

# BLM



# NEWS

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## BLM Celebrates Antiquities Act Centennial with New “Adventures in the Past” Website

In 2006, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will join other Federal agencies, organizations, and individuals in celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of one of the most important pieces of legislation in the field of historic preservation: the Antiquities Act of 1906. More formally known as “An Act for the Preservation of American Antiquities,” this law provides a basic legislative foundation for BLM and other agencies to protect and preserve cultural properties on Federal lands.

Almost a hundred years after its passage, the Act is today still a vital tool for land managers and scientists alike. As BLM lands contain the largest, most diverse, and most scientifically important body of cultural resources of any Federal holdings, the Antiquities Act has aided the agency enormously in its management of these fragile resources. In anticipation of the Act’s centennial, BLM has launched a first-of-its-kind website entitled “Adventures in the Past” to guide Americans in “discovering the public lands’ archaeological, historic, and fossil heritage.” The web address is <http://www.blm.gov/heritage/adventures>.

The “Adventures” website showcases the outstanding heritage resources on BLM lands; invites web visitors to get involved with centennial events and volunteer activities; provides resources for educators and heritage tourists, including “virtual visits”; and provides a clearinghouse for BLM-authored professional publications in the fields of archaeology, history, and paleontology. BLM program managers note that while the Antiquities Act does not address paleontological resources, public interest in archaeology and history frequently overlaps with interest in fossil resources; hence, “Adventures” encompasses all three disciplines.

Among the sites and programs currently featured on the website are: a simulated excavation at Colorado’s Lowry Pueblo National Historic Landmark; intriguing “History Mysteries” for students to solve; and a virtual visit to the mysterious bones of Nevada’s Mineral Cave.

According to Utah BLM State Director Sally Wisely, an early and ardent champion of the new website, “The threads of our nation’s past are told through thousands of archaeological, historic, and fossil sites found on 261 million acres of BLM public lands. This remarkable heritage will be celebrated in 2006, the centennial of the Antiquities Act, with numerous events and opportunities to share this incredible legacy with the public.”

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BLM, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, manages more land — 261 million surface acres — than any other Federal agency. BLM’s multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on the public lands.