



Cultural Resource Activities

Archaeological Site Stabilization Projects

- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) continue to work with Native American tribes on the identification, prioritization, and treatment of cultural resource sites.
- The BLM is partnering with the National Park Service to conduct cultural resource stabilization projects on sites, including Ancestral Puebloan sites, across the Cedar Mesa area and within the Bears Ears National Monument (BENM).
- Under a partnership between the BLM and the Friends of Cedar Mesa, Woods Canyon Archaeological Consultants has been contracted to provide professional historic preservation services for various projects located across the Cedar Mesa area and within the BENM.
- In close coordination with Native American tribes and other stakeholders, the BLM is identifying cultural sites that have high visitation and potential for visitor impacts. Mitigation strategies are being developed as part of the BENM management planning efforts.
- The BLM and USFS appreciate volunteers who work hard on these site stabilization projects, aid in site stewardship, assist by educating visitors, and monitor the sites.



Stabilization project at Moon House

Research and Inventories

- The BLM and USFS continue to work with tribes to identify and prioritize inventory and research needs.
- In 2017, the BLM initiated intensive cultural resource surveys (Class III survey) of 3,500 acres over several years in the Cedar Mesa area and the BENM. Surveys will focus on 75 miles of hiking routes to identify and document visitor use impacts to cultural resources. High-priority areas include North and South Mule Canyons, the Fish Canyon and Owl Canyon Loop Trail, and 10 high-use sites.
- The BLM recently completed a summary report focused on an inventory of existing information and a predictive cultural resources model (Class I survey) for the entire Monticello Field Office planning area. This report compiles and analyzes available cultural resources data and literature.
- The USFS Heritage Program crew is conducting inventory, monitoring, and data collection at Doll House Ruin and neighboring sites. This information will facilitate developing management and interpretive strategies as part of the BENM management planning efforts.
- The USFS Heritage Program crew conducted cultural resource surveys in the Maverick and Short Point areas to determine management needs for dispersed camping.
- The USFS, partnering with the Brigham Young University Department of Anthropology, is conducting a 3-D scanning project using terrestrial LiDAR and Structure from Motion (SfM) photogrammetry at Doll House. Research is ongoing; however, initial results demonstrate the successful application of modern technology to cultural resource management and interpretation.

- The USFS contracted an aerial LiDAR survey of the Milk Ranch Point. This is a pilot study, and the results are pending. The LiDAR survey is expected to provide valuable landscape-scale data useful in managing cultural resources and vegetation in this area.
- The BLM is conducting a Cultural Resource and Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Route Impact Study, beginning with compiling peer-reviewed data, collecting baseline information, and developing monitoring protocols. The study is expected to help assess potential impacts due to continued travel on designated OHV routes and provide management options.
- The BLM initiated ethnographic and ethnobotanical studies to develop a better understanding of Native American tribal connections to the landscape of southeastern Utah, including lands within the BENM. These studies include interviews with descendants of people who lived in these areas.

Adding Moon House to the National Register of Historic Places

- In 2017, the Moon House Complex was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Among tens of thousands of sites, Moon House has achieved significant status due to its pristine condition and its standing as one of the largest cliff dwellings in southeastern Utah. Architecturally, the site remains nearly intact from the time it was abandoned more than 700 years ago, with perfectly preserved room suites, roofs, storage granaries, and mural art.



Moon House