



# United States Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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### EMS TRANSMISSION Memorandum

To: Assistant Director, Renewable Resources and Planning (240)

From: Raul Morales  
Deputy State Director

Subject: Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Heritage Programs and National Landscape Conservation System Annual Report

In response to Instruction Memorandum No. 2012-159, I appreciate the opportunity to report Nevada's accomplishments in heritage resources management for fiscal year 2012. Various highlights are presented below, while Attachment 1 contains a numerical summary of accomplishments. Attachment 2 provides an updated list with available information on Challenge Cost Share projects. Attachment 3 contains an updated list of historic structures, as requested. Attachment 4 is one Listing of Outlaw and Treachery (LOOT) form that is pertinent for BLM Nevada in this reporting year.

### State Highlights

**Compliance.** Land use applications continue their dominance of activities conducted by cultural resources staff in relation to heritage resources on lands managed by BLM in Nevada. The number of undertakings increased about 24% compared to the previous year, but with a very marked increase in the amount of Class III inventory conducted on BLM lands (+75%) and with a modest increase in the number of properties recorded on BLM lands (+19%). Government-to-government consultation meetings with tribes were up by more than 40%, which in part likely reflects the increased number of undertakings as well as heightened effort on the part of BLM managers in response to departmental and bureau direction.

The scope of compliance activities is expected to remain high as a result of on-going interest in renewable energy development involving BLM lands, high capacity transmission line connectivity, as well as high precious metal values which are driving expansion of existing mines as well as exploration in some areas.

**Archaeological Resources Protection Act.** Sentences were carried out in regard to a criminal case regarding theft of artifacts by two persons. One person received a felony conviction, three

years' probation, a \$3,600 fine and a \$100 assessment; the other person pled guilty to a misdemeanor and received a sentence of 30 days in prison, three months' home detention, and one year of supervised probation. A LOOT form is attached.

Implementation of the Tosawihi ARPA settlement is progressing. The Elko District expects to hire a term project manager position tasked to: (1) create and implement an action plan based on the highest needs in restoring, managing, and protecting the Tosawihi Quarry/TCP and (2) work with the appropriate tribes to complete the process of creating the "Tosawihi Tribal Account" as defined within the settlement agreement. The Elko District hopes to have this position filled within the next six months so that work may commence.

**Museum Collections Management.** Collections held previously at the Harry Reid Center (HRC) at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and comprising approximately 800 boxes, were removed to a new temporary location given the closure of the Center's curation facility due to a lack of funding. The move was accomplished with the tremendous assistance of Friends of Red Rock Canyon, a volunteer group, as well as with participation by staff of the Southern Nevada District Office, the Nevada State Office, and the Nevada State Museum, Carson City. As funds and volunteer time become available, the collections will be sorted to determine federal agency responsibility for parts of the collection, which is predominantly but not entirely from BLM lands. Efforts continue to procure funds to complete any necessary cleaning, cataloging and preparation for curation, as well as for funding for curation fees at a suitable repository.

The BLM Nevada has continued use of an assistance agreement to aid the Nevada State Museum, Carson City (NSM-CC) in its efforts to configure and procure shelving and equipment to expand storage space as much as possible. The NSM-CC currently holds the great majority of collections from BLM NV lands. The result so far is an additional 1320 cubic feet of palletized storage space, made possible through a combination of reorganized storage unit placement, procurement of appropriate equipment for access in tighter spaces, and modifications to a pallet lifter mechanism. There is additional space for expansion which will be explored in the future.

## **Other Accomplishments**

### **Department of the Interior Tribal Consultation Policy Implementation**

- The Battle Mountain District has consulted and coordinated with several tribes for development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish a clear understanding between the parties as to what constitutes consultation and to help structure a consultation process. This MOU is an outgrowth of Secretarial Order 3317 which encourages such agreements. To date, one tribe has signed an agreement, while two other Tribes may sign an MOU by the end of the calendar year. This MOU has also paved the way for one tribe to accept BLM's invitation to be a consulting party in the development of the Resource Management Plan (RMP).

### **National Programmatic Agreement Implementation**

- The State Protocol Agreement between BLM NV and the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office was revised with an emphasis on minor corrections or changes.

However, one important change emphasizes the necessity to complete the Section 106 process prior to a manager signing a decision.

#### Heritage Tourism Interpretive Developments

- In conjunction with FY2011 grant funding to the Nevada Department of Transportation to facilitate terrestrial LiDAR documentation of Hidden Cave (which is a major prehistoric cultural resources recreational interpretive area near Fallon, Nevada), the Carson City District Office funded production of a high definition video through the University of Nevada, Reno Media Design & Production Department. Filming included the nearby setting of the Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge as well as an interview with David Hurst Thomas of the American Museum of Natural History at Hidden Cave. Additional filming will occur in October 2012 with tribal elders.

#### Resource Protection Projects

- After a 2008 Office of Inspector General audit, the Abandoned Mine Lands program of BLM Nevada identified the historic mine opening known as the "Combination Shaft" in the Carson City District as a high priority for an abandon mine lands (AML) closure, which is a historic property within the Virginia City National Historic Landmark. Currently an open vertical hole, the Combination Shaft began in 1875 and became the deepest shaft ever sunk on the Comstock, reaching a depth of 3,250 feet. Terms of the Nevada State Protocol Agreement were followed and resulted in a no adverse effect finding for steps taken to protect human health and safety. Installation of a metal grate over the opening was underway in the summer of 2012 (PHOTO).
- BLM Carson City District, Sierra Front Field Office (SFFO) received funding through Caves and Karst to complete restoration of protective fencing and the installation of current ARPA signage at Salt Caves. This work reduced social trails and replaced fencing to protect pictographs in Salt Caves 1 and 2 (PHOTO).
- At the end of June, BLM Winnemucca District staff and volunteers from the Oregon-California Trails Association and Trails West mapped and examined a section of the Applegate Trail, a segment of a mid-nineteenth century wagon road, and one prehistoric site. Approximately 15 volunteers participated in the metal detector surveys on the Applegate Trail; the most intriguing artifact located was a civil war era military button. The wagon road and trail segment were likely part of a route that supplied a military outpost to the northwest of the survey area (PHOTO).
- Archaeologists from the Sierra Front Field Office of the Carson City District, the Nevada State Office, and six volunteers constructed 47 feet of stone wall to the style and size of the prehistoric Fort Sage Drift Fence, a prehistoric feature in northwest Nevada that is over 3,000 years old (2 PHOTO). The event was co-branded as a Let's Move Outside environmental education activity and also provided the basis for improved interpretation. Results were provided in a BLM presentation at the April 2012 Society for American Archaeology meeting and will also be included in an upcoming international publication co-authored by Bryan Hockett, Jim Carter, and Rachel Crews of BLM Nevada, and others.
- Within the Ely District, the Lincoln County Archeological Initiative produced (among other things) an inventory of four historic cemeteries in Lincoln County (Fay, Bristol Wells, Helene and Delamar). This project included research for historic archival records,

on-site recording of the cemeteries, and preparation and submission of a cultural resources technical report with the results.

#### Paleontological Resources

- The Las Vegas Formation lies exposed in the Upper Las Vegas Wash just north of urbanized Las Vegas. These deposits contain thousands of fossil remains from various Pleistocene megafauna including mammoth, bison, camel, horse, and ground sloth (2 PHOTO). Working under an Assistance Agreement with the Las Vegas Field Office of the Southern Nevada District Office, the San Bernardino County Museum (SBCM) continued excavating in what is known as the Super Quarry. Crew members jacketed multiple mammoth skulls and tusks in preparation for transport to the laboratory where they will be meticulously cleaned and preserved.

#### Heritage Program Publications

- The Nevada State Office posted volume 21, *A Revised Research Context for the Prehistoric Archaeology of the Little Boulder Basin Area, North-central Nevada*, as the latest addition to its on-line Cultural Resources Series.
- In the Ely District, the Lincoln County Archeological Initiative funded the Formative Fremont Settlements Inventory (1,000 acres of Class III) and related research, as well as production of a Student's Handbook titled "Prehistoric Peoples of Lincoln County, Nevada: Who used to live in your neighborhood?"

#### Museum Collections Management

- Using funding from the Lincoln County Archeological Initiative, an assessment of archeological collections is on-going for the Ely District by the University of Nevada-Reno/Desert Research Institute.

If you have any questions, Tom Burke may be reached at 775-861-6415.

#### Attachments