

Bureau of Land Management Colorado Heritage Program Highlights 2020

Lookout Mountain CCC Picnic Park Historic Assessment and Restoration Colorado River Valley Field Office

During the summer of 2020, HistoriCorps, in partnership with BLM CRVFO, began the historic assessment of the Lookout Mountain CCC Picnic Park. This project will include not only the historic assessment but also site/structure stabilization. The CCC picnic park is located just outside of Glenwood Springs, Colorado and was constructed between 1937 and 1938 by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Company 826. A detailed site recording and historic assessment was initiated in the summer of 2020 at which time additional features were discovered and recorded at the site. The formal assessment is being completed by HistoriCorps as well as language for the interpretive panel that will be placed at the site once stabilization is complete. The stabilization portion of the project will be completed in the summer of 2021 utilizing volunteers through HistoriCorps. Stay tuned next year for more to come!



Figure 1. Log outhouse to be stabilized and restored (though not a working outhouse).



Figure 2. Concrete picnic table: one of three identical tables to be historically reconstructed.

McIntire Mansion Hazard Tree Removal San Luis Valley Field Office

The McIntire Mansion, or the Los Ojos Ranch house, is an 1880s Territorial Adobe mansion near the Conejos River on BLM administered land. Colorado Preservation, Inc. listed the McIntire Mansion on Colorado's Most Endangered Places list in February 2019. The adobe structure has been without a roof for approximately fifty years and the elements have caused heavy damage to the structure. Of immediate concern was the decadent cottonwoods surrounding the mansion. The 140-year-old trees were dropping limbs and threatened to fall on the structure at any time.

The McIntire Mansion was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2008. It was the residence of Colorado Governor Albert McIntire and his wife Florence. Florence assumed responsibility for the ranch after her divorce with Albert and she became a player in the Woman's Suffrage movement. The movement resulted in women's right to vote and full title to assets such as the Ojos Ranch.

An interagency taskforce consisting of personnel from the San Luis Valley BLM, San Isabel National Forest and the Rio Grande National Forest recently completed hazard tree removal from the McIntire Mansion. Forest Service C fallers limbed and felled trees adjacent to the structure under the supervision of the BLM San Luis Valley Field Offices's Cultural Resource Specialist. The 140-year-old trees proved to be very rotten. It took great skill and ingenuity to fell the trees against their lean and away from the structure. The structure is now safe from crushing hazards, but the project is ongoing. Fire prone fuels and ground debris will continue to be removed from the site. It is the goal of the SLVFO to restore the grounds to the site's period of significance (1880-1912). The SLVFO continues to work alongside cooperators with the goal of stabilizing the structure itself.

*Figure 3.
McIntire
Mansion 1890*



*Figure 4. McIntire
Mansion 2019*



Figure 5. Felling close to the structure required high levels of skill and ingenuity.

North Park Ute Trail Landscape Study Kremmling Field Office

The North Park Ute Trail Landscape Study, under the guidance of Robert Brunswig, PhD and James Doener, PhD from the University of Northern Colorado (UNC) did reconnaissance and drone surveys of two targeted Owl Ridge sites, 5JA334 and 5JA1560. 5JA334 turned out to be a more complex site than what was first recorded. The boundary was extended to the northwest about 60 meters adding additional features such as more tipi rings, prayer circles, and crescent wall visions quests, and redefined some of the original features as ritual not domestic, including other important features. The site is more ritual than domestic in nature.

5JA1560 is in the lower "slope" ridge and swale area north of the west end of Owl Ridge and is a multi-component camp site with tipi rings and a large boulder hearth. UNC relocated all the 1978 features and added one more with drone imagery.

UNC did discover a new site on a high bench which was noted on and got a GPS UTM. Every high bench and side ridge knoll probably has some kind of site.

The last day was spent recording site 5JA429, identifying and flagging 22 features, all ritual, ranging from prayer circles, crescent wall vision quests, rock alignments, and even an arrow outline pointing to a needle mountain peak to the southwest (along with three other vision quests nearby oriented to the same natural feature). Owl Ridge and the area extending northwest to Peterson Ridge shows a ritual complex focused on the big dance/prayer circle discovered several years ago on Owl Ridge, making this ridge the focal point of an important traditional cultural property and the associated landscape.

Also located was an unrecorded tipi ring site (18-20 ft. diameter circles) on a ridge knoll rise adjacent to 5JA429 and a small number of ritual features scattered along the ridge line between site 5JA2695 a ritual complex and 5JA429.

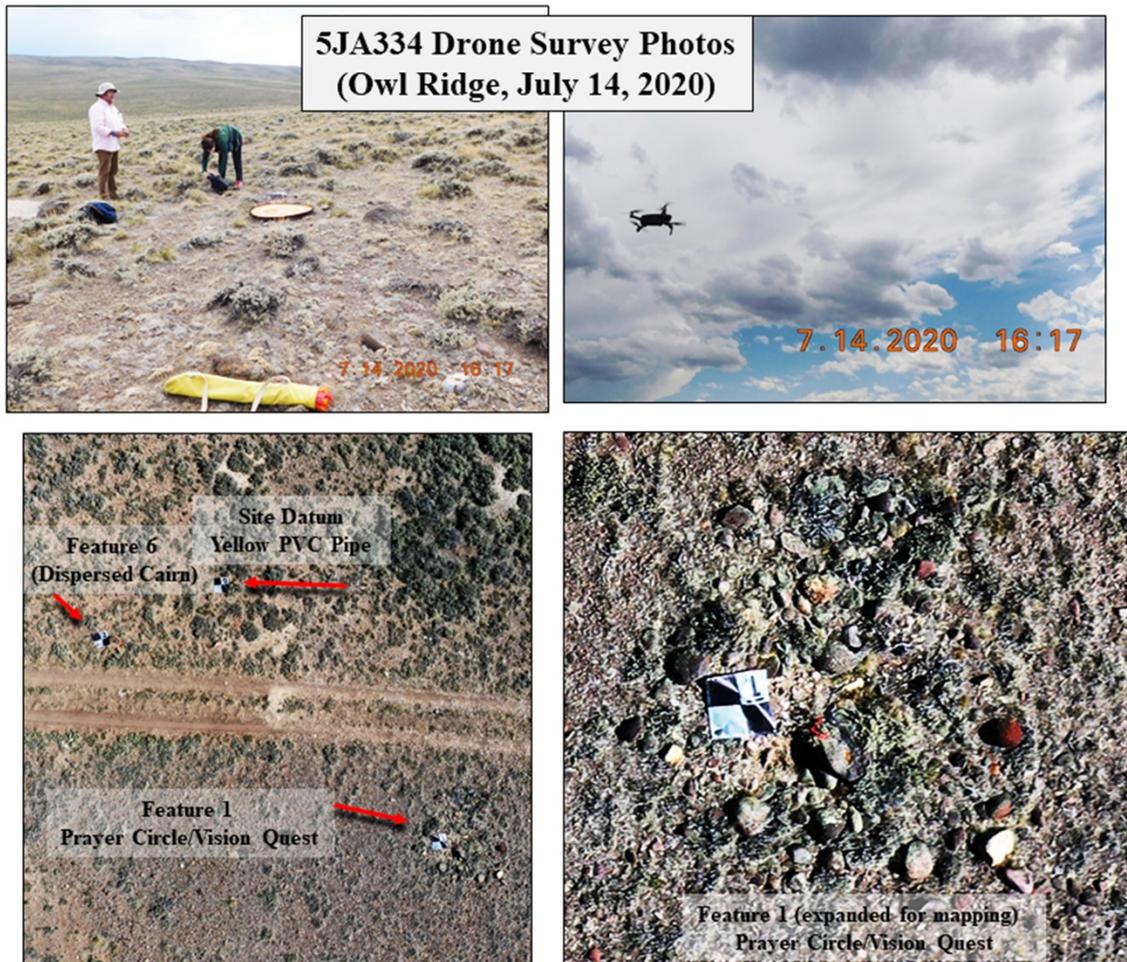


Figure 6. 5JA334 drone survey photos, Owl Ridge

Photogrammetry Documentation within Colorado's National Conservation Areas Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area & McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area

The Dominguez-Escalante (DENCA) and McInnis Canyons (MCNCA) Conservation Areas conducted photogrammetry documentation of rock art sites in 2020, building on a project that began in 2019 in MCNCA. Photogrammetry provides a unique and cost-effective way to fully document and preserve rock art visually. The three-dimensional (3D) products produced from photogrammetry also provide visual data to tribal members who may view the sites as sacred or traditional landscapes, but who are unable to visit the sites directly. These images can be used in interpretation and in classroom, museum, and online settings to provide additional education and outreach opportunities.

NCA cultural resource staff worked with many people outside the program to complete the photogrammetry process at several sites. Attendees included the BLM Grand Junction Field Office paleontologist and several front desk staff members. NCA staff also hosted a photogrammetry training day with members from the Colorado National Monument (National Park Service) cultural resource program and local landowners and BLM livestock permittees who were interested in the project and allowed BLM access through their property. BLM National Operation Center and Colorado State Office staff also helped process the photos into final products.



Figure 7. BLM Archaeological Technician Breana Esparza photographs a rock art panel in the McDonald Creek area of McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area.



Figure 8. BLM and NPS cultural resource staff during a photogrammetry recording and training day.

**Henry Huff Cabin Stabilization and Public Interpretation (5MN4678)
Tres Rios Field Office**

This project was undertaken to stabilize Henry Huff's (aka "Indian" Henry's) Cabin in the Bull Canyon Wilderness Study area. Henry Huff was a well-known, local Paiute rancher and mining prospector, who built the cabin in 1913, using regional variations of Finnish and Scandinavian influences, and was later murdered at the nearby Cummings Spring Boarding House in 1917 over a card game. The cabin was listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 2019. Site stabilization activities included adding sheathing and soil to roof, filling gaps in the walls, resetting loose and missing fireplace and foundation wall stones, and installing a latch to maintain door closure.



*Figure 9.
Stabilization
crew at the cabin
which included
BLM and Woods
Canyon
Archaeological
Consultants.*

*Figure 10.
Overview of the
Henry Huff
Cabin.*



Archaeological Reassessment of Rock Art in Canyon Pintado National Historic District: Phase 1

White River Field Office

Research Group (DARG) revisited and intensively recorded twelve high-value rock art sites in the State Bridge-Cow Canyon area of Canyon Pintado National Historic District using advanced, high resolution digital imaging and computational image processing techniques. Project data is currently being organized for review, assessment, and curation by tribal, agency, and professional research partners. This documentation effort aims to establish new baseline recording protocols and photographic documentation, and selected digital products will be shared with education partners. The project leverages collaborative relationships among professional, tribal and preservation partners; and encourages coalitions promoting public archaeology, site stewardship, historic preservation and heritage tourism in a area of the state seeing increasing public visitation.

This is Phase I of an anticipated multi-phase research and public-archaeology project, in an effort to ultimately document the 71 total rock art sites known in the Canyon Pintado Historic District (funding dependent).

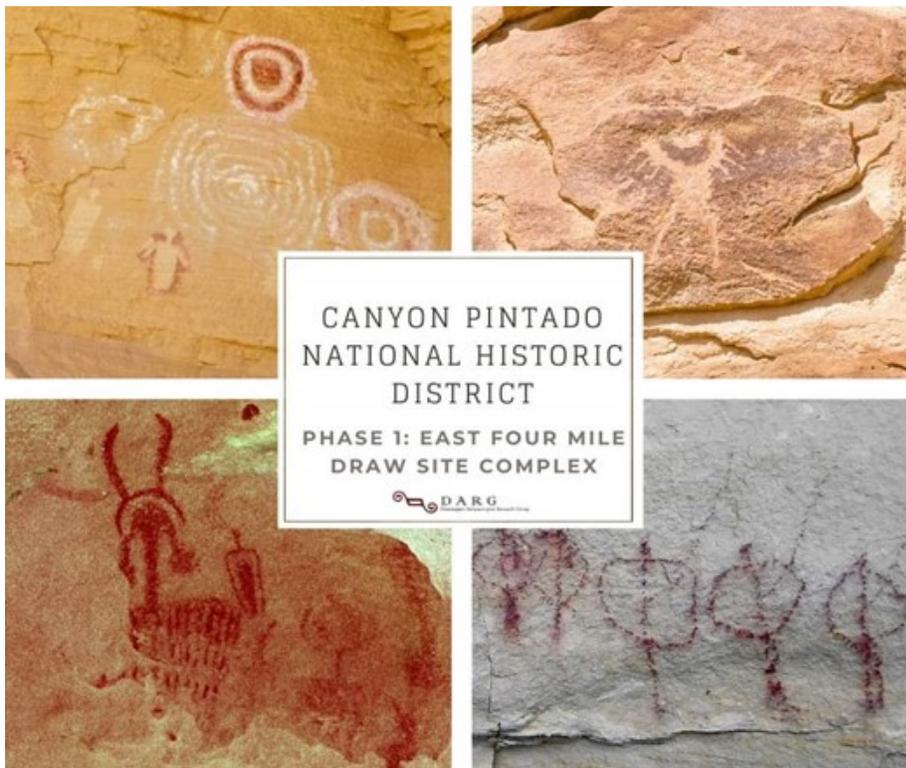


Figure 11. A sample of the stylistically diverse rock art panels revisited for Phase I of the Canyon Pintado rock art archaeological assessment study.

DOMINQUEZ ARCHAEOLOGICAL
RESEARCH GROUP

RISE OF THE BUFFALO SHAMAN

CANYON PINTADO
NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
NEAR RANGELY, COLORADO
RESEARCH FUNDED BY
COLORADO STATE HISTORICAL FUND



This rock-face contains 10 red-painted images

Style compares to other rock art dated AD 300-800

1200 to 1700 years ago, the people who lived or traveled through Douglas Creek stopped at this rock-face to create the images we study today. Rock art panels like this one are studied in relation to the canvas the images are painted on and the surrounding physical landscape.

State of the art technology

The latest tech gear lets researchers see more of the original panel

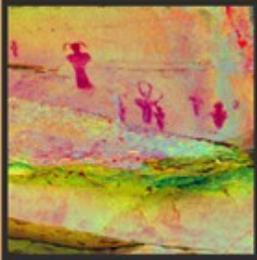
Scientists study rock art to determine the general nature of the culture that created it. Through their written images, researchers strive to determine when and how people lived, and maybe more importantly, how they moved and found inspiration and determined the values and needs of their community.



Left side of the panel

Bison head emerges from earth

In this image, two women with square blossom hair styles are portrayed on either side of a bison head-like or skull-like image. The bison head originates in the crack in the rock, possibly symbolizing the bison spirit's emergence from earth. Above the skull is a human neck and head with a horned headdress. These women may be bringing the spirit of the bison into that of the shaman.



Right side of the panel

Theme is repeated

The right side of the panel repeats the theme twice more. There is also a large female image that dominates that portion of the scene. When we compare this to other scenes of bison-female themes, we conclude that women of this culture were an important part of the spiritual community and integral in communicating this sacred relationship between women and bison.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE TECHNOLOGY USED IN
ROCK ART RECORDING VISIT OUR WEBSITE
[HTTP://DARGNET.ORG/ROCK_ART.HTML](http://DARGNET.ORG/ROCK_ART.HTML)

Figure 12. Initial educational material developed by DARG, covering the archaeological interpretation of one panel being studied for Phase I of the Canyon Pintado rock art archaeological reassessment project.

Ceramic Vessel Unpacking Canyons of the Ancients Visitors Center and Museum

In FY 2020, Canyons of the Ancients Visitor Center and Museum secured a seasonal position using 7122 Curation funds to unpack whole ceramic vessels. The project began in 2014 as part of a deferred maintenance project to install high density shelving. This shelving nearly triples the amount of storage space for artifacts, thus extending by approximately 10 years our ability to house artifacts from permitted Federal Projects. Our Seasonal Museum technician was able to update locational information and re-house 1,070 objects.

The new shelving is a major improvement in terms of stability. While we had the opportunity to pack artifacts, the Supervisory Curator secured funds to improve artifact housing. These “whole vessel” artifacts are unique and rare, and are now housed permanently in custom, tivatek-lined foam mounts with laser print catalog number labels adhered to the artifact using archival methods. Special handling procedures given by consulting tribes and NAGPRA status are marked by orange cards in the artifact’s documentation sleeve. The artifact mounts reduce artifact handling, which is a major cause of artifact damage in museums. With new shelving, artifact mounts, numbering, and cataloging, this project will afford easier access for research and improved artifact preservation for years to come.



Figure 13. Maitland examines catalog number.



Figure 14.
Maitland and
vessels housed on
shelves.

Figure 15. Re-
housed vessels in
permanent
storage



New Scientific Findings from the Mygatt-Moore Quarry McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area

In spring 2020, BLM partners from the Museums of Western Colorado and Colorado Mesa University published new research using specimens from the Mygatt-Moore Quarry in the McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area. Mygatt-Moore Quarry is well-known for two large predators (therapods) found at the site: *Allosaurus* and *Ceratosaurus*. In the analysis, the researchers studied vertebrate fossils preserving theropod bite marks, including punctures, scores, furrows, pits, and striations. The researchers found that the distribution of the bite marks on skeletal elements, particularly those found on other theropods, suggest that they potentially preserve evidence of scavenging, rather than active predation. This feeding trace assemblage likely preserves the first evidence of cannibalism in *Allosaurus* (Drumheller et al. 2020).

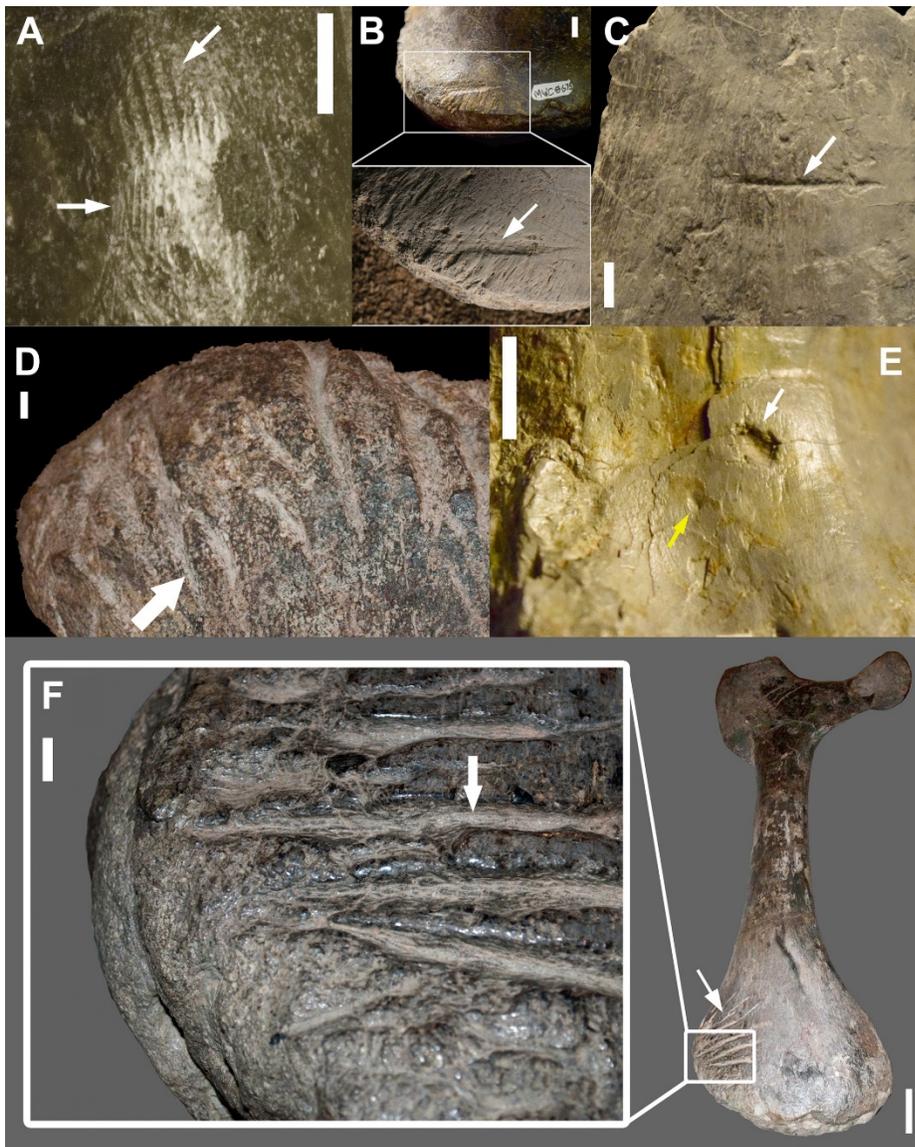


Figure 16. Figure from Drumheller et al. 2002 showing theropod bite marks on fossils.



Figure 17. Figure from Drumheller et al. 2002 showing location of Mygatt-Moore Quarry and ongoing excavations.

Lowry Pueblo National Historic Landmark Stabilization and Tribal Collaboration Canyons of the Ancients National Monument

Canyons of the Ancients National Monument conducted stabilization on the 12th century Ancestral Puebloan Lowry Pueblo National Historic Landmark, in collaboration with both the National Park Service and members of the Zuni Tribe’s Ancestral Lands Youth Conservation Corps. Experienced professionals from all three organizations spent five weeks on the site, repointing centuries-old sandstone masonry in one of the Monument’s key education and



interpretation facilities. The partnership leveraged funds from multiple entities to help preserve the structure, while at the same time providing a unique opportunity for tribal members to develop a direct relationship with the globally significant resources of their ancestors.

Figure 18. Members of the Zuni Tribe help preserve a Great Kiva constructed in the 11th century by their ancestors within what is now Canyons of the Ancients National Monument.



Figure 19. The BLM partnered both the National Park Service and members of the Zuni Tribe's Ancestral Lands Youth Conservation Corp to help stabilize Lowry Pueblo National Historic Landmark, a northern Chacoan Great House dating to the 11th and 13th Centuries AD.

BLM CO Southwest District Cultural Records Digitization Southwest District

BLM Colorado's Southwest District was awarded funding through the BPSS system to digitize its cultural records. Utilizing a Government Printing Office contract managed for the BLM by the National Operations Center, over 300,000 records were scanned during the fiscal year. Digital access to their records has dramatically increased the efficiency of records searches for both the agency archaeologists and third party contractors that conduct permitted work on BLM lands. Remote access has also helped each of the offices conduct "business as usual" in spite of restrictions brought on by the global COVID-19 pandemic.



*Figure 20.
Archaeologists Natalie Clark and Matt Heinritz from the Grand Junction Field Office say a temporary goodbye to their cultural records which were sent off for digitization.*

Figure 21. A small portion of the hundreds of boxes of cultural records from BLM Colorado's Southwest District that were digitized through a contract managed by the National Operations Center.

