In Alternative C (Salvage Following South Cascade Late-Successional Reserve Assessment Guidelines and Moderate Restoration Emphasis), area salvage emphasis is proposed in high and moderate burn severity areas greater than 10 acres where the fire resulted in a stand-replacement event. Alternative C salvage is based on guidelines from the Late-Successional Reserve Assessment for snag and coarse woody debris retention. Restoration projects include fish habitat improvement, Late-Successional Reserve thinning, pine and oak woodlands restoration, reforestation of stand-replacement areas greater than 5 acres, fuels reduction along ridgelines, wildlife habitat enhancement projects, and road improvement projects.

In Alternative D (Late-Successional Reserve Guidelines for Salvage Using DecAID Wood Advisor Tool for Snags and Coarse Woody Debris (CWD) and Moderate Restoration Emphasis), area salvage emphasis is proposed in high and moderate burn severity areas greater than 10 acres where the fire resulted in a stand-replacement event. Instead of following LSRA salvage guidelines, snag and coarse woody debris retention levels in this alternative are based on the DecAID Wood Advisor tool. Restoration projects would be the same as Alternative C.

In Alternative E (High Level of Salvage and Extensive Restoration Emphasis), area salvage emphasis is proposed in high, moderate, low and very low burned severity areas. Snag retention levels within the high and moderate burn severity areas would be 6–14 snags/acre. This is based on study by Haggard and Gaines (2001) which found the highest diversity in cavity nesting species and the highest number of nests where snag densities ranged from 6–14 snags/acre. Snag retention within the low and very low burn severity areas with canopy cover greater than 40 percent would be 4 snags/acre. The course woody debris level in this alternative would be a minimum of 120 linear feet/acre. Extensive restoration would increase the scope of the projects (acres, miles of roads, etc.), intensity of the treatments, and location of the treatments identified in Alternative C and D. Alternative E also proposes seasonal closure of some roads.

In Alternative F (Salvage Logging and Post-fire rehabilitation actions consistent with report on Recommendations for Ecologically Sound Post-Fire Salvage Management and Other Post-Fire Treatments on Federal Lands in the West (Beschta et al., 1995)), area salvage emphasis is based on recommendations to avoid severely burned areas, erosive sites, fragile soils, riparian areas, steep slopes, or sites where accelerated erosion is possible. Existing snags and coarse woody debris levels would be retained on all these areas. Salvage would occur in 3–10 acre patches of fire-killed trees. Within each of these patches, a minimum of 2 acres would be reserved from salvage. The Beschta et al. report does not address actions outside of a burned area. As a result, no Late-Successional Reserve restoration actions are proposed. However, restoration projects within the fire perimeter, consistent with Beschta et al. report are proposed.

In Alternative G (Preferred Alternative—Salvage Including Research and Moderate Restoration Emphasis), area salvage emphasis is based on research to study the effects of various snag levels on selected wildlife species. Sixteen units were selected to be included in this study. These units are generally 30 acres or greater and would be salvaged at various levels. In addition, four control units would not be salvaged. Stand replacement areas (high and moderate burn severity) outside of research units greater than 10 acres would also be considered for salvaging. Snag and course woody debris levels would meet DecAID Wood Advisor recommendations, as well as, other local and regional recommendations. A reforestation study is also included, which would evaluate a variety of planting densities, species, and follow-up treatments in both salvaged and unsalvaged areas. Restoration projects would be the same as Alternatives C and D. Alternative G also proposes seasonal closure of some roads.

It is not the intent of this project to change land use allocations, nor Standard and Guidelines made through the Northwest Forest Plan and later adopted through the Medford District Resource Management Plan. The Preferred Alternative has been determined to be consistent with the Northwest Forest Plan and Medford District Resource Management Plan. However, if alternative E or F is selected as the Preferred Alternative in the Final EIS, a plan amendment may be required.
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
National Park Service
Notice of Inventory Completion: Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

Notice is here given in accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 25 U.S.C. 3003, of the completion of an inventory of human remains in the possession of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. The human remains were removed from Middlesex and Worcester Counties, MA.

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 within this notice are the sole responsibility of the museum, institution, or Federal agency that has control of the Native American human remains. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations within this notice.

A detailed assessment of the human remains was made by Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology professional staff in consultation with officials of Nipmuc Nation (a nonfederally recognized Indian group) and Wampanoag Repatriation Confederation, representing Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), Mashpee Wampanoag Indian Tribe (a nonfederally recognized Indian group), and Assonet Band of the Wampanoag Nation (a nonfederally recognized Indian group).

In 1878, human remains representing one individual were collected by A.F. Aldrich from Uxbridge, Worcester County, MA, and were donated by Mr. Aldrich to the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. No known individual was identified. No associated funerary objects are present.

Osteological characteristics indicate that the individual is Native American. The pattern of copper stains present on the human remains indicates that they were interred sometime after European contact (circa A.D. 1500). Archeological, historical, and ethnographic sources, along with consultation with regional Native American groups, indicate that during the Historic and Contact periods this area of Massachusetts was the border region between the Nipmuc Nation and the Massachusetts people. Because there is no known present-day tribe representing the Massachusetts people, shared group identity may be reasonably traced only to the Nipmuc Nation.

The Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology has determined that the human remains described in this notice cannot be affiliated with an Indian tribe according to the definition of cultural affiliation at 25 U.S.C. 3001 (2), and are considered culturally unidentifiable. According to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee’s charter, the Review Committee is responsible for recommending specific actions for disposition of culturally unidentifiable human remains. In October 1998, the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology presented a disposition proposal to the Review Committee to repatriate two culturally unidentifiable human remains to the Nipmuc Nation. The proposal was considered by the Review Committee at its December 1998 meeting. The Review Committee recommended disposition of the human remains to the Nipmuc Nation contingent upon the museum’s meeting two requirements. A January 11, 2000, letter from the National Park Service to the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology requested that the museum publish a Notice of Inventory Completion in the Federal Register, and that it consider documentation compiled as part of the inventory process as public information and available for educational and scientific uses. The two requirements will have been met with the publication of this notice in the Federal Register.