

Questions and Answers About BLM's Adventures in the Past/Antiquities Centennial Plan

What is "Adventures in the Past"?

Adventures in the Past is the BLM's program for public education about, awareness of, and involvement in the protection of BLM archaeological, historical, and paleontological resources – or collectively, heritage resources.

Adventures in the Past was created in response to the 1988 Archaeological Resources Protection Act amendments requiring agencies to develop public outreach and educational programs in archaeology. The goals of "Adventures" include increasing the public's responsible enjoyment of cultural resources, encouraging the BLM's good stewardship of these resources, and reducing the destruction of cultural resources on the public lands.

The current initiative, celebrating the Antiquities Centennial, builds on the successes BLM has had with Adventures in the Past over the past decade, and strives to create a sustainable initiative, broadened to also encompass paleontological resources. The goals of the new Adventures initiative are to:

- Highlight accomplishments and heritage resource benefits of the Antiquities Act and the National Historic Preservation Act;
- Expand support for heritage resources and encourage stewardship;
- Ensure that visitors to the public lands know how to appreciate heritage resources without adversely impacting them; and
- Use heritage resources as tools to teach science, history, respect for cultural diversity, and citizenship skills.

What is the Antiquities Act of 1906?

The Antiquities Act of 1906 is the legislative basis for the protection and preservation of cultural properties (both archaeological and historic) on federal lands. The Act specifically provides for issuance of permits under which BLM may authorize scholarly use of cultural properties; imposition of misdemeanor-level penalties for unauthorized use; and Presidential designation of outstanding properties as National Monuments for their long-term preservation. The Act is implemented in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) by rules located at 43 CFR Part 3.

Is there a website to mark the 100th anniversary of the Antiquities Act?

Yes. BLM created the "Adventures in the Past" website to mark the upcoming 100th anniversary of the Antiquities Act of 1906 and the 40th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The URL for the "Adventures" website is <http://www.blm.gov/heritage/adventures>.

This website brings together many of the educational, archaeological, recreational and public outreach activities and programs that BLM offers that fulfill the intent of historic

preservation statutes and demonstrate BLM's careful stewardship of the heritage resources under its dominion.

The website also fulfills the intent of the March 2003 Presidential Executive Order 13287 on *Preserve America*, which urges federal land management agencies to use their cultural resources to promote economic development, particularly in the form of heritage tourism.

Why are the BLM and other federal land-managing agencies celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Antiquities Act of 1906 and the 40th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966?

The Antiquities Act was landmark legislation that established the federal government's leadership role as steward for our Nation's cultural legacy. The National Historic Preservation Act was passed 60 years later, making it clear that the historical and cultural foundations of the Nation should be preserved as a living part of our community life and development in order to give a sense of orientation to the American people.

While several other historic preservation laws have been enacted in the last 100 years, BLM is celebrating a century of historic preservation highlighted by the Antiquities Act and National Historic Preservation Act as an opportunity to showcase the remarkable heritage resources in our care. The celebration builds on existing programs and partnerships, re-energizing BLM's Adventures in the Past initiative and reiterating our commitment to cultural stewardship as we move into the Act's second century.

What are some of the key provisions of each act and why are they important? (Why do we need to protect historic, archaeological and fossil resources?)

The **Antiquities Act** was designed to protect "any historic or prehistoric ruin or monument, or any object of antiquity" situated on land owned or controlled by the federal government. The Act:

- created criminal sanctions for the destruction of antiquities (including fossils, historic and archaeological resources),
- allowed for the creation of historic and scientific national monuments, and
- provided for the issuance of permits for the federal government to authorize the investigation and excavation of archaeological sites.

The **National Historic Preservation Act** established a national policy of historic preservation, including the protection of structures, buildings, districts, and sites significant in American history, archaeology, and architecture. The Act:

- directed an expansion of the National Register of Historic Places, a listing of significant prehistoric and historic sites, to include properties and districts of local, state, and national significance,
- directed federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions and authorizations on properties listed on or eligible for the National Register,
- directed federal agencies to establish programs for the identification, evaluation, and protection of archaeological and historic sites, including nominations to the National Register.

The protections provided by these laws are important because historic, archaeological and fossil resources are fragile and irreplaceable traces of the past. Once they are gone, they are lost forever, reducing our opportunities for interpreting historic places, for providing long-term access to properties valuable to Native Americans and other ethnic groups, for promoting and facilitating scientific research, and for conserving places for future study.

The lessons we can learn from the past have direct relevance on the choices our society is faced with today. When we lose what remains of our heritage resources, we lose our connections to the land – our sense of place – and ultimately our perception of the past as an anchor to the present and a guide to the future.

What kinds of historic, archaeological and fossil resources can I collect on public lands and which are protected? (Can I go out and get some arrowheads?)

Collection of historic and archaeological resources is prohibited on public lands unless authorized by permits issued to qualified archaeologists. This includes arrowheads, bottles, coins, bullets, tools and equipment that are at least 50 years old, whether found alone or within an historic or archaeological site, regardless of whether they are buried or on the surface of the ground.

Collection of vertebrate fossils is prohibited on public lands unless authorized by permits issued to qualified paleontologists. Invertebrate and plant fossils, however, may be collected in reasonable amounts for noncommercial purposes without a permit.

I'd like to see some significant heritage resources on public lands; what kinds of resources are there and where are they located?

A publication entitled “America’s Priceless Heritage,” at <http://www.blm.gov/heritage>, lists cultural and paleontological resources that can be visited in each BLM western state. BLM’s Adventures website (<http://www.blm.gov/heritage/adventures>) lists, under the link “Take a Vacation to the Past,” other heritage sites that can be toured. A Smithsonian Institution publication entitled “Adventures on America’s Public Lands,” identifies yet more heritage sites that visitors can enjoy.

The public lands are dotted with thousands of archaeological and historic sites that document at least 13,000 years of human history. These sites include everything from ancient Paleo-Indian mammoth kills to oversized ground figures etched in desert pavements (intaglios), to prehistoric complexes of Ancestral Puebloan cliff dwellings, to rock art, to exploration and settlement sites of the historic era, to historic trails, to evidence of mining, ranching, railroading, and even 20th century military outposts. Similarly, fossils of thousands of kinds of plants, animals, and other organisms can be found on public lands, including tiny trilobites more than 600 million years old, dinosaurs from between 210 and 65 million years ago, and Ice Age cheetahs and lions.

How can I help protect America’s heritage resources?

The BLM’s Adventures website (<http://www.blm.gov/heritage/adventures>), under the link “Want to Help?,” lists ways the public can become directly involved in protecting our nation’s heritage resources. Individuals can join Site Steward Programs, sponsored

by public land managers and State Historic Preservation Offices, in monitoring and reporting destruction of archaeological and paleontological sites.

Individuals interested in expanding their knowledge about heritage resources can join groups that specialize in archaeology, history, and/or paleontology. There are many opportunities for members of the public to volunteer their services for the benefit of heritage resources such as through www.volunteer.gov an interagency volunteer recruitment website; the Forest Service's "Passport in Time" program; or by participating in National Public Lands Day activities in every BLM state. "Backyard Conservation" discusses ways that people can help protect heritage resources on their own property.

Visitors to the public lands can also take personal responsibility for protecting and preserving heritage sites for future generations by following these basic principles:

- Leave artifacts and fossils where you find them. It is illegal to dig, remove, or collect artifacts and vertebrate fossils without a permit.
- Avoid moving or climbing on the walls of prehistoric or historic structures when touring sites.
- Treat rock art, historic structures, and archaeological features with respect.
- Touching, chalking, or making rubbings or latex molds cause damage to rock art, gravestones, and fossil trackways. Take photographs or make a sketch instead.
- Stay on existing roads and trails.
- For campfires, collect only dead and downed wood that is clearly not from historic or prehistoric sites. Collect wood/build fires at least 200 yards away from heritage sites.
- If you camp or recreate near heritage sites – or anywhere on public lands – dispose of waste in trash receptacles if provided; otherwise, pack it out.
- Never dig "catholes" for human waste disposal near heritage sites.
- Educate others never to dig at sites or collect artifacts or vertebrate fossils.
- Report the location of archaeological sites and vertebrate fossils to the nearest BLM office, so that land managers can alert professionals to their existence.
- Report looting and vandalism to a BLM ranger or other local authority.

Why was the "Adventures in the Past/Antiquities Centennial National Communications Plan" developed?

The National Communications Plan was developed to:

- Increase public and internal awareness and appreciation of heritage resources on public lands and BLM's Adventures in the Past initiative;
- Make BLM staff and the public aware of the key messages of "Adventures" as articulated in the communications plan;
- Make BLM public affairs staff aware of necessary action items and provide additional opportunities for involvement by all BLM employees; and
- Provide resources to BLM field offices to promote heritage resource stewardship and the messages of the "Adventures" initiative.

Who developed the National Communications Plan?

The website represents a collaborative effort among the BLM's Cultural Heritage; Recreation; Education & Volunteers; and Public Affairs Groups. More than 50 people helped design and develop content for the website.

What are the key messages, target audiences, and products that are defined in the National Communications Plan?

The key messages outlined in the National Communications Plan are:

- BLM manages the largest, most diverse and scientifically most important body of heritage resources of any government agency.
- Public lands house a treasure of archaeological, historical and paleontological resources that have scientific, educational, recreational, and economic value.
- Archaeological resources have cultural importance to Native Americans.
- Heritage resources are fragile and irreplaceable. Left intact for proper study, they can contribute valuable information about past cultures and life forms.
- Stewardship of heritage resources is everyone's responsibility. Respect these sites and help BLM protect them.
- Legislation such as the Antiquities Act and National Historic Preservation Act protects heritage resources on the public lands.
- BLM is a multiple-use agency with responsibilities to protect heritage resources.

The National Communications Plan is designed to reach both internal and external audiences, specifically, BLM employees; news media (national, regional, and local); interest groups, partners, cooperators, and volunteers, including educators, students, and interpreters; onsite users, including recreationists, hobbyists, and tourists; gateway communities and service industries; and Indian Tribes and Native Alaskans.

Among products that will be developed to support implementation of the "National Communications Plan" are a flyer/rack card, similar to ones found in hotel lobbies, visitor centers, and museums, with the Centennial message and heritage site ethics; Centennial stickers with the slogan and logo for attachment to various outreach and media materials; an Antiquities Centennial theme poster; and an Antiquities Centennial trailhead poster for use at heritage sites where the public recreates.

What is the overall theme for the BLM's celebration of the Antiquities Act?

The overarching theme for activities planned to commemorate the Antiquities Centennial is site stewardship – the responsibility of each public lands visitor to protect and preserve these places for future generations.

BLM has also developed a slogan, *Join the Adventure*, with a subtext *Honor the Past, Shape the Future*. The slogan and accompanying written materials are intended to evoke a sense of adventure and discovery when contemplating and visiting heritage resources, while encouraging protection and individual accountability for the perpetuation of these resources for future generations.

What is the relationship of the current National Communications Plan to "The Antiquities Centennial: A New Beginning for BLM's 'Adventures in the Past' Action

Plan” and to the “BLM ‘Adventures in the Past’ Website: Launch Promotion and Communications Plan”?

The Antiquities Centennial: A New Beginning for BLM’s ‘Adventures in the Past’ Action Plan, guided the effort that led to the creation of the “Adventures” website (<http://www.blm.gov/heritage/adventures>). The BLM ‘Adventures in the Past’ Website: Launch Promotion and Communications Plan, outlines BLM communications and efforts for marketing and promoting the launch of the new Adventures website to internal and external audiences.

The National Communications Plan describes what activities and products BLM public affairs specialists and employees will implement to promote and disseminate the theme, messages, and slogan of the “Adventures/Antiquities Centennial” to a broader external and internal audience.

What can BLM employees, including public affairs staff, do to promote the Antiquities Centennial and use of the Adventures in the Past website?

Below are just a few things BLM employees can do to promote awareness of the Antiquities Centennial and BLM’s Adventures website:

- Encourage media in your state to write articles about BLM’s heritage resources;
- Brief major user organizations on the goals of the Adventures/Antiquities Centennial, and appropriate user ethics;
- Meet with State Historic Preservation Offices and other preservation organizations in your state to alert them to the existence of the website and its content;
- Encourage historic preservation organizations to link to the Adventures website;
- Brief State Management/Leadership Teams, and Resource Advisory Committees on the Adventures/Antiquities Centennial and its theme of individual stewardship;
- Distribute Adventures/Antiquities Centennial products at public events.

Who can I contact about BLM’s “Adventures in the Past/Antiquities Centennial Communications Plan”?

Please contact Hans Stuart, New Mexico External Affairs Chief, at (505) 438-7510, or hstuart@nm.blm.gov; Richard Brook, WO Archaeologist, at (202) 452-0326, or Richard_Brook@blm.gov; Mary Tisdale, Group Manager, Education & Volunteers, at (202) 452-0365, or Mary_Tisdale@blm.gov; or Bob Ratcliffe, Group Manager, Recreation, at (202) 452-5040, or Bob_Ratcliffe@blm.gov.