable fires across the forest in 2015.

#### **West Fork Fish Creek**

The fire was located south of Interstate 90 on the Ninemile Ranger District. It was a lightning-caused fire started in the Great Burn proposed wilderness. The report, has not been submitted yet, by the West Zone Archeologist, under direction of her supervisor to complete the Section 106 report for the large NEPA project Jam Cracker. This report shall be submitted by the end of March, 2016. However, consultation with SHPO began in August, 2015, as one site, Clearwater Crossing, had burned completely. There were two other sites near the fire perimeter, which were flown over by helicopter, and were said the areas where the sites were located had not burned during suppression or rehabilitation actions.

#### **Wildhorse Point**

This fire was located west of the Frenchtown Mill on the Ninemile Ranger District. The lightning-caused fire started on Plum Creek Land (under DNRC Protection) in the SW ¼ NW ¼ Section 30, T 14N, R 23W and moved northwest onto Lolo NF lands in Sections 24 and 25, T 14N R 22W. It was contained at 133 acres. Bacon had the opportunity to be a Resource Advisor on the fire, her first ever assignment. No previously known cultural resources were located within the fire perimeter, and none were identified during the several days out on the fire line.

Wildhorse Point Lookout (24MO0117) is located south of the fire area and on the next ridgeline. A site visit followed fire containment.

## **Part I: Forest Inventory Strategy**

The Forest Heritage Program continues to use the *Site Identification Strategy Prepared for Bitterroot, Flathead, and Lolo National Forests (SIS)*, developed in accordance with the PA and approved by the MT SHPO in 2003. The SIS provides information useful for predictive modeling across the forest, directed towards identifying high, medium and low probability areas for previously unrecorded prehistoric and historic cultural resources sites.

In 2015, Heritage staff tested the SIS model by conducting pedestrian surveys of some projects in areas across the forest identified as having low to high probability. Forest personnel feel the SIS is an effective tool for predictive modeling of site potential across the forest. As our GIS skills have been honed, we have applied slope gradient and hydrology to our predictions of site probability areas.

However, on-the-ground observations of slope and hydrology still prove the most reliable method for assessing and verifying site potential areas. We have identified issues with the slope percentages in relation to low, medium and high probability areas. Topography on the paper map does not always reflect what is out in the field. The Lolo NF plans, with assistance from the Bitterroot and Flathead NFs, to amend the SIS in the near future to accommodate more reasonable and realistic survey requirements.

This year, the East Zone had the privilege of LIDAR data to assist in site identification on East Zone projects. LIDAR is a remote sensing technology that is captured by aerial flights over the area of interest and then projected as a layer on a GIS map. It is instrumental in identifying areas of high probability within a project area, as well as areas previously disturbed by road building, skid trail corridors and other associated timber harvest practices.

The Forest Heritage Program will continue to use and test the SIS on future Section 106 undertakings and Section 110 inventories. Any new information that may become known would be assessed and subsequently incorporated into the Lolo National Forests' site identification methodology.

## Part II: American Indian Consultation

The Lolo National Forest encompasses lands traditionally occupied by peoples of the Salish, Pend d'Oreille, Kootenai, and Nez Perce. Today, the Forest consults on a government-to-government basis with the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation (CSKT) and the Nez Perce Tribe. These consultations help to ensure that historic properties that may be of religious and cultural significance to tribal parties are considered during planning and implementation of agency actions.

Consultations with CSKT continue to occur face-to-face, by telephone, email and surface mail communication.

Heritage staff and met with CSKT Tribal Preservation Department members on seven occasions during the calendar year; three face-to-face meetings, two field visits, and two elder council meetings. On March 31, Bacon, Karuzas and Lolo NF Public Affairs Officer Boyd Hartwig traveled to Pablo with the intention to meet with Ira Matt and Mike Durglo, Sr., as Francis Auld recently left his position to focus on the Kootenai Culture Committee. Upon our arrival, neither Ira nor Mike were available. We discussed Lolo NF projects with Mary Rogers, CSKT Tribal Preservation Department Database and Records Manager. We provided updates of project status of the Center Horse, Soldier Butler, Hungry Howard and Brewster's Kitchen on the East Zone as well as the Jam Cracker, Swamp Eddy, Kitty Corner, Nancy Creek, Cedar Creek Alignment, Lookout Ski Area Expansion and St. Regis Bull Trout Tributaries projects. We also informed her of projects across the forest that were active, including Colt Summit and Horseshoe West on the East Zone and Cutoff, Cedar-Thom and Little Eddy on the West Zone. Hartwig led the discussion on several personnel transitions on the Lolo NF.

On February 18, 2015, Karuzas visited Francis Auld along Highway 135. Mike Durglo Sr. called Karuzas concerned about the implementation of the road building at a location known as the Peninsula. The area was surveyed in 2010 with a negative inventory. Karuzas visited the area the next day, and found Francis monitoring the area. He was informed that people from Plains MT, were starting to loot prehistoric artifacts, and was not there for the road construction. The two joined up for the day surveying and inventorying many sites along the highway. While they were at the Peninsula, they found fishing net weights! Auld kept the weights as he did not want them stolen into a private collectors hands as so many prehistoric artifacts have had happened in the past.

March 19, 2015 Karuzas visited with CSKT Tribal Preservation Department members Mike Durglo Sr., Francis Auld, and Ira Matt about the large NEPA project Jam Cracker. During the 2014 field season, Karuzas located nine more prehistoric sites within the project boundary. Along with a number of sites that were outside of the project boundary on the Ninemile Divide, she proposed that she should record the Divide as a prehistoric travel route. The Tribal Preservation Department asked her to present this information to both elder council meetings in April.

In April, Karuzas was invited to present the Ninemile Divide prehistoric travel route to first the Salish-Pend d'Oreille council meeting April 1<sup>st</sup>, and the following week to the Kootenai Cultural committee April 8<sup>th</sup>. At the April 1<sup>st</sup>, meeting, elders were appreciative of the information, agreed to allow me to record the trail, and corrected the trail location that Karuzas presented near the Flathead River. The April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting was cancelled, but Karuzas was not informed until she arrived in Big Arm; however, much information was learned in casual conversation. The following week, April 15<sup>th</sup>, the Kootenai Culture Committee was much appreciative of the work done on the Lolo, and agreed to trail recordation.

On May 15, 2015 Karuzas met with Auld looking for Bitterroot collection site for the Bitterroot festival. During the March annual meeting and in email conversations, Karuzas reported that the flower had been found in a large NEPA project by the zone botanist. Auld and Karuzas went to the site, and decided that it was a good collection site for the young, and not so much for the elders. They spent half the day in the field discussing Auld's future plans.

A face to face consultation also occurred with the Nez Perce Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Patrick Baird on November 2. Discussion topics mainly focused on the Nez Perce Trail corridor and work that had been done along the trail that was funded by the NPNHT.

The Forest Heritage Program will continue to consult with the CSKT and the Nez Perce Tribes at least annually or on a project-by project basis as appropriate for Section 106 review of proposed projects and for Section 110 inventories on the Lolo National Forest.

## **Part III: Section 110 Projects**

### **Forest Discovery Days**

Bacon discussed archaeology to local 5th grade students on May 6, 2015 at Forest Discovery Days, a program sponsored by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Eight, 25-minute presentations were given throughout the day at Pattee Canyon Picnic Area. The students gained knowledge of archaeology and history of the area via demonstration and hands-on learning.

### **Nature Walk**

On May 27<sup>th</sup> Bacon gave eight, 25-minute archaeology presentations to third grade students during the annual Nature Walk, an educational experience developed in collaboration between the Lolo National Forest and the Missoula County Weed District. The students learned about archaeology through an informative presentation at Maclay Flats Recreation Area including hands-on activities including atlatl throwing and the preparation of ochre using a mortar and pestle. This year was especially unique in that, after 15 years of Nature Walk participation, Syd finally presented to her son's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class! Willard Alternative High School

On May 28, Bacon presented to a much older age group of students at Willard Alternative High School. This was her first time talking to kids this age and the discussion was 'smarted up' to not bore the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders. Despite the age group and any preconceived notions, the students were actively engaged and especially enjoyed the atlatl throwing portion of the curriculum. Some even painted their face.

### **Bonner Middle School**

As a result of the 'Forest for Every Classroom' presentation in 2014, Bacon has been given the opportunity to reach out to several instructors in the area. On September 15, Bacon gave two, 40-minute presentations to the students regarding local archaeology and history, focusing on place names in the area and the impact of historic logging.

### **Stark Schoolhouse Centennial**

Bacon gave a presentation to community members who attended the Centennial Celebration of the Stark Schoolhouse, located up the Mainstem of Ninemile Creek. Knowing her audience, she chose to focus on the prehistory of the area rather than the mining, of which most of the group was well aware. She brought samples of local lithic material as well as a 'what is this?' artifact to be identified. Connections were made at the event that will be beneficial as the larger project in the area is identified.

### **Lolo NF Site Stewards**

The Lolo NF Heritage Program is fortunate to have had at least three additional Site Stewards providing assistance in monitoring important sites on the Forest. In order to do so, they are required to have completed the necessary training provided by the Montana Site Stewardship Program, a subset of Project Archaeology out of Bozeman.

The Lolo NF had the pleasure of hosting a site stewardship training in May at the Ninemile Ranger district. Crystal Alegria, director of the Montana Site Stewardship program, led the instruction. The two-day training included a classroom instructional day with guest presenters discussing the pre/history of the area. The second day involved a field practicum in which we assisted in mapping the CCC Camp and identifying, measuring, recording and photographing associated features of the site.

John Green, volunteer at the Ninemile Ranger District, has almost completed his research on the Stony Creek Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp (24MO0142). John is using information gathered from a reunion in the 1990s as well as his own historical research to evaluate the site in CY15.

Ron Schlader, retired FS, has become a site steward for a string of several prehistoric sites along the Montana/Idaho Divide west of Alberton, MT. these sites have not been inspected since their original recordings in the 1970's. In 2015, he was able to visit seven lithic scatters and provide the much-needed information including access, GPS location, recent photographs and any changes since their last visit. He also helped in CY2015 to accomplish the necessary fieldwork for the Center Horse Project on Seeley Lake RD.

Lydia Gomes is responsible for monitoring sites along the Highway 12 corridor including Fort Fizzle (24MO00129), Lee Creek Rock Shelter (24MO0274), Howard Creek Historic Camp (24MO0120) and the Lolo Trail NHL (24MO0104).

Stay tuned for more Site Stewardship in 2016.

### **Savenac PIT 20 Years of great work!**

The Lolo NF 20th Annual Historic Savenac Nursery Passport in Time project occurred in July 2015. The dedication our PIT volunteers have for this project is humbling.

Years at Savenac PIT project have always included laborious manual work. We had approximately 1500 hours of time donated during the PIT week again. We have one crew who enjoys working far far behind the scenes, did an excellent job leveling and pointing the walkway near the visitor center, only 763 more stones to go to have the entire walk way releveled.

The trail crew always on the move. The focus this year was to be able to have people go out to enjoy the Christmas tree plantation, without getting lost. The crew was out limbing and signing the trails out to the Christmas tree plantation around the ski run.

This was a year for yard work too; pruning, raking, removing old rusty metal, and covering the roots with dirt all took a tremendous amount of time. The crew was working laying more wood chips around the short



interpretative trail that exhibits the old nursery machinery. Our yard work would not be complete without Izzy fixing the irises around the cookhouse and east residences and providing training for our younger volunteers who have only been coming for the past 8 years. It is important to note, that Izzy, pictured right, volunteered at Savenac for the past 20 years, our only volunteer who has been at all 20 years. She touched so many people through the years, we recognized her plus two FS employees who have been to all of the Savenac PIT projects.



We are fortunate to have so many people volunteer with a wide variety of skills, and of those, are our carpenters. We have one set who have repaired and built many picnic tables, minor plumbing repairs, and replacing broken boards to any number of items. We have some that come with finished carpentry skills who have built a display case for our first Lolo NF Forest Supervisor's pack saddles. While they were waiting for the glue to dry, they repaired the old horseshoe pits.

We cannot forget our picnic tables, who knew that would take all week to repair, scrape, and repaint, apparently everyone else did, but wow, they looked fabulous when we were out there at Friday's luncheon. Did we mention painting, as always our snow covers get their annual TLC with scraping and painting. Last but not least, the dynamic, but not dainty duo, carpentry crew maintaining the buildings fixing all the odds and ends.



## FY 2015 Heritage Stewardship Enhancement Project

### Big Hole Peak Lookout PIT Project: Priority Project 1



Big Hole Peak Lookout is located on the Plains/Thompson Falls Ranger District of the Lolo National Forest. This year \$15,000 in HSE money was awarded in order to continue the process of restoring this unique 'Grange Hall' style lookout. We had several partners; including Passport in Time (PIT) volunteers, Wild Horse Plains Backcountry Horsemen (BCH), the Region One Historic Preservation Team,

Sanders County Youth Conservation Corps, and the Region One Pack String, complete the third successful rehabilitation project at the lookout.

We had a volunteer who own his own professional historic building restoration career. He repeatedly told us square, straight, and plume. Under the guidance of the R1 Preservation Team, he worked on the gables and shutters, and a couple of us painted until there was no more painting to be done.

Well its' been one amazing year with our volunteers too. We had the Plains Thompson Falls Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) up for a couple of days helping us paint the shutters and the gables. Thank goodness, they had eight people a day painting for 4 hours each. We also had the continued support from the Wild Horse Plains Backcountry Horsemen. We would have been thirsty if it was not for John bringing us up 4 to 8 QB's a day, plus all of his packing support getting us on and off the mountain. The Wild Horse Plains BCH also saved our day when they came up the last day to pack all of us out along with the Bitterroot Packer Carl.



We did a great job up there this year, and the Plains community is happy with our work. The people in town enjoy seeing Big Hole Peak from town and showing it off to all their guests. We will be seeing you next year to our grand finale at Big Hole Peak Lookout.



### **Friends of Upper Rock Creek Work Accomplishments**

This year marked the sixth consecutive work party organized by the Friends of Rock Creek, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization that, in 2009, established a partnership agreement with the Missoula Ranger District of the Lolo National Forest. With the financial assistance of the Willett Foundation, (a former Lolo NF Archaeologist from the 1970's and 1980's) the Friends assist the Ranger District with preservation maintenance of three historic properties in Upper Rock Creek; The Rock Creek Cabin and Hogback and Morgan-Case Homesteads. Hogback Cabin and Morgan-Case Homestead are on the cabin rental program and popular with the public. Rock Creek Cabin is maintained for administrative use by the District staff and volunteers.

The **Rock Creek Cabin** had various small tasks completed, including; repair of a window sash broken by vandals, lock adjustment on shower house and SST doors, patching and painting the bedroom addition ceiling and re caulking around the chimney to prevent leakage. Rock Creek Cabin also had a good dose of spring-cleaning of the interior and exterior.

Projects at the **Hogback Homestead** included replacing broken windowpanes upstairs and the same attention to cleaning as the other two cabins. Additional interior work included hiring our retired friends Kirby Matthew, Gene Thompson and Al Fix to remove and replace the kitchen and living room floors. A vintage chair, couch and dining set replaced the existing tired furniture.

The **Morgan-Case Homestead** received several improvements. The bunkhouse roof was stripped, ice and water shield applied and then re roofed with Delta 5V roofing. The deteriorated chicken coop roofing was removed and replaced with salvageable material from the bunkhouse. A V-board ceiling was installed in the bunkhouse. A new wood burning stove was placed inside the original fireplace and the chimney was cleaned. The couch was reupholstered and the cabin received a thorough cleaning inside and out.



Routine indoor upkeep such as vacuuming, mopping and window washing; as well as outdoor maintenance like mowing, weeding, raking and raking were also accomplished. Between the 12 volunteers, **670 hours** of work were completed. When valued at the standard Federal rate of \$23.07/hour, amounts to a labor contribution of over **\$15,456.90!**

Photos, clockwise from top:

Completed Morgan-Case Bunkhouse roof with FOR crew mending the chicken coop, Hogback Cabin kitchen floor replacement, Steve Waylett and Loren Ross installing ceiling in Bunkhouse.



#### **Part IV: Public Objections**

The Lolo National Forest received no public objections related to concerns over cultural resources or historic properties for undertakings proposed or implemented in 2015. Public comments are received through the forest's NEPA public outreach methods rather than specific Section 106 public outreach.

## **Part V: Out-Year/Ongoing Projects of Concern**

The Lolo National Forest will continue to assess potential environmental impacts on at least four large NEPA projects in 2016. Smaller NEPA projects will continue to be assessed at Zone Meetings.

The **12 Tamarack Assessment Area** is on the Superior Ranger District north and west of St. Regis, Montana. The 12 Tamarack project is 69,000 acres with 17,300 treatment acres. We have entered into a project-specific Programmatic Agreement with SHPO and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) to complete fieldwork within ten years. All fieldwork was completed in FY2015. A final report is forthcoming.

**2 Short** is a project on the Plains Thompson Falls Ranger District west of Thompson Falls. The proposed project is looking at large landscape restoration goals. Pre-field research shown that there were only 2 previously recorded sites within the project boundary, and is mostly in low probability site inventory areas.

**Borax Salvage Sale** is a proposed project on the Superior Ranger District, near Lookout Pass, north of Interstate 90. The project was surveyed, but during analysis, more units were recommended and the project will be re-analyzed in 2016 at the Stateline Timber Sale.

**Brewster's Kitchen** is a proposed project in Rock Creek on the Missoula Ranger District. Project involves forest health improvements including thinning, harvest and underburn. At this time, the project is still just a blob on a map. Prehistoric campsites have been identified nearby and the area is known for historic mining.

**Bonneville Power Association** has one ongoing project on the Forest this year that spanned from Garrison Junction to Seattle. The projects include refibering old optic lines, installing new substations, repairing old substations and maintaining access roads.

**Clark Fork North, Eddy Malone** is a project on the Plains Thompson Falls Ranger Districts with 29,000 acres for an ecosystem maintenance burn treatment. The proposed project began in 2015, but due to the size of the project and mitigation measures needed from multiple resources, the project has been delayed into 2016.

**Cedar Thom** was a project on the Superior Ranger District south and east of Superior Montana, that was mostly completed in 2010, however, many sites were recorded in the report, and were not documented into site forms. During the implementation meeting this information was revealed. After talking with SHPO Compliance Officer, Jessica Bush, would like the sites to be fully recorded and evaluated if possible from the notes.

**Goat Packer Bushnell** is a large ecosystem maintenance burn proposed on the Superior and Plains Thompson Falls Ranger Districts. The proposed project is looking at 62,000 acres for treatment. Units are still be defined, and survey should start in 2016, with a report hopefully in 2017.

**Jam Cracker** is on the Superior and Ninemile Ranger Districts north of Superior up to the Ninemile divide and east to Stark Mountain Lookout encompassing 83,000 acres with 25,000 treatment acres. During 2014 high probability areas and known sites within vegetation treatment units were mostly surveyed,

and requested a survey crew for 2015. The field work was completed and a project report is forthcoming.

**Lookout Pass Ski and Recreation Area Expansion** is a project between the Lolo and Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The proposed project is looking at expanding the current ski boundary into more areas in the state of Montana. During analysis, an adverse effect was called on the historic Mullan Road, 24MN0133. West Zone Archaeologist is working on the MOA between the National Forests, SHPO, and Advisory Council if they decide to participate.

During this survey, two new sites were visited, and we are currently working with the University of Montana Dr. Kelly Dixon on recording a site associated with the Northern Pacific Railroad, a dump site, and 5 stone ovens, one of which is completely intact! The second site is associated as a water depot on the NPRR, the Borax Station. We are hoping for a field school in the summer of either 2016 or most likely 2017.

**Redd Bull** formerly known as Bull Trout Tributaries, is located on the Superior Ranger District west of St. Regis Montana, and south of Interstate 90. The proposed project is looking at the three main bull trout habitat streams and improving aquatic habitat in Big, Deep and John Creeks. The proposed project has been defined by January 2016, and we are beginning our pre-field survey work for survey in the summer of 2016.

**Soldier Butler** is located on the Ninemile Ranger District, within part of the Historic Ninemile Mining District. At this point, the NEPA Purpose and Need and project boundary are still being developed; however the project will likely include silvicultural prescriptions to thin choked stands and reduce beetle kill in the area as a result of the Fires of 2000. The area is also in the Wildland/Urban Interface (WUI). Temporary road construction, road decommissioning and stream enhancement followed by understory burning are probable. Some fieldwork to identify previously recorded cultural resources in the area has occurred in 2015 by the survey crew. More fieldwork will occur in 2016.

**Swamp Eddy** is on the Plains/Thompson Falls Ranger Districts is south of Plains from Eddy Creek up to the CC divide out to Patrick's Knob within Forest Service lands. The survey has been completed for the project, and a report is forthcoming.

**Thompson River Benches** is located on the Plains Thompson Falls Ranger Districts along the Thompson River. The proposed project is looking at restoration treatments in the Wildland Urban Interface 10 miles from the Clark Fork River. Site 24SA0560 was inspected, but the project was postponed for the Clark Fork North, Eddy Malone EMB.