

## Cultural Resource Protection

in South Dakota state parks and recreation areas

South Dakota citizens, through the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (GFP), are stewards of hundreds of culturally significant sites. These include prehistoric villages, American Indian worship sites, old military forts, cemeteries, log cabins, early trading post sites, and areas where railroads once ran.

Long ago in 1906, Congress passed the first of many laws to protect archaeological sites, both prehistoric and historic, on federal land. Today, similar laws in South Dakota protect these cultural resources.

Archaeological and historic resources are nonrenewable resources that enhance our understanding and appreciation of the cultural heritage of South Dakota. These sites possess information that is significant not only to our state, but to our nation as well.

Please help protect our cultural resources.

## Artifact collecting is prohibited. *Observe but do not touch.*

Collecting artifacts at South Dakota state parks, recreation areas, and other land owned or managed by the SD Division of Parks and Recreation is prohibited under state law. If you notice illicit digging at an archaeological site, see someone collecting artifacts or witness an act of vandalism at a state park or recreation area, contact a member of the park staff or call the Division of Parks and Recreation at (605) 773-3391 so measures can be taken to protect the site.



## What types of items are considered archaeological resources?

Archaeological resources refer to any material remains of human life or activities.

These include, but are not limited to:

- pieces of pottery
- arrowheads
- antique glass
- old hardware
- beads
- rock paintings/carvings
- bones
- railroad items



## Know the laws that protect our cultural resources

### Federal Laws

#### **Antiquities Act, 1906**

Protects all historic and prehistoric sites on Federal lands and prohibits excavation or destruction of such antiquities unless a specific permit is obtained.

#### **National Historic Preservation Act of 1966**

Makes it illegal to destroy, excavate or remove any archaeological resources from Federal or Indian lands without a permit from the land manager. Excavated items remain the property of the United States or the Indian or Indian tribe, depending on where the items were found.

#### **Archaeological Resources Protection Act, 1979**

Protects archaeological resources that are found during a project by the Federal government or an agency assisted by the Federal government. The penalty for stealing or vandalizing can be a felony.

#### **Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), 1990**

Assigns ownership and control of Native American cultural items, human remains and associated funerary objects to Native Americans. NAGPRA makes it illegal to sell, purchase, use for profit, and/or transport for sale the human remains of a Native American or Native American cultural items.

### South Dakota Laws

South Dakota has many laws that focus on the protection of cultural resources. Some examples of the laws include the destruction or removal of natural features, unauthorized investigation on an archaeological site, trespassing on private lands to take archaeological resources and forgery/misrepresentation of archaeological items. Additional laws make it illegal to disturb, buy, sell or barter human skeletal remains or funerary objects. The penalties imposed on these violations can range from fines to imprisonment.

## Protect cultural resources Don't Pocket Our Past



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To report looting on public land, please call

**1-866-NO-SWIPE**

1-866-667-9473



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Division of Parks and Recreation  
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(605) 773-3391 ~ [www.sdgifp.info/Parks](http://www.sdgifp.info/Parks)

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