

Monitoring Conducted

Inventory

The Forest Plan and the 5 year heritage work plan direct the Forest to identify, evaluate, protect, monitor and interpret heritage resources on the Superior National Forest.

Heritage sites within designated project areas are inventoried primarily to satisfy the requirements of the **National Historic Preservation Act of 1966** (as amended). Heritage sites identified within project areas are monitored after inventories to determine whether recommended mitigation measures are implemented for the project and to document whether the recommended mitigation was effective in protecting the heritage resource.

Approximately 21,000 acres were inventoried for heritage with 34 new sites documented. Inventory included prescribed burn units within and outside the BWCAW, campsite and portage inventory, and proposed treatment units in the Whyte, Cascade, Dunka, Echo Trail and other smaller proposed project areas. Inventories consists of a pre-field archival search, field inventory if needed and post field reporting and artifact processing. Eighty three previously inventoried heritage sites were monitored, mostly opportunistically, in conjunction with planned inventory projects.

Interpretation and Protection

A subset of evaluated, eligible sites (15 of 24 sites) which were formally evaluated and determined eligible in the past were monitored during 2007 to determine whether or not their public nature has made them more subject to vandalism.

Ten of 12 recorded burial sites were monitored in 2007 to insure no impacts are occurring through SNF projects or visitor use of the adjacent areas.

The field site evaluations were completed for 4 sites during the 2007 field season.

Evaluation and Conclusions

Inventory, Interpretation, and Protection

Ongoing site monitoring suggests the integrity of some heritage sites is deteriorating over time, especially on campsites subject to extremely heavy visitor use (in and out of the BWCAW). National Forest Service policy is to “flag and avoid” impact to sites located within project areas. Campsite project work and campsite use by the visiting public precludes this “flag and avoid” policy. Continued heavy public use of these campsites is likely to further affect the heritage sites. As a result of these observations, site evaluations are scheduled for a sample of high use areas during the 2008 field season.

Management Considerations

- * Review heritage mitigation measures related to heavily used recreation areas across the SNF including the BWCAW (O-HR-1 and S-HR-7).

Heritage Summary Points

- * Approximately 21,000 acres were inventoried for heritage resources resulting in the documentation 34 new sites.
- * 83 previously inventoried heritage sites, 12 eligible sites, and 10 burial sites were monitored. One cemetery area scheduled for site closure and protection in 2008 received a blessing ceremony by a Bois Forte elder.
- * 1 site associated with a Passport in Time (PIT) project was evaluated during the 2007 field season.
- * Review heritage mitigation measures related to heavily used recreation areas across the SNF including the BWCAW (O-HR-1 and S-HR-7).

Spaulding Mine cabin remnants ca. 1890

