



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Cultural Resources Program Annual Report

BLM Utah Fiscal Year 2025



Mission statement

The Bureau of Land Management sustains the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Cover Photo

Art Conservator Claire Dean Treating a Site in the Moab Field Office
Photo by Ami Schlosser

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I. Introduction

This report is a summary of the Bureau of Land Management Utah's (BLM Utah) cultural resources program's work during fiscal year 2025 (FY 2025). It was prepared in compliance with Stipulation 12.b. of the *Programmatic Agreement Among the Bureau of Land Management, The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and The National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers Regarding The Manner In Which The BLM Will Meet Its Responsibilities Under The National Historic Preservation Act*, amended in 2025 (nPA), the *Utah State Protocol Between the Bureau of Land Management and the Utah State Historic Preservation Office*, executed 2020 (Statewide Protocol) and the *Programmatic Agreement Between the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Bureau of Land Management – Utah, the Utah State Historic Preservation Office, and School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration Regarding National Historic Preservation Act Responsibilities for Small-Scale Undertakings* as amended in 2019 (Small-Scale PA).

The BLM Cultural Resources program is responsible for completing work to comply with numerous laws and policies including but not limited to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Federal Lands Management Policy Act (FLPMA), the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

II. Compliance with the NHPA, Related Agreements, FLPMA and ARPA

The following sections detail BLM Utah's compliance with NHPA, FLPMA and ARPA, including agreements executed under the NHPA that direct BLM's Section 106 efforts as well as requirements for managing cultural resources, including staffing and training efforts.

a. Section 106

Compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to consider the effects of undertakings on historic properties (cultural resources that are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places), and to consult with outside parties on determinations of eligibility and findings of effect pursuant to the implementing regulations (as codified in 36 CFR § 800). BLM complies with Section 106 in accordance with the nPA and more specifically through its Statewide Protocol, Small-Scale PA, and the *Programmatic Agreement among The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, The Bureau of Land Management – Utah, and The Utah State Historic Preservation Office Regarding National Historic Preservation Act Responsibilities For Travel and Transportation Management Undertakings* executed in 2018 (Travel PA).

In FY 2025, BLM Utah considered 656 undertakings in compliance with Section 106. The number of proposed undertakings varied significantly by field office given the nature of their resources and priorities driven by industry and Department of the Interior (Figure 1).

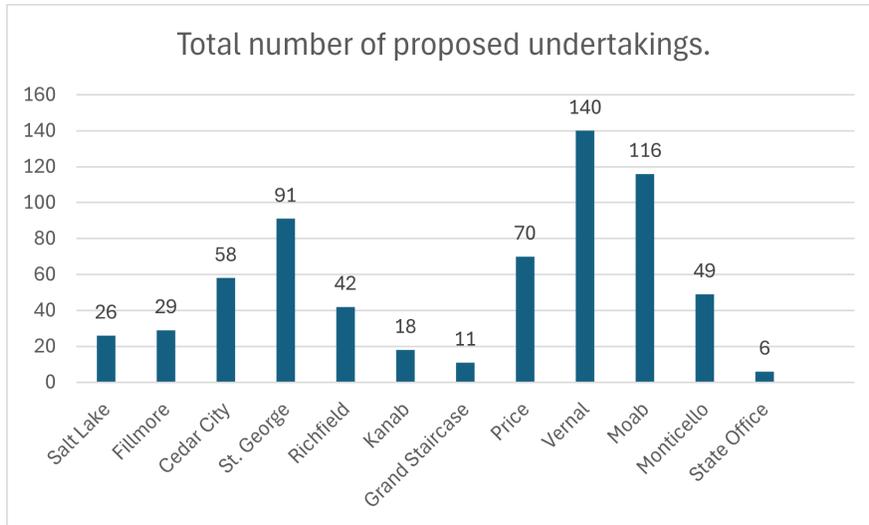


Figure 1. FY 2025 proposed Section 106 undertakings by office.

According to annual report data between 2020-2024, BLM Utah ranged between 661 and 442 undertakings and averaged 578 undertakings annually. The number of undertakings considered during FY 2025 is the greatest number considered over the past five years and represents a 13% increase in case load.

The program alternatives afforded by the nPA, Statewide Protocol, Small-Scale PA, and Travel PA allow BLM Utah to streamline the Section 106 process by identifying types, classes, or sizes of undertakings that may be exempted from survey and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) consultation, thus providing for more predictable and efficient compliance. In FY 2025, BLM waived survey and/or SHPO consultation on approximately 326 of the 656 total undertakings.

Three-hundred-and-thirty (330) undertakings required Class III survey, which totaled 74,704 acres. BLM Utah also completed an additional 2,638 acres of survey for Section 110 of the NHPA compliance which requires federal agencies to manage cultural resources. Figure 2 shows a breakdown of the survey acres completed by each Field Office for compliance with Sections 106 and 110 of the NHPA.

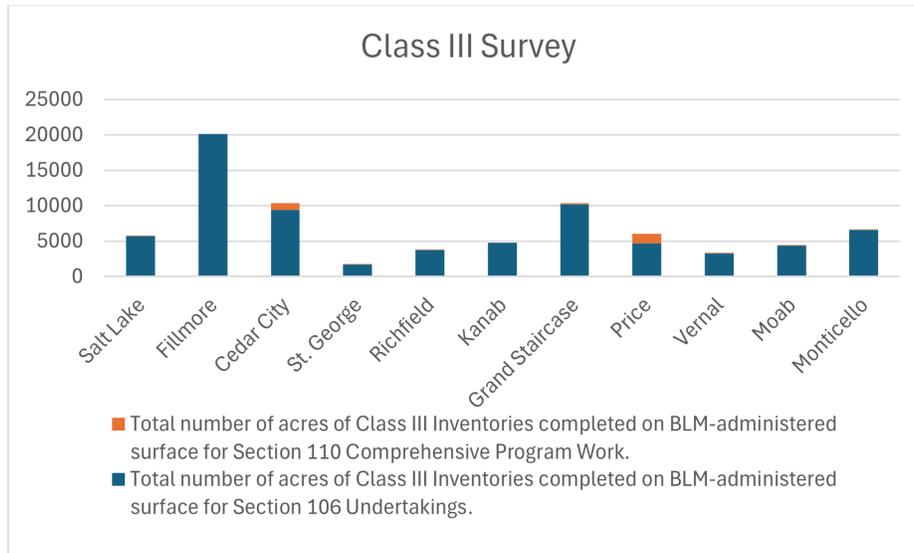


Figure 2. Class III survey acres completed in FY 2025 by Field Office.

Class III surveys resulted in the documentation of 2,706 sites of which 1,284 were determined to be historic properties (eligible for the National Register of Historic Places). Figure 3 shows the number of eligible and not eligible sites documented by respective Field Office.

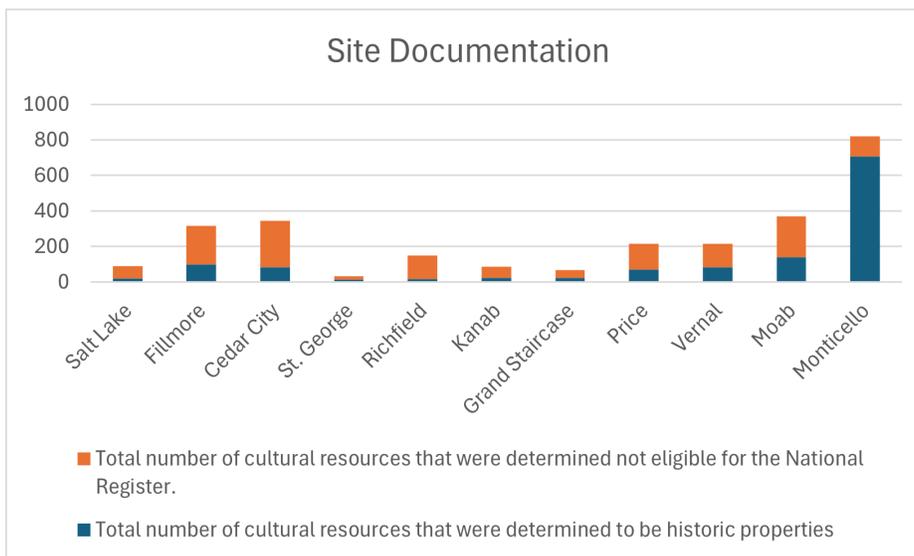


Figure 3. Number of sites documented in FY 2025 by Field Office.

BLM Utah consulted on the effects to historic properties for 422 undertakings. For 299 undertakings, no historic properties were identified or those that were identified could be avoided, resulting in a finding of “no historic properties affected.” For 114 undertakings, effects could be minimized, resulting in a finding of “no adverse effect.”

For nine undertakings, effects could not be avoided or minimized, and BLM made a finding of an “adverse effect.” The implementing regulations of the NHPA require agencies to resolve adverse effects to historic properties and provide evidence of resolution through the execution of an agreement. BLM Utah resolved adverse effects for four undertakings using the Travel PA. For the

remaining undertakings with adverse effects, three project specific agreements were executed, and agreements are currently being developed for the two remaining undertakings which are expected to be executed in FY 2026.

Additionally, the Monticello Field Office responded to a request from an applicant to utilize the Section 106 emergency procedures as allowed for under 36 CFR 800.12(b)(2) and directed by Executive Order 14156 and subsequent Department of the Interior (DOI) Secretarial Orders 3417 and 3418. The cultural team coordinated with the applicant, and communicated with the SHPO, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), and interested Tribes to provide informative notifications. This coordination allowed the agency to meet the timeframes dictated by DOI policy. This undertaking was the first for BLM using these emergency procedures and set an example that directed and influenced other BLM states' compliance.

b. Managing Cultural Resources: Section 110 and FLPMA

Section 110 of the NHPA mandates federal agencies to establish historic preservation programs to identify, evaluate, and protect historic properties, ensuring these properties are managed considering their historic value and avoiding unnecessary harm. Similarly, the FLPMA states that public lands will be managed in a manner that will protect the quality of archaeological values. Completion of proactive cultural resources projects is also a condition of Utah BLM's agreements with the SHPO. BLM Utah complies with these requirements through both targeted program projects and by partnering on events with the Utah SHPO's Utah Cultural Statewide Stewardship Program (UCSS). This partnership and some of these projects have been described in greater detail below under Program Highlights.

In compliance with these requirements and reported to BLM Headquarters as program elements, BLM Utah installed 24 anti-vandalism signs, 16 interpretive signs, completed 8 fencing projects, and conducted conservation treatments at 35 sites (primarily for graffiti). Ongoing protection measures (maintenance and upkeep of existing protection efforts) were also completed at 76 sites. Finally, 692 sites were monitored. BLM staff monitored 149 sites, and as detailed below, the remainder were visited by UCSS program volunteers.

Six archaeological field schools were also hosted on BLM Utah administered lands, providing on-the-ground training for the next generation of cultural resource professionals. These field schools provided important survey data to help the agency manage cultural resources in areas not associated with Section 106 undertakings.

c. ARPA Public Outreach and Case Management

Section 10(c) of ARPA requires Federal land managers to establish a program to increase public awareness of the significance of the archaeological resources located on public lands and the need to protect such resources. In compliance with this, BLM Utah cultural resources staff engaged in 88 public outreach projects reaching over 3,507 individuals. These programs educated the public on how to visit sites with respect and fostered a stewardship ethic. BLM Utah also coordinated 19 cultural resource focused social media posts. Staff members also served as guests on the Utah SHPO's public archaeology podcast, *Beyond the 50 Year Rule*.

Section 6 of the ARPA defines prohibited acts and criminal penalties, noting that no person may excavate, remove, damage or otherwise deface an archaeological resource located on public lands without a permit. Damages to archaeological sites without a permit are subject to the provisions of ARPA's criminal and civil penalties.

The BLM Kanab Field Office received a report of damage to a petroglyph site in Wire Pass in December 2024. In accordance with the provisions of ARPA a damage assessment was completed in early 2025. Given the nature of the damages, conservation work was performed by a qualified individual from the Utah State Office (UTSO) in accordance with the provisions of the Statewide Protocol’s Appendix I “*Petroglyph, Pictograph and Historic Inscriptions Protection.*” This damage assessment was used in the successful prosecution of the party who created the damage. As a result of this prosecution, the party was required to pay restitution.

d. Cultural Program Staffing

In accordance with the NHPA and BLM’s nPA, the BLM must maintain a cultural resources program. Additionally, Section VII (A, B) of the Statewide Protocol requires the presence of a full-time, professionally qualified, cultural resources specialist at the field office and/or district level(s) in order to use the efficiencies provided in the program alternatives. Stipulation 10(a) of the nPA requires BLM to document our professional staffing capabilities and report any staffing shortages. BLM is committed to following Section 112(a)(1)(B) of the NHPA in seeking candidates that meet the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Standards as well as the education and experience standards set forth in BLM’s 8150 Manual.

Table 1 lists the cultural staff and vacancies for each office. BLM Utah recognizes the professional staff vacancy in the Salt Lake Field Office. Pursuant to the Stipulation 10.a. of the nPA, other professional staff have provided necessary expertise, and the vacancy is expected to be filled in FY 2026.

Table 1. FY 2025 Professional Cultural Resources Staff

Name	Title	Office
Lori Hunsaker	State Archaeologist/ Deputy Preservation Officer	State Office
Nicole Lohman	Assistant State Archaeologist	State Office
Diana Barg	Curator and NAGPRA Coordinator	State Office
Tylia Varilek	Oil and Gas Leasing Team Archaeologist	State Office
Ami Schlosser	Field Office Archaeologist	Moab Field Office
Chris Shaw	Field Office Archaeologist	Moab Field Office
Lily Fischer	District Fuels Archaeologist	Canyon Country District
Audrey Pefferman	Field Office Archaeologist	Monticello Field Office
Sarah MacDonald	Field Office Archaeologist	Monticello Field Office
Victoria Ramirez	National Monument Archaeologist	Bears Ears NM
Amanda Landon	District Archaeologist	Color Country District
Roy Plank	District Fuels Archaeologist	Color Country District
Emily Swett	District Fuels Archaeologist	Color Country District
Steven LaValley	Field Office Archaeologist	Cedar City Field Office
Kandi Rutan	Field Office Archaeologist	Richfield Field Office
Katie Cleek	Field Office Archaeologist	St. George Field Office
Vacant	Field Office Archaeologist	St. George Field Office
Brian Storm	Field Office Archaeologist	Kanab Field Office
Caitlyn McAllister	National Monument Archaeologist	Grand Staircase – Escalante NM
Natalie Fewings	Field Office Archaeologist	Price Field Office
Clara Kimber	Field Office Archaeologist	Price Field Office
Jared Rowland	Field Office Archaeologist	Vernal Field Office
Gabriella Salazar	Field Office Archaeologist	Vernal Field Office

Name	Title	Office
Vacant	Field Office Archaeologist	Vernal Field Office
David Christensen	District Fuels Archaeologist	Green River District
Makayla Reid	Field Office Archaeologist	Fillmore Field Office
Vacant	Field Office Archaeologist	Salt Lake Field Office
Vacant	Field and Fuels Office Archaeologist	Salt Lake Field Office
Savanna Agardy	District Fuels Archaeologist	West Desert District

e. Training

Section V(B)(1) of Utah’s Statewide Protocol and Stipulation 9.a.i. of the nPA require Field, District, Monument Managers, and those acting in the role of an agency official within the scope of the Protocol, to receive nPA and Statewide Protocol training within 120 days of the beginning of their tenure and periodically thereafter. Section V(B)(2) of the Statewide Protocol also states that BLM Utah archaeologists will receive periodic training in its use and implementation. All line officers who may act in the role of an agency official and the BLM Utah cultural team are up to date on the training required under the Statewide Protocol Agreement and the nPA. In addition, a variety of “brown bag” trainings were offered through various sources and attended by members of the cultural team and leadership as well as a formal ARPA training that was attended by three Utah cultural team members and law enforcement. As described in detail below, BLM Utah hosted a rock imagery conservation training to train staff pursuant to the requirements outlined in Appendix I of the Statewide Protocol.

III. Permits

The Utah State Office is responsible for the issuance and administration of Permits for Archaeological Investigations under FLPMA (survey and recording) and ARPA (limited testing/excavation). In FY 2025 eighty-one permits remained in effect. BLM Utah received 66 permit applications and issued 29 new or renewed permits under FLPMA and two under ARPA. In addition, BLM granted 29 modifications to existing FLPMA permits and one modification to an ARPA permit.

IV. NAGPRA and Museums

FLPMA, ARPA, NAGPRA, and their implementing regulations require agencies to protect and preserve archaeological resources, protect Native American ancestral human remains (ancestors) and cultural items on Federal land, and return ancestors and cultural items to descendant Tribal communities. The implementing regulations of NAGPRA were updated in 2024 to clarify the process, give more deference to Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations, require museums to report Federal holdings to the Federal agency with control, and set deadlines throughout the process for museums, Federal agencies, and the State of Hawai‘i Department of Hawaiian Homelands. BLM Utah met deadlines set in the updated NAGPRA regulations, protected ancestors and cultural items on BLM-administered lands, completed the largest repatriation of ancestors and cultural items in BLM Utah history, and prepared hundreds of archaeological objects recovered through a law enforcement case for curation at a non-Federal partner repository.

BLM Utah received 21 museum statements from museums reporting ancestors, cultural items, and collections in their possession, believed to be under the control of the BLM. BLM Utah assessed the catalog, location, and site information reported by each museum to determine if BLM Utah had control under NAGPRA for the reported ancestors and collections. In all, BLM Utah

determined 11 of the museums held ancestors, cultural items, and collections under BLM Utah's control and NAGPRA responsibility and replied to all 21 museums with confirmation or denial of control within the 180-day deadline set in the regulations.

BLM Utah continued to curate objects recovered during the *Operation: Cerberus Action* law enforcement case at non-Federal partner repositories making those objects available to the public, researchers, and descendant Tribal communities. In FY 2025, 472 objects were prepared for curation and accession at the Natural History Museum of Utah (NHMU). BLM Utah also legally transferred custody of three ancestors and 4,892 cultural items from the Cerberus Collection to an Indian Tribe under NAGPRA.

In August 2025, BLM Utah, jointly with the Bureau of Reclamation, Upper Colorado Basin Region (BOR), completed the largest NAGPRA repatriation undertaken by BLM Utah to date. After 18 months of preparatory work, the agencies repatriated and assisted with the reburial of 84 Native American ancestors and 415 associated funerary objects (AFOs). The associated collections were located primarily at NMHU with additional collections at the Museum of Northern Arizona (MNA), the American Museum of Natural History, and Mesa Verde National Park. The agencies worked closely with the museums to identify, report, and inventory ancestors and cultural items. Potentially culturally affiliated Tribal Nations requested the agencies and museums identify all ancestors and cultural items for repatriation.

At the request of the consulting Tribal Nations and claimant Tribes, the reburial took place in August 2025 with the assistance of BLM Utah, Reclamation, NHMU, and MNA. In all, three Federal agencies, four museums, and 13 Tribal Nations participated in this effort to repatriate and rebury the ancestors and their belongings.

V. Program Highlights

Rock Imagery Conservation Treatment and Training *Statewide, Utah State Office, Moab Field Office, Color Country District*

In Spring 2025, through a contract managed by the Utah State Office, professional art conservator Claire Dean conducted conservation treatment activities at four rock imagery sites located in the Moab, Cedar City, and St. George Field Offices. In addition to these treatment activities, a conservation treatment workshop, in accordance with the requirements of Section V(B)(1)(a) of the Statewide Protocol, was held for cultural resource staff to learn low-impact, non-invasive methods for treating scratched graffiti or graffiti made with chalk, charcoal, or pencil in compliance with BLM Utah's Statewide Protocol Appendix I "Petroglyph, Pictograph and Historic Inscriptions Protection."



Figure 4. Conservator Claire Dean preparing treatments for impacted pictographs in the Moab Field Office.

Dean, in coordination with field office archaeologists Ami Schlosser and Chris Shaw, treated two sites in the Moab Field office in April and May. Conservation treatments minimized vandalism in Mill Creek Canyon, including at a prominent pictograph site involved in a past ARPA incident. In May, Dean treated areas at Parowan Gap in the Cedar City Field Office, successfully obscuring large and deeply incised graffiti using integration techniques with colored pencils and pastels.



Figure 5. Newly trained Field Office archaeologists practicing low-impact treatment methods.

At the end of May the State Office sponsored a two-day conservation workshop consisting of one day of classroom instruction, and one day of practical field skills instruction at a site in the St. George Field Office near Hilldale, also the subject of past and ongoing ARPA cases. During the training, participants learned minimally invasive conservation methods for BLM-managed sites, documentation standards, and how to assess when a professional conservator is necessary. This training ensures compliance with the standards in Utah's Statewide Protocol and allows trained field office archaeologists to conduct conservation activities within certain thresholds independently. Conservation work falling outside of these standards must be performed by a professional conservator and is subject to more rigorous consultation with SHPO and Tribes. The work performed under this contract helps to dissuade future vandalism at the treated sites, while also enhancing BLM Utah's capacity to respond swiftly and effectively to reports of minor graffiti.

Volunteer Fence Construction at a 19th Century Trapper Inscription Vernal Field Office

The Vernal Field Office (VFO) contains numerous petroglyphs, pictographs, and historic inscriptions that are highly visible and vulnerable to damage. In July 2025, VFO archaeologists conducted condition assessments in an area with a high density of rock imagery known as Main Canyon. Main Canyon includes active and heavily used cattle allotments.

Condition assessments showed that cattle were congregating and causing damage at sites, particularly at a 19th century inscription site. The site contains the inscription of well-known fur trapper and mountain man Joaquin Antoine Leroux dated to 1835. Other inscriptions are present from trappers during the fur trade in the Uintah Basin from 1824-1840. Inscriptions from the 20th century are present from local ranching families at the site. Site 42UN9090 is unique in the VFO, which contains very few historic inscription sites dating to the early 19th century.

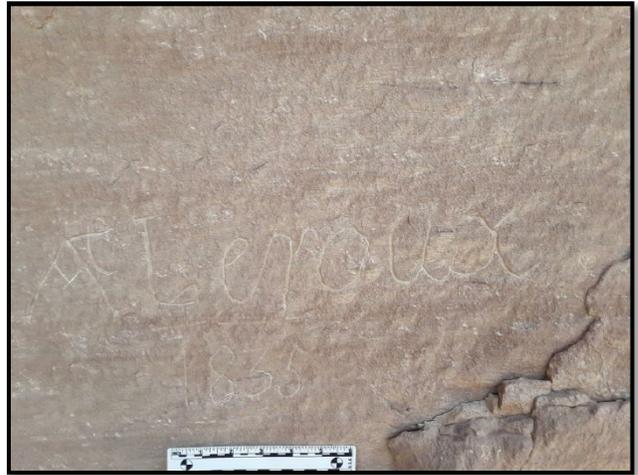


Figure 6. Antonine Leroux inscription in Main Canyon.



Figure 7. Vernal Field Office staff and volunteers work to construct fence at site.

Cattle rubbing against canyon walls were abrading the rock surface, fading and obscuring inscriptions in the rock, as well as trampling the ground and leaving large amounts of manure on the site. To protect the inscriptions from future damage, VFO archaeologists collaborated with recreation staff and volunteers to construct a buck and rail fence to prevent cattle from congregating at the site. VFO staff utilized the assistance of several volunteers to assist with the effort, greatly speeding up the time necessary to protect the site.

Town of Rector Re-Recording Project Vernal Field Office

The VFO received a grant in October 2024 from the Utah Department of Outdoor Recreation to fund research, documentation, and the development and installation of interpretive signage at the historic gilsonite mining town of Rector. In January 2025 VFO archaeologist Gabriella Salazar kicked off the project with background research at the Uintah County Regional History Center. This research provided necessary background information which would inform documentation efforts which were to be conducted in partnership with volunteers from UCSS. Volunteers and the public were provided an orientation to the history of Rector at a presentation in May 2025, during which they were also informed of the documentation plan.



Figure 8. Vernal Field Office Archaeologist, Gabriella Salazar presenting to the public and volunteers on the Rector townsite.



Figure 9. Volunteers documenting structures and historic resources within the Rector townsite.

In May, Salazar along with nine volunteers and two UCSS program employees spent the day on-site fully re-recording Rector. Volunteers were assigned the task of documenting and measuring all structures and foundations, conducting artifact counts, GIS recording of locations, and a pedestrian survey through the townsite. The day was an overall success and shows the strong ties that the Vernal BLM maintains within the community and outside partners.

Cultural Resource Presentations at Hillside Elementary School Salt Lake Field Office

BLM Archaeologist Michael Kraus and BLM National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Specialist Stephanie Nelson conducted two presentations at Hillside Elementary School in Salt Lake City, in January 2025. The presentations highlighted NEPA and cultural resources management within the BLM, enhanced by interactive activities. Archaeologist Michael Kraus discussed and handed out approximately 80 3D-printed projectile points, created from projectile points found on BLM land. The 3D-printed artifacts helped highlight the importance of leaving artifacts in place, while also providing a fun take-home product for students.



Figure 10. BLM Archaeologist Michael Kraus presents on heritage management to Hillside 4th graders.

Students also completed a rock imagery interpretation exercise by drawing their own interpretation of a BLM rock imagery panel, then signing their name on the drawings. Overall, around 70 students attended the presentation and participated in activities. This event encompassed outreach at an urban level and touched on the interplay between BLM lands and urban interfaces, a unique management component to the BLM's Salt Lake Field Office.

Transcontinental Railroad Grade Historic Culvert Stabilization Salt Lake Field Office

In August 2023, a historic culvert feature of the historic Transcontinental Railroad Grade (listed on the National Register) blew out from debris build up and a heavy weather event. In coordination with the Salt Lake Field Office operations team, BLM Archaeologist Michael Sheehan designed a sleeve that could be placed within the historic culvert to stabilize the feature and ensure better water flow in the future. The cost of the sleeve, which was fabricated over a period of one year, was donated by a historically minded private individual that was interested in the history of the Transcontinental Railroad Grade.

During the stabilization, which occurred in September 2025, the operations crew used historic materials displaced by the weather event (blown out up to 100' downslope) to restabilize the downslope side of the culvert feature. The fabricated sleeve was then installed within the more intact part of the historic feature and fit into a modern culvert placed



Figure 11. Fabricated sleeve placed in the intact portion of the historic feature.



Figure 12. Work completed on the upslope portion of the culvert feature in September 2025.

on the damaged end to fully stabilize the railroad grade on both sides. The work took three days to complete, and Archaeologist Michael Sheehan (since retired) donated his time to monitor and guide the stabilization while work was being conducted.

Overall, the project was successful and demonstrated collaboration over the BLM multidisciplinary team and outside partners like private donors and the Utah SHPO to preserve a site list on the National Register and central to cultural heritage significance in the BLM's Salt Lake Field Office.

Shinob Kibe Documentation Project St. George Field Office

In conjunction with the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah (PITU) and the Utah SHPO, the BLM St. George Field Office engaged in a proactive archaeological inventory and documentation project at the landform known locally as Shinob Kibe. The mesa, a popular recreation destination situated on BLM-administered lands and adjacent to municipal recreation trails and housing developments, is culturally significant to the Southern Paiute, including the Kaibab Band, Moapa Band, and PITU. Increasing population and the associated increase in outdoor recreation activity seekers led to a boom in activity on the mesa. Until this project, BLM did not have a comprehensive inventory or complete knowledge of the archaeological resources present on the mesa top.

Through coordination with the SHPO's UCSS program, funding was secured to hire an



Figure 13. Panoramic overview from top of Shinob Kibe, looking north towards Zion National Park.

archaeological contract firm to conduct approximately 100 acres of inventory on the mesa top. As part of the project, the BLM and SHPO coordinated with representatives from PITU, the Kaibab Band, and the Moapa Band to inform the respective Tribal Councils of the proposed work, ask for preliminary information on cultural significance of location, and extend the invitation to participate in the inventory work. The Kaibab Band and the Moapa Band opted not to participate

in the inventory work but provided information critical to understanding the cultural importance of the landform to the Southern Paiute. PITU opted to participate in the inventory work and provided Tribal Cultural Specialists to work with BLM, SHPO, and the archaeological contractor.

Inventory work at the site took place over three days and included site stewards from UCSS, PITU Tribal Cultural Specialists, SHPO, BLM staff, and the contract crew. Prior to each day's work, the PITU Tribal Cultural Specialists provided the other attendees with snippets of cultural history, short language and pronunciation lessons, and environmental observations they determined significant for the day. BLM and SHPO representatives discussed with attendees the various federal and state laws and regulations pertaining to cultural and historic resources and UCSS participants worked closely with Tribal Cultural Specialists and the archaeological contractors throughout the inventory and documentation process.

In addition to the expected standard archaeology on the mesa top, several culturally important plants and a perennial spring were identified during the work. Without the participation of Tribal Cultural Specialists, these would have been missed by archaeologists and important components of a larger culturally significant landscape would have been overlooked. Site stewards placed at this location now have additional context to inform how they monitor, and report use and potential impacts to the mesa top. The BLM now has a complete archaeological inventory of the mesa top as well as a better understanding of the broader cultural significance of the landform for the Southern Paiute Tribes and Bands.

Bull Creek Archaeological District Investigations ***Richfield Field Office***

The Richfield Field Office has partnered with the Colorado Plateau Archaeological Association (CPAA) and Utah SHPO since 2023 to survey and redocument the Bull Creek Archaeological District. CPAA returned in 2025 for two field sessions, the first in April which served as a field school for Southern Utah University and the second in October. These sessions combined resulted in the re-recording of previously documented sites and the documentation of several newly discovered sites.

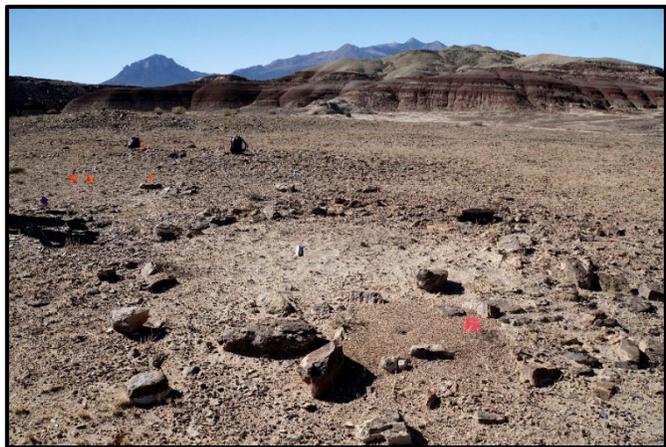


Figure 14. Previously undocumented Fremont pithouse.

The Bull Creek Archaeological District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1981, with nonsystematic site recordings in the area occurring in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. The loss of the archival records associated with these initial archaeological investigations in the area led to confusion during later investigations in the area associated with travel management efforts between 2015 and 2023. CPAA's survey and documentation work in the Bull Creek Archaeological District has focused on systematically surveying the area to identify previously unrecorded sites, re-identify previously recorded sites, and re-evaluate sites within and around the Archaeological District. Investigations this year resulted in unexpectedly high site density (nearly 50 large sites) in a section with previous documentation indicating low site density.

CyArk Comb Ridge Butler Wash Virtual Guided Tours in Bears Ears National Monument Monticello Field Office

Bears Ears National Monument (BENM) partnered with CyArk in 2022 to develop virtual guided tours at three archaeological sites along Comb Ridge in Southeast Utah. The virtual tours include narration and stories by Tribal Nations highlighting their connections to both the monument and Comb Ridge.



Figure 15. Comb Ridge.

sites to document them and conduct interviews with tribal representatives over the last few years.

The trips culminated in the completion of three virtual guided experiences narrated by tribal representatives with interviews of council members, tribal elders, and members.

As part of these efforts, the Pueblo of Zuni, Pueblo of Acoma and the Hopi Tribe offered to partner with BLM and CyArk to share their connections to this important landscape, educate visitors about BENM, and share how to visit these sacred and fragile places. The three sites selected by the tribes and BLM were River House, the Butler Wash Developed Site, and Monarch Cave. The three Tribal Nations, BLM, and CyArk made multiple field visits to these



Figure 16. Butler Wash developed site.

Upper Sand Island ADA Interpretive Trail Monticello Field Office

The BLM Monticello Field Office, in partnership with the Bluff River Trail Committee, Bears Ears Partnership, and the World Monuments Fund were able to designate and develop an interpretive trail along the Upper Sand Island rock imagery panel. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant trail guides visitors on a ¼ mile route through towering cottonwood trees along an extensive petroglyph panel whose images span thousands of years. Eight wayside interpretive panels and four ADA compliant benches are located along the path. One of the panels is a cast bronze tactile exhibit, allowing visitors with sight difficulties to feel facsimiles of the elements.

The interpretive theme for the trail centers on decedent communities' connection to the greater Bears Ears landscape, while promoting respectful visitation practices. As this was already a heavily visited site, these developments are a step forward in management of 'front country' resources. Interpretation and project design was a collaborative effort with project partners and the Bears Ears Commission. Numerous field visits with various Pueblos and Tribal Nations were instrumental in steering the design and goals of the project.

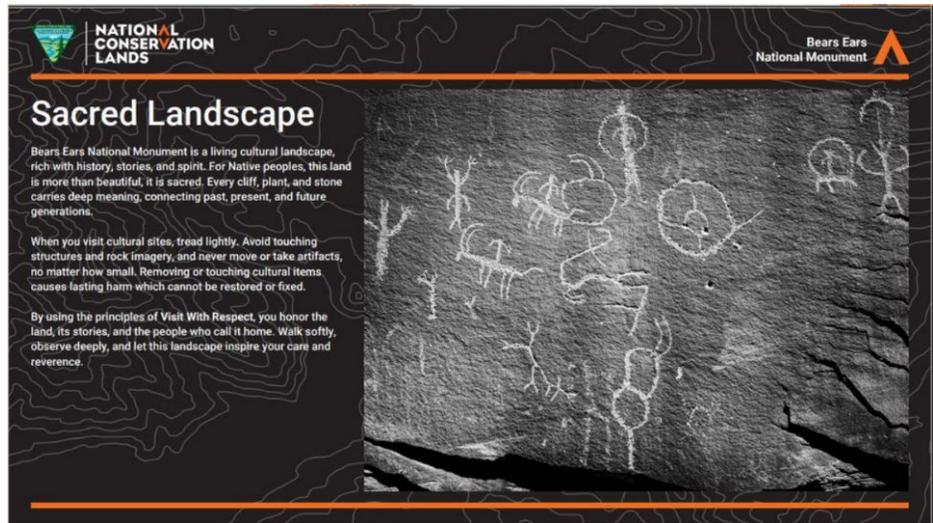


Figure 17. One of the newly designed interpretive panels.

Boy Scout Archaeology Badge Moab Field Office

In June of 2025, the Moab Field Office cultural resources program coordinated a volunteer day with Boy Scout Troop 8 from Estes Park, Colorado. The troop wished to complete their archaeology merit badge, which required volunteering with a professional archaeologist to complete a series of projects.

The day started with an archaeology presentation followed by a field trip to Blue Hills region of the Moab Field office to help repair a fence around a sensitive pictograph site. The project required carrying several logs over ¼ mile of terrain and reinforcing a dilapidated fence. After



Figure 18. Boy Scouts learn about data collection and archaeological site monitoring.

repairing the fence, Archaeologist Chris Shaw taught the scouts about data recording, site monitoring, site etiquette, and respectful site visitation. The troop then visited several sites in the area and collected data related to the condition of features and rock imagery panels. Upon conclusion of the day, the scouts stated the site visits were their favorite part of the trip. Public Affairs Officer Anna Rehkopf wrote an article about the scouts visit for the Moab Times.

Vandalism Remediation at a Site in Grand Staircase- Escalante National Monument

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument

In July of 2025, Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument (GSNM) received a report of damage from UCSS site stewards at an archaeological site in the Escalante area. The site, 42GA889, was reported to have a newly built rock wall, a greatly expanded campfire ring, and a fresh woodpile for the campfire ring. This report was confirmed by the field office which also noticed new graffiti and bullet holes.



Figure 19. Rock wall partly constructed of groundstone, which was dismantled.

After consulting with the Utah SHPO, the GSNM archaeologist, Caitlyn McAllister, and two volunteers from the UCSS program stabilized the site. The campfire ring and rock wall were dismantled, both of which were partly constructed from groundstone artifacts or culturally modified stones. Artifacts, including a corn cob and ceramic sherds, were also found after screening the ash pile left when the campfire ring was dismantled. The wood limbs which were brought in to burn in the campfire were moved outside of the site and scattered. No camping signs were then inconspicuously placed in the alcove with the assistance of the monument law enforcement officer.

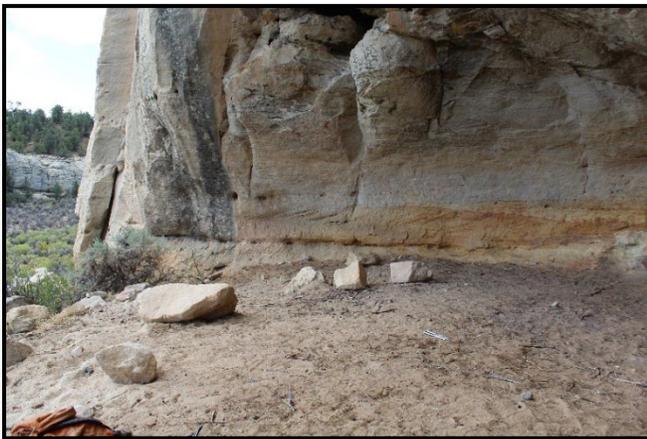


Figure 20. Site after dismantling of modern campfire ring and rock wall.

This project helped to solidify relationships between local UCSS site stewards and the monument archaeologist and law enforcement officer. The stewards felt a special sort of pride in helping to treat the damage that they themselves reported to the agency. During the project the stewards mentioned that they appreciated the quick response from the BLM and that they were directly able to help with the clean-up as often they report damage but do not receive any follow-up about what was done.

Law Enforcement Training on Cultural Resources Management Fillmore Field Office

In August 2025, the BLM Fillmore Field Office partnered with the UCSS program to host a specialized training for law enforcement officers focused on protecting cultural resources. The training emphasized the requirements of ARPA, underscoring the laws that safeguard cultural resources and the critical role of law enforcement in enforcing these protections.

Participants included officers from multiple land management agencies and counties across Utah, reflecting a broad commitment to interagency collaboration. The training was delivered in two parts: a classroom session that provided foundational

knowledge of cultural resource laws, responsibilities, and enforcement tools, followed by a field component where officers engaged with a real-world scenario. This hands-on experience allowed participants to apply classroom concepts directly in the field, strengthening their ability to recognize, respond to, and protect cultural sites within their jurisdictions.

By combining legal education with practical fieldwork, the training enhanced officers' awareness and capacity to safeguard Utah's cultural heritage. The event also fostered stronger partnerships among agencies, ensuring a more coordinated approach to protecting cultural resources across the state.

Utah Cultural Site Stewardship Statewide, Utah State Office

BLM Utah is an agency partner in the UCSS Program. The UCSS program trains and manages volunteer stewards, manages a statewide anti-vandalism campaign which includes a podcast (the Fifty-Year Rule), and publishes numerous social media posts. Both the social media posts and the podcast frequently feature BLM Utah staff and projects completed in partnership with UCSS.



Figure 21. UCSS staff member Lexi Little talking to law enforcement staff from multiple agencies.



Figure 22. The UCSS Podcast (*Beyond the 50 Year Rule*) featured BLM Branch Chief Nathan Thomas and BLM Utah State Fire Management Officer Chris Delaney on an episode on wildfire management and its overlap with cultural resource protection efforts.



Figure 23. UCSS volunteers partnered with the BLM State Office and Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation to help the BLM place Goshute language signs on existing BLM directional signs.

In FY-25, BLM Utah provided UCSS with \$20,000 via an assistance agreement. The funding resulted in 267 UCSS Stewards volunteering 2,045 hours and driving 47,171 miles to monitor 543 sites across BLM Utah field offices. The BLM works with the UCSS to select the sites and take volunteers on initial site visits. The funds also supported UCSS's participation in eighteen BLM public outreach events, including assisting with Goshute language signs, hosting a cultural law enforcement training, and a buffalo soldier event. At the current valuation rate of \$33.79/hour, the 2,045 hours of service represents \$69,101 in labor; and at the valuation rate of

\$.14/mile represents \$6,604 for a total of \$75,705 in contributed value to BLM Utah for FY-25, which is more than three times the funding amount. This represents a significant value to BLM in terms of cost savings and boots on the ground to manage our extensive cultural heritage resources.



Figure 24. Caitlyn McAllister, Grand Staircase-Escalante NM Archaeologist helps with volunteers during a UCSS initial site visits.