

## 12. Heritage Resources

Protection of the heritage resource enables the continued existence of nonrenewable archeological and historic resources that are under the stewardship of the Forest Service. Without this protection, these resources cannot contribute to our knowledge of the past, which we share with the public through education and outreach activities.

### Key points

- Efforts to avoid and/or protect sites have been effective.

### Monitoring Questions

- Are avoidance or mitigation measures effective and being followed as recommended in project designs?
- Are heritage resources being affected in non-project areas?

### Results

Heritage sites that are identified within project areas are monitored subsequent to inventory for the purposes of determining whether or not recommended mitigation measures were implemented by the functional area responsible for the project, and to document whether or not the recommended mitigation was effective in protecting the heritage resource.

#### Avoidance or mitigation measures effectiveness

A review by Forest staff of completed prior-year timber sales to identify areas of “flag and avoidance” cultural resource sites was accomplished. A field visit to verify that the recommendation was carried out and that there are no unexpected effects was done for several sites on a random basis.

Avoidance or mitigation measures were effective and were being followed as recommended in project designs in the project areas that were visited.

#### Heritage resources in non-project areas

A field check of highly visible sites, and those known to the public, as well as coordination with law enforcement to monitor unauthorized digging, vandalism or unplanned disturbance was required.

A few sites in non-project areas were examined and no disturbance was noted to archeological sites. The Blackduck District Ranger was notified of unauthorized digging of a latrine that disturbed an archeological site (#09030200240) in an area under special use permit for traditional gathering.

Some maintenance deficiencies were noted for historic buildings at Rabideau CCC Camp; and these have been corrected. No other outstanding deferred maintenance is currently required.

**Implications**

It appears efforts to avoid and/or protect sites have been effective.

**Recommendations**

- Continue to monitor avoidance and mitigation measures, and affects to historic resources from project activities.

More detailed information can be found in the project file and is available upon request.