

**Mountain Longleaf National Wildlife Refuge,
Calhoun County, Alabama**
Unanticipated Site Discovery Plan (Archaeological and Historic Sites)
October 2013

Archaeological and historic investigations at Mountain Longleaf National Wildlife Refuge were performed by the Department of Defense (DOD) prior to the Refuge's establishment in 2003. DOD's investigations focused on the mid-19th – 20th century Fort McClellan and other types of historic properties present on the military reservation, such as precolumbian artifact scatters, quarry sites, historic period house and industrial sites, historic period cemeteries, and stone wall and mound complexes. Stone wall and mound complexes are considered to be part of a tribal ceremonial or sacred landscape (see USET Resolution No. 2007: 037).

DOD is currently engaged in clean-up of munitions of explosive concern (MEC) and other hazardous materials on the Refuge. Previously unrecorded historic properties or archaeological and/or architectural features are occasionally discovered during the course of clean-up actions and FWS's conservation management actions. DOD and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have adopted the following plan for the treatment of such resources.

Should previously unrecorded cultural resources or features be encountered during management and/or clean-up activities, the Refuge and/or contractor will cease all activities at that specific location and make all reasonable efforts to avoid or minimize damage to the site. The Refuge Manager and the Regional Historic Preservation Officer/Regional Archaeologist (RHPO/RA) will be notified immediately and advised of the nature of the discovery. The RHPO/RA may request specific items, such as GPS coordinates, photographs, a physical description of the remains, and a map(s) depicting the site's or feature's location, to be submitted to his office. Upon review of this information, the RHPO/RA will:

- Provide technical advice and assistance for an assessment of the site or feature. Such assistance may consist of, but is not limited to, an archaeological survey that further delineates the site's or feature's parameters, ascertain the presence or absence of intact cultural deposits, determine the periods of occupations, and assess its significance and potential for future research.
- Submit an updated site form to the State Site Registrar at the Office of Archaeological Research, University of Alabama. This form will generate the site number to be used in referencing the newly discovered site and will be provided to the contractors by the RHPO/RA.
- Notify the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC), the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the Poarch Band of Creeks, the Seminole Tribe, the Seminole Nation, Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, Kialegee Tribal Town, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, the Eastern Band of Cherokee, the Cherokee Nation, and the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee of the inadvertent discovery and steps taken to document and subsequently protect the site pursuant to the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA).

The following steps will be enacted within the DOD's MEC and hazardous material clean-up areas.

- Cease all use of heavy equipment at this location until the stone mound and wall complex has been adequately mapped and its boundaries determined.
- Conduct follow-up consultation with AHC and relevant tribes on this portion of the on-going UXO and hazardous material clean-up pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

- Heavy equipment operations within such stone mound and wall complexes are prohibited. Hand tools, including chain saws and other similar equipment, and remote sensing equipment, i.e. metal detectors, ground penetrating radar, are permitted.
- Removal of a MEC item or other hazardous material identified within a site's boundaries can be done, provided that all steps are taken to protect human safety and to minimize or avoid any adverse impacts to the site. Photographs are to be taken of that section of the stone wall and/or mound prior to and after the removal. A photographic catalogue, containing the location, GPS coordinates, and action, is to be provided to USFWS by the contractor upon discovery. USFWS will procure the state assigned site number and maintain it along with all documentation provided by the contractor in an "Unanticipated Archeological/Historical Site Discovery" folder. Updates will be submitted upon discovery to the Refuge Manager, DOD representatives, and the FWS's RHPO/RA.

Should human remains be encountered in an unmarked grave during Refuge management activities or permitted activities, all actions will cease at that specific location. The Refuge Manager, Complex Refuge Law Enforcement Officer or Zone Officer, the DOD on-site manager, and the RHPO/RA will be contacted immediately. The Refuge Manager and/or Complex Refuge Law Enforcement Officer or Zone Officer, will notify the Calhoun County Sheriff Department and the County Coroner/Medical Examiner of the discovery. Should the human remains be deemed to be associated with a European, American, or African American historic site, AHC will be notified. Should the human remains be deemed to be Native American, AHC, the Region's Native American Liaison, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, the Poarch Band of Creeks, the Seminole Tribe, the Seminole Nation, Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, Kialegee Tribal Town, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, the Eastern Band of Cherokee, the Cherokee Nation, and the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee will be notified pursuant to the provisions of the ***Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act***. Representatives of AHC, the Office of the Regional Archaeologist, and the Tribes will provide technical advice for the treatment of the unmarked remains, which may include, but is not limited to, the development and implementation of a site treatment plan to protect the burial location during future management actions, an assessment of site damage, recovery, and analysis and subsequent disposition of any recovered human skeletal remains and associated funerary objects. The Refuge, assisted by the Native American Liaison and the RHPO/RA, will facilitate any Tribe's request to conduct a ceremony at the burial or reburial location. Should the human remains be deemed part of a crime scene, then jurisdiction and control will be turned over to the pertinent federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.