

# Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Colorado 2019 Highlights

## Major Highlights

### **Canyons of the Ancients National Monument (CANM) Ethnographic Research**

**Project: Hopi, Zuni, and Santa Clara Tribes:** The BLM, in cooperation with Mountain Studies Institute and Anthropological Research, LLC, conducted an ethnographic overview of CANM. This ethnographic overview reviews published and archival literature to summarize tribal histories and traditional associations with CANM and the greater Four Corners region. Additionally, ethnographic field visits and oral interviews were conducted with the Hopi Tribe, Pueblo of Santa Clara, and Pueblo of Zuni.

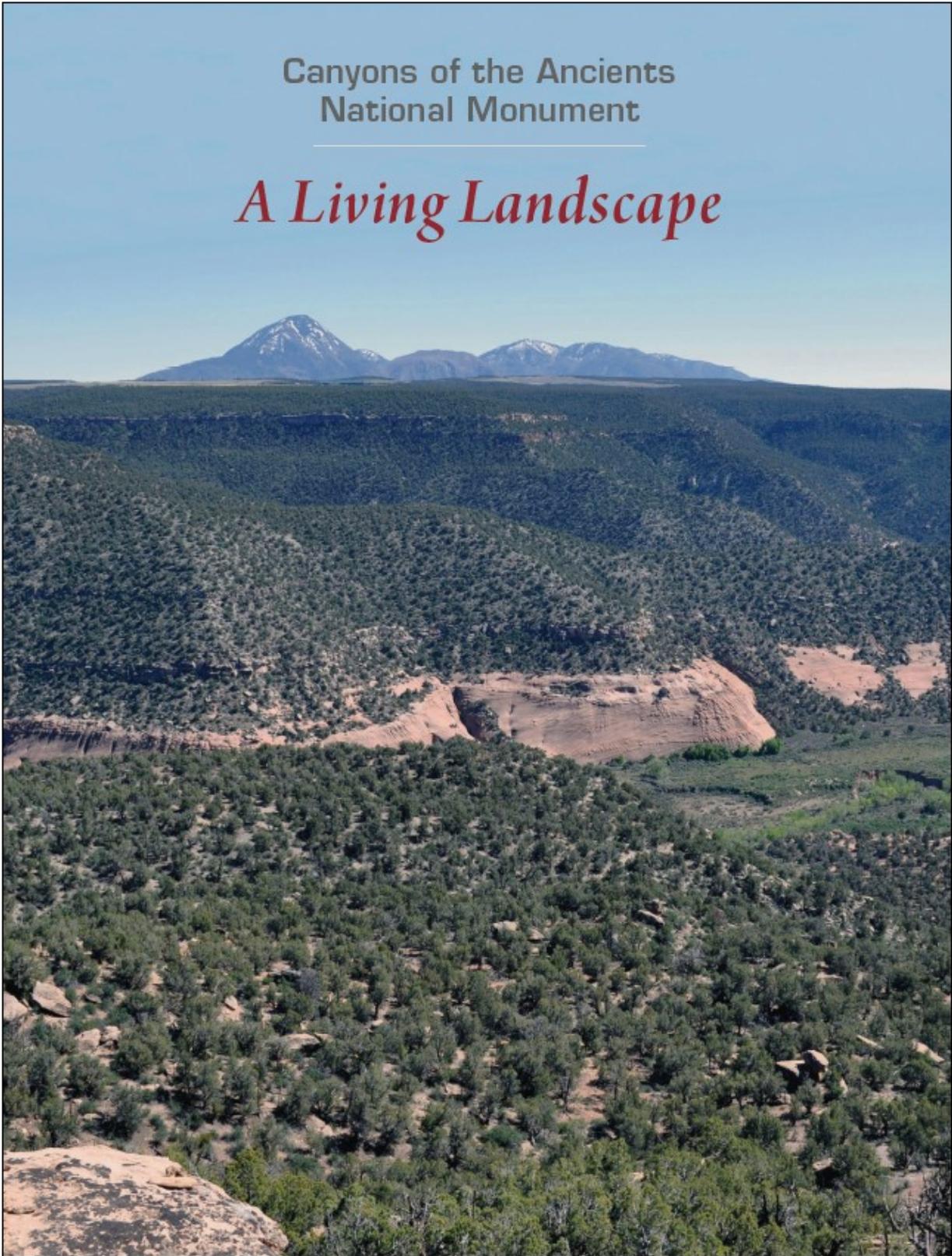
This ethnographic overview includes 24 of the tribes that CANM currently engages in government-to-government consultation, including: the Hopi Tribe, Jicarilla Apache Nation, Navajo Nation, Ohkay Owingeh (Pueblo of San Juan), Pueblo of Acoma, Pueblo of Cochiti, Pueblo of Isleta, Pueblo of Jemez, Pueblo of Laguna, Pueblo of Nambe, Pueblo of Picuris, Pueblo of Pojoaque, Pueblo of San Felipe, Pueblo of San Ildefonso, Pueblo of Santa Ana, Pueblo of Santa Clara, Pueblo of Santo Domingo, Pueblo of Taos, Pueblo of Tesuque, Pueblo of Ysleta del Sur, Pueblo of Zia, Pueblo of Zuni, Southern Ute Tribe, and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. The goal of the project is to establish working relationships with representatives from each of these tribes in the future and to use those relationships to gather tribal knowledge for managing the CANM cultural landscape.

In 2019, the BLM collaborated with Anthropological Research, LLC on a finalization of a report and handbook on the project's accomplishments to date. The report, partially funded by the Canyonlands Natural History Association's Discovery Pool, documents an extensive review of existing, accessible ethnographic and archaeological literature, and BLM archives for CANM and presents primary ethnographic information provided by the tribes that participated directly in fieldwork. Goals of the publications are to document the broad traditional homelands of the tribes that have connections to the area, to elucidate tribal values and ongoing traditions related to ancestral areas and the natural environment (i.e., why tribes care so much about the area) and, finally, to advise the BLM on future tribal engagement. The 32-page full-color visitor's tribal handbook, entitled "Canyons of the Ancients National Monument: A Living Landscape," is prepared for publication and dissemination to the public at the Canyons of the Ancients Visitor Center and Museum (CAVM).

Canyons of the Ancients  
National Monument

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*A Living Landscape*



Cover of the visitor handbook on tribal perspectives of CANM, finalized for publication in 2019 by the BLM, descendant tribal community members and Anthropological Research, LLC.

**Pisgah Mountain Survey – Colorado River Valley Field Office (CRVFO):** Colorado State University (CSU) Anthropology Department and the Center for Mountains and Plains Archaeology (CMPA) conducted research survey in the area of Pisgah Mountain. This project utilized remaining funding from the Deep Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) inventory from FY2018. In total, the CMPA surveyed 535 acres of previously un-surveyed lands in the project area surrounding Pisgah Mountain. The CMPA identified a total of 18 new cultural resources, consisting of 9 prehistoric sites (lithic scatters and open camps), as well as 9 prehistoric isolated finds and/or small sites. The largest prehistoric site measured more than 250 meters (long axis) by 150 meters (short axis) and produced 11 formal chipped stone tools. Two of the sites/isolated finds produced obsidian artifacts, and were collected by the CMPA for additional analyses. This project builds on other recent landscape scale inventories that have occurred in the Pisgah Mountain area including the Eagle County Ute Trails Landscape project.



**View from the top of Pisgah Mountain. Field crew from CSU doing cultural resource inventory.  
Photo taken by Erin Leifeld on May 31, 2019.**

**Stabilization of the Johnson Stage Station – Gunnison Field Office:** The Gunnison Field Office (GFO) partnered with the Hinsdale County Historical Society (HCHS),

HistorCorps, and the Western Colorado Conservation Corps (WCCC) and fully stabilized four cabins at the Johnson Stage Stop (5GN6070), an 1874 transportation hub that served the miners coming and going to the mining districts in the nearby San Juan Mountains of Colorado. Rotting wall logs and foundation logs were replaced as well as the roof structures. Three of the roofs were originally sod and the fourth was corrugated tin. The sod roofs were replicated based on historic photographs and grass seedlings have emerged on the roofs. The stage stop is located adjacent to a popular BLM campground and the newly completed project allows visitors to tour safely through the site.



**Johnson Stage Station Overview: after stabilization.**

**Rough Canyon Service Day and Ute Heritage Day – Grand Junction Field Office:**

The Grand Junction Field Office (GJFO) BLM hosted the third cleanup and education event in Rough Canyon. After witnessing and being astonished by the vandalism occurring to rock art and canyon walls in a popular recreation area, Mt. Garfield Middle School eighth grade students contacted the BLM for a cleanup day in 2017, which was so popular that it was continued in 2018 and 2019. The GJFO, Mount Garfield Middle School 8th Grade Classes, the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation

(UIT), the Colorado Archaeological Society - Grand Junction Chapter, Colorado Canyons Association, and the Great Old Broads for Wilderness coordinated a day filled with cleaning charcoal graffiti from canyon walls, removing charcoal and trash from recent activity, and removing a social trail to the rock art site. Betsy Chapoose, from the UIT, taught the students about native cultural landscapes and the importance of rock art sites within these landscapes, while the BLM archaeologists and geologist taught students about the importance of leave no trace and historic resources. The partners received a State Historical Fund Grant that expanded the project to include a Ute Heritage Day for all of the Mount Garfield 8th Grade students. The Ute Heritage Day included several classes and stations where students learned about flintknapping, ethnobotany, rock art, traditional beading, and more. BLM and partners were awarded the 2019 Stephen H. Hart Award from the History Colorado for this project.



**Mt. Garfield Middle School students at the Rough Canyon trail head.**

**Backfilling of Kib-Ridge Yampa Site – Little Snake Field Office (LSFO):** Open excavation trenches at one of the oldest prehistoric archaeological sites in northwest Colorado were backfilled to conserve the remainder of the site for future research. The site is significant for its stratified Early Paleoindian archaeological levels. In the largest excavation trench at the site, cultural levels dated to the Clovis time period are overlain by Folsom levels and Late Paleoindian horizons. The Clovis time period dates from 11,500 to 10,900 uncalibrated radiocarbon years ago. The site was excavated to

evaluate its importance as part of eventually nominating it to the National Register of Historic Places under Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Analysis of soil samples collected from the open trenches allowed researchers at the University of Northern Colorado and the University of Kansas to learn more about the sequence of cultural groups that inhabited the site and the environmental conditions under which they lived. Backfilling the site will protect the site from erosion and conserve it for future researchers.



**Borrow area with heavy earth moving equipment used in backfilling operations.**

**Stafford Ranch Acquisition – San Luis Valley Field Office (SLVFO):** Stafford Ranch (5AL.942) is a late 19th Century to post-World War II era ranch with a ranch house, outbuildings and 200 acres. The BLM is in the process of acquiring the property to utilize the land and water rights for wildlife habitat. Beyond the opportunities for native flora and fauna, the Stafford Ranch property offers great potential for interpretation of the region's farming and ranching history. In particular, the condition of the site's buildings provide superior context for the public to enrich its understanding of rural architecture and the homesteading process. Given the close proximity of the Stafford Ranch to the recently restored Trujillo Homesteads National Historic Landmark,

additional possibilities exist for the parallel interpretation of unique stages of settlement in the San Luis Valley. The BLM is working with its partners the Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area and the State Historic Preservation Office to restore the buildings with the potential for an interpretation center or other outreach facility.



**Overview of the Stafford Ranch.**

**Henry Huff National Register Nomination – Tres Rios Field Office (TRFO):** The Henry Huff cabin, located in Montrose County Colorado, was nominated at the local level under Criteria A (Agriculture and Industry), C (Architecture) and D (Archeology). It is a Pioneer Log cabin constructed in 1906 and is a well-preserved example of an isolated ranching and prospecting cabin with an associated corral and artifact scatter. The cabin served as base for early radium/uranium prospecting in the area during the Carnotite Mining Boom (1899-1923). Carnotite ore (which contained uranium, radium and vanadium) from this area in Colorado is exceptionally high quality and garnered worldwide attention for its extraordinary economic and scientific value.



**Overview of the Henry Huff Cabin in remote Bull Canyon.**

**Landscape-Scale Ethnographic Project in the Piceance Basin – White River Field**

**Office:** The Piceance Basin is a national strategic oil and gas field, with about 20% of the area inventoried for cultural resources. The landscape-scale Piceance Basin ethnographic study will enhance BLM’s ability to account for areas in the basin of cultural and religious importance to the three Ute Tribes when reviewing ongoing development proposals.

Ethnographic fieldwork conducted under this study began in summer 2019. Tribal interviews and on site meetings were initiated by Living Heritage Anthropology, LLC, to elicit requested interpretations of material culture, traditional land use, and associated cultural landscapes. Fieldwork and interviews will continue into FY2020. Resulting reports/benefits will include an Ethnographic Report geared towards what representatives of the three Ute Tribes aim to gain from this study for their tribes, in addition to an Ethnographic Landscape Management Plan to inform the White River Field Office (WRFO) management decisions. The ethnographic landscape management plan is also intended to meet ongoing tribal requests to consider the effects of new development on an integrated landscape scale, rather than the traditional site-by-site effects analysis.



**Southern Ute tribal informant interpreting a Ute architectural feature.  
Photo by Living Heritage Anthropology, LLC.**

**Mesa Verde Escarpment Baseline Survey and Monitoring of High Value High Risk Sites – Tres Rios Field Office:**

This project completed baseline survey for cultural resources and monitoring of previously recorded high value “at risk” sites in the 7,373 acre proposed Mesa Verde Escarpment ACEC immediately adjacent to the iconic Mesa Verde National Park. The Mesa Verde Escarpment has a rich archaeological record and possesses the densest concentration of Ancestral Puebloan habitation sites on the Tres Rios Field Office and retains areas of traditional and sacred values to Native Americans tribes found in the region today.

**Eagle Rock Shelter Excavations:** For the past 12 years, active data recovery excavations at Eagle Rock Shelter have resulted in numerous significant contributions to our understanding of the ancient prehistory of Western Colorado. For years prior to formal excavations at a the site it had been looted extensively, and scientific excavations were originally conceived to assess the amount of damage and extent of remaining intact deposits. Extensive stratified deposits were encountered indicating regular occupation of the site for nearly 13,000 years, making it among the oldest stratified sites in North America. After a decade of discovery, active excavations at the site concluded in spring 2019. Although cultural materials recovered from the site will be analyzed for years to come, the site itself will enter a new phase. To ensure its long-term preservation, the site has been carefully backfilled. Through the years the site has become a popular destination for recreationists. The field office is actively engaged with

the researchers and affiliated Tribes in an effort to develop an interpretive plan that will both protect the site and provide an enhanced educational experience for visitors.



**Overview of the Mesa Verde Escarpment.**



**Eagle Rock Shelter Overview.**

## Section 106 Compliance

The SLVFO is working on the following activities:

- An MOA for the Pronghorn trail system.
- 1,000+ acres of new inventory is planned and will commence this fall for the Antonito Solar Energy Zone III area.
- Tribal consultation continues with the Hopi Tribe for the Poncha Villa Zone EA.

### **Stabilization, rehabilitation, and other preservation activities**

Acquisition of the Rose Lime Kiln, Hinsdale County, Colorado: The BLM contributed \$7,500 to the HCHS to assist with their purchase of two 10-acre mining claims located along the Alpine Loop in Hinsdale County, Colorado. The magnificent Rose Lime Kiln (5HN287) is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is located within the claims and is interpreted along the BLM Alpine Loop. By purchasing the kiln and claims, the site will be protected in the long term and public access is secure.



**Rose Lime Kiln, Hinsdale County, Colorado.**

Devils Canyon Cabin Restoration: The McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area (MCNCA) partnered with the Western Colorado Conservation Corps to restore the Devils Canyon Cabin in the Black Ridge Wilderness. This eligible property represents a typical line camp structure related to historic grazing in the MCNCA. The cabin is along a popular recreation trail and is of interest to recreationists; the BLM often receives queries about the cabin and its history. Over time, the roofing materials and felt paper lining on the walls have deteriorated. To restore the cabin and protect it from the elements, the BLM and WCCC crew brought in materials on foot, re-papered and tarred the roof, as well as re-papered the walls. Crews also cleaned up modern trash in the area, re-hinged the door and sheep pen gate, and nailed shut the cold storage box which was being misused by some visitors. The resulting restoration will lead to a longer life span of the cabin and an enhanced visitor experience to the area.

McIntire Ranch Stabilization: SLVFO completed the McIntire Ranch Stabilization plan including removing hazardous trees and vegetation threatening the structure.



**McIntire Mansion**

### **Identification, recordation, and evaluation of heritage resources**

CANM and Center of Preservation Research's Digital Architectural Documentation Project: Using research funding from the National Landscape Conservation System, the BLM and CANM, in partnership with the BLM's National Operations Center and the

University of Colorado at Denver School of Architecture and Planning's Center of Preservation Research (CoPR) completed their 5-year digital documentation project at late Pueblo III (ca. AD 1250) sites within the Monument using advanced Light Detection and Ranging (LiDaR), High Definition Surveying (HDS), close-range photogrammetry, and High Dynamic Range photography (HDR) to create three-dimensional models and scaled Historic American Buildings Survey drawings of the site's 750 year-old architecture.

The partnership concluded with completion of archival HABS drawings of Lowry Pueblo National Historic Landmark and Painted Hand Pueblo which was partly funded support from the Colorado State Historic Fund and the National Park Service's NHL program. The team was awarded the 2019 Stephen H. Hart Award for Historic Preservation by History Colorado.



**Staff of the University of Colorado at Denver School of Architecture and Planning's Center of Preservation Research and CANM concluded the Monument's Digital Documentation Project at Lowry Pueblo National Historic Landmark (5MT1566), Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, Colorado.**

The Lamb House (5MT580) Historic Structure Assessment and National Register Nomination: CANM, with support of Silverton Restoration Consulting, LLC, completed an engineering and architectural assessment of the Lamb House, a significant historic property acquired by the Conservation Fund and deeded to the Monument in 2010. The agency also completed a draft National Register nomination and submitted the site for inclusion on the local Montezuma County historic registry which was locally registered in January 2020.

AN HISTORIC STRUCTURES ASSESSMENT  
OF THE  
THE LAMB HOUSE  
MONTEZUMA COUNTY, COLORADO  
SITE #5MT580



OWNER:  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
27501 HIGHWAY 184  
DOLORES, CO 81323

PRESERVATION SPECIALIST:  
SILVERTON RESTORATION CONSULTING, LLC  
1315 SNOWDEN, SUITE 303  
SILVERTON, COLORADO 81433

FINAL REPORT  
CONTRACT #L17PX01036  
MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2019

PREPARED BY: DAVID A. SINGER

SILVERTON RESTORATION CONSULTING, LLC

Cover of the historic structure assessment completed by Silverton Restoration Consulting for the BLM in 2019.

### Monitoring and site stewardship

CANM Cultural Site Stewardship Program (MSSP): The Monument Cultural Site Stewardship Program (MSSP), administered by the BLM and a contracted administrative assistant (Diane McBride), includes 88 prehistoric, historic, and dual-component sites. The program includes fifty-eight (58) site stewards each of whom mostly monitor more than one site. These volunteers contributed approximately 806 hours of time and drove 8,476 miles. At an estimated BLM volunteer value of \$25.43/hour and \$0.14/mile, this equates to a total of \$21,683.22 for donated labor and

mileage. Additionally, site stewards have participated in over 1,100 hours of training, lectures, and volunteer work during the year, helping them all better understand the sites and landscape for which they volunteer.

### **Research, field schools, and data recovery projects**

Skull Creek WSA Baseline Survey for Cultural Resources: WRFO partnered with CSU, CMPA staff and students to inventory, conduct limited testing, and use photogrammetric (3-d) mapping at several of the better-preserved corn storage granaries in the Miller Creek Archaeological District. The Miller Creek Archaeological District comprises a unique concentration of Fremont sites that indicate prehistoric horticulture occurred in this remote and arid region of northwest Colorado. This fieldwork also served to contextualize the collections held within the CSU repository procured during excavations conducted by CSU- Laboratory of Public Archaeology (LOPA) in the 1970s.

In September 2019, the BLM's National Operations Center (NOC) completed a one-week Unmanned Aerial Survey (UAS) Section 110 survey of the Miller Creek Archaeological District. The goal was to identify and document potential direct evidence for horticulture and additional granaries, and to complement the ongoing research being completed by CSU. The survey included: (1) mapping the alluvial area for potential evidence of Fremont Period horticulture practices; (2) a drone survey throughout the accessible canyons of the District; and (3) close-range photogrammetry of three previously identified granary sites.



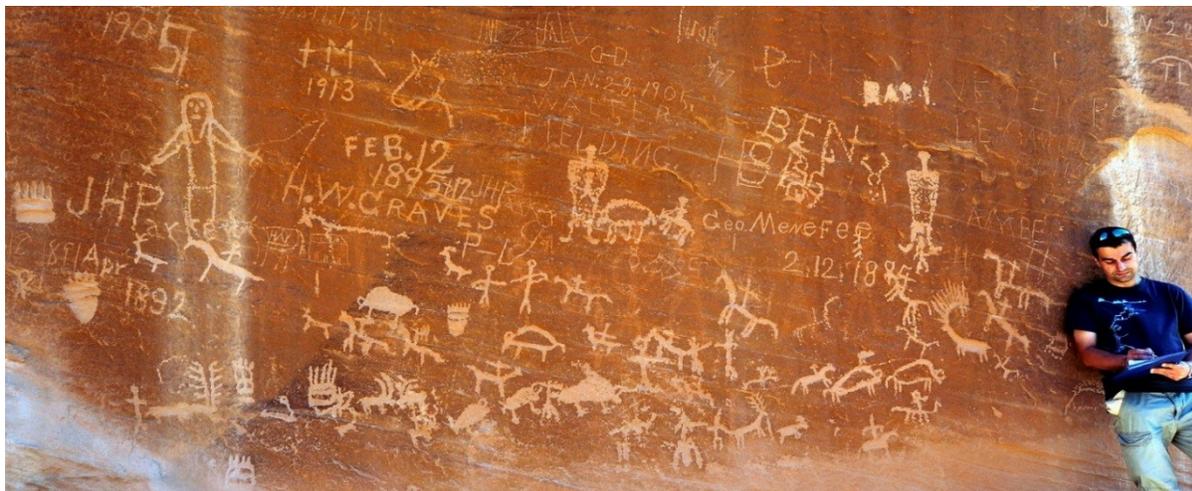
**Miller Creek Archaeological District: Fremont granary.**

Jagiellonian University's Sand Canyon-Castle Rock Community Archaeological Project: For the ninth year, project director Dr. Radoslaw Palonka travelled with a mixed group of 13 graduate and undergraduate archaeological students from Krakow, Poland to CANM in southwest Colorado to continue their research. The project is the first independent Polish archaeological project in the United States and seeks to further our understanding of prehistoric community organization within the 13th Century Puebloan society. While the project's primary focus is on the Sand Canyon – East Rock Canyon

area of the Monument, the expedition has also ventured a few miles north into the poorly documented Sandstone Canyon.

Working with Monument archaeologist Vince MacMillan, the group conducted archaeological survey as well as electrical resistivity, Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) documentation and photogrammetry of a number of sites within CANM.

This year also saw the conclusion of the special exhibit “From Krakow to Castle Rock: Jagiellonian University’s Archaeological Investigation within Canyons of the Ancients National Monument.” The exhibit was developed by the BLM in collaboration with students and staff of Jagiellonian University, with additional support provided by the CANM “friends” group Southwest Colorado Canyons Alliance. The exhibit occupies the “Special Exhibit” gallery at the Canyons of the Ancients Visitor Center and Museum (formerly Anasazi Heritage Center).



**Dr. Radoslaw Palonka from Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland documenting the “Strawman” rock art panel (5MT13288), Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, Colorado.**

### **Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) activities**

LSFO Transferring Culturally Modified Bison Skull to Ute Tribes as Object of Cultural Patrimony under NAGPRA: A culturally modified bull buffalo skull was inadvertently discovered by a Colorado Parks and Wildlife employee in a streambed on BLM land while engaged in a study of the native fishes of Milk Creek, a permanent tributary of the Yampa River in northwest Colorado. The bison skull had man-made holes created in the back end. Also, areas on the left horn core were apparently worn away and polished from some kind of human activity. After consulting with representatives of the three Ute tribes, the BLM determined that bison skull arguably was used in ritual activity and qualifies as an object of cultural patrimony under NAGPRA. The site was documented for its archaeological value on a site form and in a report. As requested by the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, the object of cultural patrimony will

be buried in the vicinity where it was discovered in the Spring of 2020. The tribes have requested that photographs of the object of cultural patrimony not be published.

### **Museum collections management**

Inventory and Extensive Documentation of Museum Collections from a Regionally Significant Archaeological Site: The WRFO, in partnership with CSU, has been reanalyzing the 5MF607 collections to write a final report on the 1976-1977 CSU LOPA excavations from the site. The site contains perishables and an extensive corn deposit, owing to the granary uncovered during excavation. Analysis thus far has been conducted on the site's corn, ground stone, and the chipped stone tools, as well as cursory analysis of the faunal remains and debitage from the site. CMPA have not spent any grant funding on radiocarbon dates or other specialized analyses on this site, but intends to seek such funding to fully analyze this important site. Following completion of final report, the collections will be rehoused in acid free packaging and all records will be digitized.

Other museum activities are:

- CAVM updated all condition and ownership information in object records following the Interior Collections Management System (ICMS) protocol.
- CAVM completed backlog cataloging for 19 accessions using three interns, two contractors, two seasonals, and permanent staff. The interns were funded through the National Council for Preservation Education (NCPE) by the Department of Interior Museum Program and the BLM national office totaling 2,360 contributed hours. The total catalogued collections include 18 BLM collections, one Archaeological Conservancy collection, and 197,111 added archives and artifacts.
- SLVFO is coordinating with the Rio Grande National Forest, the Great Sand Dunes National Park and others for the return of the Dennis Stanford collections currently held at the Smithsonian Institution.

### **Heritage Education, Interpretation, Outreach, and Tourism**

- SLVFO is coordinating with the Salazar Foundation on interpretive signage for a pull out on the Highway 142 bridge area.