

**NEW MEXICO  
FY14 ANNUAL REPORT NARRATIVE  
CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

**Major Highlights --**

**Taos Field Office**

- The Rio Grande Del Norte National Monument was designated by Presidential Proclamation in March 2013 under the authority of the American Antiquities Act. BLM Taos is charged by the President and the Secretary of the Interior with developing a management plan for the Monument which encompasses slightly less than 250,000 acres. An estimated 20,000 cultural resources (ca. 600 currently documented cultural resources) already benefit from the protections and management stipulations contained in the presidential proclamation that created the Monument. The language of the presidential proclamation provides baseline guidance for the development of the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument Management Plan, which commenced in January 2014. Concurrent with Public Scoping effort, fifteen letters requesting formal consultation were sent to tribal governments. Five responses were received from tribal offices requesting face-to-face, government-to-government consultation meetings which have since been held. The New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office, is a cooperating agency for the planning process. Meetings, conversations and consultation between BLM Taos cultural staff with members of the New Mexico HPD, BLM cultural leads in Washington, National Park Service representatives and indirect conversations with the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places have ensued as part of the planning process. A draft plan and draft environmental assessment (EA) should be available for public review and comment by mid-to-late 2015.



**Ute Mountain from the Taos Plateau portion of the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument.**

**Las Cruces Field Office**

- A new national monument, the Organ Mountains – Desert Peaks National Monument, was designated by Presidential Proclamation in 2014. The monument encompasses 550,000 acres and will present new and interesting challenges for the cultural resource staff. A wide range of cultural resources and historic events occur or have occurred within the new monument boundaries. These include but are not limited to Paleo-Indian artifacts, pit-house and surface pueblo habitation sites of the Mimbres Mogollon and Jornada Mogollon Peoples, Native American and historic rock art, segments of the Mormon Battalion, Southern Overland, and Butterfield Trails, the first Civil War engagements in New Mexico and World War II bombing targets the remains of which remain on the landscape. While much is known, the majority of monument lands have not been inventoried and evaluated for cultural resources. A resource management plan is at the planning stages but the cultural resource component will be a major undertaking.

### **Oklahoma Field Office**

- OKO archaeologist Ryan Howell was presented a 2014 “Trailblazer Award” by BLM Director Kornze for excellence in Interpretation, Education, and Youth Engagement during a ceremony at an executive leadership meeting.

### **Socorro Field Office**

- Big news! The well-preserved basket found by hikers in 2009 is at least 1000 years old. And the reason we have this remarkable news is because a group of Socorro County hikers knew what to do – and did it. The hikers had discovered a partially buried basket tucked under a rock overhang on BLM lands in northwest Socorro County. Not only was there a basket - it still held its contents. The whitish crystals appeared to be salt. They notified BLM, who took quick action. The basket was carefully supported, removed and packaged for transport, and then taken to the conservation laboratory at the Museum of New Mexico in Santa Fe. A preliminary analysis was done, and the basket was painstakingly preserved. The style was a common one, and not unique to any particular time period or culture, so its age was unknown. Results of recent testing indicate that the basket dates between A.D. 690 and A.D. 970 – earlier than suspected – making it even more rare, and it’s preservation even more remarkable. It has been confirmed that the contents of the basket are salt, although tests are still underway to try and determine the source. The story was featured in newspapers and on TV newscasts throughout New Mexico.



**Basket as found by hikers in a rock shelter (left) and basket contents, salt (right).**

- On June 18, 2014 grazing permittee Sissy Pound Olney reported a mammoth tusk eroding out of an arroyo bank on BLM land near Socorro. Her granddaughter Jenna Rose is a big fan of paleontology and was eager to help. In short order Phil Gensler (BLM Regional Paleontologist) and Gary Morgan (New Mexico Museum of Natural History in Albuquerque) came down to excavate the tusk, assisted by Jenna Rose. The work was accomplished in two field sessions, Friday June 20 and Thursday June 26, in 100 degree-plus heat. The tusk was jacketed in a plaster cast and transported to the museum for additional stabilization and analysis. The tusk was about 5 feet long and probably belonged to a female or a juvenile. The tusk will be further stabilized and analyzed at the Museum of Natural History.



**NM state office paleontologist Phil Gensler, Jenna Rose Olney and Gary Morgan**

### **Rio Puerco Field Office**

- The University of Arizona Laboratory of Tree Ring Research conducted its summer field school again this year at a series of 20th century Anglo-American sawmills in El Malpais NCA. This was supported by an NLCS Science Grant. Tree ring dates will help to establish history and use of wood resources in the NCA. Preliminary analysis by Ph.D. candidate Nicholas Kessler suggests that one large pile represents at least 3,000 ponderosa pines removed during 1946 and 1947. This research and research conducted by U of A graduate student Jill Onken on tree clearing and arroyo formation in the NCA since 1935 is being incorporated into the Rio Puerco Field Office's Healthy Landscapes Initiative Focal Area nomination, and will form part of the scientific corpus used to guide future decision making in the NCA. This follows on previous research U of A has conducted on the long-term impacts of homesteading on the soil, hydrology, and timber of El Malpais. The partnership is part of the Cooperative Ecosystem Study Unit (CESU) program, Desert Southwest CESU.



**University of Arizona Laboratory of Tree Ring Research conducting its field school.**

## **Other Accomplishments - -**

### **National Programmatic Agreement implementation and State Protocol Revisions**

- BLM New Mexico is currently in the process of revising their state protocol agreement. A committee consisting of BLM state office, BLM field office and SHPO staff drafted the document which has been through one round of field review and a public comment period. Several comments were received from the public and portions of the protocol were modified to address their concerns. Two tribes responded, and did not have any comments. The draft is currently being reviewed by the ACHP, who will provide their comments by the end of August. The protocol committee will then address the ACHP comments before sending the draft out for a final field office review. After a last review by BLM and SHPO legal staff, the protocol is scheduled to be signed in late December of 2014.

### **National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Compliance**

- NM BLM performed or reviewed inventory of 41,783 acres on BLM-administered lands and 33,303 acres of non-BLM-administered lands in FY14, for a total of 75,086 acres. New cultural properties recorded on BLM-administered and non-BLM-administered totaled 919 sites. The Carlsbad Field Office continues to account for the majority of acres surveyed; reviewing 57% of the acreage inventoried within New Mexico.
- Farmington and Carlsbad continue carry the bulk of the NHPA Section 106 compliance workloads as measured in numbers of undertakings requiring Class III inventory related to oil and gas development. Both offices combined account for 91% of the statewide Section 106 compliance work in FY14. Both field offices are also first (Carlsbad) and second (Farmington) in this category nationwide across the BLM. Farmington has a staff of 3 permanent and one term archeologists with one vacancy. Carlsbad currently has a staff of three archeologists with two unfilled vacancies. Fully staffing both offices is essential if they are to successfully sustain their Section 106 compliance workload.
- Other offices have fewer undertakings but a high number of acres per undertaking. Rio Puerco Field Office is reviewing surveys for landscape level fire and fuel reduction projects, or habitat

improvement projects. The Las Cruces Field Office survey is tied mainly to other kinds of proponent-sponsored projects, such as land exchanges and range projects.

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

### **Las Cruces Field Office**

- The Southern Mimbres Archaeological Project (SMAP), a Challenge Cost Share with Dr. Patricia Gilman of the University of Oklahoma (OU), was in the fourth year of the agreement which benefits master and doctoral students by providing expert training in field survey technique, archaeological site recording, and report production. Although not funded in 2014, the overall goal of the program is to delineate and define the Southern Mimbres Mogollon continuum from the pit house period through the Classic Mimbres. The Southern Mimbres lived within an area that is now public land managed in large part by the Las Cruces District. Living in a xeric environment, the Southern Mimbres shared many similarities but significant differences with the better known Mimbres River people to their north. The SMAP project has contributed much to the larger picture of Southern Mimbres demographics detailing that people in the south aggregated in large pueblos and that pit structure and Late Archaic sites in areas beyond the Mimbres Valley suggest habitation use through time. The long-term habitation and differences in ceramic designs suggest people beyond the Mimbres Valley made their own place within the Mimbres identity but separate from the people in the valley. Ceramic samples submitted by the project for petrographic analysis have shown that the Southern Mimbres produced the distinctive and valued Mimbres painted pottery in their own area and as well as importing from other Mimbres places. Various adaptations to the southern, xeric landscape have and are being documented and the question of where “Mimbres” ends or blends into other cultures areas is being addressed as well.
- Archaeological Investigations in Southwestern New Mexico is a partnership with Robert Hard of the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) and John Roney of Colinas Cultural Resource Consulting. Maize agriculture made its initial appearance in the Southwestern United States by around 2100 BCE. Over the next 4000 years corn provided the economic basis for a variety of indigenous societies in the Southwest and made their considerable cultural achievement possible. Since 2011 archaeologist (Hard and Roney) have been trying to better understand the initial adoption and spread of maize in lowland setting of the southern Southwest. Their efforts have focused on LA 162023, a large preceramic midden located at a location about 20 miles south of Hachita, NM, in Hidalgo County. LA 162023 is situated on public lands managed by the Bureau. Testing completed in 2014 have recovered fragments of charred maize from this site, and arrangements are currently being made for AMS radiocarbon dating of these remains as well as other samples. Investigators hope to bracket the span of occupation by obtain a number of radiocarbon dates from different areas with the site.
- Work planned for 2015 will also emphasize paleoenvironmental research. Auger testing on non-cultural deposits to the east of the archeological site has revealed a buried deposit of dark, organic-rich soil, suggesting that a cienega once existed at this location. A permanent source of water would help explain the presence of LA 162023 in such an arid place, and might also shed light on the nature of early agriculture as it was practiced in the region. The University of Texas at San Antonio has awarded a grant to support this work.

### **Rio Puerco Field Office**

- Rock Art Recording (various locations in RPFO): Two BLM volunteer groups co-sponsored by the Albuquerque Archaeological Society have undertaken detailed recording of rock art sites throughout the Rio Puerco Field Office area including Canon Jarido, Mojino Mountain, Ojito

Wilderness, and Tapia Canyon. In FY2014, the rock art volunteers have contributed 1,843 hours of their time. The 1050 program pays for a vehicle that is dedicated to use by cultural resources volunteers. It is used every day of the month.

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

### **Taos Field Office**

- BLM Taos continues to serve as the lead agency for the implementation of the Galisteo Basin Archaeological Sites Protection Act of 2004 which was conceived primarily to enhance protection of twenty-four key archaeological sites located in and around the Galisteo Basin in north-central New Mexico. Monthly and bi-monthly open meetings have been held with interested members of the public throughout FY 2014. The BLM is currently engaged in discussions related to the design and implementation of erosion control measures on Galisteo Pueblo which is one of the sites identified in the ACT. The portion of the site in question is in private ownership but the ACT provides for formulation of cooperative agreements that allow BLM to expend resources on non-BLM lands. Part of this project calls for the engagement of Pueblo and other Youth or Volunteer groups to provide employment, educational opportunities and to serve as a labor to expedite the implementation of the erosion control measures. BLM Taos has committed to providing heavy equipment and materials to facilitate this project once an agreement is in place with the current landowner. Potential acquisition of the privately owned portion of another Galisteo Protection Act site, Burnt Corn Pueblo, is on-going. The General Management Plan for the Act, which was completed in 2013, calls for the development of individual management plans for each of the sites named in the ACT. Several draft plans have been developed and are currently under review. It is anticipated that the process of drafting and finalizing all twenty-four site-specific management plans will require several years to complete.



**Active erosion at Galisteo Pueblo**

### **Farmington Field Office**

- Extremely large vigas were removed from an un-stabilized wall of the Haynes Trading Post to prevent any potential damage. The strenuous work required an 8 man fire crew.



**Fire Crew removing a viga.**

### **Socorro Field Office**

- The Socorro Field Office completed stabilization of the Commanding Officer's Quarters at historic Fort Craig in late September, 2013. The project involved repointing, which renews mortar joints, and reattachment of original plaster. Over time, weathering and decay cause voids in the joints between masonry units (stones), allowing water to enter. The water in these voids can cause significant damage through freeze-thaw cycles. The purpose of the stabilization project was to prevent further deterioration of this iconic feature of the Fort.



**Re-attaching of original plaster at Fort Craig.**

### **Monitoring and Site Stewardship**

#### **Taos Field Office**

- BLM engineering, cultural and law enforcement staff, in conjunction with the Taos Volunteer Site Watch organization, designed and are currently assisting in the construction of a fence line barrier and installation of signage to inhibit off-road vehicle travel, illegal dumping and vandalism in the vicinity of Hill Top Pueblo. This action was stimulated by Site Watch volunteer reports of trespass activity in the vicinity of Hill Top Pueblo and to attendant cultural resources that included grid and pebble mulch gardens, pit houses and other prehistoric features, including a large pueblo shrine (LA 105710 and LA 105709). Damage to Hill Top Pueblo was resulting from the consistent use of the site area for recreational off-road vehicle activities that also required the cutting and removal of existing fences by the proponents to access the site area. Extensive trash dumping and off-road vehicle travel was also affected adjacent areas encompassed by LA 105709 and LA 105710. Monitoring, including the use of remote “game cameras” failed to identify the perpetrators or record actual trespass activities. Subsequently, BLM staff concluded to construct new fencing, repair old fencing and install additional signage to inhibit direct access to a much larger area that encompassed all three site areas (LA 66288, LA 105709, and LA 105710). A cultural survey was conducted to insure that fence construction would not impact any additional cultural remains and stipulations were imposed that required manual installation of fencing and disallowed any off-road vehicle use. The fencing project is expected to be completed in August 2014. Monitoring will continue to assess the effectiveness of the new fence barrier and to track any subsequent trespass activity.

### **Farmington Field Office**

- Farmington - BLM continues to support the Northwest New Mexico Site Stewards program through a financial assistance agreement as well as technical advice and assistance with training. Through the combined effort of the site stewards and the BLM specially designated areas (ACECs) are regularly visited and monitored for changes, natural or otherwise.
- 84 Section 106 actions were stipulated for construction monitoring. (12% of total actions; 32% of total contractor/BLM prepared reports).

### **Rio Puerco Field Office**

- Monitoring Site Condition (various locations in RPFO): The Rio Puerco Field Office has an active BLM volunteer program with 45 volunteers who visited more than 700 BLM-managed sites. A total of approximately 3,333 volunteer hours were spent in these activities. One crew, led by retired BLM archaeologist Tony Lutonsky, continues to complete site encounter forms on previously unrecorded sites. This information has been very useful for planning purposes. Two other groups visit remote areas. All volunteers monitor for looting and other sources of deterioration and install anti-looting/anti-vandalism signs to protect cultural resources.
- The Rio Puerco Field Office participates in the SiteWatch site steward program established by the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division. Twenty site stewards from two established chapters of this program are now formally monitoring critical archeological and historic sites in the Rio Puerco, as well as reporting unrecorded sites in unexplored areas for 853 volunteer hours.
- The 1050 program pays for a vehicle that is dedicated to use by cultural resources volunteers. It is used every day of the month by one the above groups. Additional vehicles are available as needed, which is most weeks.

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

## Taos Field Office

- Barnard College Professor of Anthropology, Dr. Severin M. Fowles conducted another field school season of research within the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument. The focus of current research is on the documentation of newly discovered archaeological remains associated with the late 17th through early 19th century expansion of the Plains Indian Horse Culture into the Northern Rio Grande Valley. Previously unknown or unrecognized petroglyphs distinctive to the Plains Tradition were identified for the first time by Fowles and his students within the Valley region. Plains Horse Culture Traditions that included groups like the Comanche and Kiowa were known from historical records to have visited and interacted with the Pueblo and Spanish communities in the Taos area but no archaeological evidence of the presence of these groups had ever been positively identified until now. Fowles is working on a book compiling the research that he and his students did over several years, mostly on BLM land and within the National Monument.



**A Columbia University field school student carefully records a petroglyph image located within the National Monument.**

## Farmington Field Office

- UNM-OCA conducted data recovery at several sites intersected by the Mid-America pipeline project.
- San Juan College archaeological field school assisted BLM cultural staff with ongoing survey of the North Road. This year's survey (20 acres) confirmed additional segments of parallel roads.
- Tree-ring sampling was conducted at site LA172709.
- Farmington staff publications:
  - James M. Copeland 2014 *Birding In Dinétah*. In, *Enduring Curiosity, Generous Service: Papers In Honor of Sheila K. Brewer*. Papers of the Archaeological Society of New Mexico 40. Albuquerque.
  - James Copeland 2014 *Heaven on Earth: The Chaco North Road*. In, *Astronomy and Ceremony in the Prehistoric Southwest: Revisited*. Maxwell Museum of Anthropology, University of New Mexico. Albuquerque

## Las Cruces Field Office

- Archaeologist David Legare wrote a stabilization and data recovery plan for the Bella Hotel/Martinez House in Lake Valley Historic Site. Under a Challenge Cost Share with Dr. Sonya Cooper of New Mexico State University, work has progressed on the stabilization portion of the project. Due to lack of funding in 2014, that work was suspended. However, Dr. Rani Alexander, also of New Mexico State University, received a grant to perform the data recovery portion of the project. Work will begin on this phase in the fall of 2014.

### **Socorro Field Office**

- Archaeological testing of the dry moat associated with the Civil War era bastion at Fort Craig was conducted by BLM cultural staff from the Socorro and Rio Puerco offices under the direction of Cynthia Herhahn, PhD (Rio Puerco FO). The testing was performed to make way for construction of an interpretive representation of the historic earthworks. Two test trenches only revealed a handful of artifacts that appeared to have been deposited after the fort was decommissioned.



**Testing at Fort Craig**

- Jill Onken is a student at the University of Arizona conducting geoarchaeological and paleoenvironmental doctoral research work on BLM land in western Catron County. In the preceding two years she discovered and excavated a formal prehistoric turkey burial that was eroding out of an arroyo bank. She had discovered it on BLM lands while collecting soil samples and was issued an ARPA permit for the emergency data recovery. The turkey remains are now undergoing additional analysis at Washington State University. This year she collected geologic samples from non-archaeological contexts, many of which were on BLM lands. She presented a poster at the SAAs that summarized her research on the formation and age of the Zuni Salt Lake Maar. The new data indicate the eruption and maar formation were coeval with the Paleoindian occupation of the area.

### **Rio Puerco Field Office**

- Cynthia Herhahn authored the Introduction to H.P. Mera's "A Proposed Revision of the Rio Grande Glaze Paint Sequence," and co-authored the Introduction to H.P. Mera's "A Survey of the Biscuit Ware Area in Northern New Mexico." Both appeared in the volume, *Since Mera: The Original Eleven Bulletins, with Essays and Opinions Derived from Recent Research*, Archaeological Society of New Mexico Special Publication No. 5, compiled and edited by E.J. Brown, R.N. Wiseman, and R.P. Gauthier.

## **Notable planning accomplishments for heritage resources**

### **Taos Field Office**

- BLM cultural staff and other Taos BLM resource specialists have been engaged with San Luis Valley, Colorado BLM and cooperators in the development of a Rapid Ecological Assessment (REA) of the combine San Luis Valley-Northern Rio Grande REA project which is primarily a response to the designation and proposed development of Solar Energy Development Zones (SEZs). All of the proposed SEZs are located in Colorado. One component of the REA is the potential for off-site mitigation to occur that would benefit the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument to offset the effects of SEZ development in neighboring Colorado. A pilot component of the current REA project is the incorporation of landscape-scale cultural resources assessments, an issue that has played only a minor role in previously conceived and implemented REAs. Landscape scale data collection and analysis has been a major component of the project. Overcoming and combining cross-jurisdictional data sets and methods has also been an important part of the project. Argonne Labs has been enlisted as a consultant to combine and analyze data from multiple jurisdictions and sources into a cohesive document and data base. BLM cultural staff in Taos have been extensively involved in this project in assembling and analyzing cultural data and in providing expert advice and interpretations pertaining to the recognition and definition of landscape-scale cultural resources and issues. It is anticipated that much of the data generated by the REA will be of considerable benefit to the development of the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument management plan. REA development is in progress.
- A series of face-to-face meetings and field visits with Boy Scouts of American Great Southwest Council (BSA) representatives and administrators of the Gorham Boy Scout Camp (Scout Camp) located in Santa Fe County continued dialogues initiated by the BLM cultural staff in 2013. The Scout Camp facility occupies a 2614 acre R&PP conveyed to the BSA in the early 1960's. Stipulated in the patent is that the BLM retain management oversight of survey resources that include the remains of at least one large prehistoric pueblo (Nambe Bugge LA 254) and multiple other cultural resources, including lithic scatters, field houses, agricultural features, a shrine, and a grove of culturally modified ponderosa trees indicative of a protohistoric (Jicarilla?) presence. Portions of the Scout Camp have been selectively inventoried (see Snead 1994) but the need for recent assessments and more comprehensive survey, recording and management is now recognized by both the BLM and BSA. This need is particularly critical as a component of a BSA proposed new Plan of Development (POD) for maintenance/upgrade of existing facilities and infrastructure, but also expansion of Scout Camp facilities and operations. In FY 2014 enlisted the services of an environmental firm (Criterion Associates) to begin development of a Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP) for the Scout Camp facility. BLM expressed the desire on the part of the BSA to pursue a greater awareness of professional-based CRM and archaeology as a scientific discipline into the Scouting experience at Gorham Scout Camp. The intent of the BSA administrators is for the Gorham Scout Camp program to serve as a pilot model for revamping and professionalizing the existing BSA "Archaeology" merit badge program which was recognized to be "misguided" in its current form. At the present it is anticipated that a Draft CRMP will be ready for review and comment sometime in late FY 2015 by the BLM, NM HPD and Santa Fe County land use planners.

## **Farmington Field Office**

- The Glade Recreation Area EA and RMP Amendment is ongoing.
- The Visual Resource Management EA and RMP Amendment was completed
- A fair amount of public concern was focused on fluid mineral leasing and development in the vicinity of Chaco Canyon National Historical Park and Chaco outlier sites. The Farmington Field Office is in the early stages of a resource management plan amendment EIS addressing an anticipated major increase in APDs related to horizontal oil drilling in the Mancos Shale. Farmington consulted with numerous groups including the Hopi Cultural Preservation Office, Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department, Archaeology Southwest, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Society for American Archaeologists, Solstice Project, National Parks Service, New Mexico SHPO, and New Mexico Archaeological Council. Farmington formally invited the ACHP to participate in August of 2014 due to the controversial nature of the project.

## **State Office**

- Consultations are continuing for the Southline Transmission Project. Meetings, which included the ACHP, resulted in a draft PA and the DEIS was published in March 2014. Tribal and Section 106 consultations continue and a final PA is on schedule to be executed prior to the DR which is expected in late 2014 or early 2015.
- The BLM is preparing an EA for the SunZia Southwest Transmission Project to determine whether newly identified measures to mitigate potential impacts to military operations require the BLM to prepare a supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) published in June 2013. Signature of the PA associated with Section 106 compliance is on hold as the issues are resolved.

## **Enforcement of heritage protection authorities and related activities**

### **Taos Field Office**

- In March 2014, BLM received reports from Taos Chapter Site Watch volunteers of recent trespass activities at Del Zorro Pueblo. On March 4, 2013 BLM cultural and law enforcement staff visited the site area to assess the reported trespass. Foot- and off-route ATV tracks were observed traversing the site area. Also observed were two large, obviously recent excavations into a portion of the pueblo ruin room block. In addition to the damages associated with unauthorized excavations, off-road vehicle traffic was observed to have impacted a number of agricultural terrace and cobble features. BLM law enforcement subsequently purchased and installed a remote, motion-activated “game camera” on site that possesses the capacity to transmit “real time” images of activity to law enforcement cell phones. Subsequent monitoring captured images of one individual actually “digging” into the room block and two other individuals driving ATVs off-road within the site area. All three individuals were subsequently apprehended by BLM law enforcement rangers. At this time these individuals have been arraigned and charged in federal court but all three cases are still in litigation.
- Posipa-Akeri is one of the largest pueblo ruins in the Ojo Caliente Valley, consisting of the remains of six large house mounds, three major plazas, a great community kiva, multiple smaller kivas, smaller house mounds, an estimated 2000 rooms and attendant agricultural features. The main pueblo was fenced and signed by the BLM some years ago and is regularly monitored by both BLM and Taos Chapter Site Watch. In early March, a casual visitor to this very large pueblo ruin encountered individuals actively “digging” within the fenced-off portion of the site in broad daylight. The individuals ran when she and her party approached, discarding artifacts, a few tools, and other evidence. The visitor took photographs and compiled descriptions of the

perpetrators, their vehicles and one license plate number and immediately conveyed this information to the BLM. Unauthorized excavations were made in two separate house mounds. Evidence was collected by BLM law enforcement. The vehicle license plate descriptions were traceable to an individual residing in the local community. Sufficient evidence to obtain a search warrant for the residence is unfortunately lacking and no arrests or charges have yet been made in lieu of the collection of additional evidence. The case is on-going. Taos Chapter Site Watch members have, however, at the suggestion of BLM law enforcement, impregnated the local community “gossip” circuit indicating that “we know who you are” and “what you did.” It is very likely that this is serving as very active and successful deterrent to future illegal activity. Remote-activated “game” cameras have been installed at site and monitoring by Site Watch volunteers, law enforcement and BLM staff has been increased.

- An additional trespass activity was reported by Taos Chapter Site Watch volunteers in the Ojo Caliente Valley. Reports of unauthorized excavations at this site were conveyed by Site Watch to BLM in April. LA 98319 is a small pueblo ruin consisting of two room blocks totaling an estimated 50 to 75 rooms. A subsequent visit to the site by BLM law enforcement and cultural staff found that a large “hole” had been excavated into the margin of a small pueblo room block. This excavation appeared to at least several years old. No signs of recent activity were observed and surprisingly, no cultural materials or deposits appeared to have been actually displaced or otherwise disturbed by this excavation. Law enforcement installed a Remote, motion-activated “game” camera at the site. The adjacent private land owner agreed to restrict or monitor any traffic across their land and monitoring by Site Watch volunteers and law enforcement has been increased.

#### **Las Cruces Field Office**

- Archaeologist Thomas Holcomb and BLM volunteers Paul Bardwell and Ron Bellerose, during the course of site condition monitoring, encountered an individual on a Mimbres pueblo site. A short conversation ensued in which the man state he was looking for agate. He was informed that the location was an archaeological site on public land and collecting was prohibited under the Archaeological Protection Act (ARPA) of 1979 after which he left for his vehicle. He stated that he would not look for agate at that location. Photographs of the individual had been taken, as were photographs of the shovel and probe he left behind, and the make and license plate of his vehicle as he drove away. BLM law enforcement was notified and the shovel and probe were secured. Prior to encountering the individual (who had been lying on the ground in a camouflage jacket) Holcomb had come upon a shovel dug hole and trench. It was determined that both the hole and the trench were fresh, the back dirt was soft and unconsolidated, and the round holes left by a probe were distinct. The location of the shovel and probe where the individual had been encountered was GPS’s. Holcomb, Bardwell, and Bellerose then proceeded to look for ground vandalism not already identified and the shovel hole and trench were GPS’d, measured for length, width, and depth, and photographed. It was subsequently determined during the investigation that this individual had a prior conviction under ARPA. A search warrant was issued and issure and served. As of this date the case is with Department of Justice awaiting disposition.

#### **Farmington Field Office**

- Halloween related vandalism damage at Frances Ruin was cleaned up by removal of bonfire wood, fire pit, and some soot on walls. No suspects were located.



**Vandalism at Francis Ruin**

### **Rio Puerco Field Office**

- The Forestry program continues to work with the cultural program during monitoring of illegal woodcutting in an area dense with cultural resources. They report impacts from illegal woodcutting and illegal trash dumping to the cultural program and to law enforcement. Their mere presence provides an excellent deterrent to ill-doers and provides a level of protection to all resources.

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

#### **State Office**

- The Partnership with Office of Archaeological Studies resulted in over 150 public events all over the state reaching around 11,000 people; nearly half of which are children. These events include those at El Malpais NCA, Bosque del Apache, tribal communities, primary, middle and high schools, State Monuments, local government facilities, etc. This partnership supports activities done by the Field Offices, particularly the Las Cruces District, who, in partnership with the City of Las Cruces (Museums), held Archaeology Day at the Branigan Cultural Center for the fourth consecutive year. The OAS is developing a Project Archaeology (PA) Investigating Shelter module for a pithouse. Portions of this module were used during a Project Archaeology workshop held at New Mexico State University by the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Program this year where 15 teachers were trained to deliver PA to supplemental after-school programs at local elementary schools.

#### **Taos Field Office**

- BLM cultural staff conducted three guided weekend hikes for the general public within the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument. Hikes are a popular means of introducing the general public to the objects of value for which the Monument was created. Hikes conducted by cultural staff focus upon cultural resources but also touch upon the relationship of the human occupation of the region to the other objects of value including the natural landscape. Emphasis has been

upon elucidation of the concept of cultural landscapes and how these fit into future interpretation of cultural resources and management of the Monument environment.

### **Farmington Field Office**

- Site Steward training (8/17/13, 6/28/2014)
- 1/2/2013 site tour in Crow Canyon with Durango Archaeological Society.
- Extensive outreach related to Mancos Shale EIS and RMP Amendment
- FFO is cultivating relationships with the Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA) at both the local and national levels. OSTA is also afforded opportunities to comment on 106 undertaking and NEPA actions that may have some effect on the OST.
- OSTA field trip June 21, 2014
- FFO continues to engage other NGOs such as the Chaco Alliance and the National Trust for Historic Preservation on issues related to issues of Chaco culture and energy development.
- Frances Ruin vandalism article published in Farmington Daily Times , November 25, 2013.

### **Las Cruces Field Office**

- District Archaeologist James Renn assisted Jane Childress (W) and Eric Blinman of the Office of Archeological Studies with heritage outreach programs in the LCDO as part of an assistance agreement between BLM and the Office of Archeological Studies of the Museum of New Mexico. One was a two day program targeted for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders at Truth or Consequences, NM, for approximately 200 students and another for Archaeology Days in Las Cruces where another 200 young people were introduced to archaeology. Independently, Renn gave three presentations that introduced another 50 students to archaeology.

### **Oklahoma Field Office**

- In conjunction with Secretary Jewell's Play, Learn, Serve and Work Initiative, Oklahoma Field Office has vastly expanded its archaeological outreach program by conducting several events in rural and underprivileged areas throughout Oklahoma and Texas. Hundreds of school children and adults have participated in lively, outdoor, hands-on archaeological adventure lessons. Adventure lesson programs focused on interactive demonstrations of prehistoric hunting techniques, archaeological site stewardship, and developing student's critical thinking skills by allowing them to create interpretations of past lifeways through direct contact with artifacts from history.
- The Oklahoma Field Office continues to grow its outreach and education program through forming a number of collaborative partnerships. To date, the Oklahoma Field Office has partnered with Project Archaeology, the Oklahoma Anthropological Society, the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History, the Oklahoma Historical Society, the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Tulsa Public Libraries, and the Girls Scouts of America to conduct outreach and education events.
- Of special note, the BLM in Oklahoma is proud to have partnered with Project Archaeology. This partnership marks the first occasion Project Archaeology has been represented in the state of Oklahoma. We are very excited to be conducting Oklahoma's first every Project Archaeology teacher workshop this year. Since announcing our workshop, we have seen a flood of interest

from educators and professional groups. In the coming years, we will be planning many, many more Project Archaeology teacher workshops.

- OKO archaeologist Ryan Howell is nearly complete with a MOU for AFO and the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum. Once signed, this MOU will allow the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum to utilize the Cross Bar for education and outreach purposes. The Museum will conduct three to four educational programs a year at the Cross Bar with plans to live broadcast those programs throughout dozens of elementary schools in the United States and several foreign countries. AFO will benefit greatly from the MOU as well as it will provide access to new site stewards and volunteer from the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum Volunteer Group.

### **Socorro Field Office**

- Each year the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro International Heritage Center (ECRIHC) holds a Historic Forts Day highlighting the history of New Mexico's territorial forts. This year the event was held on March 1. Two guided tours of Fort Craig were offered by SFO with 50 people participating. One was led by SFO Archaeologist Sara Stebbins and the other by volunteer site host Fred Robinson. No new oral histories were collected or transcribed during the reporting year. Past oral histories continued to contribute however. Three SFO oral histories were the basis of an article on homestead settlement of area ranches. The article appeared in Cowboy Country, an annual publication cooperatively produced and distributed by 5 newspapers ranging from the Socorro/Magdalena area to the Albuquerque/Kirtland Air Force Base area.

### **Rio Puerco Field Office**

- Rio Puerco Field Office archaeologist Gretchen Obenauf conducted a guided hike of archeological sites, accommodating 20 people.

## **Tribal consultation and coordination**

### **Taos Field Office**

- Requests for government-to-government consultation letters were sent to 15 tribal offices to initiate conversations regarding the designation of the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument and the BLM's intent to pursue development of a monument-specific management plan. Responses for consultation were received from X tribal offices. Subsequent face-to-face meetings were held at tribal facilities for the Taos Pueblo, Hopi Tribe, Ohkay Owingeh, Picuris Pueblo and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe. Consultation efforts will be pursued throughout the planning process and all tribes involved in the initial request for consultation will be afforded the opportunity to review and comment upon the draft management plan.
- Four face to face consultation meetings between the BLM government representative and Ohkay Owingeh Tribal Officers were held concerning a potential exchange of lands to facilitate the conveyance of important tracts of land to Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo which are known to contain traditional tribal properties and traditional tribal use areas. Field visits have been made in the company of tribal representatives and BLM staff to three of the properties designated for the land exchange. The proposed land exchanges will facilitate the BLM acquisition of private inholdings within the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument and also key riparian habitats attendant to the Chama Wild and Scenic River Corridor.

### **Farmington Field Office**

- The Farmington Field Office regularly consults with several tribes/pueblos on oil and gas lease sale offerings. Except in unique circumstances, FFO lease sales are now yearly instead of quarterly.
- The Farmington Field Office is conducting ongoing consultation efforts related to major Section 106 initiatives including Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project, the San Juan Basin Energy Connect Project, and significant drilling and development in the Counselors, Lybrook, and Nageezi areas.
- The Farmington Field Office is continuing ongoing consultation efforts related to major planning actions including the Glade Recreation Area EA and RMP and Mancos Shale EIS and RMP Amendment.
- The Farmington Field Office is also conducting significant community outreach with Navajo Nation Chapters in response to various environmental concerns pertaining to energy development. Chapter officials are routinely invited to "on-sites" for new wells and related infrastructure.
- 7/29/2014 TCP meeting with Navajo Nation HPD
- 8/2013: worked with Jicarilla THPO to successfully relocate an old antelope trap on Jicarilla lands recorded during the Navajo Land Claims.

#### **Oklahoma Field Office**

- The OKO staff also continues to sustain relationships with the more than 40 tribes in Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas as part of their compliance duties. They continue working with the Osage Tribe on drafting an MOA; the Osage have had significant leadership changes, delaying BLM efforts. The Amarillo Field Office has extended their consultation efforts, and now regularly consults with the Comanche Nation, Tonkawa Tribe, and Jicarilla Apache.
- OKO contacted all of the tribes with areas of interest in OK, TX, KS and bordering Tribes in LA, IA, AK, CO, NM to define their areas of interest. More than 50 letters to tribes were sent and the OKO was able to greatly refine our Tribal areas of interest list with more than 50% of the tribes responding with updates.

#### **Socorro Field Office**

- The Socorro Field Office held 4 face-to-face meetings with federally recognized tribes during the reporting period.

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

#### **Taos Field Office**

- BLM Taos continues efforts begun in FY 2012 to work with Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo government officials, as the repatriating tribal entity for the Eight Northern Rio Grande Pueblos, to facilitate the return and reburial of human remains from archaeological sites located on lands that are currently administered by the Taos BLM.

#### **Las Cruces Field Office**

- In early 2013 an individual turned in partial human remains from two individuals along with the funerary items that were interred with them. These remains were looted from public lands in 1960. No charges were filed due to the time that has elapsed since the crime was committed. Responses to NAGPRA notification letters were received from the Hopi Tribe, Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Tribe, and the Mescalero Apache Tribe. The Hopi Tribe indicated that, if no other tribe claimed the remains and funerary objects, then they would. The Mescalero Apache Tribe and the

Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Tribe both claimed the remains. However, they also indicated that neither tribe had a repository (gravesite or storage facility) for the remains and asked if BLM would be willing to rebury the remains as close to the location at which they were found as possible. As any location near the original burial site would have a very high public visitation and would be likely to be looted again, the archaeologist found an archaeologically sterile area within one of our cultural resource ACECs that would be suitable for this use. Letters were sent to the BLM Washington Office and New Mexico State Office indicating the intent to set aside an area for such eventualities.

- Archaeologist David Legare arranged with the two tribes to rebury the remains and funerary objects. That was done and the area (location is available only to cultural resource specialists on the District) is now available, after proper consultation with the appropriate tribes and approvals from the agency, to be used for such cases of reburial when locations close to the original gravesite would endanger the remains further and when the tribes have no facilities for repatriation or reburial.

### **Rio Puerco Field Office**

- RPFO Cultural Resource Specialist Cynthia Herhahn is acting as NMSO NAGPRA coordinator for cases adjudicated in NM relating to the Cerberus Action. The Hopi Tribe of Arizona has claimed four cultural items as sacred objects and objects of cultural patrimony under NAGPRA. One Notice of Intent to Repatriate was published in the Federal Register Notice on July 28, 2014. Repatriation is still pending awaiting additional claims through August 27.

## **Paleontology**

### **Socorro Field Office**

- Three paleontological data recovery projects took place this fiscal year, two under permit by the New Mexico Museum of Natural History, and one emergency recovery of an exposed mammoth tusk by BLM with assistance from the Museum. The permitted projects consisted of an exploratory pit to ascertain the presence/extent of a fossil bone bed, and removal of a scientifically valuable petrified tree stump – both in Socorro County east of the Rio Grande.

### **Las Cruces Field Office**

- *Partnership with the City of Las Cruces Museum of Nature and Science (MoNaS):* Under this partnership (through an AA), in previous years, the City developed Paleozoic Trackways exhibits for the new museum with BLM assistance (opened in November 2012). This past fiscal year, the MoNaS has been developing and installing specialized lighting on the main trackways exhibit to enhance the subtle features for interpretation. This lighting is installed and will be operational as soon as the computer program is ready. The other AA with the MoNaS is for developing additional trackways exhibits and to continue the development of the MoNaS as a gateway-community visitor center for the Monument. Under this AA, progress was made for the installation of a hands-on outdoor exhibit of a Dimetrodon "dig" and toward providing information to the public about visiting the Monument, particularly after hours.

## **Museum collections management**

### **Farmington Field Office**

- We are observing good compliance by archaeological contractors uploading site and survey shapefiles to NMCRIS this year. Some contractors are a little slow to do so. BLM is typically withholding 106 reviews until data uploaded to NMCRIS.

**Oklahoma Field Office**

- The Oklahoma Field Office inspected the Plains Panhandle Museum collections which has been certified by the Texas Historical Commission and the Council of Texas Archaeologists.