Cultural Resources Management

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) stewards the largest, most diverse, and most scientifically important body of cultural, historical, and paleontological resources on federal lands. Yet only about 10% of BLM lands have been surveyed for heritage resources, meaning we have limited data about the types and density of cultural resources that exist on nearly 90% of our public lands.

Background

BLM’s Cultural Resources Management (CRM) program inventories, evaluates, and manages historic landscapes, archaeological sites, and paleontological resources on public lands, as well as associated data and museum collections, for the benefit of the public. The cultural resources program also supports National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 review of land-use proposals, Section 110 inventory and protection of cultural resources, compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, and consultation with Tribes and Alaska Native Governments. This work includes surveys of sensitive areas, site protection, and stabilization projects for sites vulnerable to unauthorized activities and damage.

National Cultural Resources Information Management System (NCRIMS)

In FY 2020, Congress provided $1.5 million in funding dedicated for NCRIMS. In FY 2021, Congress provided an additional $1 million to continue the predictive modelling program. This collaboration with state historic preservation offices is one of the nation’s most innovative programs to support predictive modeling and data analysis to enhance planning for large-scale, cross-jurisdictional land-use projects. It is a significant and often overlooked preservation success story.

FY 2022 Appropriations Request

Please support $21.131 million for the Cultural Resources Management at the Bureau of Land Management in the FY 2022 Interior Appropriations bill, including an additional $1.5 million for the NCRIMS.

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management

ACCOUNT: Management of Lands and Resources

ACTIVITY: Land Resources

SUBACTIVITY: Cultural Resources Management

Recent Funding History:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Enacted Funding</th>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2019</td>
<td>$17.131 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2020</td>
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<td>FY 2021</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2022</td>
<td>$21.131 million</td>
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FY 2022 President’s Budget Request: TBD

FY 2022 NTHP Recommendation: TBD

JUSTIFICATION: Increased funding is necessary to fulfill BLM’s statutory requirements for inventory and protection of cultural resources. Funding would also support continued implementation of the BLM’s National Cultural Resources Information Management System. Digitizing and standardizing data promotes consideration of cultural resources early in the planning process to inform siting decisions, reduce potential conflicts with cultural resources, and facilitates more efficient planning and project implementation.
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Cultural Resources Management*

BLM has inventoried cultural resources on 26.987 million acres (roughly 10% of its land base) and recorded approximately 409,993 properties. Resources include:

- 141 National Register of Historic Places (National Register) listed properties
- 2,187 National Register contributing properties
- 57,291 National Register eligible properties
- 425 maintained historic structures
- 30,413 recorded paleontological localities
- 10 million artifacts and specimens in 165 museums and universities

*Information from the 2019 Public Lands Statistics report and FY 2018 BLM Budget Justification

Located in southwestern Colorado near the Utah border, Canyons of the Ancients National Monument preserves some of the highest densities of archaeological sites in the U.S., with pueblos from around 1200 A.D. While at least 6,000 distinct structures have been identified within the monument, some of the most distinctive are the Lowry Pueblo, the Painted Hand Pueblo, the Kiva ruins, and the Escalante Pueblo (above).

PHOTO BY BOB WICK/BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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