



Red Feather Archeology
PO Box 116
Yoder, WY 82244
(307) 534-2172
redfeather@wyomail.com

Date: November 29, 2012

To: Mr. Thomas K. Cook

Executive Director
Aligning for Responsible Mining
1705 S Maple
Chadron, NE 69337

Mr. Cook,

As per your recent request, I have reviewed the treaties and other historical documents available in an effort to define which Native Peoples might have utilized the areas currently defined by the Power Tech and Crow Butte projects. Part of the problem involved with most of the early works defining areas of Native utilization is that most of the government agents either were not sure of where they themselves were located or gave a restricted view of where the tribes were using the land masses. Some list enormous areas for generalized groups such as Schoolcraft's works (vol. 6, *Archives of Aboriginal Knowledge*, 1860) defining most native groups west of the Mississippi and east of the Rockies as either Dacotah or Shoshone. Some volumes, such as those by Catlin or Lewis and Clark, stipulate more permanent settlements for most groups, when in fact, at most only a few groups were semi-sedentary as noted by Lehmer (1971, *Middle Missouri Archeology*). Even for these groups, there were at least elements of the tribes that still wandered and hunted or collected over a vast area. Assuming the nomadic character of these groups, it is probable that all of the tribes west of the Missouri and east of the Rocky Mountains utilized most of the area in pursuit of the massive buffalo herds that migrated there. Therefore, apparently the only accurate method to define the utilization patterns would be the treaties enacted by the United States Government and the sites of those treaties.

One of the most encompassing of these treaties is the 1851 Fort Laramie Treaty involving the Sioux or Dahcotah (sic), Cheyennes, Arrapahoes, Crows, Assinaboines, Gros-Ventre Mandans, and Arrickaras. The People listed as "Sioux or Dahcotah" are not easily defined, but include the Lakota Nations of the Sicangu, Brule, Oglala, Minnecoujou, Hunkpapa, Izipaco, Sihasapa, and Ooinunpa nations. Added to these are the Sans Arcs, Santee and Yanktons who are Dakota speakers. The Mandans and Arrickara noted in the said treaty would also include the Hidatsa peoples of the Three Affiliated Nations. As to the Cheyenne defined in the 1851 Treaty, this would indicate both the current Northern and Southern Cheyenne Nations since the division is an artificial artifact of the Government reservation system. In addition, although not listed in this treaty, the Pawnee would also have utilized this area, at least the northern Pawnee or Skidi. This last is indicated by the number of stories, legends or accounts of battles between the Pawnee and many of the above noted Peoples throughout the current project areas.

The second major treaty with most of this group of Indian Nations is the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty. This treaty was with the Brule, Oglala, Miniconjou, Yanktonai, Hunkpapa, Blackfeet, Cuthead, Two Kettle, Sans Arcs, Santee and Arapahoes. Although not specifically listed in this treaty, the Cheyenne were allies with and inter-married into many of the groups noted above. This becomes a major issue when the Cheyenne living in these areas were brought to Fort Robinson in an attempt to move them to Kansas and Oklahoma. The noted groups here were recognized to primarily roam the area from 46th parallel on the east bank of the Missouri River south to where the river meets the northern boundary of the State of Nebraska, along the northern boundary of the State of Nebraska to the 104th degree of longitude west from Greenwich, then north to the 46th parallel, then east to the place of beginning. This is what was originally called the Great Dakota Reservation. There was also in article 16 of said treaty a stipulation of unceded Indian territory north of the North Platte River and east of the summits of the Big Horn Mountains.

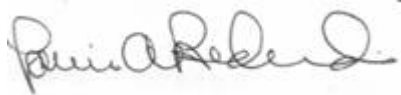
In the years between these two major treaties that were a number of treaties made (at least 9 in 1865) with many of the above noted tribes at Fort Sully, along the Missouri River. It can be assumed from these treaties and their locations that the U. S. Government recognized the nomadic lifestyles of these Peoples within a major geographic area from the Missouri River to the great mountains in the west. This recognition would include the current project areas of Power Tech and Crow Butte.

One of the most sought-after resources, other than wild game, in this specific area around the current projects is that of the remarkable lithic sources in the immediate area between Edgemont and Hot Springs South Dakota. Within that zone are at least 3 major sources of very fine tool-making materials. Not far to the south and west is another area around Spanish Diggings in Wyoming that has also been utilized by many tribes for exquisite lithic materials through vast prehistoric times. In that area I personally found indications of Lakota, Cheyenne, Crow and Omaha teepee rings just east of Spanish Diggings on private property in 1995.

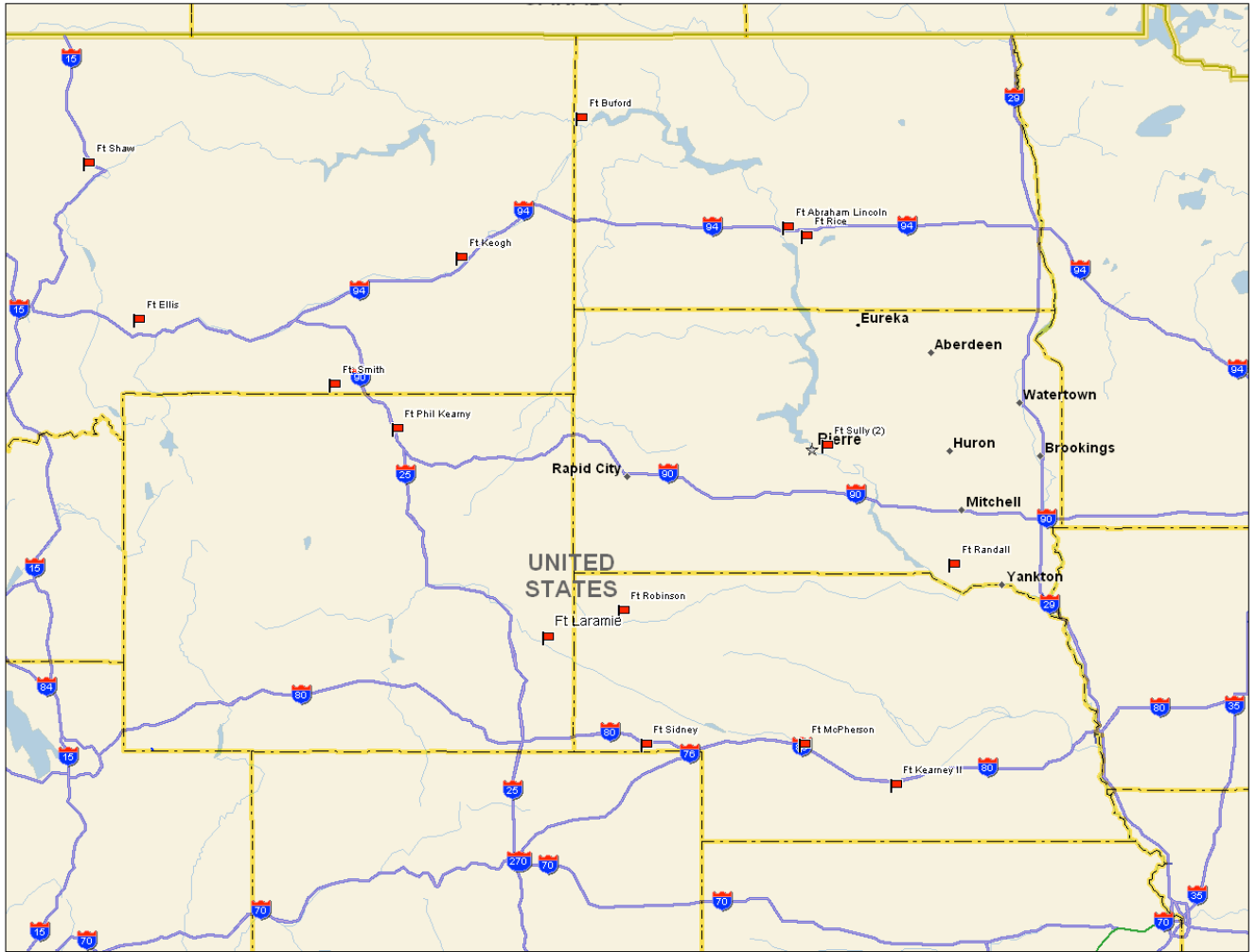
Part of the current problem of defining which tribes were specifically utilizing the project areas is that the treaties enacted with the above noted tribes do not specify the range of the treaty tribe(s). I have added a map (incl. 1) of the military forts in the general Dakota/Nebraska/Wyoming territories. It can be seen that there were a number of forts scattered over this area by the time the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868 was signed. (NOTE: all but Fort Robinson were built by 1867). At the time of the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851, there were only 2 Forts built in this area, Fort Laramie and Fort Kearney II, and Fort Randall was built a few years after, in 1856.

Accordingly, it can reasonably be inferred that the Oglala, Brule, Minnecoujou, Sicangu, Hunkpapa, Izipaco, Siha Sapa, Ooinunpa, Yanctonai, Arapaho (both North and South), Cheyenne (both North and South), Pawnee (at least the Skidi), Omaha, and Crow at a minimum utilized these project areas in the past in some cultural manner

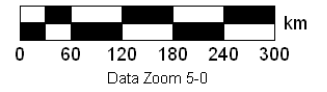
Sincerely,



Louis A. Redmond, PhD
President/owner
Red Feather Archeology



Data use subject to license.
© 2004 DeLorme. XMap® 4.5.
www.delorme.com



Insert 1: Location of U. S. Government forts after 1850.

References

KAPPLER, Charles J. (compiled and edited by)

1972 Indian Treaties: 1778-1883. Amereon House

KAROLEVITZ, Robert F.

1975 Challenge: the South Dakota Story. Brevet Press

KIME, Wayne R.

1996 The Black Hills Journals of Colonel Richard Irving Dodge. Univ. Oklahoma Press

UTLEY, Robert M.

1988 Cavalier in Buckskin. University of Oklahoma Press

WELCH, James (with Paul Stekler)

1994 Killing Custer. W. W. Norton and Company