



Heritage Resources Provide Educational Opportunities



Did you know that the Bureau of Land Management manages the federal government's largest, most varied and scientifically important body of cultural and fossil resources? There are an estimated 4 million archaeological sites on public lands administered by the BLM, ranging from scatters of prehistoric artifacts, ancient Paleo-Indian mammoth kill sites, and oversized ground figures etched in desert pavements (intaglios) to awe-inspiring prehistoric complexes of Ancestral Puebloan villages, intriguing remnants of Spanish- and Russian-period exploration, trails and lonely outposts of historic-era exploration and settlement, evidence of mining and ranching, and even remnants of 19th- and early 20th-century military activities.

Together, cultural resources represent the tangible remains of 13,000 years of human occupation of North America. Fossil resources span millions of years and range from gigantic dinosaurs to tiny invertebrates to delicate leaves and fronds.

How can the BLM's heritage resources help educators and students?

BLM's archaeological, historical and fossil resources offer almost limitless opportunities to America's teachers. Our Heritage Education program promotes "stewardship of cultural and fossil resources so that present and future generations can learn from and enjoy their heritage on

Bureau of Land Management lands without harm to the resources." We want to make the past come alive for students and help teachers enrich their lessons. Messages about stewardship – and personal responsibility – are important because America's heritage resources are at risk of damage or loss from natural and human forces. For example, of the estimated 4 million archaeological sites on BLM public lands, only 271,000 properties have been recorded. About the rest, little is known. Individual stewardship is vital to the conservation of these resources for present and future generations.

What educational opportunities does BLM offer?

BLM's Heritage Education Program consists of four main projects:

- Project Archaeology – classroom materials for teachers and students;
- History Mysteries – public lands-related activities for children;
- Web-based outreach – general heritage education and activities for children;
- Public events and professional conferences – venues for distributing information about BLM's Heritage Education Program.

Where can I get more information?

For more information about BLM Heritage Education Programs visit the BLM's website at: www.blm.gov/heritage/adventures or contact:

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