



## **Little Bighorn Battlefield Update - Fall 2014**

By Denice Swanke, Superintendent



Greetings!

Without a doubt the most exciting project for us in Fiscal Year 2015 is initiating a General Management Plan amendment. As you know, the National Park Service is committed to bringing back our important museum collection from where it is *temporarily* being cared for in Arizona. I believe that we are at a unique point-in-time to be able to move forward with plans for a new facility and with short-term updates needed to our current Visitor Center.

As stakeholders who are passionate and knowledgeable about this place, I invite you to participate in shaping this park for the future.

In November, we held two public meetings and issued a newsletter to seek input for a plan amendment. Bookmark [www.parkplanning.nps.gov/libi](http://www.parkplanning.nps.gov/libi) and refer to this site for updates while we work on this important planning project!

On a more operational note we are happy to welcome two new resource management interns from the Student Conservation Association. Steve Cary will primarily focus on organizing and improving our geographic information system (GIS) and Emily Dowell is working on a host of natural resource issues. GIS is a computerized data management system commonly used to capture on a GPS, store, manage, analyze and display spatial information on maps.

Finally, here is a taste of what we are or will be working on this fall and winter:

- install new roof/soffit/fascia on the maintenance shop
- initiate restoration/preservation of all windows and exterior doors at the Superintendent's Lodge
- continue improvements to Custer National Cemetery
- operate the park and Visitor Center 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. each day
- accept delivery of our new snow plow before we need it

We also plan to finalize several park-specific documents, including:

- Foundation Document
- Natural Resources Condition Assessment
- Exotic Plant Management/Native Plant Restoration Plan
- Environmental History
- Structural Fire Plan

With continued gratitude for your support and love of the Battlefield,

*Denice*

*The General Management Plan Amendment newsletter and public meetings presentation can be accessed at the website noted in this message and will also be provided as PDF documents by contacting [CLeeNoyes@aol.com](mailto:CLeeNoyes@aol.com).*

*An article on volunteer student service groups in the Summer 2014 issue of **Preservation**, the magazine of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is also available in digital format.*