

Montana State Historic Preservation Office

Federal Fiscal Year 2025 Activities Report



in accordance with

PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE: The Montana Historic Preservation Plan 2023-2027

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On the cover: For the first time in its history, the Montana SHPO occupies the Montana Historical Society's (MTHS) Veterans and Pioneers Memorial Building along with its partner programs at the MTHS.

Images on file at the Montana Historical Society and Montana SHPO.

The activities that are the subject of this report have been financed in large part with federal funds (Historic Preservation Fund) from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. However, the contents and opinions expressed in the report do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior.



The Montana SHPO dedicates its 2025 annual report to the memory of historian, adventurer, storyteller, and friend to all who met him, Kevin Kooistra; 1961-2024.

PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE: The Montana Historic Preservation Plan 2023-2027

Goals and Objectives

I. ISSUE: LACK OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES

GOAL: ADVOCATE - SEEK AND SECURE PRESERVATION FUNDING AND INCENTIVES

Objectives:

1. Identify and promote preservation's economic benefits in terms of tourism, job creation, and increasing the local tax base across Montana.
 - Share professionally conducted studies of preservation's economic benefits.
 - Share preservation case studies and success stories in SHPO's annual report.
2. Increase awareness of preservation funding and tax incentives.
 - Promote grants funding through social and traditional media, and in presentations.
 - Provide guidance and critique of preservation grant applications upon applicants' request.
3. Build and maintain support for preservation tax incentives.
 - Promote property tax abatement incentives in the CLG communities that have adopted them.
 - Promotion of completed tax credit or preservation grant funded projects to elected officials.
 - Assist in the legislative process by providing appropriate information for legislation affecting historic preservation projects and preservation program infrastructure.
4. Pursue financial resources to supplement existing funding for historic preservation.
 - SHPO and agencies will identify cost-share opportunities and federal-state-private partnerships that support field schools, National Register nominations, and scholarly research.

II. ISSUE: LACK OF PUBLIC AWARENESS, UNDERSTANDING, AND SUPPORT

GOAL: EDUCATE AND PROMOTE - BUILD A FOUNDATION FOR PRESERVATION THROUGH KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION, AND TRAINING

Objectives:

1. Develop and disseminate more widely, information about SHPO, its mission, and intent.
 - Explain SHPO's directives under the law to a broad audience.
 - Gather, develop, and disseminate more widely, historic preservation guidance and standards.
 - Host preservation open houses to showcase personnel, operations, programs, and the 2023-2027 Plan.
 - Host Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) Summits.
 - Encourage Montanans to listen and participate in national, regional, local, and niche preservation conversations.
 - Provide guidance with a revised edition of Consulting with SHPO, and the Montana Certified Local Government Manual.

- Update guidance on the National Register nomination process and tax credit application process as the associated materials and application processes move towards digitization.
- Revise style and substance of SHPO website with visitor experience in mind.
- Use social media to promote the Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.
- Apply and more widely share best practices in the treatment of historic and precontact properties.

2. Share information about Montana's historic, precontact, and traditional cultural properties.
 - Communicate regularly and work with THPOs.
 - Support development and updating of interpretive materials for historic places.
 - Encourage virtual and in-person interpretive opportunities for historic properties as mitigation for federal undertakings.
 - Participate in podcast and traditional media interviews.
 - Contribute to the Montana Historical Society's Montana Memory Project of online primary source material.
 - Produce and support publications, news stories, and articles.
3. Incorporate more academia and professional expertise in the discussion of historic preservation issues and the training of preservation professionals.
 - Promote the relevance of historic architecture and archaeological sites and artifacts through presentations to students at all education levels.
 - Engage more with Montana's state, private, and tribal colleges to learn from one another and provide information on cultural resources related research topics.
 - Encourage relevant college faculty to embrace preservation priorities.
 - Promote and expand availability of SHPO's fellowship incentivizing SHPO's database and GIS mapping in research.
 - Create student internship opportunities.
 - Publicize the role of SHPO as a resource for educators and researchers regarding historic preservation, history, and anthropology programs.
 - Publicize historic preservation as relevant to research in other disciplines such as GIS, urban planning, and community development.
 - Increase efforts to identify historic properties and preservation issues on state-owned properties including campuses, administrative sites, and recreational locations.

III. ISSUE: URBAN GROWTH AND RURAL DECLINE

GOAL: EMPOWER – GIVE COMMUNITIES AND PROPERTY OWNERS KNOWLEDGE AND MEANS BY WHICH TO PRESERVE THEIR HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Objectives:

1. Collaborate on public programs with entities such as the Montana Main Street Program, CLG program, and MSU Extension's Reimagining Rural to broaden preservation's influence in communities undergoing change that affects places the community values.
 - Promote Montana Main Street's key points for economically effective historic main streets.
 - Support preliminary architecture reports and developers' packets.
 - Broadly share case studies of preservation successes brought about with tax credits, grants, sweat equity, local legislation, covenants, and easements.

- Increased outreach to achieve greater awareness of these programs and opportunities.
- Support survey and inventory, and National Register of Historic Places nominations.

2. Increase historic places' profiles through signage, multi-media, events, and awards.

- Advertise preservation workshops and conferences to the public.
- Increase distribution of SHPO's annual preservation greeting cards that call attention to Montana's important historic places.
- Host award ceremony that celebrates preservation achievements across Montana.
- Attend and give public talks about historic places and contexts, preservation's best practices, and reasons to preserve cultural resources.
- Promote Montana National Register sign program.

IV. ISSUE: THE PRESERVATION COMMUNITY NEEDS TO ATTRACT AND CONNECT MORE MONTANANS

GOAL: DIVERSIFY – ATTRACT AND CONNECT PEOPLE BY BROADENING THE HISTORIC NARRATIVE, THROUGH OUTREACH, AND COMMUNICATION

Objectives:

1. Promote preservation and increase preservation activity beyond Certified Local Government (CLG) communities, which support a local historic preservation office.
 - Present preservation topics and support place-based history exhibits at county museums.
 - Share written histories of Montana's historic irrigation and conservation efforts.
 - Recognize more rural preservation accomplishments through SHPO's biennial award ceremony.
 - Promote the National Register and its sign program in counties with minimal participation.
 - Increase decision and policy makers' awareness of preservation opportunities and preservation in their communities; encourage their participation in preservation events.
 - Promote knowledge of preservation laws among law enforcement whose jurisdiction involves state and federal land subject to antiquities laws, and whose caseload could involve human remains discoveries.
 - Identify and contact native and other ethnic-focused organizations with preservation topics relevant to them.
 - Participate more in conferences and trade shows with a preservation overlap such as the Governor's Tourism Conference, Montana Main Street, and real estate training events.
2. Promote preservation more widely at all education levels.
 - Create a "preservation footlocker," for distribution to schools through the Montana Historical Society.
 - Present preservation topics in K-12 schools and establish localized preservation activities with faculty.
 - Lead and establish materials for school tours of historic districts and sites.
 - Host interns whose work and perspective broadens Montana's historic narrative.
 - Collaborate with the Montana Historical Society on an annual Archaeology Day for grade schoolers.
3. Use traditional and social media to convey historic preservation stories, successes, and opportunities.
 - Generate regular press releases for local preservation events, projects, and National Register listings.
 - Participate in podcasts and radio programs to bring preservation to new audiences.

- Monitor and address SHPO website's effectiveness in conveying information.
- 4. Solidify existing and form new partnerships for the benefit of historic preservation.
 - Promote preservation to architects and developers as integral to LEED Certified redevelopment projects.
 - Showcase LEED Certified projects that retain buildings' historic architectural integrity.
 - Promote Montana's historic buildings derived from Montana's natural resources processed into building materials through local manufacturing powered by Montana natural gas, wood, coal, and hydroelectricity.
 - Sponsor or participate in forums that tie preservation to LEED certifiable redevelopment projects.
 - Support and participate in the biennial Montana Preservation Road Show.
 - Meet and work regularly with tribal cultural representatives to increase consideration of tribal perspectives in historic preservation.
 - Travel to reservations to meet with THPO staff.
 - Host or participate in Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) Summits.
 - Continue providing each THPO in Montana with access to SHPO cultural records.

V. ISSUE: INCOMPLETE SURVEY, INVENTORY, AND NATIONAL REGISTER EVALUATION OF MONTANA'S

HISTORIC PROPERTIES

GOAL: LOCATE - DOCUMENT AND EVALUATE MONTANA'S CULTURAL RESOURCES

Objectives:

1. Conduct and support survey and National Register eligibility evaluation of properties statewide.
 - Solicit input from communities through a process that identifies priority survey needs.
 - Document all property types including those more recently historic places not widely perceived as historic; places associated with groups under-represented in Montana's historic narrative; prominent, but undocumented historic places; and places at risk.
 - Initiate survey of historic communities with no previous historic inventory.
 - Engage with property owners, including government entities wishing to nominate their properties.
 - Support documentation of tribal cultural properties in partnership with THPOs.
2. Encourage a landscape approach to properties with functional relationships among site features and topography such as a mining adit, tramway, ore bin, flume, and stamp mill on a mountainside.
 - Obtain Tribal Historic Preservation Office(s) (THPO) input on survey or National Register evaluation of historic and cultural landscapes.
 - Apply landscape approach to urban settings with designed landscapes such as parks and campuses.
 - Support historic battlefield landscape studies including documentation in line with National Park Service's American Battlefield Protection Program Standards.
3. Enhance the management of and access to cultural resource property information.
 - Develop paperless electronic Section 106 consultation process (e106) between SHPO and those who consult under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.
 - Use SHPO's State Antiquities Database to assist cultural resources research.
 - Develop GIS-based story maps to demonstrate the reach of SHPO and its programs.

- Contribute to the Montana Memory Project (Montana State Library).
- Continue data access and sharing agreements between SHPO, THPOs, and land managing agencies.

4. Encourage and assist owners to document and list properties in the National Register of Historic Places.
 - Provide examples and best practices for nominating properties to the National Register.
 - Provide financial support for professionally written nominations.
 - Pursue new and revise existing National Register listings that establish new historic contexts and expand Montana's historic narratives.
5. Guide the development and use of historical contexts for evaluating the significance and integrity of Montana's precontact, historic, and traditional cultural sites.
 - Develop Multiple Property Documents (MPD) with historic contexts for related properties.
 - Use existing historic contexts and MPDs to prepare National Register nominations.
 - Use the African American Heritage Places MPD to nominate additional properties across Montana.
 - Support articles, walking tours, interpretive signs, etc. about place-based history.
 - Support research and writing to better understand properties with complex histories.
6. Promote forums that investigate and assess the significance of Montana's heritage properties.
 - Host virtual and in person National Register workshops, fieldwork, and other presentations to discuss property significance.
 - Advertise and promote public attendance at State Preservation Review Board meetings.
 - Encourage regular meetings amongst heritage personnel of state and federal agencies.

VI. ISSUE: NEED TO INTEGRATE PRESERVATION CONSIDERATIONS INTO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

GOAL: INTEGRATE – INSTILL CONSIDERATION OF HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROPERTIES INTO NATURAL DISASTER MITIGATION, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY

Objectives:

1. Increase cooperation among cultural resource managers to develop protocols that protect known historic and archaeological properties in pre-emptive fire, flood, and drought mitigation, as well as emergency responses, and recovery.
 - Develop Programmatic Agreements that streamline consultation amid emergencies.
 - Encourage effective alternative fire mitigation and fighting methods that avoid adversely impacting archaeological sites while protecting sites and the land from fire.
2. Collaborate with cultural resource managers to further develop probability modeling and site identification strategies to identify likelihood of archaeological resources in areas that would be affected by floods, firefighting, fire, and drought mitigation.
 - Support survey and inventory of historic and precontact resources in areas prone to natural disaster, and/or in line for pre-emptive natural disaster mitigation.

Success Stories: FFY2025 Montana SHPO Historic Preservation Fund

Montana Historical Society State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)



SHPO Research Fellow Lisa Hunt (right) with UM Anthropology Professor Kelly Dixson, Ph. D.

Cultural Resource Database Research Fellow

Montana SHPO awarded its Cultural Resource Database Research Fellowship to Lisa Hunt, a PhD candidate in the University of Montana Anthropology department. Ms. Hunt is researching the ancestral ties of Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara people to Montana. She is interested in learning how archaeological sites affiliated with these groups relate to the history of their ancestral homeland, their split from the Crow people, and transition to their current location in North Dakota. Ms. Hunt's advisor is UM Professor Kelly Dixson, Ph.D.

In addition to a \$3,000 award, SHPO granted Ms. Hunt access to SHPO's Cultural Resource Database and its 100,000+ digital site records, survey reports, and geospatial data. Her final product will contribute to the database and the body of knowledge about archaeology in Montana. SHPO funds the fellowship using database file search fees. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives I.4, II.3}



State Archaeologist Jessica Bush and her partner built these reinternment boxes.

Burial Boxes for Reinternment of Human Remains

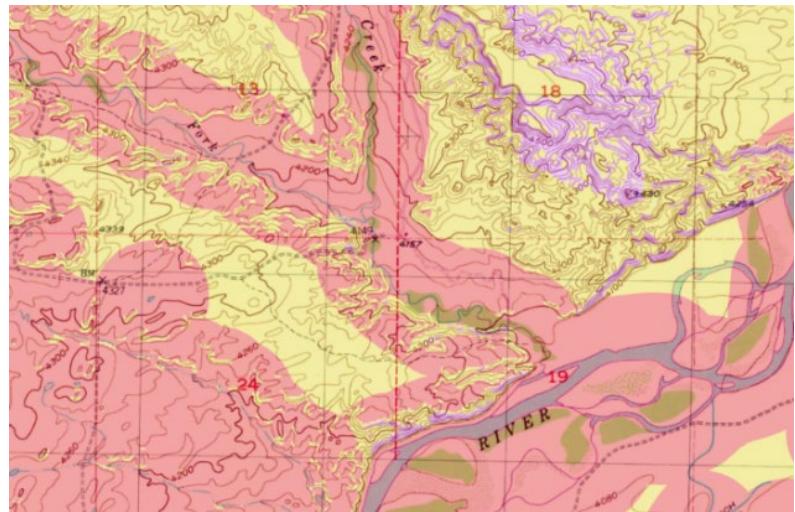
State Archaeologist Jessica Bush is staff to the Montana State Burial Preservation Board. The Burial Preservation Board protects human skeletal remains, burial sites, and burial materials on state or private land from disturbance or destruction. When such sites and items are identified or disturbed, often by accident, the Board works to resolve claims for culturally appropriate repatriation.

Ms. Bush and her partner Rich have built wood, fabric-lined burial boxes for the human remains when Board members requested them. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives IV.4}

Site Predictive Model

From 2020 to 2024, MTSHPO GIS Specialists and State Archaeologist developed a GIS-based predictive model that classifies high, moderate, and low probability areas for presence of precontact archaeological sites in Montana such as lithic material concentrations and stone circles. The model is built with ArcGIS software and uses geographic data such as slope, hydrography and ridgeline parameters to assign archaeological predictive values on the landscape. Testing demonstrates the model is effective in 82% of known test archaeological sites in “high probability” areas for precontact archaeological resources across the state.

Further testing of the model is ongoing. Cultural Records staff use the model as a check on their own work identifying areas of archaeological potential interest and make recommendations for archaeological inventory this GIS technology supports. Once testing is complete, the predictive model can be hosted with the Montana Cultural Resource Database for further use by SHPO and qualified external users. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives V.3; VI.2}



SHPO's Archaeological Predictive Model designates High Probability areas (red), Moderate Probability areas (yellow), and Low Probability areas (purple).

Butte-Silver Bow National Park Service Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program

SHPO Community Preservation Coordinator Kate Hampton provided extensive guidance and a management framework to the Butte-Silver Bow Historic Preservation Commission on the Commission's successful application for a National Park Service (NPS) Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Subgrant (HRSP). The Commission is enrolled in the Certified Local Government Program SHPO coordinates.

NPS awarded the Commission \$749,862 to subgrant to economically stagnant properties within the Butte National Historic Landmark District. Subgrantees must provide matching funds for projects that bring about affordable housing, enhanced workspaces, repurposed commercial spaces, and the stabilization and modernization of building systems, and life-safety systems. All work must meet the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives I.2, III.1}



The Butte Montana National Historic Landmark District.

Administrative Program

. Perform regular, allowable administrative activities that contribute to the preservation of Montana's cultural resource properties, including budget formulation; personnel management and staff development; administrative organization; grant, sub-grant and contract management; and responsible fiscal policies and procedures (2023-2027 Goals/Objectives: I.4; II.2, 3; III.2; IV.1, 4; V.1-6; VI.1)

Complied with state and National Park Service (NPS) policies and procedures in the ongoing budgeting, expenditure, and accounting for the annual Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) allocation to Montana SHPO totaling \$1,024,898.

Documented a 40% non-federal match to the HPF grant. Much of Montana's cash and in-kind match derives from the allowable documented activities of local preservation offices in the form of over-match to the 10% required HPF pass-through to Certified Local Government (CLG) communities, as administered by SHPO. Additional eligible state match derives from state accommodations-tax and general fund support of SHPO salaries and the Montana National Register (NR) sign program; from private grants, program revenue (fees), and volunteer services.

Awarded four (4) brick-and-mortar grants totaling \$155,000 using state accommodations tax revenue. Grantees include: the Dayton State Bank, \$20,000; State Bank of Terry-Prairie County Museum, \$55,000; Virginia City Schoolhouse, \$40,000; and Western Clay Manufacturing, \$41,720. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives I.4; III.1, 2; IV.1-4; V.1, 4, 5}

Allocated 10% of Montana's federal Historic Preservation Fund apportionment to Montana Certified Local Governments (CLGs). Developed sub-grant contracts and processed CLG semi-annual reports and requests for reimbursement in a timely manner, ensuring use of HPF for allowable expenses. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives I.4; III.1}

SHPO has been a Montana Historical Society program for over 40 years. Until 2025, the two never occupied the same building. Thanks to the Montana Heritage Center addition to MTHS's Veterans and Pioneers Memorial Building, SHPO and MTHS are finally under the same roof.



Lt. Governor Juras (left) and SHPO Pete Brown (right) present Kevin and Angela McPherson with a Governor's Award for their work on the Dion Block, Glendive.

SHPO held a staff retreat in March to discuss customer service, clear and succinct writing, and goals and objectives. Staff engaged in atlatl target practice and toured Western Clay Manufacturing and the Shrine Temple's speakeasy.

SHPO joined MTHS Director Molly Kruckenberg, and Lt. Governor Kristen Juras to host the 2025 Preservation Awards on May 16. SHPO presented National Register certificates to property owners of 25 newly listed National Register properties in 18 counties. SHPO recognized Gary Smith, Joan Brownell, Kevin Kooistra, owners of the Crowley Block, Lewistown, and owners of the Dion Block, Glendive, with awards for their contribution to preservation.

SHPO sustained its employees throughout FFY25 on File Search revenue and borrowed state funds. Historic Preservation Funds arrived the last month of FFY25, enabled SHPO to repay its loan, and carry some funding into FFY26. SHPO began planning for FFY26 contingencies. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objectives III.2}

SHPO maintained staffing requirements with staff meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Professional Qualifications in historic preservation, history, architectural history, and archaeology. SHPO staff salaries are made up of 80% HPF, 12% enterprise funding, and 8% State funds. SHPO staff in FFY25 are:

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER | Planning/Administration/Compliance

- **Peter Brown** – M.S. Historic Preservation, Architectural History with emphasis in historic building technology.
Meets the SOI Professional Qualifications for Historic Architecture, Architectural History.

NATIONAL REGISTER COORDINATOR

- **John Boughton** – M.A. Anthropology, emphasis in Archaeology.
Meets the SOI Professional Qualifications for History, Archaeology, and Architectural History.

HISTORIC ARCHITECTURAL SPECIALIST | Preservation Tax Incentives/Compliance/Development, Acquisition, Covenants

- **Lindsay Tran** – M.S. Historic Preservation, emphasis Architectural History.
Meets the SOI Professional Qualifications for Historic Architecture, Architectural History.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COORDINATOR | CLG Coordinator/National Register/Survey

- **Kate Hampton** – M.A. History, emphasis in Western U.S. History.
Meets the SOI Professional Qualifications for Historic Architecture, Architectural History.

PROGRAM OFFICER 1 | Administration

- **Melissa Munson** – B.A. Biology & Botanical Sciences

HPF GRANTS CONTRACTS | Grants Administration/CLG assistance

- **Cindy Davis** – Associate Degree, Accounting

CULTURAL RECORDS MANAGER | Survey and Inventory/Compliance

- **Damon Murdo** – M.A. Anthropology, Forensic Anthropology and Archaeology.
Meets the SOI Professional Qualifications for Archaeology

CULTURAL RECORDS ASSISTANT | Survey and Inventory

- **Steffany Wood** – B.A. History; MSHP-Digital Heritage

SEC. 106 COMPLIANCE OFFICER | Compliance

- **R.J. Hillman** – B.A. History & M.A. CRM/HP

SEC. 106 COMPLIANCE OFFICER | Compliance

- **Samantha McGowen** – M.S. in Historic Preservation, emphasis in Architectural History.
Meets the SOI Professional Qualifications for Architectural History.

STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST | Survey and Inventory / Planning / Compliance

- **Jessica Bush** – M.A. Anthropology, emphasis in Archaeology.
Meets the SOI Professional Qualifications for Archaeology

Staff development: attendance and participation in professional conferences, workshops, and webinars to maintain and enhance staff knowledge, skills, and abilities: {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives II.3; IV.4}

- Architecture Specialist Lindsay Tran attended the Association for Preservation Technology (APT) conference in Montreal between November 11 and 14.
- Staff attended APT's webinar on preservation and building codes, December 10, 11
- Jessica Bush attended a conference on Traditional Cultural Properties Conference, Pendleton, OR; November
- Lindsay Tran and Samantha McGowen attend NPS Federal Rehab. Tax Credits webinar series
- Jessica Bush attended the Montana Archaeological Society Conference, April 12
- Damon Murdo & Steffany Wood attended Western SHPOs and BLM GIS Managers roundtable in September and ongoing ESRI GIS training
- Pete Brown attended the NCSHPO annual meeting on September 13
- Staff attended Montana History Conference, September 25-27

Met with Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPO) and/or Native American Organizations. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives II.2, 3; IV. 4; V.1, 3}

- Samantha McGowen and RJ Hillman attended the 2024 Montana State Employee Tribal Relations Training.
- Jessica Bush, Damon Murdo, and Pete Brown met with Chippewa-Cree THPO Jonathan Windy Boy regarding the THPO's desire for access to SHPO's database. Mr. Windy Boy signed the data use agreement and SHPO granted him free access to the database.
- Jessica Bush is an active member of the Federal Columbia River Power System Working Group, which involves federal agencies that manage or permit hydroelectric production in the Columbia River drainage, SHPOs, and THPOs. A Programmatic Agreement establishes the group, its quarterly meetings, and funds for THPO-led survey, documentation, and reporting in exchange for hydro operators having a freer hand in managing their hydro operations.
- State Archaeologist Jessica Bush attends quarterly meetings with the Libby Dam and Hungry Horse Dam Cooperating Groups involving SHPO, Bureau of Reclamation, Army Corps of Engineers, and THPOs. Committees discuss Tribal interests and ongoing mitigation in the dammed areas and river corridors
- State Archaeologist Jessica Bush is staff to the State Burial Board. She continues working with board members and the University of Montana's Crime Lab to establish a memorandum of understanding to facilitate DNA testing on human remains.

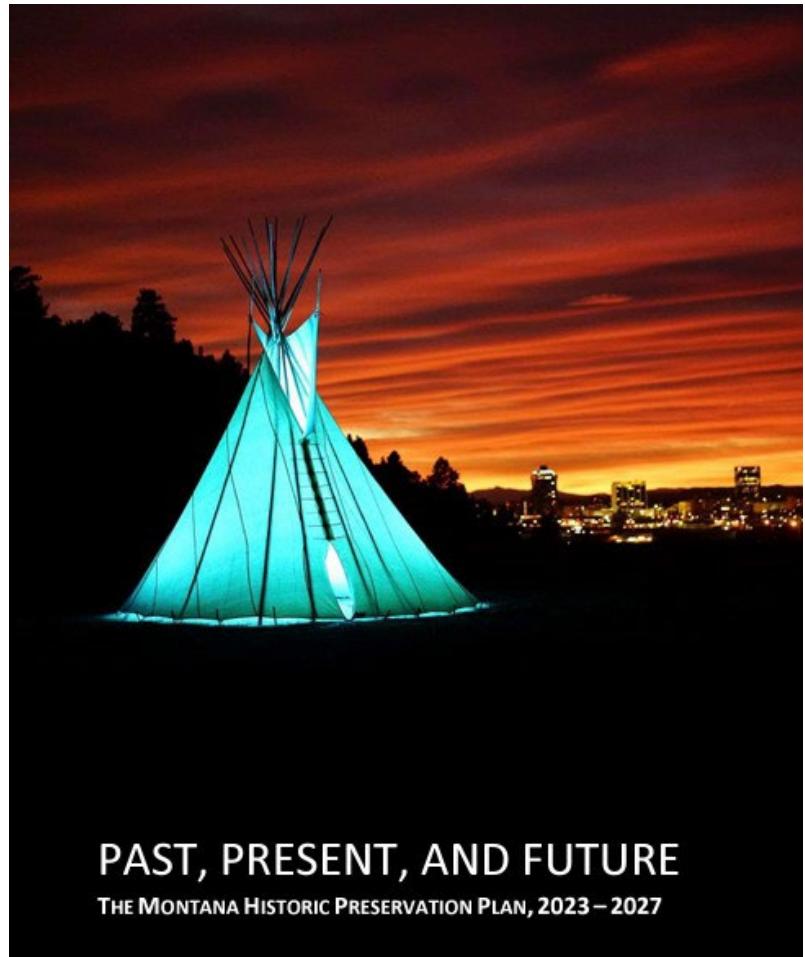
Planning Program

. Perform regular, allowable planning activities that contribute to the preservation of Montana's cultural resource properties, including participation in the creation, review, and revision of agency and local plans; the development of historic contexts; the development and implementation of state and local preservation ordinances, regulations, and laws; and the application of advanced technologies in historic and prehistoric property preservation planning (Goals/Objectives: I.1, 4; II.1-3; III.1, 2; IV.1, 4; V.1-6; VI.1, 2)

Developed and routinely monitored SHPO activities and projects for conformance with the goals and objectives of the [2023-2027 Past, Present, and Future State Preservation Plan](#) (see above, 2023-2027 Goals and Objectives).

Undertook or contributed to priority planning activities identified in the 2023-2027 state plan, including use of social media to increase public awareness and appreciation of historic preservation in collaboration with the Montana Historical Society's Social Media Committee, collaborative meetings with THPOs, state, and federal agencies, and other recommended activities described elsewhere in this report under individual programs.

- Planned and contracted for a Cultural Records Database re-write to meet ADA and security standards. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objectives II.1, V.3}
- Revising the Cultural Resources Database Research Fellowship as a cash award to provide a direct benefit to more students and broaden scholarly use of SHPO's database. SHPO will provide multiple Montana scholars with database access and invite them to submit the products of their research for inclusion in the database and a possible cash award. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives II.3}
- Planning a revision of the Montana Antiquities Act administrative rules. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objectives II.1}
- Pending FFY26 HPF, SHPO will resume the contracted revision of its architectural survey manual. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objectives II.1, V.4}
- Pending FFY26 HPF, SHPO will pay for a National Register nomination for Big Timber's downtown historic district. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objectives IV.1, V.1, 4, 6}
- Contingency financial planning for a possible loss or reduction in FFY26 HPF so SHPO could fulfill state and federal mandates. SHPO would use a combination of SHPO-generated enterprise funds, current state funds, and funds derived from a state accommodations tax.



Survey and Inventory Program

. Perform regular, allowable survey and inventory activities that contribute to the preservation of Montana's cultural resource properties, including: the conduct or support of surveys to locate, identify, record, and evaluate historic and pre-contact sites; the development, maintenance and use of cultural resource inventory information; and the application of new technologies in support of the above (Goals/Objectives: I.4; II.1-4; III.1; IV.2, 4; V.1-3, 6; VI.2)

Number and catalog newly recorded properties, updated property records, and cultural resources survey reports in SHPO's Antiquities Database and GIS mapping system. Properties include precontact and historic sites. Site types can include districts with multiple properties, buildings, structures, landscapes, and objects. Survey reports document field work activities and findings as well as subject overviews, histories, excavation reports, and analyses.

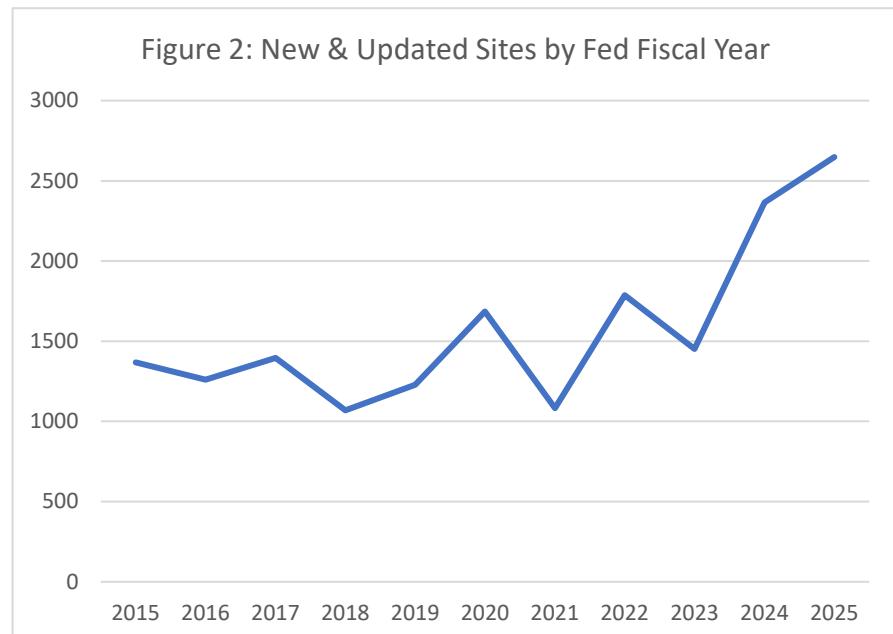
Most survey in Montana occurs on public lands, especially USFS and BLM lands. Significant survey also occurs in Montana communities and on private lands involved in federal undertakings (e.g., pipelines, transmission lines, mining, highway projects, etc.). {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objectives V.1, 3}

Hard copies of cultural resource documents are digitized and stored along with born digital documents in SHPO's Database. {2023-2027 Goal/Objective II.3}

The database's contents are the basis of SHPO *file searches*, the first step in federal and state consultation. SHPO grants access to data through use agreements with qualified agency personnel and THPOs. {2023-2027 Goal/Objective V.3}

- The 2,648 new and updated sites continued an upward trend in FFY25 (Fig. 2). This year's tally adds to Montana's 71,043 documented historic and archaeological sites.
- Consulting parties filed 628 survey reports with SHPO in FFY25 reflecting 181,448 acres surveyed. These contribute to the 37,750 survey reports in SHPO's database that reflect 6,698,645 acres surveyed over the last nine decades.

Figure 1: Survey & Inventory	
	2025
Total Newly Recorded Sites	1,493
Historic – 1,067	
Precontact – 321	
Combined Historic/Precontact – 7	
Paleontological – 98	
Total Updated Sites	1,155
TOTAL NEW & UPDATED SITES	2,648
TOTAL CULTURAL REPORTS	628
surveyed acres	181,448



- Paused a contract to revise SHPO's survey manual due to non-performance and SHPO's FFY25 financial uncertainty. Pending FFY26 HPF, a revised manual will be the basis for community surveys SHPO and certified local governments will contract for in the coming years. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives II.1, V.1-6}
- An increase in compliance consultation in FFY23 and FFY24 provided SHPO with enterprise funding to conduct architectural and archaeological surveys beginning in FFY25. Big Timber's downtown is under contract for survey of 37 properties. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives II.V.1}
- SHPO has contracted with the State IT Department to rewrite SHPO's cultural records database to meet ADA and Security requirements. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives V.3}
- Hired a temporary employee to re-scan poorly scanned site forms with a focus on counties impacted by the multi-state Air Force Sentinel program. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives V.3}
- From 2020 to 2024, MTSHPPO GIS Specialists and State Archaeologist developed a GIS-based predictive model that classifies high, moderate, and low probability areas for presence of precontact archaeological sites in Montana such as lithic material concentrations and stone circles. The model is built with ArcGIS software and uses geographic data such as slope, hydrography and ridgeline parameters to assign archaeological predictive values on the landscape. Testing demonstrated that the model was effective in 82% of known test archaeological sites in "high probability" areas for precontact archaeological resources across the state. Further testing of the model is ongoing. Cultural Records staff use the model to identify areas of archaeological potential interest and make recommendations for archaeological inventory this GIS technology supports. Once testing is complete, the predictive model can be hosted with the Montana Cultural Resource Database for further use by SHPO and qualified external users. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives V.3; VI.2}



UM-Anthropology student Penny Meredyk continued her scanning of SHPO site forms in summer 2025.

National Register of Historic Places Program

. Perform regular, allowable National Register program activities that contribute to the preservation of Montana's cultural resource properties, including: support for the Montana State Historic Preservation Review Board; documentation and evaluation of properties for potential National Register listing; preparation and submission of nominations for eligible properties to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places; participation in the designation of National Historic Landmarks; public education and promotion of the National Register program; and the support of the official Montana National Register property interpretive sign program (2023-2027 Goals/Objectives: I.4; II.1; III.1, 2; IV.1, 3; V.1-6)

Work continues on SHPO's Multiple Property Document (MPD) on Montana's historic Chinese-affiliated places. NPS awarded SHPO a \$50,000 Underrepresented Communities grant in 2022. A \$10,000 Montana Cultural Trust Grant supplements NPS's support. {2023-2027 Goal/Objective I.4; V.1, 5}

SHPO is financially supporting a National Register nomination for the Bear Gulch archaeological district, Fergus County.

In November, Gov. Gianforte's Office made the following Historic Preservation Review Board (Board) appointments:

- Mary Williams (Historian)
- Chris Averill (Public Member)
- Delia Hagen (Architectural History)
- Marvin Keller (Historical Preservation)
- Rose Krieg (Public Member)
- Laura Evilsizer (Archeology)
- Kellyanne Terry (Public Member)
- Phillip Gondzales (Conservation)

The Board met January 17, May 16, and September 18 and forwarded the following nominations to the Keeper of the National Register:

1. Ft. Union Additional Research & Boundary Increase
2. Wetzstein/Tipton Ranch, Rimini, Lewis & Clark County
3. Farmer's Trading Co., Bridger
4. Fortin Ranch House, Trego
5. Franklin School, Great Falls
6. Herbert Summer Cabin, West Boulder River



Wetzstein-Tipton Ranch, Rimini

7. Albright Historic District, Cascade County
8. Bridges of Poindexter Slough Historic District, Dillon Vicinity
9. Shy Brothers Mercantile, Ashland
10. Goughnour Lumber Company Office, Livingston
11. Carpenter Paper Company, Billings
12. Billings First Congregational Church, Billings
13. Musselshell River Bridge, Golden Valley County
14. Milk River Bridge, Phillips County

This year's National Register listings include:

1. Regis Grocery, 501 Word Ave South, Red Lodge, SG100010934, LISTED, 10/28/2024
2. Manley's General Store, 42 Garneill Road, Garneill, SG100011024, LISTED, 11/5/2024
3. Riverside Park, Laurel, 1425 U.S. Highway 212 South, 59044, Laurel, SG100010974, LISTED, 11/4/2024
4. Castle Rock Lodge, 665 Little Basin Creek Rd. Butte, SG100011341, LISTED 1/30/2025
5. Gardiner Bridge, Milepost 0.1 on U.S. Highway 89/Second Street, Gardiner, SG100011446, LISTED, 2/6/2025
6. Farmers Trading Company, 120 South Main Street, Bridger, SG100011503, LISTED, 3/10/2025
7. Fortin Ranch House, 191 Ant Flat Road, Trego vicinity, Lincoln County, SG100011583, LISTED, 3/17/2025
8. Wetzstein/Tipton Ranch, 1968 Rimini Road, Rimini vicinity, SG100011547, LISTED, 3/31/2025
9. Zortman Ranger Station Historic District, Whitcomb Street, Zortman, SG100011723, LISTED, 4/28/2025
10. Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site Historic District (Boundary Increase), 1550 Highway 1804, Williston, ND vicinity, BC100011805, BOUNDARY INCREASE APPROVED, 5/9/2025
11. The Bridges of Poindexter Slough Historic District, Milepost 2.65-2.90 on State Highway 222, Dillon vicinity, SG100011992, LISTED 7/7/2025
12. Franklin School, 821 1st Ave. SW, Great Falls, SG100012075, LISTED 8/8/2025
13. Herbert Summer Cabin, West Boulder tract, Big Timber vicinity, SG100012056, LISTED 8/4/2025



The Bridges of Poindexter Slough, Beaverhead County.

Regularly provided guidance to owners nominating their properties to the National Register. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objective III.1; V.1, 4}

Routinely updated and provided National Register program information and public access to SHPO's [GIS-based story map](#) on listed properties. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objective III.1, 4}

Applied National Register eligibility criteria within the context of state and federal preservation regulations and concurred with agencies on National Register eligibility determinations. Evaluated 245 properties as eligible and 1,006 as not eligible. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objective V.1, 2}

Maintained a public inventory of *state-owned heritage properties*, which are NR listed/eligible state-owned properties. State agencies use the list in biennial reporting on their heritage property stewardship efforts as required under the Montana State Antiquities Act. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives V.1-3, 6}

Continued supporting the Montana Historical Society Research Center in maintaining and expanding the [Historic Montana](#) mobile app. The app is a way-finder program using NR interpretive sign texts and historic photographs, from SHPO's NR files to provide historical background and context on select places statewide. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives III.2; IV.1; V.5; II.3; III.3}

Provided file support to the Montana Historical Society's Outreach & Education Division, NR Property Sign Program in the production of 44 interpretive plaques. This program is supported by an annual allocation from the state accommodations tax. Signs went to properties in 15 counties and include 15 individual listings and 29 contributing properties within 13 Historic Districts. Signs for recently listed properties include the Westgate Village Shopping Center in Gallatin County, Wetzstein/Tipton Ranch in Lewis and Clark County, the Regis Grocery in Carbon County, and the Robworth Apartments and Hillcrest Cemetery in Powell County. {2023-2027 Goal/Objective III.2; IV.1; V.5}

Regularly announced or assisted property owners in the preparation and distribution of press releases and stories of newly and previously listed NR properties. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objective IV.3}

Frequently featured Montana NR-listed properties in traditional media and [Montana Historical Society social media](#) (see Outreach Activities). {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objective IV.3}

Development/Acquisitions/Covenants Program

. Perform regular, allowable activities relating to historic property development, acquisition and/or covenants that contribute to the preservation of Montana's cultural resource properties, including: the review or preparation of "pre-development" plans; assistance in the material conservation of National Register listed properties; support for the acquisition and preservation of historic sites; preparation and provision of technical assistance in historic architectural preservation; and development and monitoring as provided for in historic property preservation agreements. (2023-2027 Goals/Objectives: II.1-4; IV.1, 4)

Routinely responded to owner inquiries regarding care of historic buildings and structures eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NR). {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives IV.4}

Provided funding, technical advice, and made field visits to public and private preservation projects (beyond federal compliance and tax credit projects reported elsewhere in this document) active in planning (pre-development) or implementation (development). Each SHPO-funded project will be protected under a preservation agreement of between 5 and 50 years depending on the award amount. {2023-2027 Goal/Objective I.4, II.1-4; IV.1, 4} These include:

- Released the SHPO Grant (formerly Revitalizing Montana's Rural Heritage Grant) in November and awarded \$155,000 of non-federal, state accommodations tax funds in June to:
 - Western Clay Manufacturing, \$41,721;
 - Dayton State Bank, \$20,000;
 - Virginia City Schoolhouse, \$40,000; and
 - State Bank of Terry, \$55,000
- Earned a \$497,712 NPS-Civil Rights Grant for the Union Bethel AME Church, Great Falls. SHPO is passing these funds through to the Great Falls-Cascade County CLG to administer for masonry, accessibility, and life safety improvements. The National Trust for Historic Preservation provides matching funds for the project that would be complete in FFY26. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objectives I.4}
- Developing a programmatic agreement with the Montana Department of Commerce for its historic Montana Heritage Commission properties, which includes the National Historic Landmark Virginia City. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objectives II.1}
- Monitoring preservation agreements for 39 properties that received federal or state preservation grants, federal tax credits, or were conveyed out of federal ownership.



Western Clay Tile Plant, at the Archie Bray Foundation, a center for ceramic artists since 1951. Photo: Floating Leaf Studios, courtesy of the Archie Bray Foundation.

Preservation Tax Incentives Program

. Perform regular, allowable activities related to the federal and state tax credit rehabilitation programs that contribute to the preservation of Montana's cultural resource properties, including providing technical assistance and information to organizations and individuals related to the use of federal, state, and local tax incentives; and the review, inspection, and certification of federal tax act projects pursuant to 36 CFR 67 (Goals/Objectives: I.1-3; II.1; III.1)

Since Montana's first federal rehabilitation tax credit project in 1990, rehabilitation investments total \$136,658,337. SHPO regularly communicates and advises property owners considering the federal and state tax credit rehabilitation programs. SHPO performed 38 draft application reviews, some that are multiple drafts for a single project.

{Goals/Objectives: I.1-3; III.1}

- SHPO Tax Credit reviewers Samantha McGowen and Lindsay Tran participated in NPS's ongoing webinar series on Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits and Interpreting the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.
- SHPO submitted for approval the following applications:

Part 1 Approvals

Curtis Music Hall, Butte

Thornton Hotel, Butte

Franklin School, Great Falls

Kalispell Grand Hotel, Kalispell



Part 2 Approvals

Broadway Apartments, Lewistown

Roundup Central School, Roundup

KPRK Radio, Livingston

Franklin School, Great Falls

Kalispell Grand Hotel, Kalispell

Old Billings Hardware, Billings



The long dormant KPRK Radio station, Livingston was inundated by the 2022 Yellowstone River flood. It is now elevated on a new foundation and will begin broadcasting in 2026.

Review and Compliance Program

. Perform regular, allowable review and compliance activities that contribute to the preservation of Montana's cultural resource properties, including: timely project reviews with qualified professional staff according to applicable federal and/or state rules, standards and guidelines; specific assistance to federal agencies in fulfilling their responsibilities under Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act; the development and participation in preservation compliance agreements; and the participation as legally designated in related state preservation laws and code, including the Montana State Antiquities Act, the Montana Human Skeletal Remains and Burial Protection Act and the Montana Repatriation Act (Goals/Objectives: II.2-4; IV.1, 4; V.1, 3, 6; VI.1, 2)

SHPO's Review and Compliance team is comprised of archaeologists, building preservationists, and architectural historians. Each year the team provides thousands of responses to project requests submitted for review and comment in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106), and the Montana State Antiquities Act.

Consultation typically begins with the agency initiating a "file search" request to SHPO for cultural resource information compiled in SHPO's database. A file search, which includes a GIS review of the project area, is the basis of staff determining the likelihood of historic properties within the project scope or area of potential effect. File searches can result in SHPO's recommendations for additional survey within the project's area of potential effect. File search results and subsequent surveys lead to eventual determinations of National Register eligibility and the undertaking's effect on historic properties. Resolving consultation involves findings of *no historic properties affected*, avoidance of adverse effects to historic properties, or mitigation of adverse effects.

SHPO provided consulting parties with 994 file searches; and issued 1,903 written responses regarding findings of eligibility and effect, or establishment of agreement documents for a total of 2,897 engagements with consulting parties (Fig. 3). Response times among the seven (7) compliance staff averaged 10.8 days. SHPO continues to operate within the allowable 15 and 30-day response times.

In 2025, SHPO recommended that no further cultural resource work was warranted in 460 (46%) of the 994 file searches of 7,968 sections. Turnaround time for file searches averaged one (1) day. To provide entities with high volume consulting immediate access to data and the agencies plan undertakings, SHPO grants database access to eight (8) federal agencies, three (3) state agencies, and Montana's eight (8) THPOs. Only qualified agency or THPO staff can access restricted site data, which includes archaeological site information protected under federal and state laws.

After fulfilling SHPO's file search recommendations, parties will: 1) determine the subject properties' National Register status; and 2) reach a finding of effect the undertaking would have on such properties based on a project overview. SHPO and the agency work to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects an undertaking could have to properties' National Register qualities.

Certain compliance projects are handled under multi-year Programmatic Agreements (PA) that streamline consultation and establish protocols among consulting parties. Projects covered under PAs typically do not require SHPO's written response. {2023-2027 Goal/Objective VI.1} Agencies and SHPO executed seven (7) PAs.

In FFY25, SHPO signed four (4) state-level PAs.

- USFS, Recreation Residence PA renewal
- Department of Energy-Bonneville Power Authority, Transmission Line

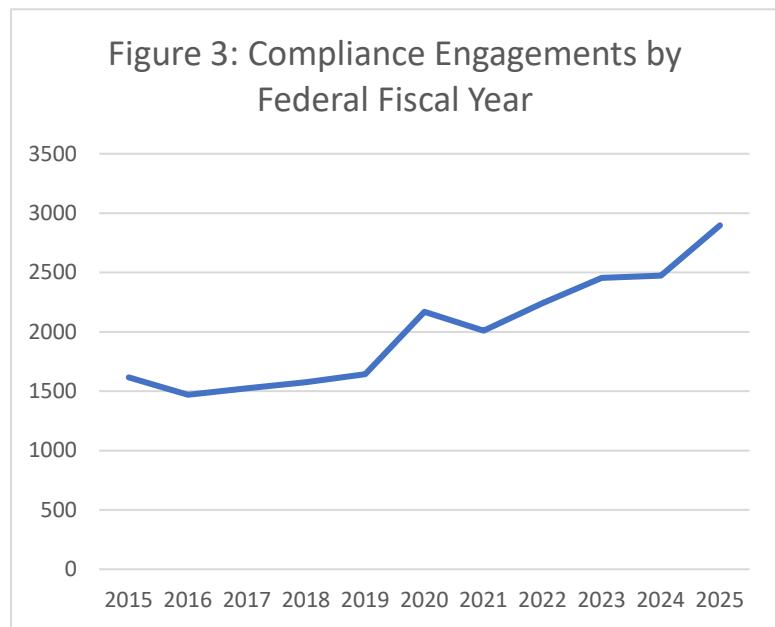
- Department of Energy-Western Area Power Authority, Facility Maintenance
- Department of Energy-Bonneville Power Authority, Substations and Microwave Radio Stations

The Trump Administration's Executive Order on an Energy Emergency and the Secretarial Order #3418 will potentially reduce SHPO's File Search revenue, compliance-driven cultural resources surveys, and Compliance workloads.

Of the 1,903 compliance consultations in 2025, twenty-one (21) concluded in findings of adverse effect to National Register properties. Agencies may cancel or amend an undertaking to avoid adversely affecting historic properties; or they may elect to undertake an *adverse* project to meet non-preservation goals. Agencies unable to avoid adversely affecting historic properties establish a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with SHPO and other stakeholders. MOAs commit the agency to mitigation commensurate with the adverse effect.

In 2025, SHPO signed the seventeen (17) MOAs below. Some of these tie to findings of adverse effect in previous years. More than a third of these MOAs are related to historic bridge removals. Montana's aging, under-sized, and relatively narrow bridges are succumbing to deterioration, increased traffic from rural development, and the need for emergency fire vehicles to access rural areas in an era of increased wildfire risk.

- Bureau of Reclamation, Greenfields Irrigation District Tunnel 3 (bridge-related)
- USFS-Custer Gallatin, East Crazy Mountains & Inspiration Divide
- Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Crystal Mine
- Federal Aviation Administration, Stanford Airport Beacon
- Army Corps of Engineers, Beaver Creek Bridge Replacement
- Army Corps of Engineers, Meridian Bridge
- Montana Department of Transportation, Pipestone Pass Erosion Repair
- Army Corps of Engineers, Old Town Bridge East & West
- USFS-Helena-Lewis & Clark, Red Mountain Flume
- Montana Department of Transportation, Toston Bridge Removal
- Montana Department of Transportation, Conner South
- USFS-Custer Gallatin, East Boulder Mine
- Federal Highways Administration, Sun River Bridge Replacement
- Federal Aviation Administration, Deer Lodge Airport
- National Park Service-Glacier, Two Medicine Road Rehab & Kiosk Removal
- Montana Department of Transportation, Flathead River Road Rehab



Local Government Certification (CLG) Program

. Perform regular, allowable activities relating to the certification of local governments in the Certified Local Government (CLG) program that contribute to the preservation of Montana's cultural resource properties, including: certification as eligible under Section 101c of the National Historic Preservation Act; processing of applications for certification or amendments of certification agreements; development of state program guidance and procedures; and monitoring and evaluation of existing CLG performance under sub-grants. (2023-2027 Goals/Objectives: I.1, 4; II.1, 3; III.1, 2; IV.4; V.1-6)

Identified \$76,735.23 in funding passthrough of SHPO's 2025 Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) apportionment statewide to 14 Certified Local Government (CLG) communities. The remaining \$25,854.57 in required passthrough funding will be subgranted to CLG projects in the next federal fiscal year.

Reviewed and approved semi-annual and annual reports and requests for reimbursement from CLGs, including documentation of allowable activities and match (cash and in-kind). Montana's CLGs currently contribute the majority of Montana's 40% state match for federal funding (HPF).

Assisted and communicated regularly with all Montana local preservation officers during the year. Responded to requests in a timely manner.

- Fourteen (14) active CLG contracts facilitate spending a combined total of \$76,735.23 of Federal Historic Preservation Funds that pass through SHPO.
- Assisted Butte-Silver Bow CLG's development and implementation of their Historic Revitalization Project (HRP) grants, funded by the Paul Bruhn Grant program administered by NPS. Based on SHPO's successful Bruhn funded Revitalizing Montana's Rural Heritage grant program, the HRP will use its \$749,862 in Bruhn funding to support six (6) major rehabilitation projects for NHL-listed properties in Butte and Walkerville. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objectives I.4}
- Worked with the Laurel-Billings-Crow-Yellowstone County CLG to develop a walking tour of Architect Chandler Cohagen's designs in Billings, and listed Laurel's Riverside Park in the National Register. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objectives II.2, III.2}
- Provided CLG passthrough funds to Bozeman to support the local HPO's work to establish a local historic landmark program. This local designation will play a key role in preservation policy and planning. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objectives III.1}
- Each active Montana CLG program provided semi-annual and final reports explaining their activities, reporting any changes to their ordinances, the status of their commissions, completed or ongoing survey and NR documentation, their financial records, outreach and publicity, and program goals. These reports function as comprehensive evaluations of their compliance with the Montana CLG Manual and federal guidelines. SHPO performed four-year performance evaluations of Butte, Great Falls, Helena, and Livingston to ensure their programs meet or exceed expectations.
- Continued to provide technical guidance and input to Carbon County CLG and Red Lodge Community Foundation (RLCF) regarding their Bruhn-funded Carbon County Historic Rehabilitation Grant Program. The program's projects include: Carbon County Historical Society & Museum; One Legged Magpie; Red Lodge Carnegie Library; Red Lodge Rocks; Roman Theater; Yellowstone Bighorn Research Association; Yodeler Motel; and the Zier

Gallery. [Carbon County Historic Rehabilitation Grant Program \(CCHR\)](#) is a storymap highlighting those projects. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objectives I.4}

- Deer Lodge CLG was unable to retain its carpentry specialist for the Coleman-Larson Block parapet reconstruction project. SHPO will redirect those passthrough funds to another CLG activity during the current Federal Fiscal year.
- Consulted in person and remotely with community historic preservation officers and their commission members regarding eligibility, design review, certificates of appropriateness, and demolition review. Provided preservation training to these parties at the Montana History Conference Preservation Workshop, September. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objectives II.2; III.1; IV.4}
- Participated in May Preservation Month activities by providing information, guidance, and review to CLG programs' activities. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objective I.1; II.1-3; V.6}
- Miles City's and Big Horn County's CLG programs are dormant.

Other Activities: Outreach

. Perform regular, allowable other activities that contribute to the preservation of Montana's cultural resource properties, including organization and participation in historic preservation outreach and education programs; assistance to HABS/HAER documentation projects; the support of statewide and local preservation organizations; and the conduct of other activities that cross-cut other program areas (2023-2027 Goals/Objectives: I.1-4; II.1- 3; III.1, 2; IV.1-4; V.1, 2, 4-6; VI.2)

Responded to inquiries and provided technical assistance through 928 phone calls, 6472 emails, and 509 meetings. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives II.1,2; III.1; IV.1}

Networked with national preservation partners, including the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO), National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (NATHPO), National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP), National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (AHP), and the National Park Service (NPS). {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives IV.4}

Provided expertise in preservation, historic architecture, architectural history, archaeology, and GIS to the programs and projects of the Montana Historical Society (MHS). {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives IV.4}

Provided input and service to boards and special committees or programs of other state and statewide organizations, including: the Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees, the State Historic Preservation Review Board, the Montana Burial Preservation Board, the State Information Technology Services Division Geographic Information System Coordination Committee, the Montana Heritage Preservation Commission, the Montana Archaeological Society, the Forest Fire Lookout Association, the Montana Main Street Advisory Board, Montana Department of Commerce Historic Preservation Grant staff, and Preserve Montana. {2023-2027 Plan Goal/Objective III.1; IV.4}

Created and distributed Montana preservation [greeting cards](#) featuring photography and interpretation of historic hydropower facilities. This year's cards include Mystic Lake Powerhouse, Fort Peck Dam, Thompson Falls Hydroelectric Complex, and the Seliš Ksanka Qlispé Dam. SHPO mails recipients multiple blank cards for use in correspondence, which multiplies SHPO's reach. Cards were also distributed to Montana History Conference attendees. {2023-2027 Plan Goals/Objectives III.2}



Archaeologist Steve Platt demonstrates stone tools to Cub Scouts.

- SHPO awards ceremony May 16, Myrna Loy Center, Helena
 - Kevin Kooistra, Historian
 - Crowley Block (One Health), Lewistown
 - Dion Block, Glendive
 - Gary Smith, Retired BLM Archaeologist
 - Joan Brownell, Historian
- Kate Hampton presented the topic Black-Owned Businesses in Helena to the Westerners Corral organization, January
- Kate Hampton presented Lifting as We Climb: Union Bethel AME and Social Justice in 20th Century Great Falls to the Women's Club of Great Falls, February.
- Jessica Bush hosted a NAGPRA workshop at the Montana Association of Museums conference, March
- Community Preservation Coordinator Kate Hampton presented an overview of SHPO programs and the Certified Local Government (CLG) program to the Prairie County Museum Board, local elected officials, and the public in Terry.
- Kate Hampton met with AME Church congregants in Billings to discuss a possible NR nomination for that property.
- Kate Hampton presented a workshop in Missoula on how to conduct research using government documents, November 14
- National Register Coordinator John Boughton and Kate Hampton hosted a public meeting in Big Timber on November 18 on the upcoming survey and subsequent National Register nomination
- Compliance Officer Samantha McGowen and Lindsay Tran presented on Section 106 review related to EPA-Brownfields grants and Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits on November 19
- Lindsay Tran led a webinar for SHPO Grant applicants on November 21
- Montana Public Radio interviewed Jessica Bush about the Anzick Collection, December 3
- Cultural Records Assistant Stephany Wood is updating SHPO's story map reflecting SHPO grant-funded properties. SHPO has [nine story maps](#) highlighting various SHPO initiatives around the state.
- Jessica taught archaeological survey basics to two high school students with a visit to state-owned Canyon Creek on April 2, 3
- SHPO's precarious funding situation forced it to cancel the Youth Archaeological Survey Program done in collaboration with the MT Discovery Foundation, Helena National Forest, and MT DNRC
- SHPO staff partnered with MTHS Outreach and Education department to host Archaeology Day on May 8
- Kate Hampton presented on the topic of Bungalows at the Upper Musselshell Museum, Harlowton; June 10

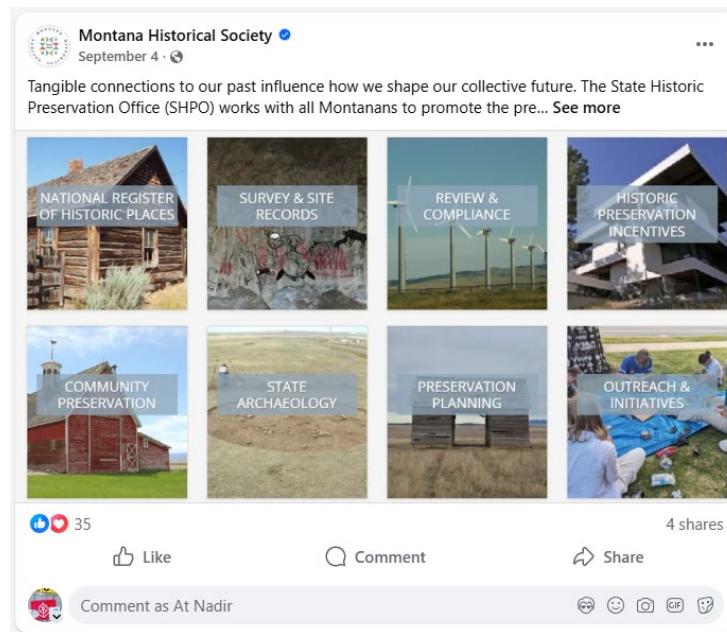
Press and Social Media

Traditional news media:

- [A historic Laurel park is nominated for National Register of Historic Places](#); Kayla Desroches, Yellowstone Public Radio; October 1, 2024
- [Little store on the prairie: Garneill building nominated for national historic status](#); Deb Hill, Lewistown News-Agus; October 23, 2024
- [Montana Historical Society offers Preservation Grants throughout the State](#); Liz Dempsey, Char-Koosta News; November 21, 2024
- [What do we know about Montana's earliest residents?](#) John Hooks & Austin Amestoy, Montana Public Radio; December 5, 2024
- [The Regis gets Historic Recognition](#); Carbon County News, December 12, 2024
- [Archie Bray Foundation facility earns preservation grant](#); MTN News, Great Falls, May 7, 2025
- [Fourth graders get hands-on experience at Archaeology Day](#); Madelyn Heath, KTVH, Helena; May 8, 2025
- [Montana SHPO awards grants to preserve historic properties](#); Valley Journal; May 14, 2025
- [Six Historic Montana Properties, Including Century-Old Businesses and Bridges, Seek National Register Status](#); Western Montana News; September 7, 2025

Social Media Posts

- Three posts promoting SHPO's January, May, and September Review Board Meetings
- Six Practical Reasons to Save Old Buildings (National Trust for Historic Preservation repost)
- Promoting SHPO's offerings: The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) works with all Montanans to promote the preservation of our state's historic architecture, archaeology, and cultural places, helping to ensure that these resources are documented, interpreted, protected and – when appropriate – adapted for reuse.
- Series of three posts featuring Patti Casne, Jeff Sheldon, and Frank LaLiberty recognized for their service on the Historic Preservation Review Board
- Promoting Preserve Montana's historic finishes workshop
- Series of posts promoting SHPO's programs: Montana's Certified Local Governments, Federal and State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Programs, National Register of Historic Places program, and Statewide Preservation Planning; Cultural Records Database.
- SHPO's Biennial Awards Ceremony, featuring 2025



SHPO's September 9 Facebook post about SHPO's website and programs.

- Series of posts for SHPO's Biennial Awards Ceremony, featuring: John DeHaas Memorial Award recipient, historian Kevin Kooistra; Outstanding Rehab Project, the Crowley Block, Lewistown; the Governor's Award, Dion Block, Glendive; Outstanding Contribution to Historic Preservation, archaeologist Gary Smith; and Outstanding Contribution to Historic Preservation, historian Joan Brownell
- Series of four posts for SHPO's 2025 Greeting Cards, featuring the Selis Ksanka Qlispe Dam, Flathead County; Fort Peck Dam, Fort Peck; Thompson Falls Hydroelectric complex, Thompson Falls; and Mystic Lake Powerhouse, Carbon County
- Congratulations to Lisa Hunt, Cultural Resource Database Research Fellow summer semester 2025
- Promoting Preserve Montana's historic wood window repair workshop
- Promoting SHPO's biennial preservation awards ceremony
- Daphne Bugbee Jones, Montana Modernist documentary by SHPO (repost)
- Energy Efficiency and Historic Preservation, featuring the LEED Platinum-Historic Tax Credit recipient Swift Building, Billings
- Promoting SHPO's Cultural Resource Database Research Fellowship
- Montana's African American Heritage Places Story Map
- Promoting the Montana Archaeological Society's grant for archaeological research
- Promoting SHPO's brick-and-mortar grant program funded by proceeds from a state accommodations tax
- SHPO welcomes new State Review Board members: Laura Evilsizer, Phil Gonzalez, Mary Williams, and Rose Krieg
- Series of posts listing recent National Register of Historic Places listings: Riverside Park, Laurel; and Manley's General Store, Garneill.
- SHPO volunteer Woody Wilson's research identifying Montana's historic, extant music performance venues, featuring the Curtis Music Hall, Butte.
- Historic Corner Groceries, featuring the National Register listed Regis Grocery, Red Lodge.
- Black History Under the Big Sky MTHS presentation by historian Anthony Wood
- Ghost Signs featuring Highlander Beer mural, Butte
- The [National Historic Preservation Act in Big Sky Country](#) (repost), a Montana PBS segment on archaeology the NHPA is credited with saving.
- SHPO's Historic Windows, Repair and Thermal Upgrade, 2009 (repost)
- Five Montana Properties Nominated for National Historic Register Inclusion: Regis Grocery, Gardiner Bridge, Riverside Park, and Castle Rock Lodge
- 6 Things You Might Not Know About Historic Preservation Offices (But Should!) Why advocating for robust funding for the Historic Preservation Fund is so important. (National Trust for Historic Preservation repost)