

Item #2: Cultural Resource Protection

Evaluation Objectives: To evaluate selected cultural resource sites to determine if protection measures are sufficient to prevent deterioration. Also includes evaluation if Antiquity Act is being followed during project planning and implementation.

Methods: Evaluation of cultural inventories, and on-the-ground observations.

Evaluation: The heritage program provided section 106 compliance for 266 forest projects between FY 98 and FY 06. The program recorded and/or evaluated 61 heritage properties for eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and/or for project effects in this same time period. The program also visited between 10 and 15 sites on the forest to assess site conditions annually and monitored reservoir and visitor impacts to a further 10-17 heritage sites located in the drawdown zone of Hungry Horse Reservoir. During this time period, the Heritage Program participated in 17 cabin restoration projects including organizing eight Passport-in-Time (PIT) projects.

The program formally consults with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) on an annual basis and as often as weekly on an informal basis. Consultation covers the following discussion topics: (a) the geographic location of the proposed undertaking, (b) the potential environmental effects of the proposed undertaking, and, (c) tribal concerns relative to NPS Bulletin #38 and the identification of CSKT traditional cultural property areas (TCPs) within the boundaries of the proposed project. These meetings and consultations with the CSKT are intended to satisfy the Forest's trust responsibilities and legal obligations for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA; amended 1992) and its implementing regulations in 36 CFR Part 800; Protection of Historic Properties.

Forest Plan objectives have been met. Protection measures are preventing deterioration to cultural sites and appropriate cultural resource preservation laws and regulations are being met.

Recommended Actions: Continue monitoring.