REPORT OF RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE
LEGEND ROCK STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

(Photo #1) Legend Rock petroglyph panel. Photograph taken July 2006 by Carolyn McClellan

Prepared by the Legend Rock Interagency Steering Committee
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INTRODUCTION
The Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources, Division of State Parks and Historic Sites (SPHS), Hot Springs State Park (HSSP) manages the Legend Rock State Archaeological Site.

![Wyoming State Map](image)

**Figure 1- Wyoming State Map, Legend Rock is indicated by the star**

This archaeological site is located 28 miles from the Town of Thermopolis in the north central part of Wyoming. Representatives from Hot Springs State Parks (HSSP), Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (WYSHPO), the Wyoming State Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Worland BLM Field Office, Washington BLM Headquarters, Dr. Lawrence (Larry) Loendorf, a prolific rock art author and researcher, and Bob Pickering from the Buffalo Bill Historical Center (BBHC) met at the location on July 19, 2006 to discuss management plans for the site.

Dr. Loendorf observed graffiti at the site in May and June of 2006 and organized the meeting to bring attention to the site. He discussed the site with Todd Thibodeau of Wyoming State Parks and Cultural Resources who informed him of planned work at the site. The group visited Legend Rock 1 on State Land and Legend Rock 2 on Private Land to see the resource and its current condition. The group discussed the proposed development project and the need for additional recordation at the site. Mike Bies provided maps showing the land status of the site and the proposed developments at the site. The group committed to have a follow-up meeting to better develop a future course of action when more parties could attend. Bob Pickering offered to host that meeting in Cody at the Buffalo Bill Historical Center (BBHC) in October 2006.
BBHC hosted the first planning meeting in Cody, WY, October 2006 to discuss the future of this SPHS site. The core group of attendees included: Wyoming State Parks: Joe Bonds and Todd Thibodeau; Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office: Joe Daniele and Jeff Pappas; Hot Springs State Parks: Kevin Skates and Bill Hankee; Wyoming Department of Transportation: Dr. Julie Francis; University of Wyoming: Dr. Danny Walker and Dr. Marcel Kornfeld; the Bureau of Land Management: Washington Office: Carolyn McClellan; Wyoming State Office: Tim Nowak, Judyth Reed and Ranel Capron; Worland Field Office: Mike Bies; Newcastle Field Office: Dr. Alice Tratebas; Cody Field Office: Anna Yoder; BLM National Science and Technology Center: Tom Noble; Wyoming Archaeological Society: Barb Vietti and Barb Nahas; Buffalo Bill Historical Center: Bob Pickering; Independent rock art managers, researchers, and conservators: Dr. Johannes (Jannie) Loubser, Dr. Lawrence Loendorf, and Dr. Russ Kaldenberg. As a result of this meeting, SPHS decided to create an interagency steering committee to prepare a report of recommendations for the future of the site.

The Legend Rock Interagency Steering Committee (Committee) consists of Kevin Skates, Superintendent of HSSP, Bill Hankee, Trades Technician, HSSP, Joe Daniele, WY SHPO, Dr. Julie Francis, WY DOT, Dr. Danny Walker, U of Wyoming, Mike Bies, Archaeologist, BLM Worland Field Office, Carolyn McClellan, BLM Division Chief, Cultural Resources, Washington Office, Dr. Larry Loendorf, rock art researcher, Barb Nahas, Wyoming Archaeological Society, Joe Bonds, SPHS, and Todd Thibodeau, SPHS planning manager. Even though these members serve as the core group, other interested parties are encouraged to attend and provide input into site management.

(Photo #2) – Legend Rock attendees at Buffalo Bill Historical Center inaugural meeting, October 2006. Back row l to r: Tom Noble, Jannie Loubser, Alice Tratebas, Anna Yoder, Julie Francis, Barb Vietti, Judyth Reed, Tim Nowak, Russ Kaldenberg, Joe Bonds, Kevin Skates, Carolyn McClellan, Jeff Pappas, Joe Daniele, Ranel Capron, Todd Thibodeau. Front row l to r: Marcel Kornfeld, Alicia Giles, Larry Loendorf, Barb Nahas, Danny Walker, Bill Hankee, Mike Bies, and Bob Pickering. Photo courtesy of Buffalo Bill Historical Center.
Since that initial meeting, we have had numerous conference calls, email contacts and another face-to-face meeting held in April 2007 in Saratoga, WY. There is wonderful synergy in the group even though there are differences of opinion expressed during these meetings. Everyone attending though willingly works together because they have the best interests of the resource at heart.

The mission of the Committee is to provide guidance and recommendations to the Wyoming Division of State Parks and Historic Sites on the restoration, maintenance, management, interpretation, promotion, and public accommodation at the Legend Rock State Archaeological site.

The goals of the Committee are to prepare a report with recommendations on the following items:

1. Recordation of the Legend Rock State Archaeological site petroglyph panels
2. Maintenance and management of the Legend Rock State Archaeological site
3. Interpretation and educational opportunities at the Legend Rock State Archaeological site
4. Promoting and advertising the Legend Rock State Archaeological site
5. Providing heritage tourism accommodations at the Legend Rock State Archaeological site (i.e. visitor center, parking, pathways, picnic area, kiosk, etc.)

**BRIEF HISTORY OF THE LEGEND ROCK STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE**

Located 28 miles north and west of Thermopolis, Wyoming, the site can be accessed from WY 120 north to WY 170 then an additional three miles on BLM road 1305. Located approximately 30 miles northwest of Hot Springs State Park, the Legend Rock State Archaeological site enables visitors to view over 300 petroglyphs spanning a time-period of thousands of years. These petroglyphs introduce you to multiple cultures and eras long past. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places 7/5/73, Legend Rock is a special place and one of the highlights of the Big Horn Basin and Wyoming. Legend Rock, while not heavily promoted, is already a world-renowned rock art site.
This photograph depicts the three areas of ownership for the Legend Rock State Archaeological site. The State’s section has the largest number of petroglyphs recorded at the site.

RECOMMENDATIONS
1. Recording
Recording the Legend Rock State Archaeological site petroglyph panels

Over the past two years, considerable recording of the petroglyph panels by photogrammetry has occurred at the site. Photogrammetry is the art, science, and technology of obtaining reliable information about physical objects and the environment through the process of recording, measuring, and interpreting photographic images and patterns of electromagnetic radiant energy and other phenomena. Recording the panels with this technology allows for a permanent digital record to be made and the ability to research the panels without degradation to the original surfaces.
Horned being on rock panel. 

Long-horn sheep on panel

Variety of carved images on rock panel. Photos courtesy of Carolyn McClellan, Bureau of Land Management.
Variety of carved images on rock panel. Photo courtesy of Carolyn McClellan, Bureau of Land Management.

Vandalism at the Site
Natural Erosion
Implementation
The Committee will work with legislators to secure state funding for the project and support grant opportunities.

HSSP should act as the project manager when funding is secured to build a parking lot, road improvements, visitor’s center, developing a trail network; interpretive signage, ADA access to the site, moving existing developments out of the spirit trail and revegetate the trail area leading to the private property.

The Committee makes the following recommendations:
--Host a dedication ceremony when the trails and visitor’s center are completed.
--Record the remainder of the panels at the site and expand on the archaeological work done in 1988.
--Hire a rock art conservator, Jannie Loubser, to help mitigate graffiti damage done at the site.
--Form a subcommittee to update signage at the site and develop a new, revised brochure
--Form a subcommittee to develop a guidebook for sale
--Update the site boundaries
--Acquire the private property through a land exchange between the property landowner and the BLM
--Investigate ways to partner with the Buffalo Bill Historical Center to develop a public forum to be held in April 2009. This forum would allow for papers and poster presentations be made, followed by a site visit open to the public.

2. Maintenance and Management of the Legend Rock site
Partnerships
After this recommendation report is completed the Committee recommends drafting a new partnership agreement between HSSP and the BLM outlining ways they might work together to maintain the site. This can include controlling access to the site, locking and unlocking the site, watching for vandalism, creating displays for the visitor center, helping with trash pick-up, and helping to maintain the parking lot and roads to the site. The Committee will also approach several local groups and individuals about supporting the project. This may include making public presentations or writing articles for newsletters.

Additional Recommendations for the Site:
--HSSP should look into establishing a dedicated budget for the site.
--The BLM and the WY SHPO should jointly develop a site steward program for monitoring the site
--Both HSSP and the BLM should encourage the use of interns in monitoring and maintaining the site
--Encourage the use of camp hosts or site hosts to stay for extended periods of time at the site to discourage vandalism and enhance a visitor’s experience at the site
--HSSP should explore various means of recording visitation at the site; including an onsite guest register.
--SPHS should look into exterior lighting and security systems (i.e. motion sensor alarm, camera, lights, and law enforcement) to reduce vandalism.

3. Developing Partnerships

Tremendous work has been done at the Legend Rock State Archaeological site through its many partnerships with the following organizations/individuals:

State Parks and Historic Sites (SPHS)
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Wyoming Archaeological Society (WAS)
Buffalo Bill Historical Center (BBHC)
University of Wyoming (U of WY)
Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT)
Wyoming Archaeological Foundation (WAF)
Hot Springs County
Chambers of Commerce – Cody and Thermopolis
Thermopolis Museum
Wyoming PBS
Professional researchers, conservators and collaborators

The Committee recommends that continued efforts be made to keep the interagency steering committee involved in the continued use and preservation of the Legend Rock State Archaeological site.

4. Interpretation and Education

The Committee recommends SPHS look into interpreting the site through traditional signage, brochures, technology aided interpretation devices (such as audio cones, downloadable audio tours, podcasts and projectors), living history demonstrations, events/festivals, and archaeology field schools.

The Committee recommends SPHS work with the town of Thermopolis and the Wyoming Archaeological Society to display and interpret site information in the Thermopolis County Museum.

5. Promotion and Advertising

The Committee recommends SPHS work to promote the site through updated brochures, the SPHS website, BBHC website, signage, working with local historical organizations, advertising on the highway radio network, utilizing print media inserts, and working with the local PBS TV station.

The Committee will work with area organizations to promote the station, such as Hot Springs and Park County Commissioners, the Hot Springs and Park County Historical
Societies, and the Wyoming Archaeological Society and Wyoming Archaeological Foundation.

6. Tourist Accommodation

SPHS along with the BLM has developed a graveled parking area and rest room facilities that are located adjacent to the new visitor center. It is proposed that a kiosk be installed along with a few picnic tables to enhance visitor enjoyment to the site. Great care has been taken to ensure the site and visitor trails are in full ADA compliance.

REFERENCES
Francis, Julie and Lawrence L. Loendorf
   2002 Ancient Visions: Petroglyphs and Pictographs of the Wind River and Bighorn Country, Wyoming and Montana
Legend Rock Interagency Steering Committee
   2007 “Conference Call Notes and Meeting Minutes of the Legend Rock Interagency Steering Committee.”
       On file, Washington Office Bureau of Land Management
   2006 “Meeting Minutes of the Legend Rock Interagency Steering Committee”
       On file, Washington Office Bureau of Land Management

Add interview information from HSSP with tribal member (Get from Kevin and Bill)

Add consultation references from Worland BLM with Tribes (Get from Mike Bies)