

# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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8150 (NV-930)

### Memorandum

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

From: Deputy State Director  
Natural Resources, Lands and Planning

Subject: Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Heritage Programs and National Landscape Conservation System Annual Report, DD 30Aug13

In response to Instruction Memorandum No. 2013-130, I appreciate the opportunity to report Nevada's accomplishments in heritage resources management for fiscal year 2013. Various highlights are presented below, while Attachment 1 contains a numerical summary of accomplishments. There is no action relating to Attachment 2 and updates concerning Challenge Cost Share projects. Attachment 3 contains an updated list of historic structures, as requested. I understand that all information relating to law enforcement actions will be provided by others this year. Despite on-going budgetary concerns affecting all of BLM, Bryan Hockett may be reached at 775/861-6546 if there are any questions.

### **State Highlights**

#### **Hidden Cave (Carson City District Office)**

The year 2013 marks 30 years of a partnership between the BLM and Churchill County Museum in the public interpretation of Hidden Cave and the related Grimes Point area, both rich with evidence of prehistoric occupation and use. The District hosted a symposium at the Great Basin Anthropological Conference entitled *Inviting People In for Over Thirty Years: the Past, Present and Future of Public Education at Hidden Cave*. The late Jim Carter gave a presentation on BLM's ongoing support of public education at the National Register-listed site, with the highlight being a preview of a new Hidden Cave video by the University of Nevada, Reno, Media Design & Production Department. Filmed interviews included Native American elders. Additional partners making presentations include the Nevada Department of Transportation, Nevada State Museum, and the American Museum of Natural History. More than 100 people attended the preview. Video production is expected to be complete in FY14, at which time DVDs will be available to Nevada classrooms. Video production has been supported by a combination of sources, including 1050 program and one-time funding. The Grimes Point area was also the scene of site steward training to assist in monitoring in resources in the area, as well

as on-site experience for 55 students from a local college. BLM staff led 16 tours to Hidden Cave in the reporting period; Churchill County Museum provided additional tours.

### **Lovelock Cave (Winnemucca District Office)**

The BLM Winnemucca District celebrated the Eighth Annual Lovelock Cave Days in May 2013, in Lovelock, Nevada, in conjunction with Nevada's Archaeological Awareness and Historic Preservation Month. In November 2012, Peggy McGuckian, Archeologist for WDO, was awarded BLM's Gold Award for "Excellence in Interpretation or Education" for this heritage education event. Fourth grade classes from six different Humboldt and Pershing County elementary schools assembled to celebrate local Nevada history, involving more than 300 children. BLM employees, BLM retirees and other volunteers, and partners manned twelve interpretive stations. Additionally, the children were treated to fascinating presentations by Paiute Indians from the Fallon, Lovelock, and Fort McDermitt Tribes. A special treat was a visit to the event by State Director Amy Lueders and Associate State Director Marci Todd accompanied by District Manager, Gene Seidlitz. Partners in this year's event included the Humboldt and Pershing County School Districts, Marzen House Museum, Nevada Outdoor School, Great Basin Institute, Women in Mining, Coeur Rochester Mining, Relief Canyon Mine and the BLM California Trails Center.

### **Tribal Consultation**

Recently signed tribal consultation agreements are working well for the Battle Mountain District Office to improve communication with several local tribes. The BLM believes the tribes have been more open about their concerns and in sharing information; one tribe even signed a cooperative agreement for development of the RMP.

In the Winnemucca District, a monthly consultation schedule is maintained with Summit Lake Paiute Tribe and has been reestablished with Fort McDermitt. The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and the Summit Lake Paiute Tribe will be cooperators on the Western States Sage Grouse EIS, and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe was a cooperator on the Burning Man EA.

### **Museum Collections Management.**

The BLM Nevada continues to support the assistance agreement with the Nevada State Museum, Carson City with funding to configure and procure shelving and equipment to expand storage space. The Museum holds the great majority of collections from BLM NV lands and may soon hold large collections from the southern part of the State as well.

### **Resource Protection Projects**

In the Winnemucca District, a fence and two cattle guards were placed to protect 26Hu1717, a National Register eligible lithic scatter, from on-going grazing. As an added benefit, the enclosure protects part of the riparian zone from grazing impacts.

Also in the Winnemucca District, preliminary geophysical investigation of the Unionville Cemetery utilized Frequency Domain Electro Magnetic Induction to determine the presence of unmarked graves. This information will contribute to the eventual recordation and further remote sensing exploration of the cemetery which is anticipated to begin in the fall of 2013.

Public outreach and resource protection were combined in an important component of the cultural program for the Southern Nevada District Office and especially the Sloan/Red Rock Field Office. A cooperative agreement was developed this year with the College of Southern Nevada for archaeological survey on Wilderness Areas on the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. This work was performed under the guidance of the field office archaeologist and is on-going in concert with cultural volunteer opportunities that are provided to the Friends of Red Rock and the Red Rock Interpretive Association. Workload accomplishments for the last year also include proactive archaeological inventory that was completed with the assistance of these groups.

### **Other Accomplishments**

Resource recognition has taken a new direction in northwestern Nevada since the inventory associated with a major pipeline resulted in tribal concerns about “rock stacks.” Highly similar to historic period mining claim markers in some cases, Dr. Patrick Haynal presented the paper “Recognizing Native American Rock Stack Features On The Great Basin’s Northern Nevada Landscape” at the October 2012 Great Basin Archaeology Conference; the paper was co-authored by Winnemucca District Office archeologists Haynal and Dr. Mark Hall. The recognition and sharing of this information will help improve identification and management of this resource type in the future.

The Site Stewardship Program in Nevada is now fully integrated within the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office as a result of consolidation with the program in southern Nevada, which previously operated independently. The BLM’s Southern Nevada District Office and several other federal agencies in the area worked with SHPO to make the transition. The monitoring program also includes paleontological resources.

In October 2012, staff archaeologists from the BLM Carson City District Office and 23 volunteers removed more than 70 cubic yards of trash in the annual cleanup of the “Fernley Deep Sand Swales” segment of the California National Historic Trail. The success of this annual project is enhanced by an ongoing partnership with members of the Oregon-California Trails Association. Participants were presented information by a BLM archaeologist on trail history and the difficulties emigrants faced passing through this harsh region. Annual photo documentation of this segment was also completed.

In celebration of National Archaeology Day in October 2012, Winnemucca District Office, in partnership with the Humboldt County Museum, sponsored a presentation on an ongoing archaeological data recovery project in the proposed expansion area of Hycroft, a local gold/silver mine. The presentation, entitled “Chert, Sulphur, and Gold: The Black Rock Desert and the Archaeology of Place,” filled the local museum conference room with a standing room only audience of approximately 50 people. The historic and prehistoric findings from this project

were presented within a global and regional context. This fascinating presentation was followed by a fun and educational field trip to the excavation site the next day. This National Archaeology Day event not only helped the public to better understand local history and local, regional and global prehistory, it also inspired discussions about additional interpretation of the findings from this project as well as other local archaeological and paleontological resources.

BLM Winnemucca District Office and partnership groups (the Oregon and California Trails Association and Trails West) spent 4 days in June 2013 camping out and inventorying for trail artifacts and traces along the Applegate Trail near Black Rock Hot Springs, within the Black Rock-High Rock Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area. Twenty-four volunteers participated in a metal detector survey along two miles of trail. Elsewhere in the district, the University of Nevada Department (UNR) Of Anthropology is conducting a research project related to historic trails and wagon roads in the NCA in the summer of 2013. They are focusing on several segments of the trail that have been mapped but never formally inventoried. UNR students are also documenting Granite Creek Station, a historic stage stop in the Black Rock Desert and conducting testing at the site.