

**2022-2023**

**Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks Biennial Report  
on the Stewardship of Cultural Resources**

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*Figure 1. Conclow Indian Allotment, at the Conclow Fishing Access Site in Dayton, MT.*

# Executive Summary

## **Cultural Resources Managed by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks**

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) manages 359 cultural resources within Montana's 55 state parks, and over 1,000 cultural resources on the other property types within its jurisdiction that include fishing access sites (FAS), wildlife management areas (WMA), and easements. In compliance with the reporting requirements of MCA 22-3-424(4), enacted in 2011, this report documents the status, condition, stewardship efforts, and maintenance needs of 78 cultural resources (details in Tables 1 and 2) that have been determined significant through a process of documentation and review overseen by the Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

FWP has undergone a reorganization effort over the past two years, resulting in what was formerly the State Parks Heritage Program now managing cultural resources for all FWP-managed properties. This has resulted in an ongoing effort within the agency to better-integrate heritage stewardship into the work of our Wildlife and Fisheries Divisions as well as the State Parks Division.

Of the 78 cultural resources documented in this report, seven are National Historic Landmarks (NHL) found within state parks. NHLs represent our nation's premiere cultural resources; Montana contains 24 NHLs, and there are just over 2,600 nationwide. Fourteen cultural resources on FWP lands are listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The NRHP includes cultural resources that are significant at the local, state, and national level for their association with important events and/or people, their craftsmanship, and/or their potential to reveal new information about the past. There are over 90,000 NRHP-listed cultural resources nationwide. Fifty-seven cultural resources on FWP lands have not formally gone through the extensive process of nomination and listing for the NRHP but are included in this report because they have previously been determined eligible for listing on the NRHP. The other sites on FWP managed land are not eligible or have not yet been formally evaluated for NRHP listing, meaning additional research is required to determine whether they qualify for NRHP or NHL listing.

Forty-five of the sites discussed in this report are post contact and the remaining are either precontact sites or sites that contain both precontact and post contact elements. Precontact sites preserve elements of Indigenous life and culture prior to non-Indigenous colonization, and post contact sites are from the era of non-Indigenous settlement. Travelers' Rest and Medicine Rocks, for example, are multi-component sites that include both post contact and precontact features. Post contact sites include buildings and structures (like Bannack, which contains over 85 individual buildings), landscape features noted by the Lewis and Clark expedition, a trading post, historic campsites, and one battlefield. Precontact sites include campsites, rock shelter occupations, buffalo jumps, and pictographs or petroglyphs.

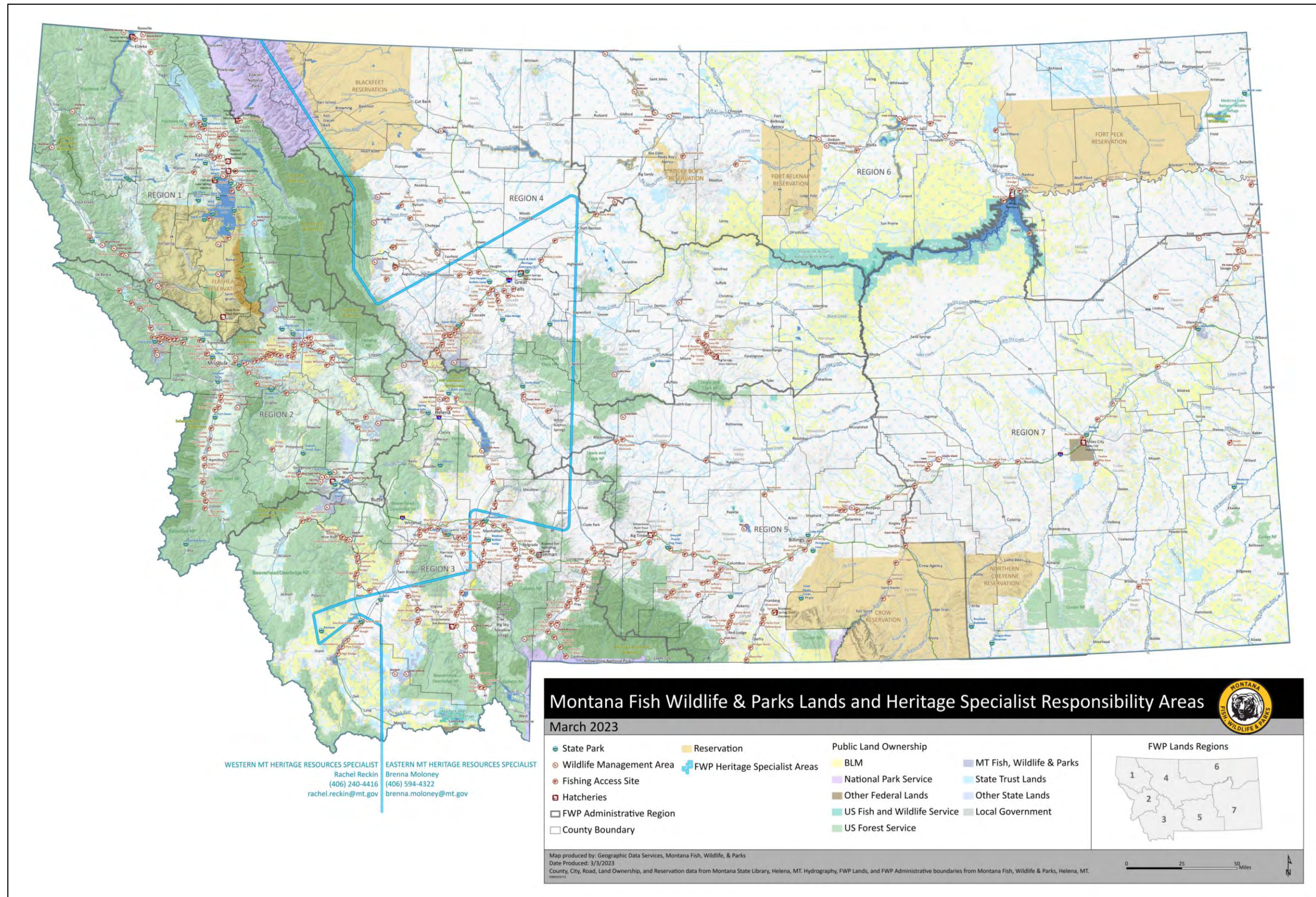


Figure 2. Map of FWP Lands & Heritage Specialist Responsibility Areas.

## *The Condition and Status of Cultural Resources*

In Table 2, we summarize the integrity and condition of each cultural resource, listing whether each is presently in “good,” “fair”, or “poor” condition. The table also summarizes the status of each property as “satisfactory,” “watch”, or “threatened”; the status category is intended to project potential future threats or risks to the property. Threatened sites are those with imminent danger to the features that make them significant, and sites in poor condition have already sustained damage to the features that make them significant. Prioritization of cultural resources for stewardship, either in the form of management changes, preservation, stabilization, or other interventions, is indicated in Table 2, as well.



*Figure 3. Structure at Gallatin City, within Missouri Headwaters. This structure is threatened due to its deterioration.*

### *Cultural Resources that are Threatened or in Poor Condition*

Ten cultural resources managed by FWP are considered threatened, and five are in poor condition:

- Three sites within Rosebud Battlefield are considered threatened though they are in good or fair condition because the state does not own the mineral rights beneath the park’s surface. Energy development within the park could destroy important features of the battlefield, the bison jump and petroglyphs, or the homestead. A build up of dense vegetation cover also threatens these sites at the Rosebud Battlefield because it exposes them to wildfire risk.
- The precontact campsite 24ME0075, located at the Camp Baker boat launch on the Smith River, is threatened by high numbers of visitors, though it is currently in fair condition. A project to stabilize the bank adjacent to the site occurred in 2022, and reduced the threat of erosion that was washing some of the site’s archaeology into the river.
- The Gallatin City II Hotel in Missouri Headwaters State Park is listed as threatened and in poor condition as it is without a roof and in danger of complete collapse despite stabilization efforts

in 2015. Current development plans for Missouri Headwaters include plans to reconstruct this structure as it was in approximately 1875 for interpretive use. Research is underway in contract with historic architect Lesley Gilmore to understand the structure's history and how it looked in the 1870s.

- The Belt Creek Railway in Sluice Boxes State Park is listed as threatened and in poor condition because the railroad grade and constructed features that the park has long used as a hiking route are failing, and their remote location and complex engineering makes stabilization expensive.
- The Miner's Union Hall within Granite Ghost Town State Park is threatened and in poor condition; it has already lost its roof and upper story, and the side walls of the structure, its final standing substantive component, are not well supported.
- The other two sites in poor condition are the Campbell Homestead and Madison Mill at Missouri Headwaters, as there are very few remaining features within these two sites.
- The NRHP eligible River Side Site (24PA0195) is precontact camp at Brogan's Landing FAS in Park County that was severely damaged by the catastrophic Yellowstone River flood in June 2022. It is threatened and in poor condition. Floodwaters washed away the FAS access road and parking lot, completely destroying the FAS and exposing the site's hearth features. The FAS is now closed to the public permanently. FWP and the USFS are currently developing a plan to salvage diagnostic materials from the site. Other cultural resources at FASs and WMAs on the Yellowstone and Stillwater Rivers may have been affected by the flooding and by the oil spill of 2023, but their status is unknown as FWP lacks the capacity to field verify their condition.



*Figure 4. Remains of the threatened Miner's Union Hall at Granite Ghost Town State Park.*



*Figure 5. Charcoal eroding from a precontact hearth feature at the River Side Site (24PA0195) in the Brogan's Landing FAS. The FAS was destroyed in the 2022 Yellowstone flood.*

### *Heritage Stewardship Highlights*

Table 3 shows the estimated funding expended on heritage stewardship at FWP properties in the 2022-2023 biennium. In total, FWP spent approximately **\$4,226,280** on a variety of stewardship efforts for significant cultural resources on FWP lands. These are detailed in Table 3 and in Appendix A but highlights include:

#### *Region 1*

- New interpretive signage installed at Lone Pine State Park that highlights the area's Indigenous history, and includes Salish and Kootenai languages.
- FWP recorded and undertook extensive research to better understand the history of the Conclow Indian Allotment, located near Dayton on Flathead Lake. This extremely rare site includes a historic house and outbuildings built by Kootenai family the Conclows in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century with very few modern intrusions. In consultation with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, we renamed the Fishing Access Site where the allotment is located for the Conclow Family and began developing plans to preserve the main house and large barn, and interpret the site's important history for the public.

#### *Region 2*

- In partnership with the State Parks Foundation and the Friends of Fort Owen, NRHP-listed Fort Owen State Park received \$623,000 in grant funding from the Rapp Family Foundation, the

Montana Historic Preservation Grant Program, the Montana History Foundation and the Helmsley Family Trust. These funds were used to acquire 0.9 acres of land, create a new parking area to deal with access problems, create a new interpretive plan and fully re-design the park's interpretive signage, and preserve Fort Owen's historic structures, which are some of the oldest in Montana. This project has been underway since 2020, and came to a close in 2023.



*Figure 6. Adobe repairs at Fort Owen.*

### *Region 3*

- Bannack State Park and NHL continues to provide some of the nation's finest opportunities for public engagement for historic preservation and stewardship. Several projects were completed or initiated in 2022-2023 including the following:
  - Design and replacement of the exterior stairs on the Montana Hotel
  - Re-siding of the Montana Hotel, the Church, and the Masonic Temple
  - ADA upgrades to the boardwalk, parking lot and other improvements that will make the Park more accessible.

- Ethno-historical research and interviews with members of the Shoshone-Bannock tribe about traditional land uses within the Park as well as oral historical accounts of important events.
  - Research into early Chinese settlers to Bannack that will include analysis of Chinese-related artifacts in the Park's collection and archival research.
  - A reconnaissance level inventory that will map and identify all features within the park older than 50 years of age which will be integrated into the updated interpretive plan and lay the groundwork for an eventual NHL nomination update.
  - An updated interpretive plan that will include more information on Native American history, archaeology, the Chinese experience at Bannack, changes in the park's landscape over time, and more.
  - Cataloging each building at Bannack and integrating that information into the Park's PastPerfect database.
- FWP created a new development plan for Missouri Headwaters State Park and NHL with input from community and tribal partners. In 2022, FWP received a \$25,000 grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Telling the Full History grant program, which was used to fund an archaeological field school for the Salish Kootenai College within MHW. In addition, Dr. Tim Urbaniak came to the park and created a 3D model of the cave containing pictographs located on Fort Rock. His work revealed additional unrecorded pictographs and provided the SKC students with the opportunity to see the 3D scanning process.
  - At NRHP-listed Elkhorn State Park, FWP repointed the foundations of Gillian and Fraternity Halls and completely reconstructed a drainage system of french drains and a yard drain. Archaeologist Mitzi Rossillon undertook excavations associated with this work and found evidence of heavy alcohol consumption within both structures, and a large deposit of butchered bone, likely from the butcher shop that was once next door.



*Figure 7. Gillian Hall and Fraternity Hall, which make up Elkhorn State Park.*



#### *Region 4*

- The acquisition of a DNRC lease for a new section of land to the west of First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park kicked off a new planning effort for this NHL. As part of this effort, cultural resource firm Ethnoscience undertook a preliminary archaeological inventory of portions of the new DNRC lease, which had never been surveyed for archaeology before. They found that the areas they surveyed were not part of a major campsite or buffalo kill location, though scattered precontact artifacts indicated widespread use of the landscape.
- In collaboration with nonprofit Preserve Montana, and with funding from the Foundation for Montana History, FWP continued systematically recording cultural resources within Sluice Boxes State Park for the first time. Survey in 2022 began at the north end of the park, and recorded many historic railroad features and the recreational Camp Don Bosco.



*Figure 8. Remains of a wooden railroad trestle from the Belt Creek Railway, within Sluice Boxes State Park. Recorded by Preserve Montana in 2022.*



*Figure 9. Remains of a wooden railroad trestle and railroad tunnel from the Belt Creek Railway, within Sluice Boxes State Park. Recorded by Preserve Montana in 2022.*

#### *Region 5*

- Preservation work at Chief Plenty Coups State Park and NHL began in Summer 2023. This project is funded by \$140,537 received from the National Park Service's 2021 Save America's Treasures Program for preservation of the Chief's House and Store, to include foundation repairs, new chinking, a new roof, and various other repairs. FWP's Heritage Program also partnered with the Crow Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) for archaeological testing in May 2023, prior to the start of the construction work.
- Acquisition of Big Snowy Mountains Wildlife Management Area in 2022 allowed for the protection of numerous historic and precontact sites including the NRHP-eligible 24GV0336, a large precontact stone circle/occupational site.
- In 2023, FWP was awarded a \$75,000 Semiquincentennial Grant from the National Park Service for Pictograph Cave State Park and NHL to consider appropriate interventions for ongoing rockfall in the park. FWP will hire a geotechnical engineering specialist to review the previous engineering reports, assess the site's current conditions, and create a site plan, which will include rockfall mitigation construction documents.



*Figure 10. Painting the dormers on the Chief's House, log treatment, and new cedar shingles.*

#### *Region 6*

- In 2023, FWP's Heritage Program established a working partnership with the Fort Peck THPO to develop interpretation at recreation sites along the Missouri, including the Lewis and Clark FAS, the Culbertson Bridge FAS, and Brush Lake State Park.

#### *Region 7*

- FWP continues to partner with Montana State University's Museum of the Rockies (MOR) on the paleontological resources found on FWP lands, including the remarkable fossils of Makoshika State Park. In 2022-2023 the Museum of the Rockies field activity consisted of excavating the "Diane" theropod site in the Hell Creek Formation exposed near the Diane Gabriel Trail, prospecting for new specimens in the Cains Coulee region near Diane Gabriel Trail, and checking the condition of the winterized "Hungry Joe" turtle in the Fort Union Formation near the Eye-ful Vista Point. In addition, FWP and MOR renewed their MOA, and are now working with curation staff at MOR to inventory archaeological artifacts and establish an agreement about their storage or transfer.

- A new HVAC cleaning system was installed in the Makoshika paleontology lab, which will allow for better on-site fossil processing and expanded educational opportunities.
- FWP continued its partnership with Dr. Doug Scott of Colorado Mesa University to search at Rosebud Battlefield State Park and NHL for the remains of nine U.S. Army soldiers who died during the battle. The project is funded through a donation from the Lee and Donna Metcalf Charitable Trust. Indigenous oral histories and later written accounts suggest that all of the Indigenous warriors were removed from the battlefield with the exception of a single Shoshone scout, who may be buried on adjacent private land. According to U.S. Army official accounts, soldiers' letters, newspapers, and oral histories, the U.S. Army soldiers were buried in a mass grave, and that grave has never been found. This effort was continued in 2023, with Archaeological Human Remains Detection Dog (AHRDD) survey in July coupled with opportunistic metal detecting and limited soil probing of the geophysical anomalies identified in 2021. This effort resulted in the tentative positive identification the location of the soldiers' mass grave and the grave of the Shoshone scout. While the final technical report is still under review by FWP's Heritage Program, an article co-authored by Dr. Scott and Brenna Moloney will be published in the forthcoming issue of *Archaeology in Montana*.
- The \$50,000 donation from the Lee and Donna Metcalf Charitable Trust is also financing an archaeological overview of Rosebud Battlefield, prepared by Dr. Doug Scott of Colorado Mesa University. Dr. Scott is combining Indigenous oral histories, U.S. Army accounts, and the results of all previous artifact collection and formal archaeology in the park to provide FWP with our clearest-ever image of the events of the battle, and where they occurred on the landscape. Longer-term, we plan to adapt this research into high-quality, digital interpretive materials that could virtually walk visitors through the site with Indigenous oral histories, soldiers' accounts, and archaeology.
- In 2023 the Montana Legislature included transfer of the Miles City depot to FWP ownership for use as a state park. FWP's Heritage Program prepared the white paper outlining the costs and potential benefits of the purchase for agency leadership. The Miles City Depot will be rehabilitated and adaptively re-used as a visitor's center for the Lower Yellowstone and will include interpretive space and administrative offices.
- Dr. Clayton Marlow of Montana State University's range management program and archaeologist Dr. Jack Fisher were invited to do an ecological inventory of the park and recommend best practices for vegetative management. A study of the northern half of the park was completed in 2019 and the field work for a second study of the southern half was accomplished in August 2023. The study focuses on fire suppression and control as well as maintenance and improvement of vegetative/grassland health while preserving historical and archaeological resources. The goal of this partnership is to develop a long-term vegetative management plan using appropriate and effective methods to reduce fire danger, protect historic and archaeological resources and create a sustainable and healthy ecosystem.

- In keeping with the findings of the 2019 and 2023 range studies at Rosebud Battlefield State Park, FWP is pursuing a program of regular controlled burning at the park. In 2022, the eastern FWP heritage specialist established a partnership with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), who will prepare burn plans for each of the proposed burn areas and oversee the burns. Prior to implementation, all burn plans will be reviewed by FWP’s Heritage Program and submitted to the Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for consultation, in keeping with the FWP’s obligations under the Montana Antiquities Act. The burn plans will also be submitted to the Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPO) of all tribes with interest in the area for their review, in keeping with FWP’s tribal consultation guidelines.



*Figure 11. Hawk, a AHRDD trained to detect burials over 75 years of age and low-odor surface remains, alerts his handler, Melissa Kindt, to a “hit” during survey at Rosebud Battlefield State Park in July 2023.*

### *Statewide*

FWP’s Heritage Program continues to develop tools and frameworks to facilitate and improve the agency’s compliance with heritage laws and regulation, and to incorporate heritage concerns more fully into FWP’s management and decision-making processes across all property types. These efforts have resulted in the following:

- The FWP Heritage Program was shifted to the stewardship and maintenance bureau within the Parks and Recreation division as part of the agency’s reorganization efforts over 2021-2022. In addition, one full-time heritage specialist position was added in July 2022. The program now oversees all heritage-related duties across all FWP property

types not just parks. The western heritage specialist (Rachel Reckin) is based in Helena and the eastern heritage specialist (Brenna Moloney) is based in Billings (see Figure 2).

- Building on the tribal consultation guidelines highlighted in the 2020-2021 report, the FWP Heritage Program and Tribal Relations and Diversity Coordinator hosted the agency’s first annual tribal historic preservation officer summit in April 2023.
- Using the simplified compliance flowchart for FWP projects discussed in the previous biennium report, FWP’s heritage specialists began integrating that in to agency wide trainings for MEPA, new employee orientations, employee brown bag sessions, etc. in an effort to raise intra-agency awareness on the critical role of heritage in the agency’s mission.
- FWP’s heritage specialists continue to update and improve the spreadsheet summarizing heritage grants and funding opportunities that was first reported in the 2020-2021 report.
- The FWP Heritage Program hosted its first AmeriCorps member. Based in Billings and directly supervised by the eastern heritage specialist, the AmeriCorps member assisted with fieldwork and conducted research on heritage properties across the state. One major accomplishment of the member’s term of service was the creation of an internal list of all previously recorded cultural resources across all FWP properties which will lay foundation for future site monitoring, preservation planning, and interpretive development.

*Table 1. Montana FWP NRHP-Eligible Cultural Resources List for 2022-2023*

<b>Property Name</b>	<b>Acquisition Date</b>	<b>Region and Area</b>	<b>Site Number</b>	<b>Historic or Precontact</b>	<b>Site Type</b>	<b>Significance Status</b>
Flathead Lake WHPA	1953	R-1 Rollins	24LA0269	H	Logan Marshall Homestead and Orchard	NRHP-eligible
Wild Horse Island State Park	1978	R-1 Dayton	24LA0278	P	Culturally-Peeled Trees	NRHP-eligible
Conclow FAS	2019	R-1 Dayton	24LA0356	H	Conclow Indian Allotment and Homestead	NRHP-eligible

Flathead Lake Salmon Hatchery	1912	R-1 Somers	24FH0758	H	Somers Fish Hatchery	NRHP-eligible
Kootenai Falls WMA	1982	R-1 Libby	24LN0176	P	Occupational Site	NRHP-eligible
Kootenai Falls WMA	1982	R-1 Libby	24LN0232	P	Rock Shelter and Occupational Site	NRHP-eligible
Kootenai Falls WMA	1982	R-1 Libby	24LN0233/0234	P	Rock Shelter and Rock Art	NRHP-eligible
Libby Field Station	1939	R-1 Libby	24LN1619	H	Libby Fish Hatchery & Field Station	NRHP-eligible
North Shore WMA	2014	R-1 Somers	24FH1226	H	McClarty-Worm Barn	NRHP-eligible
Alberton Gorge Recreation Corridor AFLP	2004	R-2 Alberton	24MN0164	H	Milwaukee Railroad Grade	NRHP-eligible
Aunt Molly WMA	1979	R-2 Helmville	24PW0402	H	Matt Little Historic Homestead Barn	NRHP-eligible
Big Eddy FAS	1994	R-2 Alberton	24MN0164	H	Milwaukee Railroad Grade	NRHP-eligible
Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA	1948	R-2 Ovando	24PW0464	H	Boyd Ranch and Homestead	NRHP-eligible
Council Grove State Park	1978	R-2 Missoula	24MO0151	H	Hellgate Treaty Council Site	NRHP-eligible
Cyr Bridge FAS	1986	R-2 Alberton	24MN0164	H	Milwaukee Railroad Grade	NRHP-eligible
Cyr Bridge FAS	1986	R-2 Alberton	24MN0194	P	Occupation Site	NRHP-eligible
Dry Creek FAS	1983	R-2 Alberton	24MN0164	H	Milwaukee Railroad Grade	NRHP-eligible

Fish Creek WMA	2010	R-2 Alberton	24MN0164	H	Milwaukee Railroad Grade	NRHP-eligible
Forest Grove FAS	1977	R-2 Alberton	24MN0164	H	Milwaukee Railroad Grade	NRHP-eligible
Fort Owen State Park	1956	R-2/Stevensville	24RA0148	H	Trading Post	Listed in NRHP
Jocko River Hatchery	1948	R-2 Arlee	24LA0221	H	Jocko Fish Hatchery	NRHP-eligible
Natural Pier FAS	2000	R-2 Alberton	24MN0164	H	Milwaukee Railroad Grade	NRHP-eligible
Quartz FAS	1978	R-2 Alberton	24MN0164	H	Milwaukee Railroad Grade	NRHP-eligible
Sloway FAS	1977	R-2 Alberton	24MN0164	H	Milwaukee Railroad Grade	NRHP-eligible
St. John's FAS	2000	R-2 Alberton	24MN0164	H	Milwaukee Railroad Grade	NRHP-eligible
Tarkio FAS	1992	R-2 Alberton	24MN0164	H	Milwaukee Railroad Grade	NRHP-eligible
Tarkio FAS	1992	R-2 Alberton	24MN0164	H	Historic Milwaukee Railroad Grade	NRHP-eligible
Three Mile WMA	1967	R-2 Florence	24RA0906	H	Three Mile Logging Camp	NRHP-eligible
Travelers' Rest State Park	2001	R-2 Lolo	24MO0176	H	Corps of Discovery Campsite	NHL
Travelers' Rest State Park	2001	R-2 Lolo	24MO1572	H	Rice Thompson Farmstead	NRHP-eligible
Warm Springs WMA	1929	R-2 Warm Springs	24DL0844	H	Warm Springs Bird Farm	NRHP-eligible
Washoe Park Trout	1908	R-2 Anaconda	24DL0422	H	Anaconda Fish Hatchery	NRHP-eligible



Hatchery						
Anaconda Smoke Stack State Park	1986	R-3 Anaconda	24DL0290	H	Brick Smoke Stack	Listed in NRHP and part of NHL District
Bannack State Park	1954	R-3 Dillon	24BE0169		Historic/townsite	NHL
Beaverhead Rock State Park	1975	R-3 Dillon	24MA0259		Landscape Feature	Listed in NRHP
Blacktail WMA	1972	R-3 Dillon	24BE1812	H	Red Door Sheep Ranch	NRHP-eligible
Brogan's Landing FAS	1969	R-3 Livingston	24PA0195	P	River Side site	NRHP-eligible
Clark's Lookout State Park	1985	R-3 Dillon	24BE1708	H	Landscape Feature	Listed in NRHP
Dailey Lake FAS	1986	R-3 Emigrant	24PA975	P	Stone Alignments/ Drive Lines	NRHP-eligible
Dailey Lake FAS, Dome Mtn. WMA	1986	R-3 Emigrant	24PA0462	P	Stone Alignments/ Drive Lines	NRHP-eligible
Dailey Lake FAS, Dome Mtn. WMA	1986	R-3 Emigrant	24PA0749	P	Stone Alignments/ Drive Lines	NRHP-eligible
Dome Mtn. WMA	1986	R-3 Emigrant	24PA779	P	Stone Alignments/ Drive Lines	NRHP-eligible
Eight Mile Ford FAS	1957	R-3 Ennis	24MA0244	P	Stone Circle/ Occupational Site	NRH-eligible
Elkhorn State Park	1980	R-3 Boulder	24JF0477	H	Fraternity Hall	Listed in NRHP
Elkhorn State Park	1980	R-3 Boulder	24JF2109	H	Gillian Hall	NRHP-eligible
FWP Warehouse	1951	R-3 Helena	24LC2296	H	Custer Avenue	NRHP-

Facility					Stone Building	eligible
George Grant Memorial FAS	1986	R-3 Divide	24BE1327	P	Occupational Site	NRHP-eligible
Granite State Park	1975	R-3 Philipsburg	24GN0365	H	Miner's Union Hall	Listed in NRHP
Granite State Park	1975	R-3 Philipsburg	24GN0366	H	Superintendent's House	Listed in NRHP
Greenwood Bottoms FAS	1987	R-3 Divide	24BE1327	P	Occupational Site	NRHP-eligible
Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park	1938	R-3 LaHood	24JF2081	H	CCC Structures	Listed in NRHP
Madison Buffalo Jump State Park	1966	R-3 Three Forks	24GA0314	P	Buffalo Jump	Listed in NRHP
Missouri Headwaters State Park	1947	R-3 Three Forks	24GA0212	H	Corps of Discovery	NHL
Missouri Headwaters State Park	1947	R-3 Three Forks	24GA0402	P	Pictographs	NRHP-eligible
Missouri Headwaters State Park	1947	R-3 Three Forks	24GA0355	H	Gallatin City II	NRHP-eligible
Missouri Headwaters State Park	1947	R-3 Three Forks	24GA1839	H	Campbell Homestead	NRHP-eligible
Missouri Headwaters State Park	1947	R-3 Three Forks	24GA1841	H	Madison Mill	NRHP-eligible

Mount Haggin WMA	1976	R-3 Anaconda	24DL0145	P	French Creek Occupational Site	NRHP-eligible
Mount Haggin WMA	1976	R-3 Anaconda	24DL0151	P	Lincoln Creek Occupational Site	NRHP-eligible
Mount Haggin WMA	1976	R-3 Anaconda	24DL0154	P	Moose Creek Occupational Site	NRHP-eligible
MT Wild Outdoor Education Center	2002	R-3 Helena	24LC1273	H	Stedman Foundry & Machine Co., Industrial Complex	NRHP Listed
Wall Creek WMA	1960	R-3 Ennis	24MA1695	H	Wall Creek Barn	NRHP-eligible
Wall Creek WMA	1960	R-3 Cameron	24MA2327	H/P	McAtee Homestead and Precontact Occupational Site	NRHP-eligible
First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park	1972	R-4 Ulm	24CA1012	P	Buffalo Jump	NHL
Freezeout Lake WMA	1953	R-4 Fairfield	24TT0435	H	Canal Drainage System	NRHP-eligible
Giant Springs State Park	1972	R-4 Great Falls	24CA0289	H	Morony Dam Construction Camp	NRHP-eligible
Giant Springs State Park	1972	R-4 Great Falls	24CA0620	H	1930s Stone Structures	NRHP-eligible
Sluice Boxes State Park	1970	R-4 Belt	24CA1315	H	Belt Creek Railroad	NRHP-eligible
Smith River	1970	R-4 White Sulphur Springs	24ME0075	P	Occupational Site	NRHP-eligible

Sun River WMA	1948	R-4 Augusta	24LC1110	P	Stone Circles/ Occupational Site	NRHP-eligible
Sun River WMA	1948	R-4 Augusta	24LC2286	H	Willow Creek Patrol Camp	NRHP-eligible
Tower Rock State Park	2004	R-4 Cascade	24CA0643		Landscape Feature	Listed in NRHP
Upper Prickly Pear FAS	2014	R-4 Helena	24LC1975	H	Morgan Homestead Ice House	NRHP-eligible
Big Snowy Mountains WMA	2022	R-5 Ryegate	24GV0336	P	Stone circle/Occupational site	NRHP-eligible
Boulder Forks FAS	1976	R-5 McLeod	24SW0276	P	Occupational Site	NRHP-eligible
Captain Clark FAS	1980	R-5 Custer	24YL0643	H	Van Duzer Homestead	NRHP-eligible
Chief Plenty Coups State Park	1965	R-5 Pryor	24BH2179	H	Log house and Store	NHL
Lake Elmo State Park	1983	R-5 Billings	24YL2275	H	Reservoir	NRHP-eligible
Pictograph Cave State Park	1969	R-5 Billings	24YL0001	P	Pictograph Cave	NHL
Pictograph Cave State Park	1969	R-5 Billings	24YL0002	P	Ghost Cave	Part of NHL
Lower Yellowstone	2023	R-7 Miles City	24CR0920	H	Miles City Depot	NRHP Listed
Makoshika State Park	1953	R-7 Glendive	24DW0079	P	Paleoindian Campsite	NRHP-eligible
Makoshika State Park	1953	R-7 Glendive	24DW0564	H	McCarty Cabin	NRHP-eligible
Medicine Rocks State	1957	R-7 Ekalaka	24CT0022	H/P	Inscriptions	Listed in

Park						NRHP
Medicine Rocks State Park	1957	R-7 Ekalaka	24CT0844	P	Occupational Site	NRHP- eligible
Medicine Rocks State Park	1957	R-7 Ekalaka	24CT0845	P	Stone Circle/ Occupational Site	NRHP- eligible
Pirogue Island State Park	1982	R-7 Miles City	24CR1045	H	Corps of Discovery	NRHP- eligible
Rosebud Battlefield State Park	1978	R-7 Decker	24BH2461	H	Battlefield	NHL
Rosebud Battlefield State Park	1978	R-7 Decker	24BH0406	P	Buffalo Jump and Petroglyphs	NRHP- eligible
Rosebud Battlefield State Park	1978	R-7 Decker	24BH3773	H	Kobold Homestead	NRHP- eligible

Table 2. 2022-2023 State Parks Historic Property Summary Table for Site Integrity, Status, Condition, Maintenance Priorities and Site Needs

Park Name/Site Name	Site Number	NHL or NRHP Status	Integrity	Property Status	Property Condition	Priority for Maintenance (1-5)	Future Maintenance Priorities/Site Needs
<b>Region 1/Kalispell</b>							
Conclow FAS/Conclow Homestead and Allotment	24LA0356	NRHP-eligible	Excellent	Satisfactory	Fair	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interpret site</li> <li>• Stabilize barn and make preservation plans for house and barn</li> </ul>
Wild Horse Island/Culturally-Peeled Trees	24LA0278	NRHP-eligible	Excellent	Satisfactory	Good	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Record culturally-peeled trees along with a historic homestead and orchard as a historic district</li> <li>• Monitor site</li> </ul>
Flathead Lake Hatchery/Somers Hatchery	24FH0758	NRHP-eligible	Good	Satisfactory	Good	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide appropriate prioritized historic preservation for structures</li> </ul>
Flathead Lake WHPA/ Logan Marshall Place	24LA0269	NRHP-eligible	Excellent	Watch	Fair	5	Determine future plans for house and outbuildings, whether to remove, monitor, or preserve
Kootenai Falls WMA	24LN0176	NRHP-eligible	Good	Unknown	Unknown	5	Monitor archeological site
Kootenai Falls WMA	24LN0233/234	NRHP-eligible	Good	Unknown	Unknown	5	Monitor archeological site
Kootenai Falls WMA	24LN0232	NRHP-eligible	Good	Unknown	Unknown	5	Monitor archeological site
Libby Field Station/Libby Fish Hatchery	24LN1619	NRHP-eligible	Good	Satisfactory	Good	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide appropriate prioritized historic preservation for structures</li> <li>• Monitor structures</li> </ul>
<b>Region 2/Missoula</b>							
Council Grove	24MO0151	NRHP-eligible	Excellent	Satisfactory	Good	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update interpretive exhibits</li> <li>• Trail network delineation and enhancement</li> <li>• Riverbank stabilization/ grassland restoration</li> <li>• Research site history for potential NRHP nomination</li> </ul>

Fort Owen	24RA0148	NRHP	Good	Satisfactory	Fair	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acquire funding for and implement second phase of Interpretive Plan, including monumental Indigenous art and re-building the interpretive walls</li> <li>• Continue process with NPS for nomination of Fort Owen and St Mary's Mission together as an NHL District</li> </ul>
Travelers' Rest/Corps of Discovery Campsite	24MO0176	NHL	Good	Satisfactory	Good	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement vegetative screening along the east and southeast fence lines</li> </ul>
Travelers' Rest/Rice Thompson Homestead	24MO1572	NRHP-eligible	Good	Satisfactory	Fair	3	Develop preservation plan for historic barn, and appropriate actions for other structures
Aunt Molly WMA/ Matt Little Barn	24PW0402	NRHP-eligible	Unknown	Threatened		5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor barn</li> <li>• Monitor for public safety hazards</li> </ul>
Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA/ Boyd Ranch	24PW0464	NRHP-eligible	Good	Satisfactory		5	Consider removal of some more modern structures and appropriate preservation actions for historic structures as requested by the Region
Cyr Bridge FAS	24MN0194	NRHP-eligible	Unknown	Unknown		1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue weed control</li> <li>• Monitor archeological site</li> </ul>
Jocko River Trout Hatchery	24LA0221	NRHP-eligible	Excellent	Satisfactory		1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide appropriate prioritized historic preservation for structures</li> <li>• Monitor site.</li> </ul>
Milwaukee Railroad Grade	24MN0164*	NRHP-eligible	Fair	Satisfactory		1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue weed control</li> <li>• Monitor sites</li> </ul>
Three Mile WMA/Three Mile Logging Camp	24RA0906	NRHP-Eligible	Fair	Satisfactory		2	Monitor site
Warm Springs WMA/Warm Springs Bird Farm	24DL0844	NRHP-Eligible	Good	Satisfactory		1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide appropriate prioritized historic preservation for structures</li> <li>• Monitor buildings</li> </ul>
Washoe Park Hatchery/ Anaconda Fish Hatchery	24DL0422	NRHP-eligible	Fair	Satisfactory		1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide appropriate prioritized historic preservation for structures</li> <li>• Monitor site.</li> </ul>
<b>Region 3/Bozeman</b>							
Anaconda Smoke Stack	24DL0290	NRHP	Good	Watch	Fair	2	Implement full engineering assessment of structure

Bannack	24BE0169	NHL	Excellent	Satisfactory	Good	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to implement historic preservation priorities, including new roofs, siding, etc.</li> <li>• Pursue funding for wildfire protection system for Bannack</li> <li>• Complete study of Chinese Americans, ethno-history with Shoshone-Bannock, and site form update</li> <li>• Update NHL listing with more thorough documentation of history and structures</li> <li>• Complete ADA and interpretive updates</li> <li>• Identify funding for visitor center expansion</li> <li>• Identify funding for artifact storage</li> <li>• Continue to expand on interpretive offerings</li> </ul>
Beaverhead Rock	24MA0259	NRHP	Good	Satisfactory	Fair	5	Monitor landscape feature
Brogan's Landing FAS	24PA0195	NRHP-eligible	Unknown	Threatened	Poor	1	Collect additional samples from eroding hearths and transfer to USFS
Clark's Lookout	24BE1708	NRHP	Good	Satisfactory	Good	5	Monitor landscape feature
Granite/Miner's Union Hall	24GN0365	NRHP	Fair	Threatened	Poor	5	Monitor building
Granite/Superintendent's House	24GN0366	NRHP	Excellent	Satisfactory	Fair	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor building</li> <li>• Pursue partnerships and funding to preserve the house's interior, rebuild windows and rebuild historic doors</li> </ul>
Lewis and Clark Caverns/ CCC Historic District	24JF2081	NRHP	Good	Satisfactory	Good	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor all buildings and structures</li> <li>• Provide appropriate prioritized historic preservation for structures</li> </ul>
Madison Buffalo Jump	24GA0314	NRHP	Excellent	Watch	Fair	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor site for looting and vandalism</li> <li>• Update interpretive materials, including digital interpretation</li> </ul>



Missouri Headwaters/ Corps of Discovery	24GA0212	NHL	Good	Satisfactory	Fair	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement ethnographic research into tribal connections with the park in collaboration with contractor</li> <li>• Use new geoarchaeological data to search for precontact archaeology within park</li> <li>• Update NHL listing to reflect precontact importance as well as Corps of Discovery</li> </ul>
Missouri Headwaters/ Pictograph	24GA0402	NRHP-eligible	Good	Watch	Fair	3	Monitor site
Missouri Headwaters/Gallatin City II	24GA0355	NRHP-eligible	Good	Threatened	Poor	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete full engineering assessment of standing structure, and create plans for reconstruction</li> <li>• Further research into whether standing structure was actually the Gallatin City II Hotel or Campbell's Store</li> </ul>
Missouri Headwaters/ Campbell Homestead	24GA1839	NRHP-eligible	Poor	Watch	Poor	5	Monitor site
Missouri Headwaters/ Madison Mill	24GA1841	NRHP-eligible	Poor	Watch	Poor	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor site</li> <li>• Record historical features to south of campground visible on aerial and LiDAR imagery; research connection to mill and Gallatin City</li> </ul>
Blacktail WMA/ Red Door Ranch	24BE1812	NRHP-eligible	Good	Satisfactory	Fair	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minor repairs as needed</li> <li>• Monitor buildings</li> </ul>
Dailey Lake FAS	24PA0975	NRHP-eligible	Unknown	Watch	Unknown	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect archaeological sites during irrigation system work on nearby land</li> <li>• Continue weed controls</li> <li>• Monitor archaeological site</li> </ul>
Dailey Lake FAS, Dome Mountain WMA	24PA0749	NRHP-eligible	Good	Watch	Good	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue weed control</li> <li>• Monitor archaeological site</li> </ul>
Dailey Lake FAS, Dome Mountain WMA	24PA0462	NRHP-eligible	Good	Watch	Good	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue weed control. Included in the costs above.</li> <li>• Monitor archaeological site</li> </ul>
Dome Mountain WMA	24PA0779	NRHP-eligible	Good	Watch	Good	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue weed control. Included in the costs above.</li> <li>• Monitor archaeological site</li> </ul>
Eight Mile Ford FAS	24MA0244	NRHP-eligible	Unknown	Watch	Unknown	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue weed control</li> <li>• Monitor archaeological site</li> </ul>

George Grant Memorial & Greenwood Bottoms FASEs	24BE1327	NRHP-eligible	Unknown	Watch	Unknown	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue weed control</li> <li>• Monitor archaeological site</li> </ul>
Mount Haggin WMA/ French Creek Site	24DL0145	NRHP-eligible	Fair	Satisfactory	Good	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider rescue archaeological interventions to gather data being lost from rapid erosion</li> <li>• Monitor archaeological site</li> </ul>
Mount Haggin WMA/ Lincoln Creek Site	24DL0151	NRHP-eligible	Good	Satisfactory	Good	5	Monitor archeological site
Mount Haggin WMA - Moose Creek Site	24DL0154	NRHP-eligible	Good	Satisfactory	Good	5	Monitor archeological site
Wall Creek WMA - Wall Creek Barn	24MA1695	NRHP-eligible	Fair	Satisfactory	Good	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide appropriate prioritized historic preservation for the barn</li> <li>• Monitor historic barn</li> </ul>
Wall Creek WMA - McAtee Homestead	24MA2327	NHRP-eligible	Fair	Satisfactory	Fair	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minor repairs as needed</li> <li>• Spray weeds</li> <li>• Monitor the historic buildings and archaeological site</li> </ul>
<b>Region 4/Great Falls</b>							
Smith River/Camp Baker precontact campsite	24ME0075	NRHP-eligible	Good	Watch	Fair	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue implementing alternative management strategies at Camp Baker through planning process to reduce site impacts</li> </ul>
Elkhorn - Fraternity Hall	24JF0477	NRHP	Good	Watch	Good	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify funding and hire historic architect to consider next steps in interior preservation</li> <li>• Complete needed foundation repairs</li> </ul>
Elkhorn/ Gillian Hall	24JF2107	NRHP-eligible	Good	Watch	Good	3	See Fraternity Hall above
First Peoples Buffalo Jump	24CA1012	NHL	Excellent	Satisfactory	Fair	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement ethnographic research into tribal connections with the park in collaboration with contractor</li> <li>• Implement current development plan, including updated interpretive plan and interpretive materials based on ethnography</li> </ul>
Giant Springs/Morony Dam Construction Camp	24CA0289	NRHP-eligible	Good	Watch	Fair	5	Monitor site
Giant Springs/Historic rock walls and structures	24CA0620	NRHP-eligible	Good	Watch	Fair	5	Continue rock wall reconstruction/rehabilitation on spring and river

Sluice Boxes/Belt Creek Railroad	24CA1315	NRHP-eligible	Excellent	Threatened	Poor	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor site, particularly failing railroad features and Albright structures</li> <li>• Pursue NRHP nomination for Albright Ghost Town with partners</li> </ul>
Tower Rock	24CA0643	NRHP	Good	Satisfactory	Good	4	Monitor landscape feature
Freezeout Lake WMA	24TT0435	NRHP-eligible	Excellent	Satisfactory	Good	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor historic features</li> </ul>
Sun River WMA	24LC1110	NRHP-eligible	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	5	Monitor archeological site
Sun River WMA/Willow Creek Patrol Camp	24LC2286	NRHP-eligible	Fair	Satisfactory	Fair	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weed control</li> <li>• Monitor historic cabin</li> </ul>
Upper Prickly Pear FAS/ Morgan Homestead Ice House	24LC1975	NRHP-eligible	Unknown	Satisfactory	Poor	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routine maintenance and repairs as needed</li> <li>• Monitor ice house</li> </ul>
<b>Region 5/Billings</b>							
Big Snowy WMA	24GV0336	NRHP-eligible	Excellent	Satisfactory	Good	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full survey of entire site, including portion on DNRC land</li> <li>• Monitor site</li> <li>• Prepare cultural resource management plan and historic context document</li> <li>• Contract with researcher to conduct ethno-historical research with Shoshone-Bannock</li> </ul>
Chief Plenty Coups	24BH2179	NHL	Excellent	Satisfactory	Good	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete preservation on Chief's House and Store using capital funds and matching grant funds from Save America's Treasures program (foundation repairs, new roof, new chinking, miscellaneous repairs)</li> </ul>
Lake Elmo Reservoir	24YL2275	NRHP-eligible	Good	Satisfactory	Good	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor site</li> <li>• Develop interpretive and program content in cooperation with Recreation Manager</li> </ul>

Pictograph Cave	24YL0001	NHL	Excellent	Satisfactory	Good	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete legal survey of property line</li> <li>• Complete geotechnical assessment with Semiquincentennial grant funds</li> <li>• Apply for second round of NPS funding to implement site plan</li> <li>• Improve internet connectivity at park to allow for remote monitoring of rock</li> <li>• Contract with researcher to conduct ethno-historical research with interested tribes</li> <li>• Integrate ethno-history into interpretation and programming</li> <li>• Update NHL</li> </ul>
Pictograph Cave/Ghost Cave	24YL0002	NHL	Excellent	Satisfactory	Good	1	See Pictograph Cave above
Boulder Forks FAS	24SW0276	NRHP-eligible	Fair	Unknown	Fair	1	Monitor archeological site.
Captain Clark FAS/Van Duzer Homestead	24YL0643	NRHP-eligible	Fair	Watch	Poor	4	Monitor and protect from vandalism- unknown cost.
<b>Region 7/Miles City</b>							
Lower Yellowstone	24CR0920	NRHP listed	Excellent	Satisfactory	Fair	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehab building in keeping with Sec of Interior's Standards</li> <li>• Monitor and maintain</li> <li>• Develop interpretation</li> </ul>
Makoshika/ Paleoindian Campsite	24DW0079	NRHP-eligible	Fair	Satisfactory	Good	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor sites</li> <li>• Pursue archaeological research through university partners</li> </ul>
Makoshika/ McCarthy Cabin	24DW0564	NRHP-eligible	Good	Satisfactory	Fair	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor site</li> <li>• Update interpretive signage</li> </ul>
Medicine Rocks/ Inscriptions	24CT0022	NRHP	Excellent	Satisfactory	Good	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor site</li> <li>• Contract with researcher to conduct ethno-historical research with interested tribes</li> <li>• Update interpretive signage</li> </ul>
Medicine Rocks/ Buried campsite	24CT0844	NRHP	Good	Satisfactory	Good	3	See inscriptions above
Medicine Rocks/ Stone circles	24CT0845	NRHP	Good	Satisfactory	Fair	3	See inscriptions above

Pirogue Island	24CR1045	NRHP-eligible	Good	Watch	Fair	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor site</li> <li>• Undertake additional research into specific Corps of Discovery relationship to site such as testing samples transferred from BLM in 2023</li> <li>• Update interpret signage at site</li> </ul>
Rosebud Battlefield	24BH2461	NHL	Excellent	Threatened	Good	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete donation-funded research into location of soldiers' mass grave</li> <li>• Complete archaeological overview document</li> <li>• Pursue funding for updated park interpretation</li> <li>• Complete study of fuel reduction, and consider prescribed fire use</li> <li>• Further investigate mineral rights</li> <li>• Update interpretation</li> </ul>
Rosebud Battlefield/ Kobold Bison Jump	24BH0406	NRHP-eligible	Excellent	Threatened	Good	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor condition of petroglyphs</li> <li>• See above, under Rosebud Battlefield</li> </ul>
Rosebud Battlefield/ Kobold Homestead	24BH3773	NRHP-eligible	Excellent	Threatened	Fair	2	See above, under Rosebud Battlefield
<b>Region 8/Helena</b>							
FWP Warehouse Facility/	24LC2296	NHRP-eligible	Fair	Satisfactory	Good	5	Routine repairs as needed.
Custer Ave Facility Stone Building							Monitor stone building.
MT Wild Outdoor Education Center/Stedman Foundry	24LC1273	NRHP listed	Fair	Satisfactory	Excellent	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routine maintenance and repairs as needed.</li> </ul>

Table 3. 2022-2023 State Parks Summary Table for Heritage Site Stewardship Costs

Property Name & Site	Admin. Cost	Site Restora., Repair, Preserv.	Research/ Doc. Preserv/Protection	Interp. and Education	Site Maintenance/ Access	Site Monitoring	Marketing/Tourism Promotion	Projects to Avoid Adverse Effect	Outside Funding/Grants/In-Kind Match	Total Stewardship Cost
<b>Region 1 - Kalispell</b>										
Wild Horse Island State Park - Culturally-Peeled Trees (24LA0278)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$720	\$0	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,220
Flathead Lake Islands State Park-Logan Marshall Place (24LA0269)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,027	\$400	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,427
Conclow FAS - Conclow Homestead (24LA0356)	\$0	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$0	\$1,125	\$316	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,441
Flathead Lake Salmon Hatchery - Somers Hatchery (24FH0758)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Kootenai Falls WMA (24LN0176)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$160	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$160
Kootenai Falls WMA (24LN0232)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$160	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$160
Kootenai Falls WMA (24LN0233/0234)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$160	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$160
Libby Field Station - Libby Hatchery (24LN1619)	\$0	\$3,200	\$0	\$0	\$1,738	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,938
North Shore WMA - McClarty-Worm Barn (24FH1226)	\$0	\$790	\$0	\$0	\$395	\$80	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,265
<b>Region 1 Total Costs</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$4,990</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$720</b>	<b>\$4,765</b>	<b>\$1,296</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$14,771</b>
<b>Region 2 - Missoula</b>										
Council Grove State Park (24MO0151)	\$56,936	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$803	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$59,739
Fort Owen State Park (24RA0148)	\$36,689	\$105,757	\$10,000	\$95,857	\$1,125	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$201,614*	\$251,428
Travelers' Rest State Park (24MO0176)	\$290,044	\$0	\$0	\$8,363	\$16,915	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$317,322

Travelers' Rest State Park (24MO1572)	\$1,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,000
Aunt Molly WMA - Matt Little Barn (24PW0402)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA - Boyd Ranch (24PW0464)	\$0	\$0	\$4,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,000
Cyr Bridge FAS (24MN0194)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500
Jocko River Trout Hatchery (24LA0221)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Milwaukee Railroad * (24MN0164)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000
Three Mile WMA - Three Mile Logging Camp (24RA0906)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Warm Springs WMA - Warm Springs Bird Farm (24DL0844)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Washoe Park Hatchery/ Anaconda Hatchery (24DL0422)	\$0	\$21,123	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$21,123
<b>Region 2 Total Costs</b>	<b>\$385,169</b>	<b>\$126,880</b>	<b>\$14,000</b>	<b>\$104,220</b>	<b>\$22,843</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$201,614</b>	<b>\$661,111</b>
<b>Region 3 - Bozeman</b>										
Anaconda Smoke Stack State Park- 24DL0290	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$106,905	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$112,405
Bannack State Park - 24BE0169	\$580,807	\$0	\$0	\$39,921	\$125,552	\$16,726	\$6,500	\$0	\$1,000	\$770,506
Beaverhead Rock State Park - 24MA0259	\$8,253	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,253
Brogan's Landing FAS - 24PA0195	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,500
Clark's Lookout State Park - 24BE1708	\$4,127	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,300	\$200	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,627
Granite - 24GN0365, 24GN366	\$4,000	\$78,740	\$0	\$3,240	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$89,980
Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park - 24JF2081	\$2,300	\$173,741	\$0	\$0	\$12,250	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$188,291

Madison Buffalo Jump State Park - 24GA0314	\$6,329	\$0	\$0	\$1,700	\$991	\$750	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$9,770</b>
Missouri Headwaters State Park- 24GA0212	\$321,791	\$3,200	\$24,000	\$9,000	\$40,036	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$24,000*	<b>\$398,527</b>
Missouri Headwaters State Park- 24GA0402	see 24GA0212	\$0	\$0	\$0	see 24GA0212	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$500</b>
Missouri Headwaters State Park - 24GA0355	see 24GA0212	\$700	\$34,000	\$0	see 24GA0212	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$34,700</b>
Missouri Headwaters State Park- 24GA1839	see 24GA0212	\$0	\$0	\$100	see 24GA0212	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$100</b>
Missouri Headwaters State Park - 24GA1841	see 24GA0212	\$0	\$0	\$1,500	see 24GA0212	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$2,000</b>
Elkhorn State Park - 24JF0477, 24JF2407	\$2,411	\$133,309	\$14,242	\$3,240	\$2,700	\$800	\$0	\$0	\$30,000*	<b>\$156,702</b>
Blacktail WMA - Red Door Ranch (24BE1812)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Dailey Lake FAS - 24PA0975	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$250	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$250</b>
Dailey Lake FAS, Dome Mtn. WMA - 24PA0462	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$250	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$250</b>
Dailey Lake FAS, Dome Mtn. WMA - 24PA0749	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$250	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$250</b>
Dome Mtn. WMA - 24PA0779	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Eight Mile Ford FAS - 24MA0244	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
George Grant FAS, Greenwood Bottoms FAS - 24BE1327	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Mount Haggin WMA - French Creek Site (24DL0145)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$36,583	\$600	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$37,183</b>
Mount Haggin WMA - Lincoln Creek Site (24DL0151)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$14,583	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$14,583</b>



Mount Haggin WMA - Moose Creek Site (24DL0154)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$14,583	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$14,583
Wall Creek WMA - Wall Creek Barn (24MA1695)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$15,000
Wall Creek WMA - McAtee Homestead (24MA2327)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$300
<b>Region 3 Total Costs</b>	<b>\$935,018</b>	<b>\$389,690</b>	<b>\$72,242</b>	<b>\$58,701</b>	<b>\$372,783</b>	<b>\$26,326</b>	<b>\$6,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$54,000</b>	<b>\$1,862,260</b>
<b>Region 4 - Great Falls</b>										
Smith River State Park - 24ME0075	\$1,000	\$141,761	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,160	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$145,921
Sluice Boxes State Park - 24CA1315	\$1,000	\$0	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$7,000
First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park - 24CA1012	\$350,201	\$0	\$77,138	\$5,000	\$197,184	\$1,200	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$633,723
Giant Springs State Park - 24CA0289	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000
Giant Springs State Park - 24CA0620	\$1,000	64,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$66,000
Tower Rock State Park - 24CA0643	\$5,767	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,108	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,875
Freezeout Lake WMA - 24TT0435	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$31,600	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$31,600
Sun River WMA - 24LC1110	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sun River WMA - Willow Creek Patrol Camp (24LC2286)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Upper Prickly Pear FAS - Morgan Homestead Ice House (24LC1975)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$316	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$816
<b>Region 4 Total Costs</b>	<b>\$359,968</b>	<b>\$205,761</b>	<b>\$82,138</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$234,208</b>	<b>\$7,860</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$897,935</b>
<b>Region 5 - Billings</b>										
Big Snowy WMA (24GV0336)	\$0	\$0	\$9,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10,500.00
Chief Plenty Coups State Park - 24BH2179	\$271,815	\$75,000	\$10,000	\$250	\$3,200	\$5,140	\$150	\$0	\$0	\$365,555
Lake Elmo State Park	\$750	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,250

- 24YL2275										
Pictograph Cave State Park - Pictograph Cave (24YL0001)	\$164,833	\$0	\$0	\$750	\$2,150	\$1,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$169,233
Pictograph Cave State Park- Ghost Cave (24YL0002)	\$164,833	\$0	\$0	\$750	\$2,150	\$1,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$169,233
Boulder Forks FAS - 24SW0276	\$2,250	\$400	\$0	\$0	\$2,600	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5,250
Captain Clark FAS - Van Duzer Homestead (24YL0643)	\$2,250	\$750	\$0	\$0	\$1,820	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4,820
<b>Region 5 Total Costs</b>	<b>\$355,750</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,182</b>	<b>\$8,799</b>	<b>\$9,140</b>	<b>\$150</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$725,841</b>
<b>Region 6 - Havre</b>										

N/A

<b>Region 7 - Miles City</b>										
Makoshika State Park - 24DW0079	\$150	\$0	\$9,500	\$8,500	\$150	\$750.00	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$21,050
Makoshika State Park - McCarty Cabin (24DW0564)	\$600	\$350	\$0	\$1,300	\$200	\$750	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$5,200
Medicine Rocks State Park - 24CT0022	\$6,077	\$0	\$0		\$6,621	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$13,198
Medicine Rocks State Park - 24CT0844	\$6,077	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,621	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$13,198
Medicine Rocks State Park - 24CT0845	\$6,077	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$6,621	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$13,198
Miles City Train Depot (24CR0920)	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000
Pirogue Island State Park - 24CR1045	\$3,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,500
Rosebud Battlefield State Park - 24BH2461, 24BH3773	\$31,330	\$25,000	See outside funding	\$1,000	\$10,000	\$750	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$118,080
Rosebud Battlefield State Park - 24BH0406	\$31,330	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,750	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$40,080

<b>Region 7 Total Costs</b>	<b>\$36,900</b>	<b>\$25,350</b>	<b>\$1,140</b>	<b>\$3,750</b>	<b>\$11,500</b>	<b>\$9,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$59,000</b>	<b>\$229,504</b>
<b>Region 8/Helena</b>										
FWP Warehouse Facility - Custer Ave Stone Bldg (24LC2296)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
MT Wild Outdoor Education Center - Stedman Foundry (24LC1273)	\$0	\$9,687	\$0	\$0	\$2,241 (17)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9,687
<b>Region 8/Total Costs</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$9,687</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,241</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$9,687</b>
<b>Total FWP Heritage Costs</b>										
<b>Total FWP Heritage Costs</b>	<b>\$2,072,805</b>	<b>\$763,358</b>	<b>\$172,520</b>	<b>\$174,573</b>	<b>\$657,139</b>	<b>\$61,622</b>	<b>\$9,650</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$314,614</b>	<b>\$4,226,280</b>

\* The outside funding column in these instances shows total grant funding, which is then broken out into each category of use. At Elkhorn, for example, \$30,000 in historic preservation grant funding is shown in the outside grant funding category and accounted for in the historic preservation column. Therefore, the outside funding column is not included in the total stewardship cost in instances with an asterisk.

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## Introduction

This report reviews cultural resource stewardship efforts within lands managed by Montana’s Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) over the last biennium. FWP has been divided into Fisheries, Wildlife, and Parks Divisions. Previously, FWP has submitted two reports under one cover sheet: one for the State Parks Division, and one for the Fisheries and Wildlife Division. This year, we are submitting a single unified report. In 2022, the agency was reorganized, and the Heritage Program was shifted to the stewardship and maintenance bureau within the newly created Parks and Outdoor Recreation division. The program now oversees all heritage-related duties across all FWP property types, including parks, fishing access sites (FAS), wildlife management areas (WMA), and easements. In addition, a second full-time heritage specialist was hired in July 2022. There is now a western heritage specialist based in Helena (Rachel Reckin) and an eastern heritage specialist based in Billings (Brenna Moloney) (Figure 2).

In compliance with the reporting requirements of MCA 22-3-424(4), enacted in 2011, this report documents the status, condition, stewardship efforts, and maintenance needs of 78 heritage properties (Table 1). Of the 78 cultural resources documented in this report, seven are National Historic Landmarks (NHL) and 14 are listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Fifty-seven cultural resources on FWP lands have not formally gone through the extensive process of nomination and listing for the NRHP but are included in this report because they have previously been determined eligible for listing on the NRHP. The other sites on FWP managed land are not eligible or have not yet been formally evaluated for NRHP listing, meaning additional research is required to determine whether they are significant sites that qualify for NRHP or NHL listing. As funding and time allows, these resources will be monitored and evaluated for their archaeological and historical significance and, if they are determined eligible for the NRHP, included in future reports.



*Figure 12: Painting of Fort Owen completed in 1865 by visitor to the fort, Peter Tofft.*

This is the seventh cycle for our required biennial report. All six previous reports have identified a significant need for additional qualified heritage staff and funding within FWP. While this has improved with the addition of a second heritage specialist in 2022, the task of stewarding many hundreds of resources across a vast geographic area is still considerable. Despite this challenge, FWP's heritage specialists continue to work diligently toward the best possible stewardship outcomes, using dedicated park staff, community partnerships, broad-based funding efforts, and expanded interpretation and education to build an invested and aware public. We welcome ongoing advocacy from heritage partners and organizations as FWP continues to improve our stewardship of the remarkable cultural resources we manage on behalf of the people of Montana.

## **Fish, Wildlife and Parks' Strategic Planning and Visitation**

FWP continues to operate under the 2020-2024 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), completed in December 2019. This document is a vital guide for statewide recreation planning, providing an updated roadmap for the enhancement of Montana's ongoing outdoor recreation legacy through our public and private partners. To that end, it identifies six overarching goals, one of which is to "Honor Montana's Outdoor Legacy." That goal includes the following recommendation: "Protect and preserve historic sites and heritage resources." With this specific goal, the SCORP is clearly acknowledging the important role that cultural resources play in Montana's outdoor recreation legacy and in our modern recreation industry.

In 2020-2021, State Parks created "Foundation Documents" for each of its parks, designed to build on previous strategic planning efforts and provide a clear backbone for each park that focuses on its primary purpose and goals. For our identified "heritage" parks (listed in Table 4), the primary among these goals continues to be cultural resource preservation and interpretation for the public.

For those of our parks known and marketed for their heritage value, visitation over the past two years is summarized in Table 4. Between 2019, before the Covid-19 pandemic, and 2023, the officially designated heritage state parks have experienced a 19.4% increase in annual visitation. Before 2020, Bannack and Pictograph Cave were consistently the most visited heritage parks, but since 2020 Travelers' Rest and Missouri Headwaters have had as many or more visitors, likely the result of ongoing population increases in and around Bozeman and Missoula. Other notable leaps in visitation have been occurring at Madison Buffalo Jump and Council Grove State Parks, which exemplify a common trend toward increased visitation at heritage parks for non-heritage reasons, including dog walking, hiking, and biking. These visitation data offer us a vital management perspective on human impacts and on future planning for these parks. Clearly demand for heritage tourism in Montana continues to increase, and creating sustainable trails, facilities, and interpretive opportunities to protect these parks and facilitate their visitation is increasingly important.

Table 4. 2022-2023 Visitation Summary for Heritage Parks, sorted by highest 2023 visitation.

PARK	2022	2023	Notes
Travelers' Rest	61,921	69,908	
Bannack	53,079	66,634	<i>No data reported Jan, Feb, April, May, Aug, Sep 2023</i>
Missouri Headwaters	53,669	56,436	
Pictograph Cave	50,180	41,611	<i>No data reported Oct. 2023</i>
Madison Buffalo Jump	19,518	35,467	<i>No data reported July, Aug. 2022</i>
Council Grove	30,218	35,333	
First Peoples Buffalo Jump	25,863	25,587	
Chief Plenty Coups	22,076	23,610	<i>No data reported July, Dec. 2023</i>
Tower Rock	14,155	9,292	
Rosebud Battlefield	13,208	8,633	
Granite Ghost Town	N/A	4,739	<i>No data reported Jan-May 2023, Dec. 2023</i>
Fort Owen	5,736	3,888	<i>No data reported Nov, Dec. 2023 (closed for Winter)</i>
Clark's Lookout	4,163	2,418	<i>No data reported Jan-May, Aug, Sep, Nov, Dec 2023</i>
Beaverhead Rock	888	173	<i>No data reported Jan-May 2023, Sept-Dec. 2023</i>
Anaconda Smokestack	13,500	N/A	<i>No data reported ALL 2023</i>
Elkhorn	N/A	N/A	<i>No data</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>368,174</b>	<b>383,729</b>	

## Heritage Program Accomplishments

FWP released a strategic plan for the State Parks Heritage Program in 2017. The plan lays out tasks and goals for improving and enhancing the Heritage Program from 2017 to 2024, with set tasks to be accomplished each year. Plan goals focus on four areas: funding and partnerships, management and protection of resources, artifact collections and data management, and interpretation of heritage sites. Table 5 summarizes Heritage Program goals and their status, including those outlined in the strategic plan.

Table 5. Heritage Program Goals, Progress and Prioritization

Goal	Status	2020-2021 progress	Next Steps for 2022-2023	Priority	Original Year for Completion	Proposed Year of Completion	Still an Appropriate Goal?
Develop an internal Heritage Leadership Team comprising Heritage Program staff and regional field representation to identify needs for heritage resources policy, best practices, inventory, and staff training	Ongoing	Charter drafted; members approached; plans upset by Covid and FWP reorganization	Finalize charter and membership, hold first meetings	1	2017	2024	Yes
Consolidate collections data into a centralized platform that is accessible to all parks and develop inventory procedures to better enable tracking, curation, and exhibit development	Ongoing	All PastPerfect data gathered, conversations with FWP IT and PastPerfect reps underway	Work with FWP IT and PastPerfect reps on implementation; ensure adequate funding	2	2019	2024	Yes
Develop site-specific emergency protocols for Bannack, Chief Plenty Coups, First Peoples Buffalo Jump, Giant Springs, Makoshika, Missouri Headwaters, Pictograph Cave, Travelers' Rest, Madison Buffalo Jump, Medicine Rocks, Milltown and Rosebud Battlefield	Ongoing	Developed enhanced fire protocols at Bannack; flood protocols for Plenty Coups in place; initial Pictograph rockfall safety study complete	Formal Pictograph rockfall safety and preservation assessment; complete MSU Rosebud fuel reduction study	3	2018	2025	Yes
Work with heritage partners and universities to develop new and enhance existing training for heritage park staff	Ongoing	Heritage resources including flowchart of heritage compliance, jurisdiction of heritage laws, etc. developed; Enhanced cultural resource AmeriCorps training implemented 2020-2023; Adobe training at Fort Owen;	Continue developing paleontology training w/MoR; Encourage staff participation in SHPO trainings	4	2020	Ongoing	Yes

		staff training/observation of archaeological inventories statewide					
Conduct professional-level heritage resource inventories for cultural resources that have not been studied or inventoried, focusing first on suspected NHLs or NRHPs. Work towards documenting known sites that have yet to be fully recorded.	Ongoing	3 phases of Sluice Boxes survey complete from 2020-2023; archaeological field school at Missouri Headwaters; Geophysical survey completed at Rosebud; inventory of new parcel at FPBJ; recorded Conclow Allotment and sites at Big Snowies WMA	Post-burn inventory at Rosebud; NHRP nomination for Albright ghost town within Sluice Boxes; prioritize inventories on other FWP lands	5	2024	Ongoing	Yes
Update and expand NHL and NRHP nominations, where needed and appropriate, to document Montana's diversity, past and present	Ongoing	Finalized and submitted NHL Letter of Inquiry for Fort Owen and St. Mary's emphasizing Salish and cultural diversity;2022 SKC field school at Missouri Headwaters to record indigenous presence for future NHL update	Ethnohistories at Bannack on Chinese-Americans and Native Americans at Bannack; Ethnography with all twelve Montana tribes about Missouri Headwaters and First Peoples Buffalo Jump	6	N/A	Ongoing	Yes
Prepare alternative management solutions and partnerships for ongoing management and maintenance of the Anaconda Stack, Beaverhead Rock, Clark's Lookout, Council Grove, Elkhorn, Fort Owen, Granite, and Tower Rock	Ongoing	Completed major Fort Owen revitalization with Parks Foundation and Friends, Helmsley Trust, MHPG grant etc.; Steele-Reese grant for Elkhorn's structural foundations	Planning for Anaconda Stack - working with community members and parks staff; Complete implementation of structural stabilization	7	2019	Ongoing	Yes

			for Elkhorn buildings; Continue to pursue partnerships for managing Granite, including community members and Preserve Montana				
Formalize a site monitoring program for significant cultural resources	Ongoing	Site monitors active in several parks	Develop a formal program to integrate monitors with BLM/Project Archaeology site stewardship program	8	2021	2025	Yes
Identify innovative, culturally sensitive, and relevant methods to enhance visitor connections with heritage resources that promote stewardship ethics and expand appreciation of the resource	Ongoing	Annual heritage projects with AmeriCorps members statewide resulting in interpretive materials and programming; Fort Owen Interpretive Plan and interpretive exhibits update; Increased efforts at media coverage of Parks Heritage including Plenty Coups, Rosebud, Fort Owen	Interpretive updates at Conclow Fishing Access Site; interpretive updates at various sites on the Missouri River; ongoing interpretive updates at Granite and Elkhorn	9	2021	Ongoing	Yes
Develop web-based "museum" for heritage parks to make artifacts and photograph collections accessible to the public and cultural resource professionals	Ongoing	All PastPerfect data gathered, conversations with FWP IT and PastPerfect reps underway	Once all data is in PastPerfect Online, develop process to avoid displaying sensitive items before activating online museum	10	2021	2024	Yes

Develop protocols to enhance recruitment of managers with knowledge, skills, and abilities specific to heritage resources	Ongoing	N/A	Pursue hiring committee involvement; position description updates	11	2019	Ongoing	Yes
Pursue and establish partnerships for interagency Heritage Programming with other related heritage sites on city, county, and federal lands	Ongoing	Online event with MSU on First Peoples; MOR programming using FWP-found fossils; community partnerships on Granite and Elkhorn interpretation and wayfinding; partnership with Salish Qlispe Culture Committee, St Mary's Mission and other partners on Fort Owen interpretation	Continue partnerships with communities at Elkhorn and Granite; continue partnerships with THPOs on interpretive materials	12	2020	Ongoing	Yes
Develop protocols to display collections with security and temperature-control equipment at visitor centers for public enjoyment and education	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2018	N/A	No; most parks do not have appropriate curatorial infrastructure and/or staff expertise
Conduct a status audit of existing documentation of cultural resources, including research and investigations, operations, management and protection concerns and protocols.	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	N/A	2019	N/A	Yes

Upon completion of protocols at visitor centers and as part of consolidating collection data, establish lending agreements with other facilities to improve staff access to artifacts for park-based use	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2019	None	No; most parks do not have appropriate curatorial infrastructure and/or staff expertise
Develop standards of care for historic buildings and cultural resources based on the Secretary of the Interior's standards	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2020	None	No; the Secretary's Standards and related NPS bulletins are sufficient.
Develop a solution and schedule for maintaining heritage resource spatial data that is consistent and compatible with the facility management system and SHPO standards	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	COMPLETE	N/A	2020	N/A	Yes
Complete interpretive plans for Bannack and Makoshika. Prioritize other cultural resources that need interpretive plans developed or updated.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2022	None	No; Not a Heritage Program-specific goal.



## FWP Heritage Resource Program Components

FWP's Heritage Program consists of two Heritage Specialists who meet the Secretary of the Interior's Qualifications for Archaeology. Our responsibilities (see Figure 13) most prominently include ensuring all projects within FWP proceed in compliance with cultural resource law. This includes surveying for and recording cultural resources and hiring consultants to complete appropriate surveys when they are larger or more complex than can be accomplished by the heritage specialists alone. We consult on the results of these surveys and the significance of sites we may find with the SHPO and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPO). Because Montana's Antiquities Act includes paleontological and cultural resources together, the Heritage Program manages paleontological resources on FWP lands, as well. The Heritage Program also applies for and manages grants for historic preservation and heritage stewardship, collaborates on FWP strategic planning efforts, develops, and manages agreements and partnerships with friends' groups, tribal partners, other agencies, and universities, manages our artifact and paleontological collections, oversees site monitoring programs, and collaborates with FWP staff on interpretive signs, exhibits and materials.



Figure 13: Program components and duties within FWP's Heritage Program.

- FWP's Heritage Program continues to develop tools and frameworks to facilitate and improve the agency's compliance with heritage laws and regulation, and to incorporate heritage concerns more fully into FWP's management and decision-making processes across all property types. These efforts have resulted in the following:
- The FWP Heritage Program was shifted to the stewardship and maintenance bureau within the Parks and Recreation division as part of the agency's reorganization efforts over 2021-2022. In addition, one full-time heritage specialist position was added in July 2022. The program now oversees all heritage-related duties across all FWP property types not just parks. The western

heritage specialist (Rachel Reckin) is based in Helena and the eastern heritage specialist (Brenna Moloney) is based in Billings (see Figure 2).

- Building on the tribal consultation guidelines highlighted in the 2020-2021 report, the FWP Heritage Program and Tribal Relations and Diversity Coordinator hosted the agency's first annual tribal historic preservation officer summit in April 2023.
- Using the simplified compliance flowchart for FWP projects discussed in the previous biennium report, FWP's heritage specialists began integrating that into agency wide trainings for MEPA, new employee orientations, employee brown bag sessions, etc. in an effort to raise intra-agency awareness on the critical role of heritage in the agency's mission.
- FWP's heritage specialists continue to update and improve the spreadsheet summarizing heritage grants and funding opportunities that was first reported in the 2020-2021 report.
- The FWP Heritage Program hosted its first AmeriCorps member. Based in Billings and directly supervised by the eastern heritage specialist, the AmeriCorps member assisted with fieldwork and conducted research on heritage properties across the state. One major accomplishment of the member's term of service was the creation of an internal list of all previously recorded cultural resources across all FWP properties which will lay foundation for future site monitoring, preservation planning, and interpretive development.



*Figure 14. FWP's 2022 Heritage Program AmeriCorps member Hunter Sickerson (front) assisted FWP's heritage specialists with fieldwork and research across the state during his ten-month term of service.*

## Heritage Compliance

Fish, Wildlife and Parks developed and approved Administrative Rules in 1996 to comply with the Montana State Antiquities Act (ARM 12.8.501 to 12.8.510). To facilitate compliance and to help educate park managers on heritage responsibilities, the former Heritage Program Manager developed a *State Parks Heritage Resource Manual* in 2010 and distributed it to all heritage parks and regional offices. The manual, which has been updated in intervening years, includes chapters on heritage resource laws, proper artifact care, emergency site discovery procedures, and survey and excavation protocols. FWP has also adopted policies on artifact collection and artifact deaccessioning. In 2020, the Heritage Program developed and disseminated a streamlined flowchart of the heritage compliance process for all FWP staff, particularly recreation managers and maintenance personnel.

The Heritage Program developed a heritage compliance request form in 2014, which is sent to all regional park managers and park managers in an annual call for projects proposed on FWP lands with the potential to impact cultural resources. This call has generally gone out in the early spring. FWP staff then fill out the project request form, which includes project location, project description and a map of planned activities. The form is submitted by mid-March before the field season begins, and the Heritage Program then reviews and prioritizes projects in terms of schedule, funding, and need. The Heritage Program maintains an ongoing status spreadsheet of compliance projects underway in each calendar year, documenting fieldwork, SHPO and THPO consultation, and any monitoring needs.

For projects where large-scale surveys or test excavations are required, FWP typically hires private consultants. These firms have the workforce capacity, technical equipment, and laboratory space to process, analyze and document large archaeological sites or evaluate complex historic structures. Smaller projects that can be completed by the Heritage Program are done in-house. For surveys completed in-house, we prepare and submit reports to the regional park office, the park, the Montana SHPO and relevant THPOs. Consultants follow the same process, with the heritage specialists having the first opportunity to review their work. FWP currently maintains an open services contract with nine heritage consultants, which lessens the time and energy associated with the contracting process and provides FWP with a variety of expert consultants to choose from.

For most projects, the Heritage Program consults with the Montana SHPO after cultural resource inventories are complete and prior to project implementation, to ask for concurrence with the amount and type of survey, and any recommendations of eligibility for the NRHP. If a National Historic Landmark or an NRHP-listed property could be impacted by a proposed project, the Heritage Program consults with SHPO on the proposed inventory design or contractor scope of work prior to hiring a contractor or completing any fieldwork. Then consultation occurs again once the inventory is complete. This helps ensure that FWP is managing our NHL and NRHP-listed cultural resources appropriately. FWP also commonly consults with SHPO during the planning stages of complex projects, when questions arise concerning site testing, mitigation or building preservation strategies.

In 2020, FWP adopted its first formal Tribal Consultation Guidelines, developed by the Heritage Program. These guidelines ask FWP to consult with relevant THPOs on all projects with the potential to impact cultural resources, planning efforts and interpretive materials involving Indigenous peoples. The Heritage specialists consult with THPOs generally at the same time as SHPO consultation occurs, as outlined above. In spring 2023, FWP hosted a summit with Montana's THPOs to discuss our consultation practices. At that meeting, THPOs expressed interest in having periodic consultation meetings with Heritage specialists in which a variety of projects are discussed, to streamline the number of consultation packets they receive. We have been working to implement this process with interested THPOs. In addition, FWP created a Tribal Relations and Diversity Coordinator position that assists with tribal consultation for larger-scale, complex planning efforts or other types of projects across the agency.

## **Research and Site Evaluations**

As part of FWP's stewardship of our cultural resources, we seek to facilitate meaningful research into the resources we manage that may illuminate aspects of Montana's past, improve our interpretive offerings, and allow us to better steward the resources we manage. In the last biennium, notable research efforts have included donation-funded research into Rosebud Battlefield's missing U.S. Army soldiers' mass grave, paleontological research at Makoshika by Museum of the Rockies, extensive archaeological research at Fort Owen, and new excavations at Chief Plenty Coups and Elkhorn State Parks related to historic preservation work.

In May 2023, FWP's heritage specialist for Eastern Montana, Brenna Moloney, partnered with the Crow THPO on archaeological testing within the project area prior to the initialization of construction work at Chief Plenty Coups State Park (described in the *Heritage Stewardship* section of this report). Montana State Archaeologist, Jessica Bush, also participated in the dig as did one AmeriCorps member, and numerous community and FWP staff volunteers. Five tribal cultural specialists were trained in archaeological excavation methods and FWP gifted the THPO office with three archaeological dig kits, which included three sifting screens. Artifacts including lithic flakes and historic materials like glass, beads, building materials, ceramics, and other objects were recovered in proximity to both the store and the Chief's house. FWP heritage specialist Brenna Moloney and the Crow THPO office will begin processing artifacts in February 2024.



*Figure 15. FWP heritage specialist, Brenna Moloney (center), and Crow THPO, Aaron Brien (right), instruct Crow tribal cultural specialists on archaeological testing methods.*



*Figure 16. Crow THPO Aaron Brien with excavation kits and sifting screens gifted to his office from FWP.*



Figure 17. MT State Archaeologist, Jessica Bush, and FWP employee Jenn Hersom excavate a test unit.

The Heritage Program also persist in our goal to record unrecorded cultural resources and evaluate cultural resources possibly eligible for the NRHP or for NHL status to better understand the significance of the cultural resources we manage, and more effectively prioritize their stewardship needs. In the last biennium, the most significant of these efforts included ongoing survey at Sluice Boxes State Park, systematically recording its significant historic features, including railroad trestles and tunnels. We also recorded the Conclow Indian Allotment and the mountaineering memorial at Yellow Bay State Park as heritage properties.

Rosebud Battlefield, or Where the Girl Saved Her Brother (24BH2461) is an NHL commemorating the first major battle of the Great Sioux War, fought in 1876 between the US Army and a coalition of Lakota and Cheyenne warriors. In 2021, FWP established a partnership with Dr. Douglas Scott of Colorado Mesa University to search for the remains of nine U.S. Army soldiers who died during the Battle of the Rosebud. This effort was continued in 2023, with an Archaeological Human Remains Detection Dog (AHRDD) survey in July coupled with opportunistic metal detecting and limited soil probing of the geophysical anomalies identified in 2021. This effort resulted in the tentative identification of the location of the soldiers' mass grave and the grave of a young Shoshone scout. While the final technical report is still under review by FWP's Heritage Program, an article co-authored by Dr. Scott and Brenna Moloney will be published in the forthcoming issue of *Archaeology in Montana*.

The archaeological overview of Rosebud Battlefield by Dr. Scott funded through a \$50,000 donation from the Lee and Donna Metcalf Charitable trust is also in its final phases, with the final draft currently

under review by FWP’s Heritage Program. This project combines Indigenous oral histories, historic U.S. Army accounts, and the results of all previous artifact collection and formal archaeology in the park to provide FWP with our clearest-ever image of the events of the battle, and where they occurred on the landscape. This research will eventually be adapted into high-quality interpretive materials for the park.



*Figure 18. Hawk, a AHRDD trained to detect burials over 75 years of age and low-odor surface remains, alerts his handler, Melissa Kindt, to a “hit” during survey at Rosebud Battlefield State Park in July 2023.*



*Figure 19. A researcher checks the location of Hawk's "hit" with a metal detector. A soil sample was also collected at each location alerted to by the AHRDD and the data compared to previous geophysical survey results.*

In addition, many of FWP's cultural resources currently listed on the NRHP or as NHLs were listed in the 1960s and 1970s, and their documentation is insufficient to their significance. Missouri Headwaters' NHL listing, for example, is based entirely on the Corps of Discovery's passage through the park rather than the thousands of years of Indigenous history the park represents as one of North America's major crossroads. To work toward updating this listing, we have begun a multi-year effort to better understand the park's ethnographic significance and its precontact archaeology. In 2022, the Salish Kootenai College undertook an archaeological field school in the park, funded with a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. In addition, we have begun the process with the National Park Service of considering Fort Owen for listing as a National Historic Landmark district along with adjacent St. Mary's Mission. Fort Owen and St. Mary's Mission together are nationally significant as a tightly linked, culturally diverse secular and religious community that shaped each phase of the Inland Northwest's mid-to-late nineteenth century history.

Bannack State Park and NHL continues to provide some of the nation's finest opportunities for public engagement for historic preservation and stewardship. Several research projects were initiated in 2022-2023 including the following: Dr. Sally Thompson, author and UM assistant professor, is conducting ethno-historical research and interviews with members of the Shoshone-Bannock tribe about traditional land uses within the Park as well as oral historical accounts of important events. Mark Johnson, author of *The Middle Kingdom Under the Big Sky*, is continuing a research project into early Chinese settlers to Bannack that will include analysis of Chinese-related artifacts in the Park's collection and archival research. Lastly, FWP has developed a scope of work for a reconnaissance level inventory that will map and describe all previously identified features within the park older than 50 years of age (architectural and archaeological). This site update and the research work will be integrated into an updated interpretive plan and will lay the groundwork for an eventual NHL nomination update.

FWP continues to partner with Montana State University's Museum of the Rockies on the paleontological resources found on FWP properties, including the remarkable fossils of Makoshika. In 2022-2023 the Museum of the Rockies field activity consisted of excavating the "Diane" theropod site in the Hell Creek Formation exposed near the Diane Gabriel Trail, prospecting for new specimens in the Cains Coulee region near Diane Gabriel Trail and checking the condition of the winterized "Hungry Joe" turtle in the Fort Union Formation near the Eyeful Vista Point. Several new elements from the skeleton of "Diane" were collected including an articulated left foot, claws of the left hand, a left radius, a partial left leg, articulated gastralia and partial pubis, caudal vertebrae, a possible sacrum, dissociated bones of the right foot, and several unidentified elements. This specimen is significant as it preserves articulated material from a mid-sized theropod. Nine new sites were discovered during prospecting in the Cains Coulee region near the "Diane" site and consist primarily of isolated bones, or microsite material. One locality, "Brook", consisted of a hadrosaur cervical vertebra and was collected in a small plaster jacket. The "Hungry Joe" turtle site, situated approximately ¼ mile from the Eyeful Vista Point near the Switchback Trail, was found to have weathered the winter well and did not require reburial.





*Figure 20. MOR Paleontology Lab and Field Manager Lee Hall (center) and students from the 2022 field school excavating dinosaur fossil remains at Makoshika State Park.*

## **Collections and Records Management**

The largest collections of artifacts and paleontological resources from FWP are held at the Bureau of Land Management’s Billings Curation Center, the University of Montana, the Museum of the Rockies, the Montana Historical Society, and the McFarland Curation Center in Virginia City. A few of our most complex heritage parks manage their own collections, as well; these include Bannack (24BE0169), Chief Plenty Coups (24BH2179), First Peoples (24CA1012), Makoshika (24DW0079), and Pictograph Cave (24YL0001, 24YL0002). These parks all use PastPerfect museum software and continue to work toward entering their full collections into this system. AmeriCorps members at parks like Bannack and Makoshika have assisted with artifact data entry.

The expansion of the Heritage Program to incorporate all FWP-managed sites, not just state parks, has resulted in a few changes to our curation and records management processes. FWP’s two Heritage specialists now have access to the SHPO statewide database. In 2023, our Heritage Program AmeriCorps member went through that database and downloaded all relevant reports and site forms he could find for each FWP-owned property. He also created a spreadsheet of all known heritage properties on FWP-owned properties. A variety of artifact collections from Wildlife Management Areas and Fishing Access Sites have been coming back to the Heritage Program from various locations since FWP’s reorganization. We are working to get those artifacts cataloged and curated appropriately. FWP is developing a new policy providing guidance for external institutions who curate artifacts and paleontological remains from FWP-owned properties.

Four highlights from our collections work in 2022-2023 include the renewal of our MOA with the Museum of the Rockies (MOR), which clarified how fossil specimens could be deaccessioned and other policies. We are now working with curation staff at the MOR to inventory archaeological artifacts and establish an agreement about their storage or transfer. In addition, in Fall 2023 a large private collection of artifacts from the Rosebud Battlefield was transferred to FWP, as was a collection of soil samples and artifacts from testing conducted on Pirogue Island in the 1990s previously held at the BLM office in Miles City. Both collections are being processed for transfer to the BLM Curation Center in Billings. Lastly, in 2023 FWP's Heritage Program began a long-term project that will catalog each of the structures at Bannack in the park's PastPerfect database. With methodological guidance from architectural curators at the Henry Ford, the buildings are being photographed and accessioned, then all maintenance and other records associated with the structures entered into the database. By treating the structures as material culture objects or artifacts, we hope to better track and monitor changes made to the buildings over time.

## Property Status and Condition

Information concerning the status and condition of cultural resources within FWP-owned properties is provided in Table 2. SHPO now requires condition assessment forms for any new site added or if a site's status and condition changes. As a result, we are including four *Heritage Property Reporting Forms* as an appendix to this report (Appendix B) for four cultural resources on which we have not previously reported: Conclow Indian Allotment (24LA0356) at the Conclow Fishing Access Site, Brogan's Landing (24PA0195), the precontact stone ring site (24GV0336) at the Big Snowy Wildlife Management Area, and the Miles City Depot (24CR0920). FWP staff's limited capacity to monitor sites threatens the integrity and condition of all FWP-managed resources discussed here. Increasing visitation at FWP sites makes the threat of site damage more likely as illegal trespass, ATV use and camping continues to rise. FWP is attempting to meet that need through AmeriCorps volunteers, the site stewardship program, friends groups, and other invested local partners who want to see our heritage protected.



Figure 21: Historic structures at the Flathead Lake Fish Hatchery.

Of the 78 heritage properties discussed in this report, 44 maintain a satisfactory status, 19 are listed in a watch status, and eight are in a threatened status. The remainder are unknown. Sites with a “satisfactory” status are those that have limited threats of vandalism, infringement from development or pending construction nearby. Cultural resources in a “watch” status include sites at Missouri Headwaters (24GA0212 and 24GA0402), where infringing development around the site and a highway running through it damage the site’s visual integrity. Other “watch” cultural resources include the isolated Superintendent’s House at Granite (24GN0366), the Morony Dam construction camp within Giant Springs (24CA0289), the Logan Marshall Homestead (24LA0269) on Cedar Island, and Fraternity (24JF0477) and Gillian Halls (24JF2109) at Elkhorn. Vandalism and decay due to building age are problematic at all five sites. The Anaconda Smokestack (24DL0290) is in “watch” status because an increasing number of bricks become dislodged each year. Madison Buffalo Jump (24GA0314) has seen years of illegal artifact collecting that began in the 1930s, and social trails are causing damage that FWP is seeking to remedy with a recent reclamation project.

In terms of overall site integrity and condition, 30 of the included cultural resources are in “good” condition (see Table 2). These sites maintain their integrity and remain undamaged by incompatible landscape development or other damage. Twenty-three sites are in “fair” condition and have witnessed some change or alteration but maintain their basic integrity. Fifteen sites are in “poor” or unknown condition, meaning they have lost many of the basic features that gave them significance. One site, the Stedman Foundry (24LC1273), presently used for Montana Wild, is in “excellent” condition.

Ten cultural resources managed by FWP are considered threatened, and five are in poor condition. Three sites within Rosebud Battlefield are considered threatened though they are in good or fair condition because the state does not own the mineral rights beneath the park’s surface. Energy development within the park could destroy important features of the battlefield, the bison jump and petroglyphs, or the homestead. In addition, a buildup of dense vegetation cover also threatens these sites at the Rosebud Battlefield because it exposes them to wildfire risk.

The precontact campsite 24ME0075, located at the Camp Baker boat launch on the Smith River, is threatened by high numbers of visitors, though it is currently in fair condition. A project to stabilize the bank adjacent to the site occurred in 2022, and reduced the threat of erosion that was washing some of the site’s archaeology into the river.

The Gallatin City II Hotel in Missouri Headwaters State Park is listed as threatened and in poor condition as it is without a roof and in danger of complete collapse despite stabilization efforts in 2015. Current development plans for Missouri Headwaters include plans to reconstruct this structure as it was in approximately 1875 for interpretive use. Research is underway in contract with historic architect Lesley Gilmore to understand the structure’s history and how it looked in the 1870s. The other two sites in poor condition are the Campbell Homestead and Madison Mill at Missouri Headwaters, as there are very few remaining features within these two sites.

The Belt Creek Railway in Sluice Boxes State Park is listed as threatened and in poor condition because the railroad grade and constructed features that the park has long used as a hiking route are failing, and their remote location and complex engineering makes stabilization expensive.

The Miner's Union Hall within Granite Ghost Town State Park is threatened and in poor condition; it has already lost its roof and upper story, and the side walls of the structure, its final standing substantive component, are not well supported.

The NRHP eligible River Side Site (24PA0195) is precontact camp at Brogan's Landing FAS in Park County that was severely damaged by the catastrophic Yellowstone River flood in June 2022. It is threatened and in poor condition. Floodwaters washed away the FAS access road and parking lot, destroying the FAS and exposing the site's hearth features. The FAS is now closed to the public permanently. FWP and the USFS are currently developing a plan to salvage diagnostic materials from the site. Other cultural resources at FASs and WMAs on the Yellowstone and Stillwater Rivers may have been affected by the flooding and by the oil spill of 2023, but their status is unknown as FWP lacks the capacity to field verify their condition.

## **Heritage Stewardship**

Table 3 lists the efforts of FWP regarding the administration, stewardship, and preservation of our evaluated sites. Sites are listed by region. Table 3 shows FWP expenditures for categories including staff time, operations and maintenance costs, heritage preservation and research efforts. The sections below elaborate on our stewardship efforts for 2022-2023, organized by region.

### *Region 1 Stewardship*

#### Flathead Lake Islands WHPA

FWP created a new management plan for islands within Flathead Lake designated as Wildlife Habitat Protection Areas. This plan is intended to clarify goals and guidance for future use of the islands as they experience ever-intensifying recreational use. The plan created designated campsites, installed two toilets, and developed mitigation measures intended to better protect the NRHP-eligible series of cultural resources on Cedar Island collectively recorded as the Logan Marshall Homestead (24LA0269). This site includes six outbuildings, the remains of a historic orchard, a boulder pier and a substantial, craftsman-style main house built in 1928.

#### Conclow Fishing Access Site

FWP recorded and undertook extensive research to better understand the history of the Conclow Indian Allotment (24LA0356), located near Dayton on Flathead Lake. This extremely rare site is home to an Indian Allotment occupied by Kootenai family the Conclows in the early 20th Century with very few modern intrusions. In consultation with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, we renamed the FAS where the homestead is located for the Conclow Family and began developing plans to preserve the homestead's main house and large barn and interpret the site's important history for the public.

Stabilization efforts will begin with initial plans to stop the wracking of the barn, and longer-term plans to fully preserve the house, which was built by Kootenai tribal members Christine and Martin Conclow before 1910.

### Lone Pine State Park

New interpretive signage installed at Lone Pine State Park highlights the area's Indigenous history and includes Salish and Kootenai languages. Interpretive events and programming at Lone Pine also focused on interpreting Indigenous culture and history.

### *Region 2 Stewardship*

### Council Grove State Park

Council Grove State Park memorializes the 1855 Hellgate Treaty, a seminal moment in Montana history when the Salish, Kootenai, and Pend d'Oreille met in treaty council with Washington Territorial Governor Isaac Stevens. The park is eligible for listing on the NRHP. In 2019, park management obtained a \$5,000 grant from the U.S. Forest Service to pursue updated interpretation in the park through partnership with the Selis-Qlispe Culture Committee, and this process is ongoing. The goal is to align the park experience more fully with the significance and the deeper history of the campsite, including its traditional use by Indigenous peoples well before the Hellgate Treaty.

### Fort Owen State Park

Fort Owen State Park (24RA0148) encompasses the remains of a trading post that was a commercial and agricultural hub for the Inland Northwest from the 1850s through the 1870s. In partnership with the State Parks Foundation and the Friends of Fort Owen, NRHP-listed Fort Owen State Park received \$623,000 in grant funding from the Rapp Family Foundation, the Montana Historic Preservation Grant Program, the Montana History Foundation, and the Helmsley Family Trust. These funds were used to acquire 0.9 acres of land, create a new parking area to deal with access problems, create a new interpretive plan and fully re-design the park's interpretive signage, and preserve Fort Owen's historic structures, which are some of the oldest in Montana. This project has been underway since 2020 and came to a close in 2023.



*Figure 22: Adobe-making at Fort Owen for the first time in 157 years. The East Barracks (1857), Montana's third-oldest standing structure, is in the background.*



*Figure 23: Completed adobe preservation on the East Wall of the East Barracks, originally built in 1857. Masonry preservation and new adobe fabrication by Zoula Masonry, LLC.*

Portions of this important work completed during 2022-2023 include extensive research into adobe preservation in collaboration with the Friends of Fort Owen, and development of construction plans for the East Barracks with historic architect Lesley Gilmore. Historic preservation work on the East Barracks included production of hundreds of adobe bricks using historic methods; repairing and repointing adobe, including removal of cementitious parging, patches, and slurry; repairing and repointing concrete block; treatment of wood with protective clear coating; and flashing work at two chimneys. We discovered that a concrete apron installed in the 1940s at the base of the original adobe wall was causing damage to the adobe, so we removed that apron and rebuilt the lower courses of the adobe wall, installed a drainpipe and gravel fill to improve drainage on the east side of the building, and undertook repairs to the adobe inside the buildings, as well.

Prior to the drainage work, Dan Hall and Western Cultural, Inc., undertook archaeological excavations on the east side of the East Barracks to assess the foundation of the East Barracks and find an appropriate location for a yard drain. We found that the original 1850s cobble foundation was still present, and still structurally sound, beneath the east wall of the East Barracks. We also found what may be the foundations of the fort's famous icehouse, complete with a hand-forged pick that may have been an ice pick.

We spent nearly a year developing an interpretive plan for Fort Owen through a contract with Field to Frame, Inc. This process included an in-person tribal consultation meeting at the fort on June 8, 2022, meetings with local high school students and a large steering committee, including representatives from the Salish Qlispe Culture Committee, the Friends of Fort Owen, and St Mary's Mission. The resulting 140-page interpretive plan outlines interpretive themes and stories for the park, outlines where interpretive signs and other materials will go, and provides recommendations to improve the visitor experience.

After the plan was completed, FWP hired Field to Frame to help implement the plan through the development of new interior and exterior interpretive panels for the fort. These panels were developed by a smaller steering committee, and include Salish artwork, many historical photos, and paintings, and tell the story of all the people who lived at Fort Owen, not just John Owen himself. Fort Owen will have a grand opening, showcasing the new interpretive exhibits, in spring 2024.

The National Park Service has accepted a Letter of Inquiry for Fort Owen and St Mary's Mission, proposing that they be listed together as a National Historic Landmark. In summer 2023, NPS representatives from the Heritage Partnerships Program visited Fort Owen and St Mary's as part of this process.



*Figure 24: One of the paintings created by Stevensville artist Megan Hanson for the new interpretive panels at Fort Owen.*

### Travelers' Rest State Park

Travelers' Rest State Park (24MO0176) is home to the first archaeologically verified Lewis and Clark campsite and was a crossroads for Indigenous peoples including the Salish, Pend d'Oreille, Kootenai and Nez Perce for thousands of years. It is one of 24 National Historic Landmarks in Montana. Travelers' Rest continues to be one of the state's premiere parks for heritage interpretive programming, including events celebrating Indigenous art, Indigenous games for kids, and demonstrations of traditional skills by Indigenous experts like Billy Maxwell and Buck Morigeau. Many of these events occur in coordination with the Travelers' Rest Connection, which is the very active friends' group for the park. On Saturdays through the winter months, the park hosts storytelling events that include topics like the region's archaeological record, Salish storytelling and local ecology. More than 1,500 students visit Travelers' Rest every year on field trips, learning about the Corps of Discovery, Indigenous cultures and often playing traditional games.





*Figure 25: School kids playing traditional games at Travelers' Rest State Park.*

### *Region 3 Stewardship*

#### Anaconda Smelter Stack State Park

The Anaconda Smelter Stack (24DL0290) is one of the world's largest free-standing brick structures, at 585 feet tall, and a vital landmark of Montana's mining heritage. In 2023, FWP replaced some of the stack's FAA lighting, required for air travel safety given the stack's height. In the 2023 legislative session FWP received funds to undertake a structural assessment of the stack, to begin in spring 2024.

#### Bannack State Park

Bannack State Park is Montana's first territorial capital and one of the West's best-preserved ghost towns, containing more than 100 historic structures. The Bannack Townsite Historic District (24BE0169) is an NHL and listed in the NRHP. Some of FWP's flagship interpretive events occur at Bannack each year, including Bannack Days, the Living History Program, and Bannack Ghost Walks. Each of these events offers visitors a remarkable opportunity to meaningfully engage with Montana history through interactive activities, reenactments, storytelling, and historic demonstrations. All these events occur in close partnership with friends group the Bannack Association, who also help fund an important Park Ranger position at Bannack.

Preservation at Bannack is a continuous effort where the replacement repair of roofs, siding, and foundations maintain the buildings and preserve the historic character of the site for future generations. Ongoing, vital historic preservation at Bannack in 2022 and 2023 included new fire-retardant cedar shingle roofs on the Gibson House, the Manager's house and office, and the firehouse. The use of shingles impregnated with fire retardant continues our efforts to make Bannack more defensible and resistant to wildfire.

FWP's approach to preservation at Bannack was newly articulated in 2022 with a *Historic Preservation Addendum*, prepared by FWP's Heritage Program in consultation with the Montana SHPO and the National Park Service. The addendum document is an update to the Park's 2001 Management Plan and is intended to clarify the Park's approach to building treatments. While the 2001 management plan did an excellent job of outlining a long-term vision and identifying Park goals, many of the terms used in the plan were unclear or are not commonly used in the field of historic preservation. Over the years, this has led to confusion, resulted in a loss of historic materials and an uneven application of treatments across the park.

Building on the spirit and intent of the 2001 plan, the new preservation addendum contains four points that define terms and elaborate the Park's general approach to building repair and maintenance. These four points are summarized below.

1. The approach at Bannack shall generally be *historic preservation*, as defined by the Secretary of the Interior.
2. When a feature or component can no longer be preserved, stabilized, or repaired, replacement in-kind shall be the next step. When in-kind replacement of any feature or element is required, it shall replicate the feature or element as it was during Bannack's period of significance (1862-1890).
3. Previous alterations were not always in-kind preservation actions and changed the historic character of structures and/or of the townsite. Where such alterations can be identified, and an element or feature can no longer be preserved, the element or feature will be restored to its appearance during Bannack's period of significance.
4. In some limited cases, *rehabilitation* may be undertaken at Bannack.

Three upcoming projects that were conceived with the preservation addendum as guidance are the re-siding of the Montana Hotel and repair of its exterior stairs and re-siding of the Church and the Masonic Temple/School. Previous siding projects at Bannack have either left the new wood siding unpainted or the siding has been treated with a clear preservative. While these approaches retain the look of abandonment that Bannack is well-known for, both approaches weather and degrade much more quickly than the historic materials and require frequent maintenance. For these projects, the replacement siding will be painted with a historically accurate finish and then allowed to weather, aging as the historic materials had.

In service to this goal, in July 2023, FWP's eastern heritage specialist, Brenna Moloney, joined the project's architect, Lesley Gilmore of Gilmore Franzen Consulting, to collect paint samples from these structures. The samples were sent to Welsh Color and Conservation, an expert in the field of historic paint analysis, who examined the paint samples. Their analysis determined the number of paint layers, the original color of the buildings (in this case, Zinc White), as well as paint composition, including pigments, binders, and other elements, present on the historic siding. This analysis will be used to match the earliest surface finishes used on the Montana Hotel, the Church, and Masonic Temple so that the replacement siding can be painted. In addition, the paint analysis report will be an important record of

the changes that were made to the buildings over time that can tell us how the city looked at different periods in the past. Though the original siding material may be lost, the information it contained will be preserved and will enrich our understanding of the past. While this may seem like a big change, FWP hopes that this long-term approach will protect and preserve the buildings and retain their character defining features.



*Figure 26. Architect Lesley Gilmore collects paint samples from the Masonic Temple while FWP maintenance staff member, Mike Kirsh, operates the hydraulic lift.*

### Brogan's Landing FAS

The NRHP eligible River Side Site (24PA0195) is precontact camp at Brogan's Landing FAS in Park County that was severely damaged by the catastrophic Yellowstone River flood of June 2022. Floodwaters washed away the FAS access road and parking lot, completely destroying the FAS and exposing the site's hearth features. The site straddles FWP and USFS property so in May 2023, USFS archaeologist Connie Constan and FWP heritage specialist Brenna Moloney visited 24PA0195 and collected charcoal and bone samples from the exposed hearths. The samples were transferred to archaeologist Dr. Jack Fisher, who will date and analyze them.

A second site visit by Ms. Moloney in October 2023 showed the site continuing to erode and in very poor condition. The FAS is now permanently closed to the public and FWP and the USFS are developing a plan to salvage additional materials from the site. Other cultural resources at FASs and WMAs on the Yellowstone and Stillwater Rivers may have been affected by the flooding and the 2023 Yellowstone river oil spill but their status is unknown as FWP currently lacks the capacity to field verify their condition.



*Figure 27. Charcoal eroding from a precontact hearth feature at the River Side Site (24PA0195) in the Brogan's Landing FAS. The FAS was destroyed in the 2022 Yellowstone flood.*

### Elkhorn State Park

Elkhorn State Park is made up of two historic buildings, Gillian Hall (24JF2109) and Fraternity Hall (24JF477), which sit side-by-side as the largest remaining structures from Elkhorn's late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century mining heyday. Both structures are tall and architecturally striking, with ornamented false fronts and large windows. In 2021, FWP was awarded \$30,000 from the Steele-Reese Foundation to undertake a formal engineering assessment of the foundations of both Fraternity and Gillian Halls. Both structures have rubble foundations that are settling unevenly, causing damage to floors and walls, and likely making the structures unstable in the long term. This formal contracted assessment began in fall 2021 and resulted in construction plans for needed foundational repairs in late 2022. Some of those repairs were implemented in summer 2023, including repointing the stone foundations and installing new French drains on the uphill sides of both structures. However, some of the interventions called for in the plans were not possible to implement without damaging the structures further, so additional assessment by structural engineers is still needed in 2024.

Prior to the installation of the new French drains, archaeologist Mitzi Rossillon excavated several units near the foundations of both structures and in their backyards and found what is likely a refuse pile from the butcher shop next door, as well as extensive liquor bottle deposits. She found, as we would expect, that there is not much evidence of cooking or large-scale food consumption at either building. They were known to be bars, livery stables, and meeting houses at various times in their history, so these findings are in keeping with our prior historical knowledge.

### Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park

Lewis and Clark Caverns State Park is home to a variety of cultural resources, including the NRHP-listed historic district (24JF2081) of Civilian Conservation Corps structures and buildings that gave the park its first tourism infrastructure. From 2021-2022, FWP replaced the roofs of the historic concessions building and visitor center with fire-retardant cedar shingles. The Caverns is well-known for its cave tours, which include detailed historical information about the park's development and its significant history as one of Montana's first well-known tourist attractions outside our National Parks.

### Madison Buffalo Jump State Park

Madison Buffalo Jump State Park preserves one of only a handful of publicly accessible buffalo jumps in Montana (24GA0314), vital cultural places where Indigenous peoples gathered to communally harvest buffalo. In 2021, FWP received a Montana Trail Stewardship Grant for \$26,115 to rehabilitate social trails and delineate a sustainable trail system at the park. This project was completed in 2022. In addition, FWP's Heritage Program continues to monitor the site and is participating in an agency working group currently planning updates to the park's interpretive and wayfinding signage.

### Missouri Headwaters State Park

Missouri Headwaters State Park is listed as a National Historic Landmark for its association with Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery (24GA0212) and was a precontact crossroads for thousands of years prior (24GA0402). FWP spent the past two years creating a development plan for Missouri Headwaters, gathering community input, and charting a path forward for the park as its visitation continues to increase. That process included two tribal gatherings at the park, one in spring 2022 and one in spring 2023. The development plan calls for construction of a visitor center and office building in the park, intended to provide indoor classroom space for interpretive programming and some interpretive exhibits, with additional outdoor exhibits. The development plan calls for the reconstruction of the Gallatin City II Hotel for use as an interpretive structure as part of these interpretive exhibits. Research is underway in contract with Lesley Gilmore to understand the structure's history, and how it looked in the 1870s when Gallatin City was active. Regional staff are also pursuing the purchase of the Hart property, a farm adjacent to the state park which contains several historic buildings, including a barn and outbuildings.

In 2022, FWP received a \$25,000 grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Telling the Full History grant program, which was used to fund an archaeological field school for the Salish Kootenai College. The college undertook survey of hundreds of acres within the park, providing students with valuable archaeological field experience while recording previously unknown precontact archaeological sites within the park. In addition, Dr. Tim Urbaniak came to the park and created a 3D model of the cave containing pictographs located on Fort Rock. His work revealed additional unrecorded pictographs and provided the SKC students with the opportunity to see the 3D scanning process.



*Figure 28. The Gallatin City II Hotel in July 2022. A barn at the adjacent Hart property is visible in the background.*



*Figure 29. Students from Salish Kootenai College surveying at Missouri Headwaters State Park.*

## Wall Creek Wildlife Management Area

Over the past two years, regional maintenance staff have undertaken a significant effort to remove non-historic trash and undertake small maintenance activities, including in-kind painting and window replacements, for the Wall Creek Barn (24SA1695), a historic stock barn built in the 1930s.

### *Region 4 Stewardship*

## First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park

First Peoples Buffalo Jump (24CA1012) is one of North America's largest buffalo jumps, where Indigenous peoples harvested buffalo for thousands of years in a sacred landscape. This site is a National Historic Landmark. In 2021, FWP acquired a DNRC lease for over 900 acres of land to the west of First Peoples Buffalo Jump State Park, which kicked off a new planning effort for this NHL, designed to bring its interpretive and recreational offerings to better reflect its significance as one of North America's largest buffalo jumps. The planning process included bringing many representatives from Montana's tribes to the park in spring 2023 as well as public surveys and requests for comment. The resulting development plan has called for an expansion to the existing visitor center, updates to outdoor interpretation within the park, possible development of a tipi-based camping area and an archery range on the DNRC lease, offering visitors a broader experience of the site.

As part of the planning effort, cultural resource firm Ethnoscience undertook a preliminary archaeological inventory of portions of the new DNRC lease, which had never been archaeologically examined before. They found that the areas they surveyed were not part of a major campsite or buffalo kill location, though scattered precontact artifacts indicated widespread use of the landscape.

Interpretive and educational work at First Peoples includes Ranger-guided hikes and walks, cultural presentations, school field trips, a major Junior Ranger program, and special events like the annual "Mammoth Hunt," which includes opportunities for people to try atlatls and bows as well as a stone tool workshop and demonstrations. In addition, in 2023 FPBJ was one of the host sites for the first Gathering of Families, a tribal event highlighting Indigenous games.



*Figure 30: Tribal high school students on our Tribal Field Day at First Peoples Buffalo Jump in spring 2023. We invited tribal partners, including students, cultural experts and elders, to visit First Peoples Buffalo Jump and provide input and thoughts on our new development planning process.*

### Giant Springs State Park

Giant Springs State Park contains historic rock walls built in the 1930s along the edge of the spring itself, the Roe River, and the man-made Roe Island. They are a contributing feature to NRHP-eligible 24CA0620. FWP has been working over several years through River Fund grants offered by Northwestern Energy to rehabilitate these walls, and in 2022-2023 those efforts were ongoing.





*Figure 31: Reconstructed historic stonework at Giant Springs State Park.*

### Sluice Boxes State Park

Sluice Boxes State Park contains precontact and post contact cultural resources, most prominently the remains of the limestone-quarrying town of Albright, and the Belt Creek Railway (24CA1315). In collaboration with nonprofit Preserve Montana, and with funding from the Foundation for Montana History, FWP continued systematically recording cultural resources within Sluice Boxes State Park for the first time. Survey in 2022 began at the north end of the park and recorded many historic railroad features and the recreational Camp Don Bosco.

### Smith River State Park

FWP manages both state-owned and federal land as Smith River State Park, which includes numerous precontact and post contact resources, particularly rock art and precontact campsites like the one at Camp Baker (24ME0075). In 2022, FWP updated the Smith River's Management Plan, focusing on human waste management, management of Camp Baker, the permitting system and resource damage within the boat camps. This plan now calls for human waste pack out on the river, preventing excavation of new pit toilets that threaten cultural resources. It also no longer allows camping at Camp Baker, which will help to protect 24ME0075 from the impacts of constant camping traffic.

FWP also completed construction on a project to stabilize the bank at Camp Baker where the confluence of the Smith River and Sheep Creek is causing ongoing erosion to the lower boat launch and to the archaeological resources at 24ME0075. This project armored the bank with thousands of willows to prevent ongoing bank failure and the loss of artifacts and archaeological features into the river.

## *Region 5 Stewardship*

### Big Snowy Mountains Wildlife Management Area

The Big Snowy Mountains WMA is in Golden Valley County approximately 20 miles North of Ryegate, Montana, along the southeastern edge of the Big Snowy Mountains. In 2022, the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission purchased this WMA using hunting license dollars and federal Wildlife Restoration Act funds. FWP's Heritage Program conducted preliminary survey of the WMA prior to the purchase in late 2022 and noted numerous previously unrecorded historic and precontact features. In October 2023, a small portion of the WMA was formally surveyed and one recommended NRHP-eligible precontact stone circle site (24GV0336) recorded. The site contains 19 large, well-defined stone rings though additional rings are believed to be present in the woods to the northwest and to the south on DNRC property.

While stone circles are a ubiquitous feature on the Northwestern Plains the features recorded at the Big Snowy WMA are large, very well-defined, and numerous. It is the relation of the stone circles to each other that makes this site significant under Criterion C. They represent an opportunity to examine indigenous camp layouts on a large scale and serve as a quintessential example of camp design. The site also clearly represents settlement strategies of indigenous groups; specifically, what kind of landscapes attracted large and sustained settlement. Locally, the site can elucidate the importance of the Big Snowy Mountains and the surrounding plains to precontact groups. As an isolated, understudied range in the middle of the Plains, the Big Snowies may have been particularly important to the seasonal settlement strategies of tribes for thousands of years. Containing at least 19 stone circles, many with evident central hearth features, the site also has potential to contain intact dateable deposits which could significantly broaden understanding of precontact lifeways in Central Montana, making the site eligible under Criterion D as well. By passing into public ownership, FWP can steward this resource, interpret it for the public, and facilitate research that would not otherwise be possible if the property had remained in private hands. The final report for the compliance project that recorded site 24GV0336 is currently under review.



Figure 32. Feature 18, a well-defined stone ring, at site 24GV0336 recorded in 2023. Photo by Cole Wandler.

### Chief Plenty Coups State Park

Chief Plenty Coups State Park is a National Historic Landmark (24BH2179) that preserves the homestead of one of the seminal Indigenous leaders of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century: Chief Plenty Coups of the Crow Tribe. In 2021, FWP was awarded \$140,537 from the National Park Service's Save America's Treasures Program to match \$148,000 of in-hand capital funds for historic preservation of the Chief's House and Store. In May 2023, FWP's heritage specialist for Eastern Montana, partnered with the Crow THPO on archaeological testing within the project area prior to the initialization of the construction work. This project is described in the *Research and Site Evaluation* section of this report. Preservation work began in August 2023. The project includes foundation repair and full re-chinking and daubing of both structures, replacing the roof of the Chief's House, as well as rebuilding windows, repairing the House's south porch, and regrading of the yard surrounding both buildings to ensure proper drainage of water away from the structures.

After Section 106 review of the construction plans and specifications for the work by the NPS and the Montana SHPO, the construction work was released for bid. Construction contractor Darren Hall of DNH Company LLC won the contract and began work in August 2023. Grading and earthwork around the house and store were completed by September. This work was monitored by a tribal cultural specialist from the Crow THPO and the Heritage Program's AmeriCorps member, Hunter Sickerson. Ms. Moloney also visited the site on a weekly basis to monitor project progression. Selective demolition of portions of the porch that will be replaced were completed and foundation repairs on both buildings begun during this period as well.

In September and October 2023 degraded daubing and chinking was removed from the logs on both buildings. Existing daub and daub samples recovered during archaeological testing were dissolved in water to ascertain the best lime, sand, and cement proportions for the daub replacement. The willow branches supporting the daub were removed and local replacement willows were obtained and affixed to structures. Log cleaning and treatment was begun. Cladding on the roof was removed and re-shingled. A winter storm in October halted work but the building was secured and winterized prior to arrival of snow by temporarily sealing exposed cracks in wall with rubber foam and covering with tarps. Throughout this period, the FWP eastern heritage specialist, construction manager, and project architect met with the construction contractor on site for monthly status meetings and discussed the project at weekly status meetings on Monday mornings. The work crew hired by the contractor primarily consists of Crow tribal members, providing crucial employment opportunities for the community of Pryor. Construction work will resume in Spring 2024, with an expected completion of late Summer 2024.

Each year, Chief Plenty Coups State Park holds a Day of Honor in partnership with the Crow Tribe. This important cultural event includes speakers, artists, drummers, dancers, and a feast. This and many of the park's other usual interpretive events were curtailed because of the COVID pandemic, however the annual Day of Honor resumed in 2021 and continued in 2022 and 2023. In 2023, the theme of the event was *Restoration of Heritage* and highlighted the ongoing work on the Chief's House and Store.



Figure 33. Project signage on display at the entrance to the Chief's store.



*Figure 34. Grading around the Chief's House commences, August 2023.*



*Figure 35. Overview of grading completed around Chief's Store.*



*Figure 36. Overview of grading around Chief's House and Store. Selective demolition of porch is also evident.*



*Figure 37. After grading, work begins on foundation repair at the Chief's Store.*

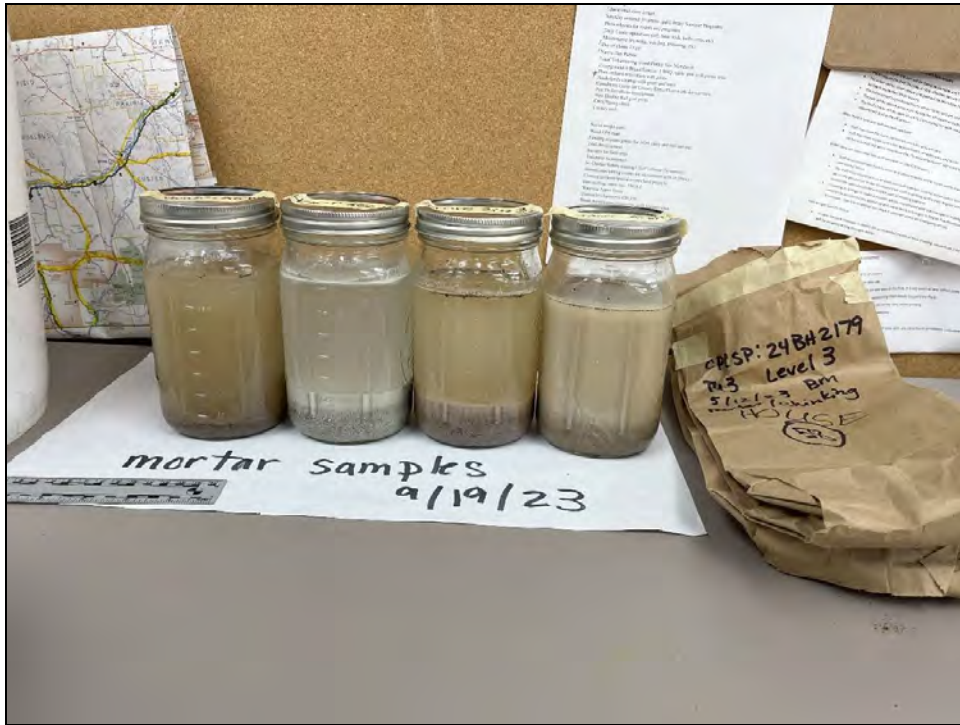


Figure 38. Daub samples from both buildings and the archaeological record were pulverized and suspended in water to determine the material's historic composition.



*Figure 39. Painting the dormers on the Chief's House, log treatment, and new cedar shingles.*



*Figure 40. Close up of the replacement willow and treated logs on the Chief's Store.*





*Figure 41. Before winter arrived at the end of October, the house was re-shingled, and the buildings secured against weather.*

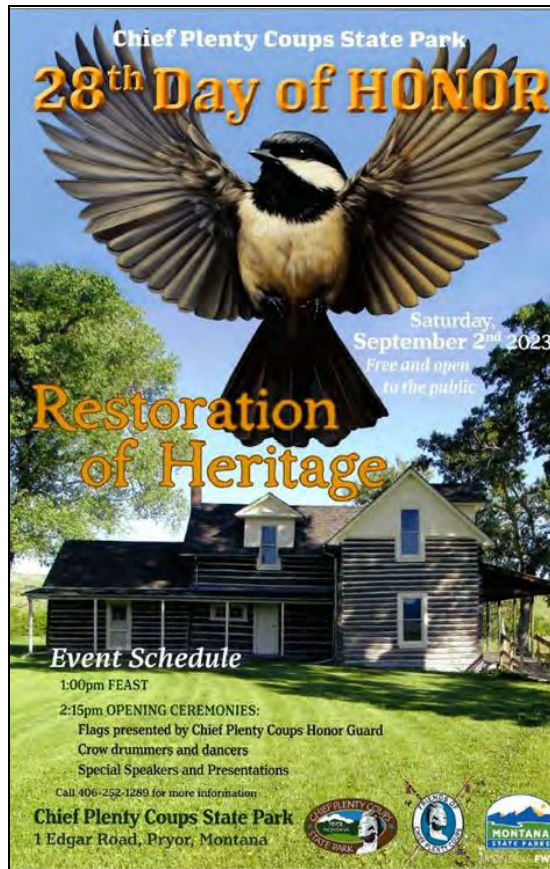


Figure 42. Promotional poster for 2023 Day of Honor at Chief Plenty Coups State Park.

### Lake Elmo State Park

Lake Elmo State Park is urban recreation area located in Billings Heights, north of Billings. It is a popular park that offers swimming and non-motorized boating on a 64-acre reservoir. It has three beach-front areas, a fishing pier, grassed multi-use areas, two group-use shelters, playground, and fenced-in dog park on the lake's west side. The reservoir is primarily fed by the Billings Bench Water Association Canal. In 2021 the reservoir (24YL2275) was recorded and determined eligible for listing in the NRHP. This resource is considered locally significant for its contribution to Billings' recreational and agricultural history.

In April 2022, FWP completed a project to fully drain Lake Elmo to kill invasive Asian clams and prevent them from reaching the Yellowstone River. While the lakebed was dry, FWP installed features to encourage fish habitat, repaired the reservoir banks, constructed jetties, a new headgate and access gate, improved trails, and installed landscaping. Lake Elmo State Park is the home office for the eastern heritage specialist, so the condition of the reservoir (24YL2275) is monitored regularly. The Heritage Program is also working with park staff to develop interpretation about the park's important history.



*Figure 43. Overview of trail and bank repairs completed at Lake Elmo in April 2022 (photo by Bob Gibson, FWP, Spring 2022).*

### Pictograph Cave State Park

Pictograph Cave State Park is one of Montana's most visited state parks. It is an NHL, listed in the NRHP, and occupies an important place in the cosmology of Indigenous peoples of the region. Three natural shelters, Pictograph Cave (24YL0001), Middle Cave, and Ghost Cave (24YL0002) are nestled at the base of a sandstone bluff along a trail that extends south from the Yellowstone River to a place where a freshwater spring once emerged from the rock.

Pictograph Cave and Ghost Cave are two of the best known, most important archaeological sites in the Northern Plains. The caves contained extensive artifact assemblages, including large quantities of rare perishable items like cordage, basketry, wooden artifacts, and moccasin fragments. Over 30,000 artifacts were removed from these two sites and the remains of nine individuals were found. These materials formed the basis of the first well-developed precontact chronology for the Northern Plains, still used by archaeologists to understand the prehistory of the region today.

Pictograph Cave is also known for its rock art and contains more than 100 elaborate painted figures. These include Ceremonial and Biographic style pictographs depicting bison, deer, birds, carnivores, and human forms. Others provide evidence of use of the site into the mid to late 1700s, such as depictions of spears and bow and arrows then rifles and horses with riders.

A large rockfall at the park that damaged the entrance road and the trail to Ghost Cave and caused the park's closure for safety occurred in 2021. Preliminary studies conducted in 2011 and 2021 summarized the safety and preservation issues at Pictograph Cave State Park and made recommendations for future preservation and rock stabilization work. In 2023, FWP was awarded a \$75,000 Semiquincentennial Grant from the National Park Service to implement the recommendations outlined in those reports.

With the award, FWP will hire a geotechnical engineering specialist to review the previous reports, assess the site's current conditions, and create a site plan, which will include rockfall mitigation construction documents. The award was also featured in statewide media, including a segment on Yellowstone Public Radio in September 2023, increasing the public's awareness of this important resource and the issues related to its preservation. The segment can be found at: <https://www.ypradio.org/regional-news/2023-09-07/a-landmark-site-of-ancient-paintings-near-billings-receives-funding-for-preservation>



*Figure 44. View of Ghost Cave and site of 2021 rockfall taken Summer 2023.*

### *Region 7 Stewardship*

#### Makoshika State Park

Makoshika continues to host paleontology interns, who are organizing the park's paleontology and geology collections, leading interpretive hikes, helping with new exhibits, and supporting paleontology education programs. The Friends of Makoshika help to fund this important work. The FWP Heritage Program and Makoshika park staff also participated in the *Dinosaurs and MOR!* event at the Museum of the Rockies in 2023, allowing us to share the park's resources with hundreds of people.



*Figure 45. FWP Heritage Program AmeriCorps member Hunter Sickerson and Makoshika State Park recreation manager working a table at the Museum of the Rockies' Dinosaurs and MOR! event in early 2023.*

### Medicine Rocks State Park

Medicine Rocks State Park is listed on the NRHP for its remarkable post contact inscriptions and precontact petroglyphs, which record the importance of this landscape through thousands of years of local history. The FWP Heritage Program continues to monitor the site closely, in collaboration with the Carter County Museum in Ekalaka.

### Miles City Depot

The Northern Pacific Railway Depot (24CR0920) is located on Pacific Avenue between Fifth and Sixth Streets in Miles City. The building was constructed in 1923-24 and was listed in the NRHP in 2010 under Criteria A and C for its association with the Northern Pacific Railroad and as an important local representation of Second Renaissance Revival style architecture. The building served as a passenger depot until the southern route through Montana was discontinued in 1979. At the time passenger service ended, the depot was sold to an out-of-state investor who soon abandoned the property after making no improvements. BNSF eventually regained ownership of the depot, but it has been vacant and unmaintained since 1990. The depot has been the subject of a grassroots community effort to preserve it since 2009. Several environmental and feasibility studies have been conducted in recent years that determined the overall condition of the structure to be good. In 2023 the Montana Legislature included transfer of the Miles City depot to FWP ownership for use as a state park in HB5. FWP's Heritage Program prepared the white paper outlining the costs and potential benefits of the purchase for agency

leadership. After funding is approved, the Miles City Depot will be rehabilitated and adaptively re-used as a visitor's center for the Lower Yellowstone River Trail, including interpretive space and administrative offices.



*Figure 46. The Miles City Depot in December 2021, photo by NewFields Companies, LLC.*

### Rosebud Battlefield State Park

Rosebud Battlefield State Park became a Montana State Park in 1978 when the Montana Legislature appropriated Coal Tax Funds to preserve a portion of the Rosebud Battlefield, which occurred on June 17, 1876. The Rosebud Battle has significant national historical value, so the park was designated an NHL in 2008. It is also listed in the NRHP. In addition to the battlefield, the park contains over fifty precontact archaeological sites unrelated to the historic battle. These include the Kobold Buffalo Jump (24BH0406), which is eligible for the NRHP, as well as many unevaluated resources including eagle trapping pits, stone circle sites, and rock art, among others.

In 2013, a wildfire at the park may have destroyed several precontact archaeological sites that had never been fully recorded or evaluated for the NRHP. Presently, there is a heavy fuel load within the park boundary that needs to be addressed to prevent additional damage to cultural resources, infrastructure, and adjoining private properties. Due to the large number sensitive archeological resources across the property, Dr. Clayton Marlow of Montana State University's range management program and archaeologist Dr. Jack Fisher were invited to do an ecological inventory of the park and recommend best practices for vegetative management. A study of the northern half of the park was completed in 2019 and the field work for a second study of the southern half was accomplished in August 2023. The study focuses on fire suppression and control as well as maintenance and

improvement of vegetative/grassland health while preserving historical and archaeological resources. The goal of this partnership is to develop a long-term vegetative management plan using appropriate and effective methods to reduce fire danger, protect historic and archaeological resources and create a sustainable and healthy ecosystem.

In keeping with the findings of the 2019 and 2023 range studies, FWP is pursuing a program of regular controlled burning at Rosebud Battlefield State Park. In 2022, the eastern FWP heritage specialist established a partnership with the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), who will prepare burn plans for each of the proposed burn areas and oversee the burns. Prior to implementation, all burn plans will be reviewed by FWP's Heritage Program and submitted to the NPS and Montana SHPO for consultation, in keeping with the FWP's obligations under the Montana Antiquities Act. The burn plans will also be submitted to the THPOs of all tribes with interest in the area for their review, in keeping with FWP's tribal consultation guidelines.

In addition to driving the planning process, in 2023 FWP's Heritage Program established a partnership with the THPOs of the Northern Cheyenne and Crow tribes to conduct cultural resource inventories of the proposed treatment areas both before and after all burns.



*Figure 47. View in July 2022 from the top of the Kobold Buffalo Jump looking south to Rosebud Creek.*

## Stewardship Cost Summary

Overall, FWP spent approximately \$4,226,280 on heritage stewardship efforts including administration, preservation, research, interpretation, maintenance, monitoring, marketing, and avoiding adverse effects. These numbers are summarized in Table 3 and do not include the cost of Heritage Program staff. Recreation Managers and Regional Managers submit these costs for reporting using their records, though it can be difficult to summarize the exact cost of periodic site monitoring, for example, or interpretive efforts. For parks whose primary classification is heritage, we include all administrative costs for the park in our stewardship dollars. As in the past, the most expensive stewardship park for the 2022-2023 period was Bannack (24BE0169), whose many historic structures require constant and expensive maintenance and repair. Overall, the top sites for heritage stewardship spending include the following:

- 1) Bannack (24BD0169): \$770,506
- 2) First Peoples Buffalo Jump (24CA1012): \$633,723
- 3) Missouri Headwaters (24GA0212): \$435,827
- 4) Chief Plenty Coups (24BH2179): \$365,555
- 5) Pictograph Cave (24YL0001,24YL0002): \$338,466
- 6) Travelers' Rest (24MO0176): \$323,322
- 7) Fort Owen (24RA0148): \$251,428
- 8) Lewis and Clark Caverns (24JF2081): \$188,291
- 9) Rosebud Battlefield (24BH2461, 24BH3773): \$158,160
- 10) Elkhorn (24JF0477, 24JF2109): \$156,702

Seven of these sites are National Historic Landmarks, and it is good to see that the dollars spent by FWP on stewardship align with the heritage significance of our parks. The additional non-NHL parks on the list, Lewis and Clark Caverns, Fort Owen, and Elkhorn, each had particularly significant expenditures on historic preservation and maintenance efforts. Moving forward, our ongoing challenge will be to maintain our investment in our seven NHLs while also providing stewardship for FWP's many important NRHP-listed and eligible sites and working toward better ongoing monitoring and evaluations of eligibility for other sites.

Historic preservation and restoration costs include work on historic structures and any stabilization efforts on archaeological sites, as well. Site research and documentation costs include non-compliance heritage surveys, detailed site recordation, facility condition inventories, artifact analysis and cataloguing, and site assessment studies. Interpretation and education costs can be difficult to parse



from general administration costs at many of our heritage parks, where interpretation and education are primary duties for park staff, including seasonal interpretive staff and AmeriCorps members. These employees commit considerable time to developing new interpretive programming, providing daily interpretive experiences, and preparing for educational events. Site monitoring efforts are also difficult to estimate for heritage parks where staff, volunteers and AmeriCorps members are constantly on-site, monitoring the status of the cultural resources.

Site maintenance and access costs listed in Table 3 do not represent complete maintenance expenditures for these FWP-managed locations unless they are specifically heritage parks. For other property types that include NRHP-eligible sites, expenses like new bathrooms, paved sidewalks, regulation signs, and road paving and grading, are not generally included. Marketing efforts tracked in Table 3 are mostly related to staff time, website and social media work, printing and advertising in local and regional newspapers and magazines and television spots.

A total of \$314,614 of the heritage stewardship funding expended on Montana State Parks in 2022-2023 came from outside funds, including grant funding, donations, volunteer time, and in-kind match of staff time. Not all funds awarded to FWP for heritage stewardship work during this period were included here, as some of the projects with awarded funding discussed in this report have not yet been completed or were included in previous reports. Fort Owen, for example, in partnership with the State Parks Foundation and the Friends of Fort Owen, has received \$623,000 in grant funding in the past two years from the Rapp Family Foundation, the Montana Historic Preservation Grant Program, the Montana History Foundation and the Helmsley Family Trust. Some of these funds were expended in the 2020-2021 biennium, so not all are accounted for in this report. Additional notable influxes of outside funding include a donation from the Lee and Donna Metcalf Charitable Trust for \$50,000 for continuing research at Rosebud Battlefield, \$140,537 from the National Park Service for historic preservation at Chief Plenty Coups and \$75,000 from the National Park Service for a geotechnical assessment of Pictograph Cave State Park. Moving forward, these kinds of partnerships and creative solutions to secure funding from granting entities, private donors, friends groups and other partners will be key as we continue to seek to diversify our revenue streams and build strong partnerships, as recommended by the Parks in Focus effort and the Heritage Program Strategic Plan. In addition, the interest of universities and researchers in working within our heritage parks is ongoing, and field schools or other educational opportunities allow us to complete important work for the parks, facilitate educational opportunity and build an invested, informed constituency.

## APPENDIX B

### Montana State-Owned Heritage Property Reporting Forms

**MONTANA STATE-OWNED HERITAGE PROPERTY REPORTING FORM**

**Property Number** (e.g 24YL0001): \_\_\_\_\_ (Smithsonian Trinomial)

**Property Name:**

**Property Town/Vicinity of:**

**Property Date** (Year of Origin/Construction or "Precontact):

**State Agency** (Choose One):

**Reporting Year:** (e.g. 2014; 2016; 2018, etc)

**Property Type** (Choose One):

**Property Count** (#): \_\_\_ District \_\_\_ Building(s) \_\_\_ Structure(s) \_\_\_ Site(s) \_\_\_ Object(s)

**Historic Significance and Property Description:**

Comment:

**Historic Integrity:** (Choose One):

Comment (Explain):

**Use:**

**Historic Use:**

**Current Use:**

Comment: (issues, if any, regarding use/functionality)

**Status** (Choose one):

Comment:

**Condition** (Choose One):

Comment:

**Stewardship Effort and Cost**\_(Enter all that apply in past 2 years; do not duplicate costs)

If activity, but no calculated/estimated cost available, enter "+". If no activity, enter "0" or leave blank.

- \$\_\_\_ Heritage Property Administration/Operations (property-specific)
- \$\_\_\_ Heritage Restoration/Rehabilitation/Repair project activity (SOI standards)
- \$\_\_\_ Heritage Preservation/Protection project activity
- \$\_\_\_ Heritage Research/Documentation project activity
- \$\_\_\_ Heritage Interpretation/Education/Awareness project activity
- \$\_\_\_ Heritage Promotion/Tourism/Marketing project activity
- \$\_\_\_ Heritage Preservation/Conservation Plan Development
- \$\_\_\_ Regular/routine maintenance
- \$\_\_\_ Monitoring (documented/reported upon)
- \$\_\_\_ Cost to redesign project to avoid adverse effect to property's heritage values
- \$\_\_\_ Other heritage stewardship effort/activity (Explain)

Comment:

**Prioritized Maintenance & Stewardship Needs**

Rank property for agency priority addressing need among all agency's heritage properties:

Highest (1 = top 20%) to Lowest (5 = bottom 20%) = \_\_\_\_\_ (1-5)

Comment: List prioritized property-specific preservation maintenance & stewardship needs -

**Other Comment #** \_\_\_\_\_ :

- .
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- .
- .
- .
- .

**Reported by (Name):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date (MM/DD/YYYY):** \_\_\_\_\_

Use Submit button to submit completed form to SHPO database

**MONTANA STATE-OWNED HERITAGE PROPERTY REPORTING FORM**

**Property Number** (e.g 24YL0001): \_\_\_\_\_ (Smithsonian Trinomial)

**Property Name:**

**Property Town/Vicinity of:**

**Property Date** (Year of Origin/Construction or "Precontact):

**State Agency** (Choose One):

**Reporting Year:** (e.g. 2014; 2016; 2018, etc)

**Property Type** (Choose One):

**Property Count** (#): \_\_\_ District \_\_\_ Building(s) \_\_\_ Structure(s) \_\_\_ Site(s) \_\_\_ Object(s)

**Historic Significance and Property Description:**

Comment:

**Historic Integrity:** (Choose One):

Comment (Explain):

**Use:**

**Historic Use:**

**Current Use:**

Comment: (issues, if any, regarding use/functionality)

**Status** (Choose one):

Comment:

**Condition** (Choose One):

Comment:

**Stewardship Effort and Cost**\_(Enter all that apply in past 2 years; do not duplicate costs)

If activity, but no calculated/estimated cost available, enter "+". If no activity, enter "0" or leave blank.

- \$\_\_\_ Heritage Property Administration/Operations (property-specific)
- \$\_\_\_ Heritage Restoration/Rehabilitation/Repair project activity (SOI standards)
- \$\_\_\_ Heritage Preservation/Protection project activity
- \$\_\_\_ Heritage Research/Documentation project activity
- \$\_\_\_ Heritage Interpretation/Education/Awareness project activity
- \$\_\_\_ Heritage Promotion/Tourism/Marketing project activity
- \$\_\_\_ Heritage Preservation/Conservation Plan Development
- \$\_\_\_ Regular/routine maintenance
- \$\_\_\_ Monitoring (documented/reported upon)
- \$\_\_\_ Cost to redesign project to avoid adverse effect to property's heritage values
- \$\_\_\_ Other heritage stewardship effort/activity (Explain)

Comment:

**Prioritized Maintenance & Stewardship Needs**

Rank property for agency priority addressing need among all agency's heritage properties:

Highest (1 = top 20%) to Lowest (5 = bottom 20%) = \_\_\_\_\_ (1-5)

Comment: List prioritized property-specific preservation maintenance & stewardship needs -

**Other Comment #** \_\_\_\_\_ :

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**Reported by (Name):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date (MM/DD/YYYY):** \_\_\_\_\_

Use Submit button to submit completed form to SHPO database

**MONTANA STATE-OWNED HERITAGE PROPERTY REPORTING FORM**

**Property Number** (e.g 24YL0001): \_\_\_\_\_ (Smithsonian Trinomial)

**Property Name:**

**Property Town/Vicinity of:**

**Property Date** (Year of Origin/Construction or "Precontact):

**State Agency** (Choose One):

**Reporting Year:** \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. 2014; 2016; 2018, etc)

**Property Type** (Choose One):

**Property Count** (#): \_\_\_ District \_\_\_ Building(s) \_\_\_ Structure(s) \_\_\_ Site(s) \_\_\_ Object(s)

**Historic Significance and Property Description:**

Comment:

**Historic Integrity:** (Choose One):

Comment (Explain):

**Use:**

**Historic Use:**

**Current Use:**

Comment: (issues, if any, regarding use/functionality)

**Status** (Choose one):

Comment:

**Condition** (Choose One):

Comment:

**Stewardship Effort and Cost**\_(Enter all that apply in past 2 years; do not duplicate costs)

If activity, but no calculated/estimated cost available, enter "+". If no activity, enter "0" or leave blank.

- \$\_\_\_ Heritage Property Administration/Operations (property-specific)
- \$\_\_\_ Heritage Restoration/Rehabilitation/Repair project activity (SOI standards)
- \$\_\_\_ Heritage Preservation/Protection project activity
- \$\_\_\_ Heritage Research/Documentation project activity
- \$\_\_\_ Heritage Interpretation/Education/Awareness project activity
- \$\_\_\_ Heritage Promotion/Tourism/Marketing project activity
- \$\_\_\_ Heritage Preservation/Conservation Plan Development
- \$\_\_\_ Regular/routine maintenance
- \$\_\_\_ Monitoring (documented/reported upon)
- \$\_\_\_ Cost to redesign project to avoid adverse effect to property's heritage values
- \$\_\_\_ Other heritage stewardship effort/activity (Explain)

Comment:

**Prioritized Maintenance & Stewardship Needs**

Rank property for agency priority addressing need among all agency's heritage properties:

Highest (1 = top 20%) to Lowest (5 = bottom 20%) = \_\_\_\_\_ (1-5)

Comment: List prioritized property-specific preservation maintenance & stewardship needs -

**Other Comment #** \_\_\_\_\_ :

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**Reported by (Name):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date (MM/DD/YYYY):** \_\_\_\_\_

Use Submit button to submit completed form to SHPO database



**MONTANA STATE-OWNED HERITAGE PROPERTY REPORTING FORM**

**Property Number** (e.g 24YL0001): \_\_\_\_\_ (Smithsonian Trinomial)

**Property Name:**

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**Property Date** (Year of Origin/Construction or "Precontact):

**State Agency** (Choose One):

**Reporting Year:** \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. 2014; 2016; 2018, etc)

**Property Type** (Choose One):

**Property Count** (#): \_\_\_ District \_\_\_ Building(s) \_\_\_ Structure(s) \_\_\_ Site(s) \_\_\_ Object(s)

**Historic Significance and Property Description:**

Comment:

**Historic Integrity:** (Choose One):

Comment (Explain):

**Use:**

**Historic Use:**

**Current Use:**

Comment: (issues, if any, regarding use/functionality)

**Status** (Choose one):

Comment:

**Condition** (Choose One):

Comment:

**Stewardship Effort and Cost**\_(Enter all that apply in past 2 years; do not duplicate costs)

If activity, but no calculated/estimated cost available, enter "+". If no activity, enter "0" or leave blank.

- \$\_\_\_ Heritage Property Administration/Operations (property-specific)
- \$\_\_\_ Heritage Restoration/Rehabilitation/Repair project activity (SOI standards)
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- \$\_\_\_ Regular/routine maintenance
- \$\_\_\_ Monitoring (documented/reported upon)
- \$\_\_\_ Cost to redesign project to avoid adverse effect to property's heritage values
- \$\_\_\_ Other heritage stewardship effort/activity (Explain)

Comment:

**Prioritized Maintenance & Stewardship Needs**

Rank property for agency priority addressing need among all agency's heritage properties:

Highest (1 = top 20%) to Lowest (5 = bottom 20%) = \_\_\_\_\_ (1-5)

Comment: List prioritized property-specific preservation maintenance & stewardship needs -

**Other Comment #** \_\_\_\_\_ :

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**Reported by (Name):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date (MM/DD/YYYY):** \_\_\_\_\_

Use Submit button to submit completed form to SHPO database