

THE IMPACT OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD METHODS IN WYOMING

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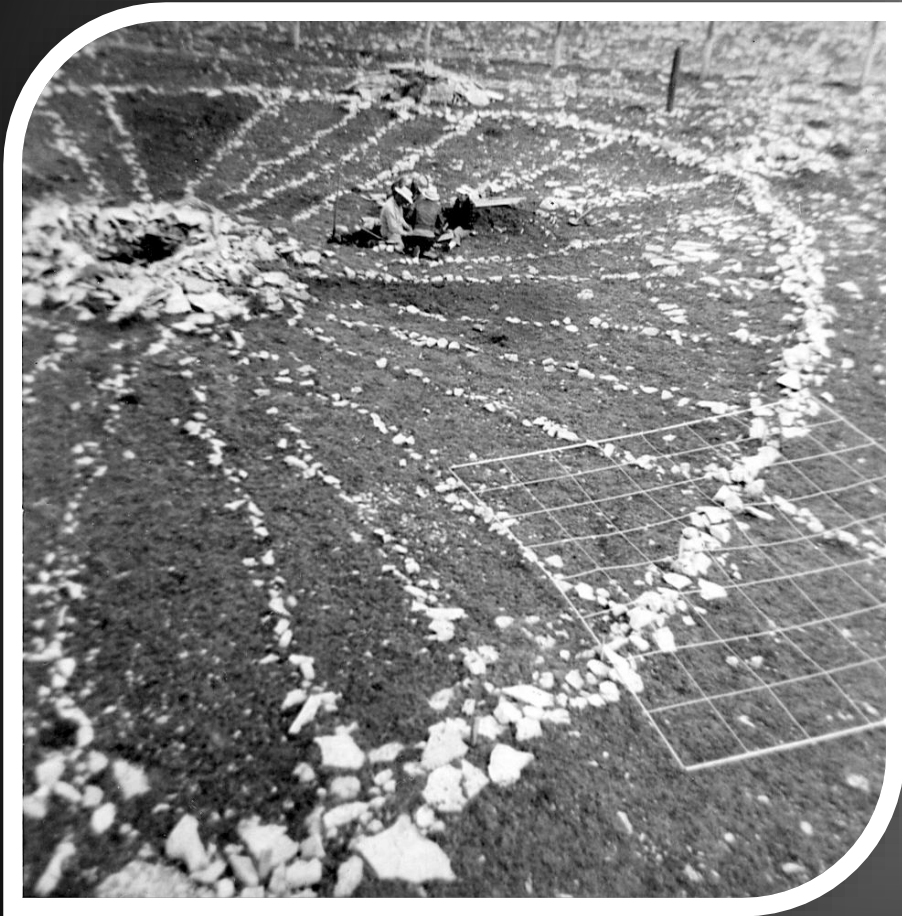
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GRADUATE STUDENT MENTOR: Shanna M. Cox

PURPOSE

To determine the affect the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) has on archaeological methods in Wyoming

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)



Medicine Wheel, Bighorn County

- Passed in 1966 to protect and preserve the cultural resources of the United States
- Two sections of the NHPA have a direct impact on archaeology in Wyoming:
 - Section 110
 - Section 106

METHODS

- DATA COLLECTION

- Archival research
 - Books
 - Journals
 - Reports
- Examine materials gathered to determine methods used
- Examine material covering 120 years of archaeology in Wyoming

METHODS

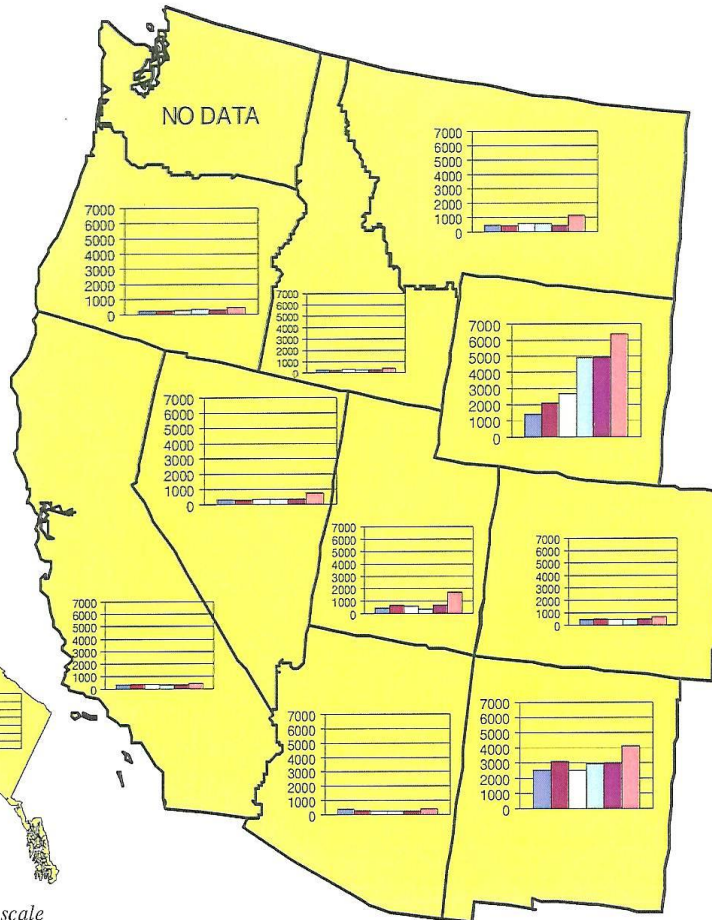
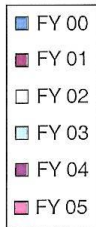
- ANALYSIS

- Separate data into four time periods:
 - 1875-1930 (curiosity)
 - 1930-1950 (antiquarianism and collection)
 - 1950-1975 (reservoir, river basin, and research projects)
 - 1975-2000(contract archaeology in compliance with Section 106)
- Compare archaeological field methods before and after the passage of the NHPA

IMPORTANCE

- All archaeological research depends upon the methods employed to collect the data
- Legislation affecting archaeological field methods has a direct impact on data collected and related research
- It is important to examine archaeological methods used both before and after the passage of the NHPA to:
 - Learn what impact the NHPA has on archaeology in Wyoming
 - Determine if changes in regulations or methodology need to occur to protect the integrity of archaeological research

Section 106 Undertakings on BLM Lands 2000-2005



HYPOTHESES

- Over 50% of the land in the State of Wyoming is Federal land
- I hypothesize that the NHPA impacts archaeological research in Wyoming in three ways:
 - First, increased archaeological activity conducted by contract archaeologists

FEDERAL LANDS AND INDIAN RESERVATIONS

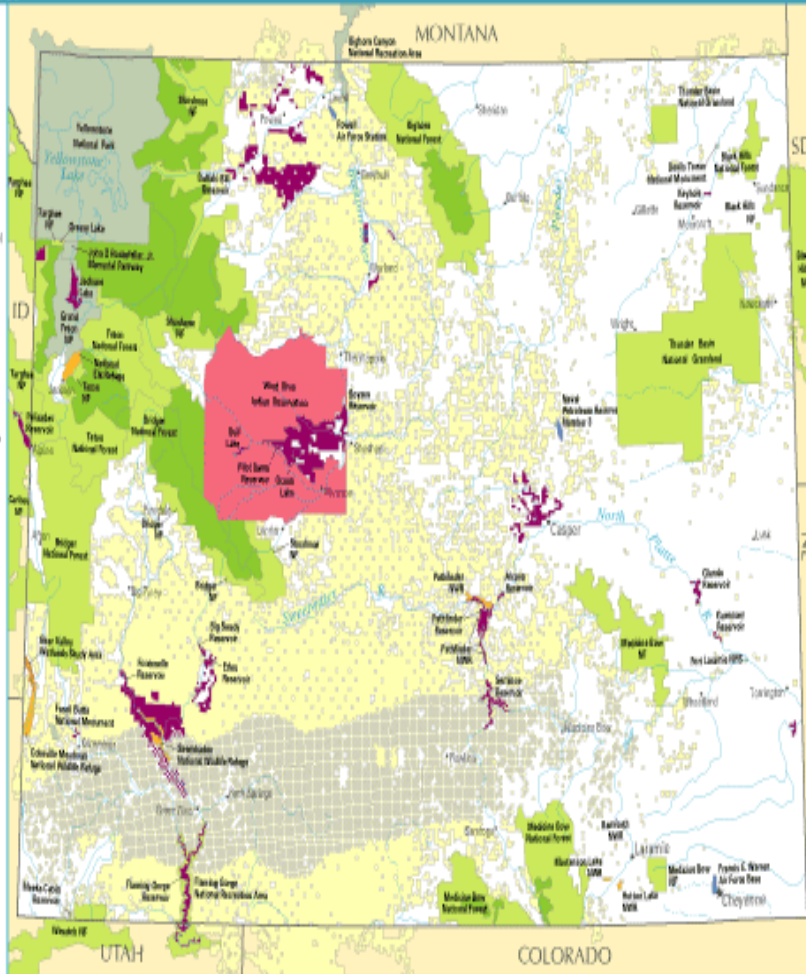
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Land Management / Wilderness
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Department of Defense (Includes Army Corps of Engineers lakes)
- Fish and Wildlife Service / Wilderness
- Forest Service / Wilderness
- National Park Service / Wilderness

Some small sites are not shown, especially in urban areas.

0 20 40 60 Miles
Albers equal area projection

Abbreviations

- NF National Forest
- NH National Historic Site
- NP National Park
- NWR National Wildlife Refuge



HYPOTHESES

- I hypothesize that the NHPA impacts archaeological research in Wyoming in three ways:
 - Second, surveys conducted by or on behalf of Federal Land Management agencies have mapped and located many sites



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Where We Are

FEDERAL LANDS AND INDIAN RESERVATIONS

- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Land Management / Wilderness
- Empire of Reclamation
- Department of Defense (Includes Army Corps of Engineers lakes)
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Some small sites are not shown, especially in arid areas.

MILES
0 20 40 60
Albers equal area projection

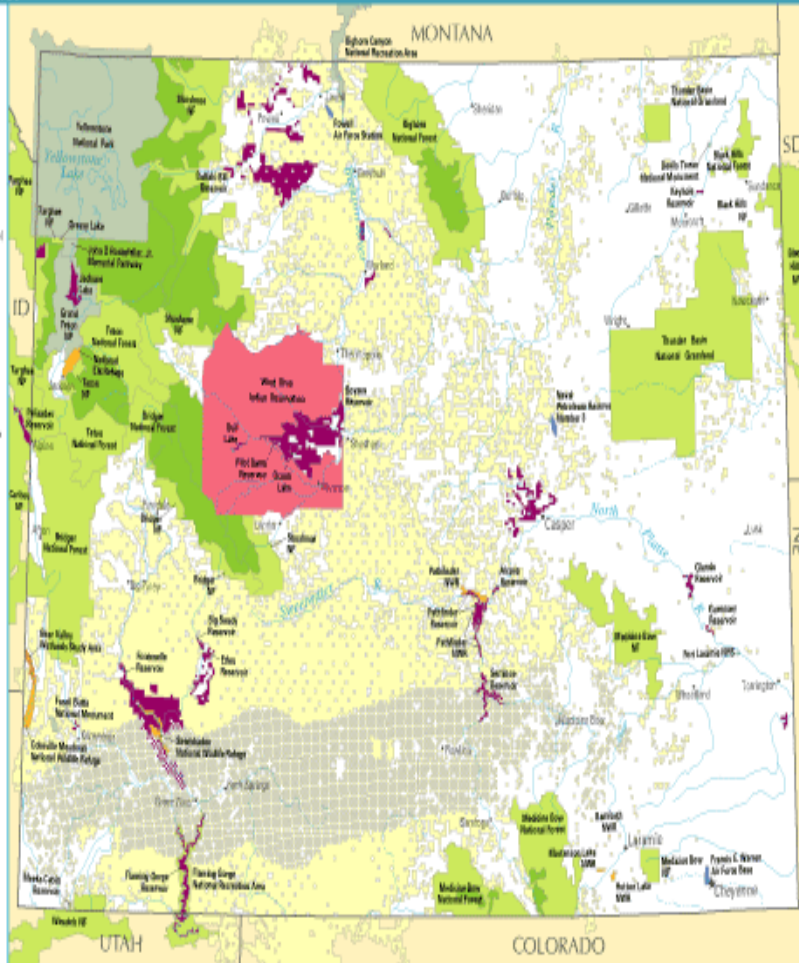
Abbreviations

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U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

WYOMING



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HYPOTHESES

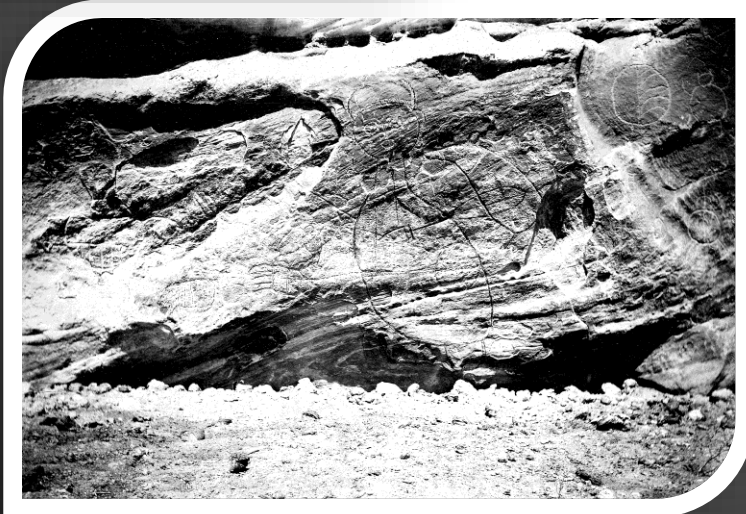
- I hypothesize that the NHPA impacts archaeological research in Wyoming in three ways:
 - Third, standardized reporting required by Federal agencies
 - This standardization has often resulted in stifling innovative thinking about the resource

WYOMING ARCHAEOLOGY (1875-1930)



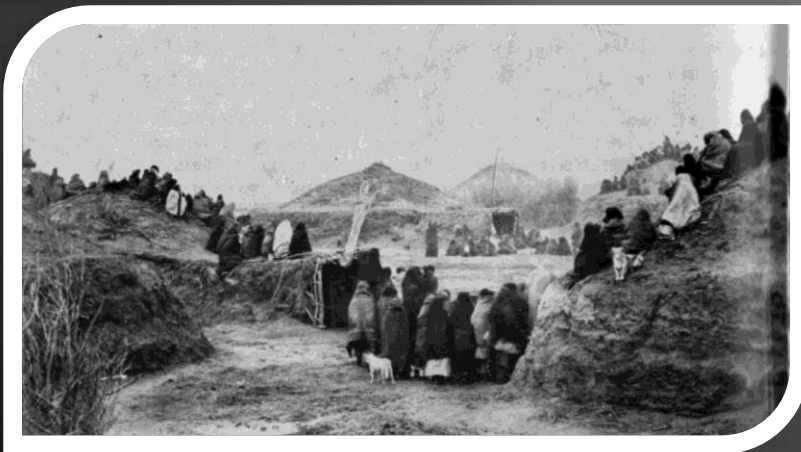
- Wyoming has a rich archaeological history

Petroglyphs at Dinwoody, first noted by a U.S. Cavalry man in 1875 (Reservation Property)



Petroglyphs photographed at Medicine Creek Lodge site in 1896 (Bighorn County)

WYOMING ARCHAEOLOGY (1875-1930)



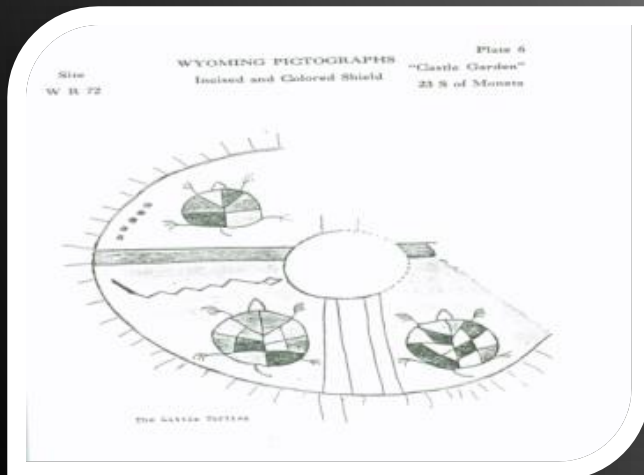
- The collection period of the turn of the 20th century
- Anthropologists recognized that cultures were disappearing
- Institutions including the University of Wyoming and the Smithsonian Institution endeavored to collect information and items pertaining to Western cultures

WYOMING ARCHAEOLOGY (1930-1950)



Dinwoody Cave
Sowers Survey
(Reservation Property)

- Government and University projects in the 1930's
- University of Denver/University of Wyoming
 - Denver/Wyoming Archaeological Survey



Great Turtle-Castle Gardens
Renaud Survey (Fremont County)

Works Progress Administration

- Wyoming Archaeological Survey

WYOMING ARCHAEOLOGY (1950-1975)



Mummy Cave
(Park County)

- The public works projects in the 1940's thru early 1960's
 - Reservoir Projects



WYOMING ARCHAEOLOGY (1950-1975)



- Research Projects in the 1950's and 1960's

Pictograph Cave (Montana), research done by the University of Wyoming

Hell Gap site by Harvard University in the 1960's (Platte County)



WYOMING ARCHAEOLOGY (1975-1990)



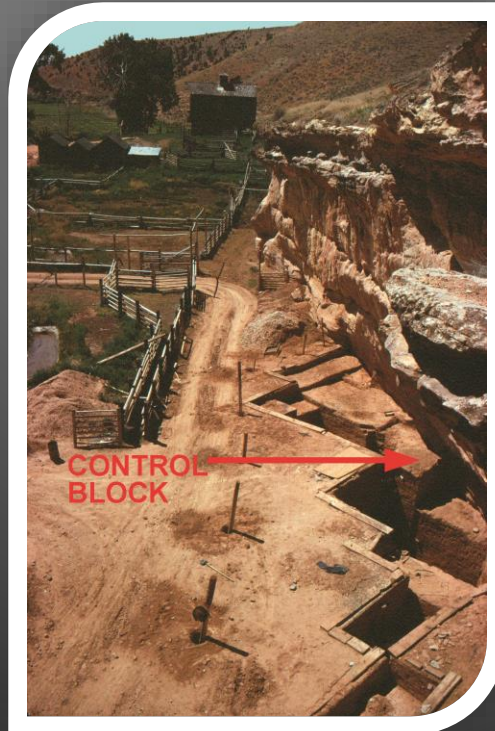
- Early 1970's saw the first surveys and related Section 106 projects in Wyoming after the passage of the NHPA
- Powder River Basin Project
- Boysen Reservoir Project
- Coal Mine Projects
- Oil and Gas Projects

WYOMING ARCHAEOLOGY (1975-1990)

- Research Projects in 1970's



Wardell Buffalo Trap (Sublette County)



Medicine Lodge Creek
(Bighorn County)

WYOMING ARCHAEOLOGY (1975-1990)

- Work conducted by archaeological contractors during the 1980's and 1990's

Split Rock Ranch Site (Fremont County)



Trappers Point Pronghorn site
(Sublette County)



QUESTIONABLE METHODS?

- SURVEY/EXCAVATION
 - Description of methods used vague and incomplete.
- COLLECTION
 - Provenience not fully established
 - Limited description of artifact type variation
- REPORTING
 - Standardized reporting mandated by government agencies
 - Reports read the same for multiple sites

RESULTS

- IMPACT OF THE NHPA ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD METHODS
 - Large volume of archaeological data being retrieved
 - Increase in the number of cultural and historic sites being identified
 - Standardization of reporting has led to standardization of methods
 - Budget and time restraints placed on CRM managers limit quality of data being retrieved.

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QUESTIONS?

