

Bureau of Land Management Colorado Heritage Program Highlights 2021

Browns Canyon National Monument Ethnographic Study Royal Gorge Field Office

The Browns Canyon National Monument (BCNM) Ethnographic Study aims to strengthen government-to-government relationships in the understanding of Tribal connections with the Browns Canyon National Monument. The project strategic goals are to:

- 1) Provide information relevant to the management of cultural and natural resources within the monument boundary through ethnographic research with traditionally associated Tribal communities;
- 2) Provide opportunities for elders and cultural experts from associated Tribal communities to participate in onsite field research to preliminarily identify natural and cultural resources of cultural significance;
- 3) Serve as a pilot study that will solicit Tribal input regarding future and in depth ethnographic, traditional cultural property, ethnobotanical, traditional use and/or cultural landscape studies; and
- 4) Generate Tribe-approved educational and public outreach material to be used both in Tribal communities and with the public at BCNM.

This year, the Royal Gorge Field Office conducted two site visits at BCNM with Tribal representatives and elders.

Figure 1. Terry Knight (Ute Mtn Ute elder and THPO) and Jessica Yaquinto (LHRC) during a scoping visit to Hecla Junction



Figure 2. Tribal Elders and representatives, BLM interns and Living Heritage Research Council staff during site visit to Ruby Mountain

Calamity Camp Historic Preservation and Stabilization Grand Junction Field Office

Calamity Camp is a well-known site within the local population, some of whom have relatives who worked and lived at the site. The site's association with World War II-era uranium exploration and extraction make it an important part of U.S. history. The BLM Grand Junction Field Office continued stabilization work on Calamity Camp, a site listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Partnering with HistoriCorps, a non-profit organization with expertise in historic preservation, the BLM was able to stabilize the two main residences at Calamity Camp, as well as assess an additional building for future stabilization and restoration. Additionally, the BLM partnered with the Western Colorado Conservation Corps (WCCC) to repair an existing fence put into place to keep off-road vehicles from traveling off-route throughout the site. WCCC was also able to help HistoriCorp in stabilization work.



Figure 3. HistoriCorps volunteers works on preparing roofing materials

Figure 4. Western Colorado Conservation Corps members assist HistoriCorps in replacing a roof at Calamity Camp



Canyons of the Ancients: A Living Landscape (Tribal Handbook)
Canyons of the Ancients National Monument

Canyons of the Ancients National Monument has published and made publicly available a 36-page color handbook detailing Tribal connections with the prehistoric cultural resources and natural landscape managed within the Monument. The publication is the culmination of several years of both field investigations and oral interviews with 26 descendent communities and anthropological researchers. The publication is available for no cost to our museum visitors and has been sent to numerous partners and other agencies in the Four Corners area.

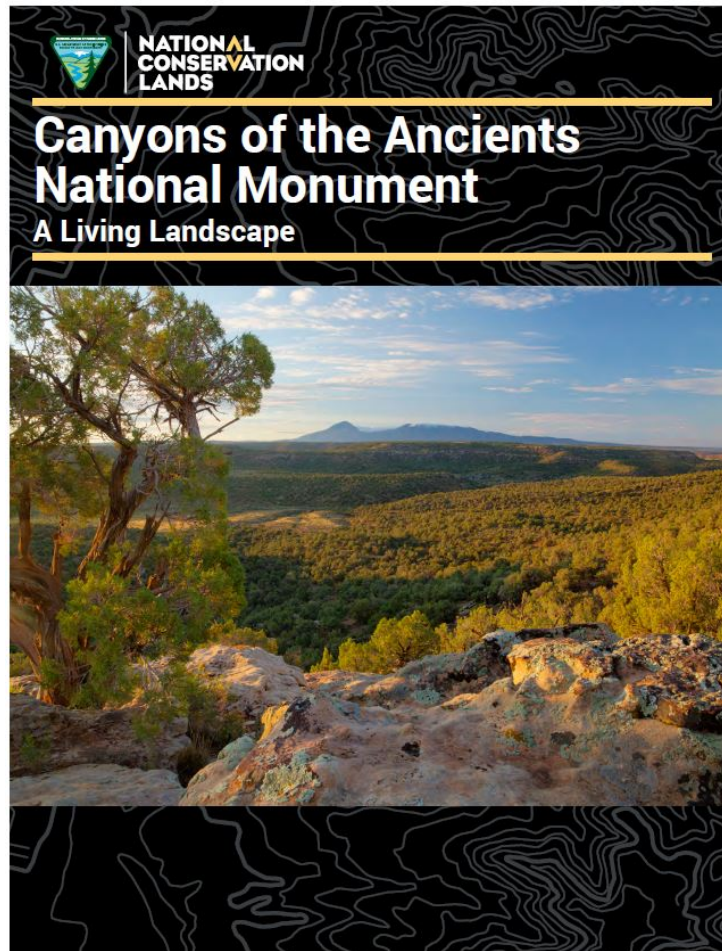


Figure 5. Cover page of the new Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Tribal handbook, available for free at the Visitors Center and Museum

Colorado State University Field School: Reddin Site San Luis Valley Field Office

Colorado State University (CSU) is following in the footsteps of the Smithsonian Institution and the University of Wyoming, who systematically surveyed and excavated a major Late Pleistocene age hunter gatherer settlement at the Reddin Site (5SH.77) from 1979 to 1983 within the heart of the San Luis Valley. Their team recovered nearly 500 artifacts of the Folsom tradition, as well as archaeological materials from the subsequent Native American groups that occupied the site over several millennia.

CSU is revisiting the site and the old data with modern statistical analysis and mapping techniques to incorporate the Reddin Site's story with more recent narratives of the Folsom tradition and lifeways of Native Americans at the end of the Pleistocene. These include foraging techniques, lithic technologies, population distribution, and more.

The site is ideal for education of upper division university students and the general public. Students learn artifact identification, survey, and recordation methods important to acquiring a job in the cultural resource management field. This first season the field school located 53 Folsom diagnostic artifacts and 18 diagnostics from later cultural groups. These provided the students with a unique opportunity to see and identify rare artifact types.

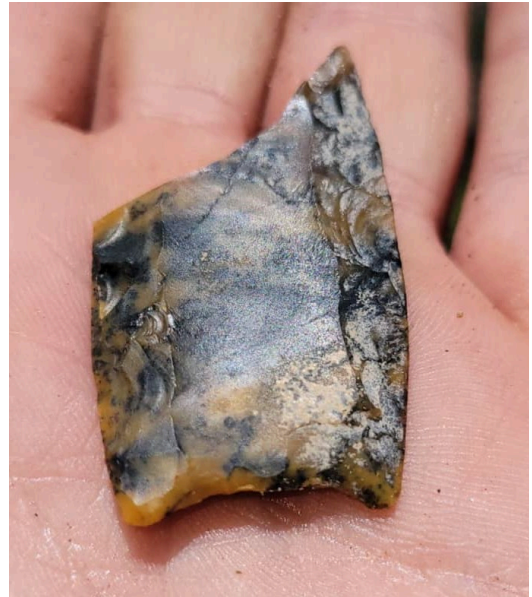


Figure 6. A mostly complete Folsom projectile point from the Reddin site



Figure 7. Students mapping artifacts

Beyond the field school, two high school level groups from the Great Sand Dunes National Park Service Youth Archaeology Camp visited and conducted survey at the site. This group is comprised of local students from the San Luis Valley who are interested in our shared history and potential careers in resource management.

Canyon Pintado 4th Grade Field Trips White River Field Office

The Canyon Pintado 4th Grade project was established with the purpose of strengthening bonds between local communities and the BLM, and to increase awareness of cultural resources. Two field trips were coordinated with the Rangely and Meeker Elementary Schools, bringing fourth grade students to the local park where BLM members presented on topics regarding local history, Tribes, and visiting cultural sites with respect. Site steward partners in the area also attended. This project served as the first annual field trip of its kind and received commendation in the local newspaper, and enthusiastic support of the schools.



Figure 8. WRFO BLM Archaeologist Lukas Trout conducts a flintknapping demonstration to a group of 4th grade students from Meeker Elementary School

Monument Cultural Site Stewardship Program Canyons of the Ancients National Monument

The Monument Cultural Site Stewardship Program, administered by the BLM and the Southwest Colorado Canyons Alliance, includes 112 prehistoric, historic, and dual-component sites. The program includes fifty-nine (59) Site Stewards, each of whom mostly monitor more than one site. These volunteers contributed approximately 1,729 hours of time and drove 12,917 miles. At an



estimated BLM volunteer value of \$28.54/hour and \$0.14/mile, this equates to a total of \$51,366.50 for donated labor and mileage. Additionally, Site Stewards have participated in over 1,410 hours of training, lectures, and volunteer work during the year, helping them all better understand the sites and landscape for which they volunteer.

Figure 9. Canyons of the Ancients National Monument site stewardship volunteers on a group field trip

Documentation of Cross Mountain Rock Art to Mitigate Visual Impact from Transmission Line Construction
Northwest District Office

To mitigate the impact of proposed construction of a multi-state transmission line on the pristine panoramic views afforded from prehistoric Native American rock art on a mountain considered sacred to the Utes and related Tribes, BLM cultural resource program personnel from the Northwest District, White River Field Office (WRFO), and Little Snake Field Office (LSFO) consulted and coordinated with representatives of relevant Tribes to agree to a plan intended to mitigate the adverse effect of the federal undertaking. Wind-generated electricity in southwestern Wyoming is to be transmitted to Las Vegas via the Energy Gateway South line to provide a sustainable and environmentally friendly means of supplying power to this iconic American resort city. The proposed transmission line is to be constructed within the viewshed of an exceptional rock art site (5MF2691) attributed to the prehistoric Fremont Indians, who are known to have inhabited Utah and northwest Colorado several centuries ago. The rock art is in the Cross Mountain area which is considered of particular cultural and religious importance to the Ute Indian Tribe and related Tribes.

WRFO Archaeologist Lukas Trout was assisted by LSFO Archaeologist Brian Naze and NWDO Archaeologist Avery Check in his efforts to consult with representatives of the relevant Tribes to agree upon a plan to mitigate adverse effects from transmission line construction on Cross Mountain and the rock art site. This involved consultation with representatives of the Ute Indian Tribe, with reservation lands in northeast Utah, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe (both out of southwest Colorado), and the Eastern Shoshone (from central Wyoming).

The mitigation plan calls for PacifiCorp to fund the work of District and Field Office archaeologists and information technology specialists from BLM's National Operations Center (NOC) to document the rock art site and Tribal interpretations of the meaning of the rock art images. Toward these ends, drone technology as well as 3-D imaging software was used to document the rock art. A consulting ethnographer from Stephen W. Caruthers and Associates was contracted by PacifiCorp to record the thoughts of Ute and Shoshone representatives concerning the rock art.

The final product is envisioned to be a secure web site, hosted by the NOC, where youths and other members of the Ute and Shoshone Tribes can go to learn about Cross Mountain and the rock art and other sites located there. This web site will be a means to educate Tribal members, especially youth, about places and sites on BLM land that are of great importance to Native American heritage.

**Chappell Collection Accession
Canyons of the Ancients Visitors Center and Museum**

In May 2021, the Canyons of the Ancients Visitors Center and Museum accessioned the “Chappell Collection” through the BLM 1105 Donation policy. The Chappell Collection includes 4,921 artifacts and 1,056 archives purchased the Anasazi Historical Society from Cliff and Ruth Chappell in 1982 and on “permanent” loan to the Bureau of Land Management Canyons of the Ancients Visitor Center and Museum (formerly known as the Anasazi Heritage Center) since 1988. The Chappell Collection is comprised of archeological objects collected from private lands in southwest Colorado and adjacent states, as well as the Chappell’s field notes. Artifacts represent a wide variety of Ancestral Puebloan material culture from the Northern San Juan region, including ceramics, chipped stone, bone, textiles, ornaments, groundstone, shell, and organic material. The BLM fully cataloged the Collection, housing the materials in a facility ensuring secure and stable conditions, and providing for public access and use, in accordance with DOI collections standards (411 DM Museum Property Handbook).



Figure 10. Examples from the Chappell Collection