

Arizona Heritage Resources and Community Stewardship Strategy 1.7.11

Community Stewardship of Heritage Resources

BLM manages a vast array of heritage resources, from horizon-to-horizon cultural landscapes, to small individual archaeological sites. In Arizona, the majestic open spaces and extraordinary scenery of the state are considered to be invaluable heritage resources.

Within the many cultures of Arizona, BLM recognizes that there are multiple communities. There are communities of interest, communities of faith, and ethnic communities, to name only a few. All of these communities are interested in their heritage, and for many, that heritage is reflected in the unique places and landscapes managed by the BLM.

Goal 1: Identify heritage resources on BLM lands that are of particular importance to the people and communities of Arizona.

- Emphasize management and planning that incorporates the diverse heritage values of the peoples and cultures of Arizona.
- Determine what heritage resources under BLM control are of particular importance to different communities.
- Work with interested communities to increase and organize inventory, recording, and stewardship of heritage resources.

Goal 2: Establish a statewide framework for community-based, field-level stewardship of cultural values and sites.

- Incorporate multiple kinds of heritage resources into BLM discussions and definitions of working landscapes, resource sustainability, and other strategic goals,
- Continue to support and expand the Arizona Site Stewards Program, and other community heritage stewardship efforts such as the Kaibab-Vermilion Cliffs Heritage Alliance, throughout the state,
- Encourage tribal participation in BLM heritage resource stewardship efforts. In addition to archaeological and historic properties, areas of tribal concern, such as landscapes, areas, and places of traditional importance could be subject to tribal stewardship activities.

Goal 3: Working with interested communities, identify the most threatened heritage resources on BLM lands, and develop plans with concerned communities to protect and conserve those resources.

- Involve concerned communities in developing ways to reduce current impacts to heritage resources, and in planning for future resource conservation efforts.
- Assist communities in increasing their understanding of range and diversity of heritage resources on BLM lands, and how local communities can help protect and manage these resources.
- Emphasize maintenance of open spaces and reduce intrusive elements in viewsheds associated with heritage resources, including historic and scenic trails.