

**Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources  
ANNUAL REPORT –FY2016 (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016)**

**Agency Information:**

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Milward Simpson, Director

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**Other Locations:**

|            |                                                                  |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cheyenne:  | Wyoming Arts Council<br>Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund              |
| Laramie:   | SHPO Cultural Records Office<br>Office of the State Archeologist |
| Lander:    | State Trails Program Field Office                                |
| Shoshoni:  | Central Construction Office                                      |
| Statewide: | State Parks and Historic Sites                                   |

**Statutory References:**

Established 1895, reorganized July 1, 1999, as the Department of State Parks & Cultural Resources.

W.S. 9-2-401 through 9-2-419 – State Archives, Museums and Historic Department  
W.S. 9-2-901 through 9-2-911 – Wyoming Arts Council  
W.S. 9-2-1701 through 9-2-1708 – Reorganization of State Government  
W.S. 9-2-2017 – Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources Creation  
W.S. 9-2-2301 through 9-2-2308 – Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund Act  
W.S. 11-10-113 – Wyoming Pioneer Memorial Museum  
W.S. 16-6-801 through 16-6-805 – Works of Art in Public Buildings  
W.S. 24-14-101 through 24-14-102 – State Parks Road Program  
W.S. 31-2-401 through 31-2-409 – Snowmobiles  
W.S. 31-2-701 through 31-2-707 – Off-road Recreational Vehicles  
W.S. 36-4-101 through 36-4-123 – State Parks and Cultural Resources  
W.S. 36-8-103 through 36-8-107 – State Parks and Reserves – In General  
W.S. 36-8-301 through 36-8-320 – State Parks and Reserves – Hot Springs State Park  
W.S. 36-8-501 through 36-8-502 – State Parks and Reserves – South Pass City State Historical Site  
W.S. 36-8-601 through 36-8-602 – State Parks and Reserves – Curt Gowdy State Park  
W.S. 36-8-701 through 36-8-702 – State Parks and Reserves – Sinks Canyon State Park  
W.S. 36-8-801 – State Parks and Reserves – Fort Fred Steele State Historical Site  
W.S. 36-8-901 through 36-8-902 – State Parks and Reserves – Bear River State Park  
W.S. 36-8-1001 through 36-8-1002 – State Parks and Reserves – Wyoming Territorial Prison  
W.S. 36-8-1203 through 36-8-1204 – State Parks and Reserves – Designated Transfer of Lands  
W.S. 36-8-1401 through 36-8-1403 – Wyoming Historic Mine Trail and Byway  
W.S. 36-8-1501 – Other Designations  
W.S. 39-17-111 – Snowmobile Gas Tax Distribution

**Basic Information:**

The Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources (Arts Parks & History) consists of approximately 165 full time, 14 permanent part-time, and 75 seasonal positions. The department consists of two divisions: the Division of State Parks, Historic Sites and Trails (SPHS&T), and the Division of Cultural Resources. In addition, the department includes an administrative services section (Director's Office, Human Resources, Accounting, Information Technology and Public Information/Education) serving both divisions.

The Department's Headquarters, Wyoming Arts Council, and Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund offices are located in Cheyenne, with State Historic Preservation and State Archaeologist field offices in Laramie, Trails Program offices in Lander, Central Construction Office in Shoshoni, and State Parks and Historic Sites located statewide.

With recent economic impact studies, Wyoming State Parks, Historic Sites & Trails has a cumulative economic annual impact of \$469.1 million, \$20.0 million in state and local tax revenue, and supports 3,891 jobs. In a 2009 economic study, Wyoming's state parks and historic sites had a \$78.1 million impact which supported 1,123 jobs and \$3.0 million in taxes. In a 2012 economic study, Wyoming's Snowmobile Trails had a \$146.8 million impact supporting 1,300 jobs and \$7.4 million in taxes. In a 2012 economic study, Wyoming's Off Road Vehicle Trails had a \$244.2 million impact supporting 1,468 jobs and \$9.6 million in taxes.

Clients Served: Wyoming citizens, out-of-state visitors, local, county and state governments and agencies, public schools and institutions of higher education, Wyoming nonprofit organizations, Wyoming businesses.

Group to Which Agency Reports: State Parks and Cultural Resources Commission (Advisory)

Number of Members: Nine

Meeting Frequency: Quarterly and additionally, as needed.

**Budget Information/Expenditures for FY16:**

The total biennial budget for the department for Fiscal Year 15-16 is \$50,298,574, of which \$33,377,021 are general funds. The Department's budget accounts for about 1.5% of the state's overall General Fund budget. The department expended \$23,993,482 during SFY 2015 consisting of \$16,081,169 general funds, \$3,616,093 federal funds and \$4,296,220 other funds.

**Core Business/Primary Functions:** (What does your agency do?)

1. Provide Arts and Cultural Resources Grants and Services to the Public
2. Provide Archival Services to the Public
3. Provide a State Museum and Associated Services to the Public
4. Provide Archaeological Services to the Public
5. Provide Historic Preservation Services to the Public
6. Provide State Parks and Historic Sites and associated services and amenities for the Public
7. Provide Motorized and Non-Motorized Trails and Associated Services to the Public

**Performance Highlights/Major Accomplishments of FY16:**

1. **Provide Arts and Cultural Resources Grants and Services to the Public**

**This service is provided by the Wyoming Arts Council (WAC) and the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund (WCTF)**

Wyoming Arts Council WAC

In FY 2016 the WAC has embarked on the first year of its new five year strategic plan. The new plan outlines significant changes in the Arts Council's approach to serving the state. The plan focuses on a restructured grant program, new initiatives in independent music, health and wellness, arts integration, services to individual artists, and a new approach to marketing and promoting the value of the arts.

The following highlights key programs and services provided by the arts council:

- Through a competitive grant program, the arts council granted \$864, 659 to different nonprofit and government organizations that provided local arts programs and services. This includes grants to individual artists working towards economic sustainability.
- The WAC offered juried fellowships in creative writing and visual arts to nine Wyoming residents to acknowledge their artist excellence and encourage them to keep creating powerful art.
- The WAC sponsored a pilot program to strengthen the independent music scene in Wyoming. Focusing on ten bands from Laramie, approximately 40 individuals were provided training in music business, artistic excellence, industry relations, and marketing/promotion. The program was capped by a showcase of these bands that highlighted their work during the pilot program.
- For the Wyoming 125 celebration the arts council took lead on planning and management of the music events on the mainstage. The arts council also hosted the Wyoming Poet Laureate who read at multiple times during the event.
- The WAC planned and promoted sixteen concerts, sponsored by the Piatigorsky Foundation, held in rural communities around Wyoming.
- In February, 2016, the WAC hosted the annual Governor's Arts Awards with over 450 people in attendance. Governor Mead gave the State of the Arts address and awarded four master artists for their artistic excellence and service to the state, and one organization for their service to the community.
- The WAC Folk and Traditional Arts program finished a three year intensive cultural survey of the state and has begun providing programs and services related to the survey. This work is highlighted by the recipients of three Mentor grants that put master artists with apprentices to learn traditional art forms. FY 2016 recipients included Native American bead workers, bit and spur makers, and leather workers.
- The WAC Arts Education Program has begun two new initiatives that focus on arts integration and the role arts play in STEM education.
- The WAC hosted the statewide competition of Poetry Out Loud, in which ten schools participated, and sponsored the winner at the national competition in Washington D.C.
- The WAC has developed and released a new directory that is inclusive of many different creative sector disciplines. The new directory includes individual artists, groups, venues, and organizations that work in the arts. This directory will help with communications between artists, organizations, and venues.
- The WAC currently has five Art in Public Buildings Projects in different stages around the state, including Cheyenne, Torrington, Gillette, and Sheridan.
- The WAC hosted the annual visual arts professional development gathering CLICK! In Casper, which saw approximately 75 attendees and brought together visual artists from around the state.

### Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund (WCTF)

- In FY 2016 (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016) the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund (WCTF) made a total of 55 grant awards, totaling \$421,864. These grants reached out to organizations in 18 communities and 14 counties. The WCTF is unique in its ability to support operations as diverse as museums, historic and archaeological sites, contemporary arts, crafts and music fairs and festival, theaters and literary events.
- In FY 2016 the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund provided \$156,221 in support of construction and maintenance of cultural facilities around the state or 37% of total grant dollars. These dollars directly support historic preservation, Native American culture, historic interpretive signage, contemporary music and theatrical venues and museum security.
- In 2016, grants from the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund are anticipated to directly support over 40 part time personnel, both internal and external to the non-profit cultural organizations in Wyoming.
- In FY 2016, the WCTF board progressed with the development of a Marketing & Communication Plan, as part of its Strategic Plan. The Marketing & Communication plan, approved as a working document for the board and staff at the February 2016 board meeting, will help guide the design and implementation of new tools to reach out to current and future grantees and to increase public awareness of the Cultural Trust Fund overall and the benefits of Wyoming's cultural activities in every corner of the state. Because of the recognized need for the Cultural Trust Fund to increase its general visibility around the state, a small additional legislative appropriation of \$13,000 was sought and \$10,438 for the FY17-18 was received to support ongoing needs in printing, design and mailing costs for future communication publications. As part of the Marketing & Communication plan a Tactics Worksheet was developed, and regularly updated, to assure the various components to be developed are kept on track and on budget.
- As part of the 2016 Marketing & Communication plan, the Cultural Trust Fund has implemented design and distribution of several new components to better reach out to past and future grantees. In the spring of 2016, the WCTF implemented a new electronic newsletter platform. The WCTF's monthly e-newsletter provides grant information updates and stories provided by grantees from around the state illustrating the wide variety of cultural programming, projects, events and activities available. A new printed rack card has been designed to highlight the availability of WCTF grants and is in the process of being distributed to the state's libraries, chambers of commerce and appropriate grantee locations. An electronic library of images from grantee programs/events/activities has been created and will be used in the new WCTF website which will soon go into development.

## **2. Provide Archival Services to the Public**

The State Archives' performance highlights and major accomplishments during the FY16 fiscal year reflect our commitment to publicizing our holdings and helping government agencies to preserve and manage their electronic records. These highlights and accomplishments include:

- The State Archives assisted 4,698 researchers. Of those, 1,353 researchers from thirty-eight states and three countries visited our reading room in Cheyenne. The most used documents during the year were school records, newspapers, land records, and court documents.
- The State Archives was pleased to participate in the agency's celebration of the 125th anniversary of statehood last July. We set up an exhibit about the State Constitution in our reading room and had a few pages of the original document on display. By our count, 1,219 people visited the reading room during the event. It was an amazing turnout and tremendous outreach for the Archives.
- The State Archives continued to develop the Digital Archives to be used for the long-term storage, preservation, and management of electronic records. Seventy users from fifteen agencies are participating in the project. The Digital Archives now contains over 300,000 electronic records.

- The State Archives used \$114,232 of money allocated to the Digital Archives project for software licenses and maintenance, a software upgrade, and vendor support.
- The State Archives is working with the Department of Health, Vital Statistics Services on a project to build a portal between the Digital Archives and the VSS software that will allow clerks of court around the state to deposit records directly into the archives at the time those records are created. This should be a quicker and more efficient process than the one in place today.
- The State Archives' State Imaging Center has added two major scanning projects in the past year. The State Imaging Center staff is scanning more than seven hundred boxes of paper records for the Department of Workforce Services and more than three hundred boxes of records for the Department of Corrections. These records will be added to the Digital Archives and the scanning projects will clear over a thousand feet of shelf space at the Archives' State Records Center.
- The State Archives continues to add to and improve the online version of the "Wyoming Blue Book." The Blue Book, an administrative history of the state, has been available online since 2015.
- The State Archives implemented a new version of the LUNA digital repository software. Researchers use this software to access scanned copies of photographs and maps from our collections. Researchers can find the digital repository on the State Archives web page. The LUNA software offers researchers easier and faster access to digital images.
- The State Archives social media campaigns continued to grow this past year. We have 6,709 followers on Facebook, 1,482 followers on Twitter, and our blog received 18,358 views during the past year.
- October is Archives Month and this year the State Archives plans to offer a genealogical workshop highlighting records in our collection that may be of interest to genealogists. We will again participate in national Archives Month efforts – such as E-records Day and #AskAnArchivist Day – to promote archives.
- The State Archives staff has entered over two hundred of our collection inventories into the *Rocky Mountain Online Archive* to provide better online visibility and access to our collections.
- The State Historical Records Advisory Board, on which the State Archivist serves as Coordinator, administered two very successful workshops on digitization procedures and basic archival practices. The Board also awarded grants totaling nearly \$10,000 to five repositories throughout the state for projects to preserve and provide access to Wyoming's historical records.

### **3. Provide a State Museum and Associated Services to the Public**

- In FY16, Education Programs Presented on-site at the Wyoming State Museum served 3,095 participants through 98 programs totaling 167.25 instructional hours. A total of 16 programs were presented off-site to 2,179 participants, accounting for 29 instructional hours. Through *Skype in the Classroom*, the Museum presented 96 virtual programs that served 2,919 participants in 28 states and 5 foreign countries and covered 285,159 virtual miles during 52.5 instructional hours. The total impact of 57 hands-on discovery trunks sent out by the museum in FY was 3,562 participants. Special Programming (Family Days, Lecture Series, and Night at the Museum) totaled 2,580 participants. The total Educational Impact of the Wyoming State Museum for FY16 is represented in 14,335 participants from 61 Wyoming schools, 15 Wyoming school districts, 21 Wyoming communities, 13 Wyoming counties, 2 Wyoming school alternative programs, 19 Wyoming programs/groups/organizations/daycares, 86 out-of-state schools, 29 states outside of Wyoming and 5 foreign countries. Participation in FY16 education programs was up 5,314 from FY15.
- In FY16 the Wyoming State Museum served 327,466 visitors. This includes regular museum visitors as

well as tour groups, educational programs, off-site educational programs, Discovery Trunks, and travelling exhibits. This does not include the total for long term loan pieces which are displayed offsite.

- During FY16 The Wyoming State Museum continued on a program to update exhibits and renovate exhibiting space to conform to current ADA and National Interpretation standards. Currently the State Museum has successfully updated 9,400 Square feet of exhibit space,
- The Wyoming State Museum continues to conduct visitor surveys to ensure we are presenting what the public desires in a destination museum. We use the information gathered to create new exhibits and programs which better serve the desires of those who wish to visit the museum. Four hundred and sixty five visitor surveys were received in FY 2016. These surveys are self selecting and fluctuate very much by season.
- FY2016 saw the beginning of work to bring the Museum in line with the information gathered from the interpretive planning done by The Designminds and stakeholders around the State of Wyoming to present the visitor the best experience possible with each visit to the museum. This work is being done on a smaller scale than is presented in the formal interpretive plan because of budget reasons, but it is still moving forward on a scale that can be accomplished within the current climate.
- The Wyoming State Museum has received several awards including a reader's choice award from the Wyoming Tribune Eagle, and a Top Choice Tourist Attraction Award from lianorg.com.
- In FY15, the museum obtained \$100,000 in one time funding from the Wyoming legislature to conserve and stabilize over 30 objects in the state's collection. This funding has been used for conservation of the collection in the following ways:
  - Arsenic testing of 35 artifacts by Paleo Research Institute
  - Conservation of the Yellowstone wagon by Hansen Wheel and Wagon Shop
  - Conservation of 12 artifacts by Judy Greenfield, including a leather chair used by Territorial Governor Francis E. Warren
  - Conservation of 11 textile artifacts by Paulette Reading, including a Wyoming guidon from the Spanish-American War
  - Conservation of 10 chairs and clocks by Mark Minor, including, a mantle clock from the Merci Train
  - Conservation of 6 art frames by Capitol Hill Custom Framing, including 2 frames for paintings of Yellowstone done by Cyrenius Hall
- The museum now has a nearly 100% completion rate for its artifact inventory.
- 71,764 Wyoming State Museum catalog records are currently represented in the PastPerfect database.
- In FY16, the museum received donations of 664 artifacts from 53 donors.
- The museum assisted 79 patrons or small museums with questions regarding artifact research or care in FY16.
- During the 125th anniversary of Statehood the Wyoming State Museum hosted the central Exhibit showcasing 126 artifacts from the collection highlighting each year Wyoming has been a state, along with the last year Wyoming Was a territory. During the official celebration The Wyoming State Museum hosted over 3000 people in the exhibit in one evening.
- A coloring book and postcards featuring Wyoming State Museum artifacts were created for the State Museum Store.
- The Museum Store revenue received for the biennium was: \$292,999.96 against a total expenditure of

\$225,000.00.

#### **4. Provide Archaeological Services to the Public**

- During FY16, The Archaeological Survey provided cultural resource services to five federal, state, and private agencies including the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, Wyoming State Parks, the Wyoming Department of Transportation, and Mustardseed Cultural and Environmental Services.
- The Archaeological Survey conducted 22 cultural resource projects between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016, generating \$304,479.65 in revenue during that period.
- The University of Wyoming Archaeological Repository (UWAR), a facility managed and operated by this office, serviced over 27 clients including the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Parks, the University of Montana, the University of Wyoming, the Wyoming Archaeological Society, several county and local museums, and a range of private cultural resource management firms.
- For these clients the UWAR processed 74 accessions between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016, generating \$59,340 in revenue during that period.
- The UWAR assisted 16 visiting researchers in using our collections to augment their research. Visiting researchers were associated with Bonneville Archaeology, the Bureau of Land Management, Southern Methodist University, the University of Indiana, the University of Wyoming, Utah State University, Wichita State University, Wyoming Department of Transportation, and the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office.
- The UWAR provided 11 facility tours to students, professionals, and members of the general public. These tours opened our facilities to over 60 individuals.
- During FY2016 the UWAR created a museum display for Archaeology Awareness Month. The exhibit is located in the lobby of the Barrett Building in Cheyenne, WY. The facility also maintains 95 active loans. These loans send materials from our collection to museums, universities, and agencies across the country for various exhibits and displays.
- Staff of the Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist (OWSA) conducted nine public outreach programs consisting of public presentations given to avocational groups, school students, and other members of the public. These programs presented information on ongoing research conducted by OWSA staff and educated program attendees on various aspects of Wyoming's historic and prehistoric past.
- During FY2016 OWSA staff participated in a number of professional and public outreach efforts. These efforts included serving on the Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists board and as co-editor for the Wyoming Archaeological Society journal, participating in Wyoming's 125<sup>th</sup> Celebration in Cheyenne, visiting K-12 classrooms to give archaeological presentations, hosting the Annual Archaeology Fair in Laramie, and organizing the production of a video celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act.
- OWSA staff presented nine papers at four professional conferences including the annual Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists Conference, the Plains Anthropological Conference, the Society for American Archaeology conference, and the Rocky Mountain Anthropological Conference. Papers updated the professional archaeological community on ongoing research being conducted by OWSA staff.
- During FY2016 OWSA conducted, or assisted in, eight field research investigations. These investigations were conducted in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, the U.S.

Forest Service, the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office, and the Vore Buffalo Jump Foundation.

- OWSA staff brought in over \$340,000 in external grants and awards from a number of state and federal agencies. These monies were used to conduct archaeological investigations and properly process and curate artifacts in the UWAR.
- OWSA staff, serving as adjunct faculty at the University of Wyoming (UW), served as thesis committee members for three UW students, sitting as the committee chair for one. In this capacity they help guide student research and assist these students as they work towards their degrees at the University of Wyoming.
- During the Fall 2015 semester and Spring 2016 semester OWSA staff taught upper division anthropology courses for the Department of Anthropology at the University of Wyoming. These courses, Public Archaeology and Cultural Resource Management Archaeology, instruct graduate and undergraduate students in the methods, techniques, and theory of conducting public and compliance archaeology.

## **5. Provide Historic Preservation Services to the Public**

- The revision and printing of the Statewide Historic Preservation plan was completed and approved by the National Park Service in February 2016. The plan was developed with input from our preservation partners, stakeholders, and the public. The plan helps guide the actions and sets priorities for historic preservation activity in Wyoming through 2026. The plan is available upon request and is also available on our web page at: <http://wyoshpo.state.wy.us/CSHPP/Index.aspx>.
- SHPO honored 13 families in the August 2015 Centennial Farm & Ranch program. Approximately 125 people attended the ceremony in Douglas, Wy. The Wyoming Congressional Delegation and a video of Governor Matt Mead was part of the celebration. Staff produced a Centennial Farm & Ranch yearbook that includes photos and history submitted by each family.
- During FY16, six properties were officially listed in the National Register of Historic Places. These newly listed properties are the Dorr Ranch in Converse County, Dubois Block in Laramie County, Eden-Farson Site in Sweetwater County, Hardeman Barns in Teton County, Pathfinder Dam Historic District in Natrona County, and Tolar Petroglyph Site in Sweetwater County. Several of these listings are located on Federal lands and the nominations reflect a high level of cooperation between SHPO and various Federal agencies. Eden-Farson and Tolar Petroglyph sites are on BLM managed land, Dorr Ranch is on Forest Service managed land, and Pathfinder Dam is managed by the Bureau of Reclamation. Additionally SHPO staff commented on three nominations that were prepared by Federal agencies: The Joseph C. O'Mahoney Federal Building (GSA) in Laramie County, and the AMK Ranch Historic District and Menor's Ferry/Maud Noble Cabins Historic District in Grand Teton National Park.
- In partnership with the University of Wyoming's Department of Anthropology, graduate students who wish to obtain practical experience writing National Register nominations are offered paid internships to nominate important archaeological sites in Wyoming. In FY16, the Edness Kimball Wilkins Site in Natrona County and the Wold Buffalo Jump in Johnson County were listed.
- During FY16, the SHPO provided Certified Local Government (CLG) grants to local communities totaling \$77,902.63. These two year grants (October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2016), given only to authorized local city/town or county governments, provide financial resources to accomplish local goals in historic preservation. FY16 grants supported activities such as a re-survey of the 1980s designation of the Capitol North Historic District in Cheyenne to re-evaluate existing buildings and explore the possible expansion of the historic district; a grant to restore the windows in the World War II Camp Douglas Prison of War Camp Officer's Club in Douglas; an archaeological survey of prehistoric sites in the remote, high elevation areas of the Shoshone National Forest; an architectural assessment of the Weston County Courthouse; and a survey of sites associated with developments starting during the 1920s up through 1942 in Washakie County.

- In FY16, WYCRO staff accessioned 1,514 cultural resource reports and added 2,906 sites to the WYCRO database. Staff completed 764 file searches, 589 technical assistance requests and 110 GIS data requests. WYCRO staff also migrated the review and compliance database from a replicated Microsoft Access database to a Microsoft SQL database. This allows both Laramie and Cheyenne offices to add and edit the database in real time and ensures the staff are working with the most current and accurate information available. In addition to the updated review and compliance database, WYCRO released a request for proposal for a complete data system overhaul. Staff interviewed vendors, reviewed bids, and selected Gannett Peak Technical Services as their contractor for the project. This project will begin in the fall of 2016 and when completed will offer improved services and information to contractors and the public.
- The Wyoming Archaeology Awareness Month 2016 poster celebrates 100 years of Paleoindian archaeology in Wyoming. Six thousand posters and educational flyers were produced and distributed throughout the state and nation. The 2015 poster was awarded second place in the annual Society for American Archaeology (SAA) Poster Contest in April. This is the 18th award for the state of Wyoming from the SAA.
- The Cultural Resources Division held an archaeology fair on September 10, 2015, to coincide with Wyoming Archaeology Awareness Month. This inaugural event— held at the Territorial Prison State Historic Site in Laramie—showcased Wyoming’s rich cultural heritage from prehistory to the present day. Over 1000 people attended the fair.
- The nomination of the Hell Gap site and Ames Monument as a National Historic Landmarks progressed during FY16. Both nominations were reviewed by the National Historic Landmark committee in November of 2015 and were recommended for listing. Hell Gap represents a gem in the history of American archeology as no other excavated Paleoindian site in North America contains a record that includes all of the cultural complexes known on the Plains spanning a time between 13,000 and 8,500 years ago (between 11,000 and 6,500 B.C.E.). The Ames Monument, a state historic site, is the only H.H. Richardson design in the State of Wyoming. Richardson was the preeminent American architect of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.
- The Wyoming Site Stewardship Program held a public outreach lecture on June 29, 2016 in Buffalo, WY. The SHPO is working to develop a local stewardship presence at the Crazy Woman Battlefield site as well as other sites in the region. The SHPO and Bureau of Land Management also conducted a site stewardship training in Rawlins, Wyoming at the Power Wash Archaeological District.
- In FY16, a draft interpretive plan for a new Historic Mine Byway in Campbell County was developed to educate the public on the history of open-pit coal mining in the Powder River Basin. The plan is being reviewed and commented on by subject matter experts, members of the Wyoming State Historical Society, and the Gillette Historic Preservation Board.
- Major Section 106 projects during FY16 include completing the Second Amendment to the ChokeCherry Sierra Madre Programmatic Agreement, and completing the Memorandum of Agreement for the Wyo-Ben 108T pit. Also numerous uranium projects, particularly the Ross and Kendrick expansions, both of which have had numerous problems. SHPO also helped to conduct VCR Training with the Lander BLM as well as attending the BLM Preservation Board meeting. The multi-state Programmatic Agreement for the 400-500 mile 500kV Energy Gateway South transmission line that runs from Aeolus, WY to Mona, UT is nearing completion. We anticipate circulating the Final PA for signature in late August 2016. A programmatic agreement for the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Unit with the Midvale Grazing Association is near completion.
- The Turner-Cottman Building in downtown Casper is being rehabilitated utilizing the Federal Preservation Tax Incentive. The goal of the rehabilitation is to return the second floor to active use as offices while retaining the historic character of the building. The part 1 and part 2 applications for this project were both approved. The part 1 application certifies that the building is historic, and the part 2 application details all

the work to be done to the building during the rehabilitation. It is estimated that a total of \$600,000 in private funds will be spent on this project. SHPO also consulted with the Ranch A foundation on possible barn renovations. SHPO is also assisting the Old Stoney Museum and School in Sundance on window replacements funded by the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund.

#### **6. Provide State Parks and Historic Sites and associated services and amenities for the Public**

- All state parks and several historic sites were open for business 365 days this past year. Staff oversees 11 state parks, 27 historic sites, two archaeological and petroglyph sites, and one recreational area totaling 41 sites.
- In calendar year 2015, there were over 4.2 million visitors to SPHS&T, which equates to a 1% increase in visitation from 2014.
- The Division acquired 59 acres of land containing the primary structures of the LX Bar Ranch. The Division is currently working with a contractor to stabilize all of the structures on the ranch. The LX Bar Ranch was Governor Kendrick's home ranch and is a one of kind facility in Wyoming. During FY16 an important landmark was achieved as the land was formally transferred from the private owner to the Parks Division.
- The Division is coordinating with the United State Air Force to restore the Quebec #1 Missile Alert Facility. Quebec #1 is only remaining facility from the Peacekeeper Missile System. Once restoration activities are completed, based on direction from the Governor's office, the Division will develop a long term management lease or acquire this property. During FY 16 our statutory mandate to provide a baseline environmental survey of the property and to conduct public meetings including adjacent landowners to provide information and garner their support and to report on them was completed. The reports were compiled and sent to the TRWCR committee and to the governor's office.
- Buffalo Bill State Park, Legend Rock State Petroglyph Site and Trail End State Historic Site, have been added to the list of ten TripAdvisor awardees. The other seven are Bear River, Curt Gowdy, Fort Phil Kearny, the Historic Governor's' Mansion, Hot Springs, Sinks Canyon and the Wyoming Territorial Prison. Award winners must maintain a rating of at least four out of five stars, be listed on the TripAdvisor website for at least one year and have a minimum number of reviews to receive the honor.
- The Division has been doing extensive planning for the 2017 Eclipse and the 2017 Wyoming Cowboy Tough AR World Championship which will culminate in August of 2017. We have explored sponsorships, increase in camping and venue accommodations, advanced reservations, merchandising and numerous other logistical component to make these events a success.
- In February, 2016, the Wyoming State Parks Law Enforcement section received the President's Award for demonstrating leadership and excellence in park safety from the Park Law Enforcement Association (PLEA). PLEA is a coalition of local, state, and federal park law enforcement officers dedicated to improving law enforcement, visitor protection, and park operation services through professional development to assure better quality of life and leisure opportunities in local, state, and national park and recreation areas.
- Finding qualified officers for the number of visitors at the parks each summer, especially during the three summer holiday weekends, continues to be a challenge. Many times, there is an officer to visitor ratio of less than one officer per 2,500 visitors. The recommended ratio by the International Association of Chiefs' of Police is 1.75 officers per 1,000 residents. This situation creates the potential to provide less than optimum public safety to our visitors and less than optimum officer safety for the employees.
- During this past year our Chief of Operations was named to the executive board of the International Ranger Federation (IRF). The IRF is a non-profit organization established to raise awareness of and support the

critical work that the world's park rangers do in conserving our natural and cultural heritage.

- The Division is doing many things to get the next generation engaged in our parks and historic sites. Several years ago the Division started the Wyoming Kids eXtreme program. Every park and historic site is required to do three youth oriented programs that highlight some aspect of the site. The popularity and participation in these programs continue to grow. The Division is a primary player in Wy Outside. This is a coalition of federal, state and private organizations that promote activities to get youth outdoors. This year the Division started two new programs. "Every Kid In A Park" mirrors a national Department of the Interior program established during the National Park Service's 100th year. It allows all Wyoming 4th grade students, and their families, to enter a park or historic site for free. We have also started the "Library Partnership Program". In Laramie and Natrona Counties families can go to their public library and check out a one week park pass and exploration pack with information and numerous fun activities to do in the park. Public response to both of these programs has been very favorable.
- In an effort to mitigate the effects of reduced budgets, the department continues to develop a comprehensive, robust volunteer program managed by our volunteer coordinator position. Over 700 volunteers donated over 21,000 hours to Wyoming State Parks, Historic Sites & Trails. This donation is equivalent to 10 full time employees. Of the 700 individual volunteers, over 450 of those were members of volunteer groups, and over 50 were camp hosts. Also, in conjunction with site staff, the Wyoming Conservation Corps (WCC) worked on a multitude of projects in parks from trail maintenance and trail creation, painting and maintenance of historic facilities, and pine bark beetle mitigation.
- Staff developed, administered and completed several projects paid by funds derived from entrance and camping fees including: yurts at Sinks Canyon, playgrounds at Curt Gowdy, campsite amenities (electric & water service) at Guernsey Sandy Point, Glendo Two Moon & Glendo Sandy Beach and new tables & grills statewide, improved camping sites at Keyhole Reservoir, new host campsites at South Pass City & Glendo, four toilet replacements, water system upgrades at four locations, sidewalk repairs, irrigation system, landscaping projects and numerous system-wide energy efficiency retrofit projects. Projects administered and completed using Motor Boat Gas Tax Funds include: Keyhole – Water System Upgrade, and Seminole – Designated Sites at South Red Hills. These amenities help market our facilities which boosts the local economic impact as well as bringing in additional revenue for future construction projects. We have also increased special events and interpretative and educational opportunities at many sites which also help capture additional time/visitation from visitors.
- Staff also managed the completion of various projects throughout the system utilizing Major Maintenance Funds including: health/life safety and maintenance repairs of several existing buildings and their associated systems, emergency maintenance and rehabilitation of water systems at Boysen and Glendo, maintenance and repair of gravel roads, and repair or maintenance of asphalt roads and parking lots.
- In response to external customer demand, the Division continues to improve the offering of campsite reservation sites in our system. Our on-line reservation user may now build a "user account" which allows users to have their personal information remain in the system year after year. We have enhanced the information for each of the reservable sites that include: site length, width, distance to drinking water and restroom facilities, available shade, etc. Through upgrades to our reporting, superintendents are able to make the determination of which campsite areas are more commonly used and can plan for future expansion if warranted. We also effectively oversee 65+ special/short term permits, 53 cabin leases, six cooperative agreements, 19 easements, 12 friend's agreements, five grazing leases, seven long term concessions, 23 leases, nine MOU's and 170+ selling agent contracts.
- During FY16 the Division submitted the Boysen Master Plan to the Bureau of Reclamation to complete the Environmental Assessment and provide final approval. The Division is in the process of finalizing the Hot Springs Master Plan and hopes to present to the public this fall. The Division is in the process of finalizing the Steering Committee Report of Recommendations for the Wyoming Pioneer Memorial Museum that was

begun in FY16.

- To continue process improvements, the Division developed a Contractual Compliance Report to ensure compliance with all legal documents we oversee. In addition, there has been significant enhancement to the inspection process with proper documentation of non-compliant issues as well as continuous follow up for meeting compliance.
- To improve efficiency and experience of our staff, the Division developed an internal Job Shadowing Program for staff to have the ability to cross train with their co-workers. This program will assist staff in understanding some of the complexities of our agency while lending assistance whether in administration, design, operation and/or construction.
- In addition, the Division oversees the park and historic sites fee program which generated nearly \$2.5 million revenue last fiscal year through entrance, camping, concessions, amenities, and structure rental fees. The fee program also includes two new offerings for the Department which are the ATM Donations and a merchandising program. The ATM donations have not realized any revenue since its addition in statute due to the programming required for each ATM and the costs associated with the programming. As the technology advances, this potential revenue stream may become more appealing to the owners of ATM machines in and around our parks and sites. The Merchandise program was developed to allow our consumers the opportunity to share in the pride of our amazing system through the purchase of t-shirts, sweatshirts, ball caps, mugs, water bottles, etc. While this program is still in development stage, the Division is excited to see how this could impact our overall revenue stream.
- State Parks, Historic Sites & Trails issued three Land and Water Conservation Fund Grants totaling \$251,393.06. SPHS&T also issued three Motorboat Gas Tax Grants totaling \$59,055.00. The State Trails Program issued seventeen Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grants in total \$1,310,181.20.

#### **7. Provide Motorized and Non-Motorized Trails and Associated Services to the Public**

- There were approximately 500,000 snowmobile use days and over 2.5 million ORV use days this past fiscal year on motorized trails and facilities provided for the public by the Trails program.
- The State Trails Program was again a sponsor for the 2015 Trails Summit held in Casper and received many kudos for the work we have done expanding our non-motorized coverage state-wide. Curt Gowdy was again voted top trail system in Wyoming. Glendo and Guernsey trail systems are also coming on-line and getting great attention nationwide.
- The State Trails Program partnered with Tread Lightly! and other public agencies within Wyoming such as Bureau of Land Management Wyoming State Office, Local Field Offices, and Districts, USFS Region #2 and #4 Wyoming (Black Hills NF, Bighorn NF, Bridger-Teton NF, Medicine Bow NF, Shoshone NF, Targhee NF, Wasatch-Cache NF) to initiate a Ride on Wyoming Education campaign. The purpose and focus of the Ride on Wyoming campaign is to establish a model public/private partnership of diverse stakeholders to address issues associated with motorized recreation involving the use of motorized vehicles on Wyoming trails and public/private lands
- The program budgeted funding to provide more than 2,000 miles of groomed snowmobile trails, each trail groomed multiple times per week, for a total of 66,550 miles of trail grooming during the 2015-2016 season.
- The State Trails Program continued to actively partner with local and federal agencies to provide access to recreational trails across the state. It issued six maintenance, planning, and construction grants that total \$286,230 and 31 Snow and ORV Trail Ranger grants totaling \$602,500 to help cooperating agencies provide on-the-ground staffing to help provide customer service and education to trail users. These efforts

helped provide access that resulted in over 2.5 million use days this past year on motorized trails managed by the program.

- The Division is working with the Wyoming Department of Administration & Information, the Wyoming Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration to develop a new process for administering the Recreational Trails Program. This is an innovative approach that should streamline the process, improve service and reduce administrative costs. FHWA staff has indicated this may become the national model for the RTP program.
- The State Trails Program continues to work with land managing agencies, on-trail businesses, local economic development and chambers of commerce, and other groups to ensure trail access remains open for high quality trail experiences that will continue to attract tourism spending and additional economic development across the state.

State Parks and Cultural Resources

