

Purpose

- **Research and narrate the cultural history of Colorado's newest state park at Fishers Peak, near Trinidad in the southeast part of the state.**

Procedure/Description

- **Primary and secondary historical research:**
 - Begun as major writing assignment for U.S. Research Seminar during Spring 2022 semester; **produced article-length narrative history**
 - Continued research at the **Carnegie Public Library's History Room** in Trinidad & **Steelworks Center of the West (Colorado Fuel & Iron archive)** in Pueblo during summer internship with CSU's Public Lands History Center (PLHC); **edited and expanded narrative history**
 - Identified **three primary groups/periods: Native American, Settler colonial, and Recreational**
 - **Thesis: *Fishers Peak's history is scarred from violence yet also decorated with examples of brief but meaningful intercultural collaboration.***
- Incorporated the narrative history into a **cultural resource stewardship chapter** for park managers
- **Field surveys** of two **cultural sites** selected in partnership with Colorado Parks and Wildlife management and
- Used **ArcGIS Pro** to create **shapefiles** based on **spatial data collected in the field**
- Three **research interviews** with people linked to the park

Results/Deliverables

- **1 cultural resource stewardship chapter** incorporating narrative history and field survey data
- **5 inventory forms**, based on **field surveys** in the park, sent to **Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation**
- **3 recommendations for cultural resource interpretation**



Figure 1: Shaun Rose, Ariel Schnee (PLHC), and Rachel Egan (CPW) surveying sandstone outcroppings surrounding Fishers Peak. Photograph by PLHC, 06/23/2021.



Figure 2: Starkville Mine infrastructure in the foreground, Fishers Peak in the background, c. 1910. Image credit: the Denver Post.



Figure 3: Ruins of the multicultural tent colony in the aftermath of the Ludlow Massacre, 1914. Image credit: George Grantham Bain Collection at the Library of Congress, <http://loc.gov/pictures/resource/gg.bain.15859/>.

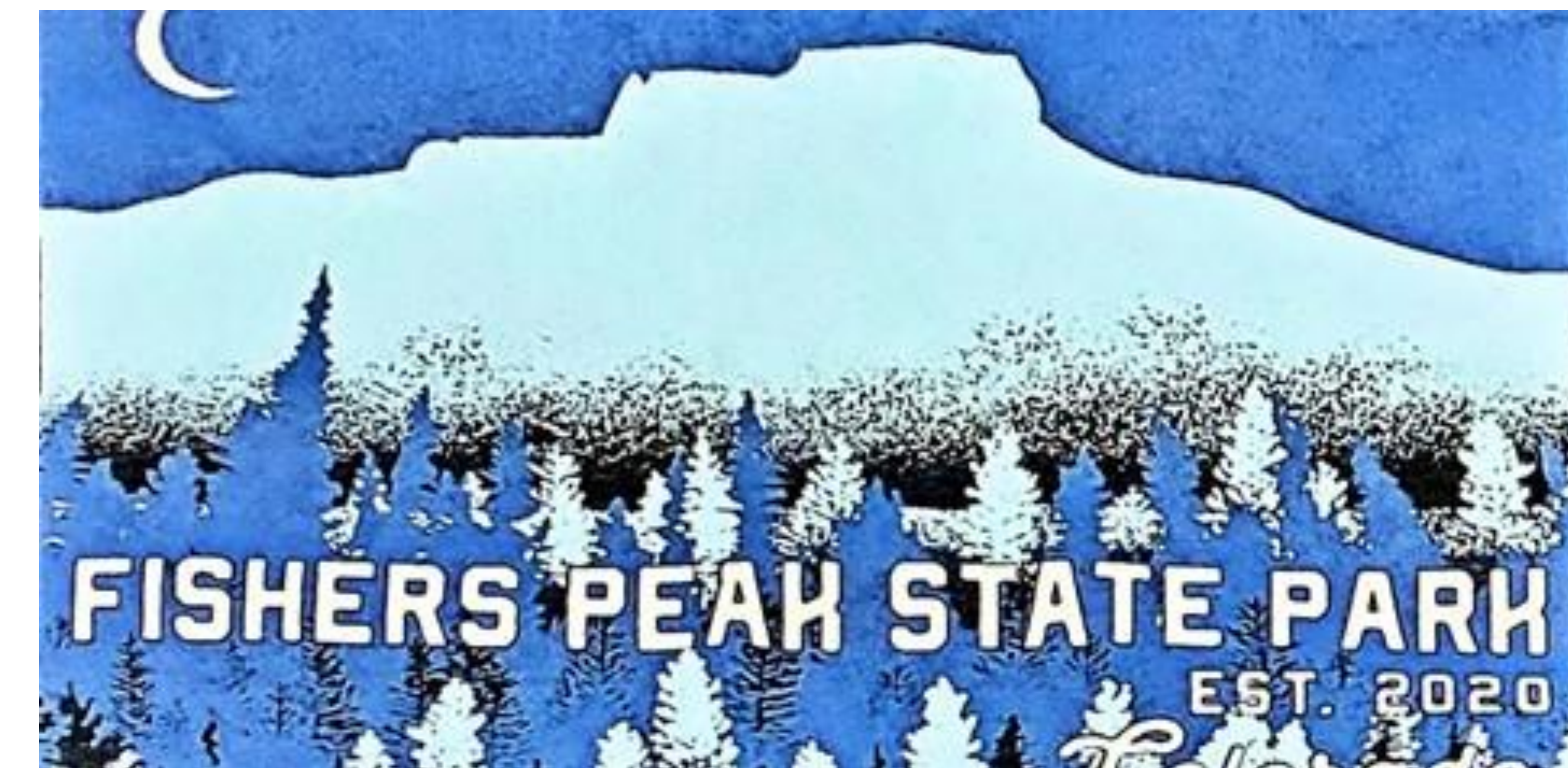


Figure 4: Fishers Peak State Park Logo. Image credit: Colorado Parks and Wildlife, <https://coloradooutdoorsmag.com/2020/10/26/imagining-fishers-peak-a-monthly-journal-issue-iii/>.

Future Directions

- **Effective management and interpretation of cultural resources** within Fishers Peak State Park using the **stewardship chapter** delivered by myself and the PLHC team. Ultimately, the chapter emphasizes **ethnohistorical** and **cultural landscape** approaches.
- An **ethnohistorical approach**—that is, **historical** and **anthropological**—involves studying the land's inhabitants and its various uses by humans. This is an effective lens for cultural resource managers because it facilitates a **holistic understanding** of the **landscape as it changes through time**, which they can then share with **public audiences**. Meanwhile, **landscapes** should be **managed** and **interpreted** as **artifacts** produced through an **interactive relationship** between **nature and people**.
- For example, traces of past human habitation, made by such diverse peoples as **Paleo-Indians, nineteenth century coal miners or twentieth-century ranch managers, and twenty-first century recreational visitors** are embedded within the landscape at Fishers Peak. In other words, the **landscape is a physical manifestation of culture**, which can be read if one knows its language. Cultural landscapes can also be interpreted for **present visitors** to give them a sense of **connection** to the **long stretch of time** and **many peoples** represented on the land today.