



## ***MEMORANDUM***

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**Date:** October 27, 2022  
**To:** Deadwood City Commission  
**From:** Kevin Kuchenbecker, Historic Preservation Officer  
**Re:** 2022 Deadwood Fire History Project and Contract

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The City Archives is requesting permission to enter into a contract with Dr. Peter Brown of the Rocky Mountain Tree-Ring Research in Fort Collins, Colorado to identify, sample and date historic wood stumps within and just outside the Deadwood city limits. The outcome of this project will be to develop a fire chronology and historic narrative of Deadwood Gulch's fire district. The data extracted from this project will add new historic data on how fire shaped Deadwood's built environment before the gold rush era (pre-1876) and during the settlement of Deadwood Gulch and the northern Black Hills (1883 to present). This project will also identify and interpret fire behavior patterns, the date the forest within and surrounding Deadwood, and provide detailed analysis of Deadwood's climate variables.

Dr. Brown has worked on several other projects for Historic Preservation including dating archaeological features unearthed in Deadwood and preparing and dating tree samples from St. Ambrose Catholic Cemetery.

The Historic Preservation Commission reviewed this request at their October 24, 2022 meeting and recommend approval.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Move to allow the City Archives to enter into a contract with Dr. Peter Brown of the Rocky Mountain Tree-Ring Research in Fort Collins, Colorado to identify, sample and date historic wood stumps within and just outside the Deadwood city limits and prepare a final report. Funding for this project will not exceed \$12,000.00 and will come out of the 2022 City Archives budget.