

individuals of Native American ancestry.

- Pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 3001(2), there is a relationship of shared group identity that can be reasonably traced between the Native American human remains and the Onondaga Nation.

#### Additional Requestors and Disposition

Lineal descendants or representatives of any Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice that wish to request transfer of control of these human remains should submit a written request with information in support of the request to Lisa Anderson, New York State Museum, 3049 Cultural Education Center, Albany, NY 12230, telephone (518) 486-2020, email [lisa.anderson@nysed.gov](mailto:lisa.anderson@nysed.gov), by May 14, 2018. After that date, if no additional requestors have come forward, transfer of control of the human remains to the Onondaga Nation may proceed.

The New York State Museum is responsible for notifying the Onondaga Nation that this notice has been published.

Dated: March 22, 2018.

**Melanie O'Brien,**

*Manager, National NAGPRA Program.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

[NPS-WASO-NAGPRA-25274;  
PPWOCRADNO-PCU00RP14.R50000]

#### Notice of Intent To Repatriate Cultural Items: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, Omaha, NE, and State Archaeological Research Center, Rapid City, SD

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.  
**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District (Omaha District), in consultation with the appropriate Indian tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations, has determined that the cultural items listed in this notice meet the definition of unassociated funerary objects. Lineal descendants or representatives of any Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice that wish to claim these cultural items should submit a written request to the Omaha District. If no additional claimants come forward, transfer of control of the cultural items to the lineal descendants, Indian tribes, or Native Hawaiian organizations stated in this notice may proceed.

**DATES:** Lineal descendants or representatives of any Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice that wish to claim these cultural items should submit a written request with information in support of the claim to the Omaha District at the address in this notice by May 14, 2018.

**ADDRESSES:** Ms. Sandra Barnum, U.S. Army Engineer District, Omaha, ATTN: CENWO-PM-AB, 1616 Capital Avenue, Omaha, NE 68102, telephone, (402) 995-2674, email [sandra.v.barnum@usace.army.mil](mailto:sandra.v.barnum@usace.army.mil).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice is hereby given in accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3005, of the intent to repatriate cultural items under the control of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District and in the physical custody of the South Dakota State Archaeological Research Center (SARC), that meet the definition of unassociated funerary objects under 25 U.S.C. 3001.

This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA, 25 U.S.C. 3003(d)(3). The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the museum, institution, or Federal agency that has control of the Native American cultural items. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

#### History and Description of the Cultural Item(s)

In 1956, 148 cultural items were removed from site 39CA0006 in Buffalo County, SD. Site 39CA0006 was excavated by Dr. David A. Baerreis, University of Wisconsin, prior to the creation of the Oahe Dam Reservoir. At that time, human remains and funerary objects were removed from two features (Feature 2 and Feature 4). The excavation records show that the 148 unassociated funerary objects at SARC were removed from Feature 2 (which contained two individuals). The current location of the human remains from this feature is unknown. The cultural items were originally stored at the University of Wisconsin-Madison until they were moved to the South Dakota State Archaeological Research Center (SARC) in 2015. The cultural items are presently located at the SARC, under the managerial control of the U.S. Army Engineer District, Omaha District. The 148 unassociated funerary objects are 1 chalcedony biface knife, 103 ceramic body sherds, 19 rim sherds, 2 faunal bone awls, 1 unidentifiable faunal bone fragment, 4 faunal bone hoes, 1 faunal

bone knife, 2 modified faunal bones, 1 biface flake, 1 biface knife, 3 chipped stones, 2 projectile points, 3 scrapers, 3 shaft abraders, 1 uniface flake, and 1 catlinite pipe fragment.

Site 39CA0006 is a fortified village and is believed to represent the Extended Coalescent (A.D. 1500-1675) because of the mix of European and Native elements among the objects, including brass elements and glass beads, as well as the presence of flexed primary inhumations and log coverings, which represent a burial practice of the Akaska Focus. Based on oral tradition, historic accounts, archeological evidence, geographical location, and physical anthropological interpretations, the Extended Coalescent variants are believed to be ancestral Arikara. The Arikara are represented today by the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, North Dakota.

#### Determinations Made by the Omaha District

Officials of the Omaha District have determined that:

- Pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 3001(3)(B), the 148 cultural items described above are reasonably believed to have been placed with or near individual human remains at the time of death or later as part of the death rite or ceremony and are believed, by a preponderance of the evidence, to have been removed from a specific burial site of a Native American individual.

- Pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 3001(2), there is a relationship of shared group identity that can be reasonably traced between the unassociated funerary objects and the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, North Dakota.

#### Additional Requestors and Disposition

Lineal descendants or representatives of any Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice that wish to claim these cultural items should submit a written request with information in support of the claim to Ms. Sandra Barnum, U.S. Army Engineer District, Omaha, ATTN: CENWO-PM-AB, 1616 Capital Avenue, Omaha, NE 68102, telephone, (402) 995-2674, email [sandra.v.barnum@usace.army.mil](mailto:sandra.v.barnum@usace.army.mil), by May 14, 2018. After that date, if no additional claimants have come forward, transfer of control of the unassociated funerary objects to the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, North Dakota.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, is responsible for notifying the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, North

Dakota, that this notice has been published.

Dated: March 21, 2018.

**Melanie O'Brien,**

*Manager, National NAGPRA Program.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### National Park Service

[NPS-IMR-GRSA-24169; PPWONRADE2, PMP00EI05.YP0000]

#### Ungulate Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, Colorado

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability; request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** The National Park Service announces the availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Ungulate Management Plan (UMP) for Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, Colorado. The UMP DEIS assesses the impacts that could result from continuing current management (the no-action alternative), or implementing any of the action alternatives for the future management of elk and bison at Great Sand Dunes. The NPS preferred alternative identified in the UMP DEIS is alternative 3.

**DATES:** The National Park Service will accept comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for 45 days after the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes their Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**.

**ADDRESSES:** Information will be available for public review and comment online at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/grsa>, and in the Office of the Superintendent, Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, 11500 Highway 150 Mosca, Colorado 81146.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Acting Superintendent, Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, 11500 Highway 150, Mosca, Colorado 81146, (719) 378-6311, [grsa\\_superintendent@nps.gov](mailto:grsa_superintendent@nps.gov); or Fred Bunch, Chief of Resource Management, Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve, 11500 Highway 150, Mosca, Colorado 81146, (719) 378-6361, [fred\\_bunch@nps.gov](mailto:fred_bunch@nps.gov).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The combined General Management Plan (GMP)/Wilderness Study for the Great

Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve (GRSA) was approved in 2007. In the GMP Record of Decision, the NPS committed to developing an elk management plan to address concerns of elk overconcentration in GRSA. The GMP also addressed the potential future acquisition of the Medano Ranch from The Nature Conservancy (TNC). TNC currently manages a bison herd on these lands, and the GMP noted if additional bison habitat became available at some time in the future, the NPS could consider managing bison in the park.

As a result of the guidance in the GMP and active, ongoing efforts to acquire the Medano Ranch, the NPS has prepared this Ungulate Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement (UMP DEIS). The purpose of the UMP DEIS is to determine the appropriate future management of elk and bison in GRSA. Action is needed at this time because:

- Elk and bison are currently on the landscape and there is no plan to address their management and impacts, both positive and negative, in support of desired habitat conditions.

- Disproportionate elk use in sensitive and highly productive/diverse areas of the park is leading to adverse impacts, particularly in wetland vegetation communities. In addition, the existing bison herd spends a disproportionate amount of time using these same vegetation communities, particularly during winter when elk overconcentration is the highest.

- Bison are currently managed by TNC on the Medano Ranch and portions of the Park and a decision is needed to determine whether to have bison at GRSA in the future and, if so, how to manage them.

- The Department of the Interior (DOI) Bison Conservation Initiative and the NPS Call to Action (Back Home on the Range), combined with additional information about bison and bison habitat in the San Luis Valley, provides an opportunity to reexamine the potential for bison conservation following the 2007 GMP.

This UMP DEIS, which was prepared with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Colorado Parks and Wildlife as cooperating agencies, evaluates the impacts of the no-action alternative (Alternative 1) and three action alternatives (Alternatives 2, 3, and 4).

Under alternative 1, public elk hunting would continue in the Preserve, but there would be no other active elk management and no new action would occur to manage impacts from elk, including the effects of elk herbivory. TNC would continue to graze bison on the Medano Ranch until government

acquisition and would be responsible for removing their bison and associated fencing prior to NPS acquisition of the Medano Ranch, in accordance with the 2007 GMP Record of Decision. Under this alternative, the NPS would remove the current bison fencing on NPS lands.

Alternative 2 would incorporate active elk management to redistribute elk from areas of overconcentration. Public elk hunting would continue in the Preserve, and NPS would use elk dispersal tools in the Park, including non-lethal hazing, and limited lethal removal using trained volunteers and other authorized agents. Additional exclosures (fencing) would be constructed for the purpose of protecting sensitive habitat or for habitat restoration. This alternative would follow the current direction in the GMP for bison, as described for Alternative 1.

Alternative 3 (the NPS Preferred Alternative) would include public elk hunting in the Preserve, and the same non-lethal and lethal elk redistribution tools described under Alternative 2. The NPS would also make a programmatic decision to amend the GMP and manage a bison herd in the park after acquisition of the Medano Ranch. For the first 5-7 years after acquisition of the Medano Ranch, the NPS would seek to partner with TNC to manage the bison herd. After this timeframe, the NPS would assume responsibility of bison management within the existing bison fence, with a population goal of 80 to 260 animals. The bison range could be expanded within the life of the plan, at which point the NPS could consider a population goal between 80 and 560 animals. Tools used to manage bison abundance and distribution in the future would include roundup and translocation, hazing, and limited lethal removal.

Under Alternative 4, public elk hunting in the Preserve would continue, and the NPS would use the same non-lethal and lethal elk redistribution tools described under Alternatives 2 and 3 in the Park. Under this alternative, the NPS would acquire the Medano Ranch and work with TNC to remove all bison, but would make a programmatic decision to amend the GMP so that after a period of 5-7 years, the NPS would establish a new conservation herd to be managed by the NPS. Once re-established, bison abundance and range would be the same as described for alternative 3, as would potential future bison management tools.

Because the range of alternatives includes the removal of bison completely or deferred NPS management of bison for 5-7 years, and because of concerns that the high