



SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

July 21, 2011

National Interagency Fire Center Governing Board
3833 South Development Avenue
Boise, Idaho 83705-5354

Dear Governing Board Members,

I write to you as the President of the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) to express our sincere appreciation for the manner in which the Southwest Area Incident Management Teams have worked hard to protect cultural and historical resources in the lands that have been affected by the Las Conchas Fire, Wallow Fire, and other fires in the Southwest this summer. Joe Reinarz and Jerome Macdonald, in particular, have earned our thanks for their careful deployment of archaeologists during fire suppression activities, and for explaining to the public why it is important to protect cultural resources during fire fighting.

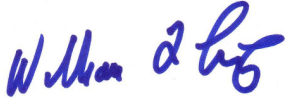
We very much appreciate the demanding situations these fires represent and the complex challenges and trade-offs that Incident Management Teams face. The truth that these Teams deal with life and death decisions and heartbreaking losses of homes and property makes all more impressive their conscientious consideration of multiple resources – including cultural and heritage resources.

The SAA is an international organization that, since its founding in 1934, has been dedicated to research about and interpretation and protection of the archaeological heritage of the Americas. With nearly 7,000 members, SAA represents professional archaeologists in colleges and universities, museums, government agencies, and the private sector. SAA has members in all 50 states, as well as many other nations around the world.

It is clear that archaeologists assigned to fire teams and consultations with Native American communities have helped preserve archaeological sites and sacred sites threatened by fire and fire suppression. Deploying archaeologists on handlines and firelines to identify sites before damage occurs, to mitigate damage to impacted sites, and to advise on watershed rehabilitation is excellent management. Using team archaeologists to prepare initial site assessments on the damage caused by the fire and to submit recommendations for emergency treatments helps protect and perpetuate sacred sites, archaeological sites, and their attendant values to communities of Native Americans, land managers, and scientists.

We thank the National Interagency Fire Center Governing Board for promoting preservation of cultural and heritage resources and ask you to pass along our gratitude and commendations to the Teams assigned to address wildfires and rehabilitate burned areas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "William F. Limp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" being more prominent than the last name "Limp".

William F. Limp
President

cc: Joe Reinarz, Williams Ranger District, Kaibab National Forest, USFS
Jerome Macdonald, SW Regional Office, USFS
Michael Kaczor, Heritage Program Leader, USFS