
Appendix D

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Appendix D

Cultural Resources

- Prehistoric Background/Information for the Proposed Project alternatives
- Rosebud correspondence dated September 3, 2009

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Prehistoric Periods

Information pertaining to both Proposed Project site alternatives has been compiled in this section to provide one discussion pertaining to the Prehistoric Period of the regional area. The two site alternatives are within the Great Plains Cultural Area, specifically between the Prairie Culture Area and Plains Culture Area according to Kroeber (1939) and Driver and Massey (1957). The Prairie Culture Area is approximately east of the Missouri River and the Plains Culture Area approximately west of the Missouri River. There are many similarities between the Prairie and Plains cultures, the most significant being hunting and use of bison. Some of the major differences between the two culture areas seen archaeologically are based on settlement patterns. The Plains Tribes resided year-round in tepees and were primarily nomadic, moving across the land, while the Prairie Tribes resided in permanent villages year-round, practiced horticulture, and used tepees when away hunting.

Not much is known about the cultural history of the Paleoindian Tradition in the United States because the Paleoindian Tradition is primarily based on a material culture. Material culture includes cultural remains, such as stone tools, ceramic pots, or ornaments that indicate the material expression of a people. Until very recently (late 2007) the Bering Strait “multiple waves” migration hypothesis put modern Native American Tribes in North America anywhere between 17,500 to 6,000 years ago. There had not been any definitive evidence to link the Paleoindian Tradition occupants to the later inhabitants of the Great Plains area. However, recent DNA evidence has added support for a single migration and population of North and South America as early as 30,000 years ago (PLoS 2007). The following is the established chronology for the Central Plains based on the material culture.

The prehistoric period in South Dakota is divided into the Paleoindian Tradition, ca. 12,000 to 6,000 years before present (B.P.); Plains Archaic Tradition, ca. 6,000 to 3,000 B.P.; Plains Woodland Tradition, ca. 3,000 to 1,200 B.P.; and Plains Village Tradition, ca. 1,200 to 300 B.P.

The northern Plains Paleoindian environment was primarily upland grasslands (Yansa 2007) and ideal habitat for roaming animals such as the extinct mastodon, as well as the American bison. The Paleoindian Tradition (ca. 12,000 to 6,000 B.P.) is characterized by small, nomadic, highly mobile groups that followed game across the landscape. Small and medium-sized animals, fish, and plant resources also supplemented their diet. The Paleoindian Tradition is divided into two phases: Clovis and Folsom, which are based on projectile point types and assumed to reflect changes in hunting technologies, presumably in response to the changing climate that grew successively warmer and drier.

The Plains Archaic Tradition (ca. 6,000 to 3,000 B.P.) reflects different sets of lithic tool and projectile point typologies, as well as ground stone tools. Archaeological evidence of the Plains Archaic Tradition in the Central Plains area includes semi-subterranean pithouses, evidence of wattle and daub structures, side-notched projectile points, and an increase in and more formalized grinding implements. These are likely due to changes in subsistence and settlement

patterns as a response to changing climatic conditions. Groups are now thought to have been more semi-nomadic and to have hunted and gathered in a seasonal pattern with a heavy reliance on communal bison hunts and plant resources.

The Plains Woodland Tradition (ca. 3,000 to 1,200 B.P.) is best seen along water sources. It is distinguished from previous traditions by the presence of ceramics, low circular or conical mounds that may or may not contain burials, and the development of horticultural practices. Bison, as well as a range of smaller mammals and fish, were a primary source of protein. Wild plants were gathered and during the Late Plains Woodland Tradition and corn was grown, as documented at the Arp Site 39BR101 and 39BR102. The practice of horticulture allowed for the establishment of permanent villages along water sources. Notable Plains Woodland village sites in central South Dakota include the La Roche Site (39ST9); the Arp Site (39BR101 and 39BR102); the Scalp Creek Site (39GR1); and White Swan Mound Site (39CH9).

The Plains Village Tradition (ca. 1,200 to 300 B.P.) is thought to be a Plains variation of the Mississippian custom from the central United States. This cultural pattern appeared in the Mississippi River Valley ca. 1,100 to 1,000 B.P. and consisted of sedentary villages, river bottom agriculture, flat-top burial mounds, triangular projectile points, and advanced ceramic designs and decorations. However, villages were already established in the Central Plains area, horticulture was already underway, mounds were being built, and ceramics were already being produced. Villages during the Plains Village Tradition were permanent and sometimes fortified. During the Late Plains Village Tradition, the Siouan-speaking people from the northern Minnesota area entered Arikara territory in southeastern South Dakota and the cultural tribal boundaries began to change.

The Historic Period

Information pertaining to both of the Proposed Project site alternatives has been compiled in this section to provide a discussion pertaining to the Historic Period of the regional area. Early contact between Europeans and Central Plains tribes ranged from 1540 to 1700 and included:

Francisco Vásquez de Coronado's contact with the Plains tribes of west Texas and Kansas in 1540-1542

Active French voyageur-traders among the Pawnee before 1700 in the Central Plains

Explorers Pierre Esprit Radisson and Médard Chouart, sieur des Groseilliers' contact with the Santee Sioux in 1659

Louis Jolliet and Jacques Marquette's exploration of the Mississippi River in 1673

René-Robert Cavelier, sieur de la Salle's exploration of the Mississippi River in 1682 with additional explorations past the mouth of the Missouri by 1700

This early contact period coincides with the demographic changes occurring in the Central Plains. When the Europeans first met the tribes in the Central Plains they encountered some who had been in the area for a very long time as well as others who had recently occupied the region. The Historic Period (ca. 300 B.P. to present) is marked by a great deal of cultural change on the Great Plains. The earlier migration of the Sioux people had an effect on the Arikara who had previously occupied the region. The Sioux Tribes were nomadic people who followed the bison, and the Plains were an ideal environment for them. With the influx of European influence and acquisition of horses from the southwestern tribes, the Sioux Tribes were able to cross the Missouri River in 1760 and claim the entire Plains north of the Arkansas River as their hunting grounds.

Greater American presence on the Plains came in the following century. The Lewis and Clark Expedition (1803–1806), headed by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, was the first American overland expedition to the Pacific coast and back. As directed by President Thomas Jefferson in a letter to Lewis, the object of their mission was to explore the Missouri River, by its course and communication with the waters of the Pacific Ocean and determine whether the Columbia, Oregon, Colorado or any other river would offer the most direct and practicable water communication across the continent for the purposes of commerce.

During the 1800s Americans generally thought that the Great Plains was better off with the Indians and was worth little for agricultural use. When gold was discovered in California in the 1840s, Americans wanted a quicker passage west and it is estimated that 12,000 wagons traveled cross country to Oregon and California from 1834 to 1867. In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Homestead Act that allotted 160-acre parcels to settlers of undeveloped land outside of the original 13 colonies. This Act became a tool for redistribution of Indian lands and had a great effect on the reservation system on the Plains. Treaties were signed for the establishment of Indian reservations beginning in the late 1850s with Yankton (1858), Lake Traverse (1867), and the Great Sioux Reservation (1868). The Great Sioux Reservation set aside the land in South Dakota west of the Missouri River, which consisted of some 25 million acres. The reservations would later be Crow Creek and Old Winnebago, Cheyenne River, Lower Brulé, Pine Ridge, and Rosebud.

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Molly Cresto

Subject: FW: Prairie Winds Appendix

Importance: High

From: Rosebud Sioux Tribe [mailto:rsthpo@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thu 9/3/2009 6:36 AM

To: Mitchell, Trish

Subject: RE: PrairieWinds Project info

Good Morning Trish,

Mary finished the record search for the Winner site. There are no Traditional Cultural Properties recorded in our data base within the proposed project this does not preclude the possibility of a site of heritage importance being located by an archaeologist. This project may proceed as planned. If sites are located by this undertaking please notify my office as soon as possible. Thank you.

Kathe Arcoren

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