

VESTIGES



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Monthly newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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President's Message

APRIL 2008

For all past, present, and future URARA members, I express appreciation and thanks to Troy Scotter, Nina Bowen, Steve Manning, Diane Orr and David Sucec for the critically important responses they submitted to the Bureau of Land Management regarding the Resource Management Plans (RMPs). These issues are vital to the access and protection of our Utah rock art treasures. It is my understanding that Troy organized this process with the help of Diane, David, Nina and Steve. Troy is our principal spokesperson for defining, writing and conveying our responses to the BLM field offices in Moab, Richfield, Kanab and Vernal regarding their proposed (RMPs) land use plans for the next decade. Their prodigious well-thought-out efforts are evident in this and prior issues of Vestiges.

Thanks to Ben Everitt for keeping our finances in order, and for filing the necessary IRS documents in a timely and accurate manner. As Ben reported on March 17, "We're legal for this year!"

Early in March, my wife and I were in Salt Lake City due to a death in the family. While there, I was able to schedule a Board of Directors meeting. A quorum was able to attend: Troy Scotter, Walt Layton, Robert Reed, Kathe Liuzzi and I. Fortunately, Diane Orr, though not a board member this year, was able to join us. Diane and David are Co-Chairpersons for the October symposium with responsibilities for the speakers and presentations. My thanks to all who attended.

The board meeting was productive. We focused primarily on Symposium 2008, which will be held in Escalante, Utah, October 10-12. Bob gave reports of the trip he and Troy took to Escalante to check things out and make arrangements. Troy reported on progress regarding our response to the BLM land use proposals. Other matters discussed included the symposium field trips, rock art research stipend, summer picnic, membership data, financial status and the publication of the 2005, 2006, 2007 symposium presentations.

Our April Board meeting will be a long distance communication meeting. In late June, we will have a meeting in SLC when I will be in Utah again. Our meetings are open and members are welcome. If you desire to be notified regarding the June meeting by postal mail, our address is listed under Contacts in this issue.

Lastly, I should mention that we now have a serious challenge in editing and publishing the papers from the past three symposia. If you have experience and are interested in helping on this project, please let us know. We want to hear from you.

Happy Trails
Stephen Robinson
2008 URARA President

URARA Issues Stipend Press Release

Editor's note: The following is a news release issued to several news agencies in Utah.

The Utah Rock Art Research Association (URARA) announces the availability of a \$1000 research stipend for graduate and post-graduate students conducting research on rock art in Utah. URARA will consider a broad variety of topics including, but not limited to, the following examples:

- Inventory and IMACS documentation of an important rock art area
- Ethnographic research that leads to understanding of a site or motifs
- Best practices in site development that encourages tourism and preservation
- Research leading to advances in techniques for dating pictographs or petroglyphs
- The impact of dust, magnesium chloride, and industrial pollutants on rock art sites
- Defining styles – regional and temporal variations
- Linking rock art styles with associated archeology

Applicants should prepare a one-page research proposal that includes:

- Contact information
- Proposed research topic
- Research design and methodology
- Research output that will be provided to URARA

Proposals are due by Monday, April 14, 2008 and should be sent to:

Walt Layton
7629 Casa Grande Circle
Midvale, UT 84047

Alternatively, sent via e-mail to:

walter.layton@granite.k12.ut.us

Responses to the research proposals will be given by Monday, April 28, 2008

The successful applicant will be required to report on their research at the URARA symposium in October.

Call for Symposium Papers

The Symposium Committee announces a call for presentations and papers for the Utah Rock Art Research Association's 28th Annual Symposium during the Columbus Day weekend, October 10- 13, 2008, in Escalante, Utah.

Abstracts should be kept to about 150 words but enough so we get an idea of your presentation. Deadline for abstracts is July 15, 2008 and we ask that everyone honor the deadline so we can develop our program for printing, publicity, etc. Proposals arriving after the deadline, without the prior approval of the Symposium Committee, will not be considered.

The Symposium Committee will give preference to presentations that relate to Utah rock art. We encourage research projects dealing with the Escalante area, Grand Staircase/Escalante National Monument and Capital Reef National Park area. Presentations, with the exception of featured speakers, will be a maximum of 30 minutes.

The Symposium Committee is interested in a broad range of presentations including those, which further the study and understanding of rock art, bring historical understanding to rock art studies, heighten the experience of visiting rock art both culturally and aesthetically, and consider rock art preservation issues and current threats.

The committee will review the abstracts for suitability; balance of Symposium points-of-view, and to ensure that the number of papers does not exceed the time available for presentations.

Diane Orr

David Sucec

Symposium Committee chairs

*Please send abstracts and inquiries to David Sucec, at email: davids@networld.com and Diane Orr at email: beecherllc@aol.com, or mail to: David Sucec at 832 Segoe Avenue, SLC, Utah 84102 (phone 801-359-6904).

*Symposium presenters must use the Power Point medium that will run on a PC laptop (or bring their own). There will be no exceptions. URARA may be able to help accepted presenters in need of converting their presentations to Power Point.

*Symposium presenters will have their symposium registration fee waived, receive a modest honorarium to offset their travel expenses, be a guest of URARA at the banquet, and participate on a special rock art field trip on Friday, October 10.

Escalante Accommodations:

A list of accommodations is in the March edition of Vestiges.

URARA Releases BLM Tar Sand Comments

The Utah Rock Art Research Association (URARA) is the largest organization dedicated to Utah rock art. Our mission is:

- To lead in the preservation and understanding of the value of rock art
- To encourage the appreciation and enjoyment of rock art sites
- To assist in the study, presentation, and publication of rock art research

Our 300 members have professional, academic, and avocational interest in Utah rock art. Combined, our membership represents the largest body of knowledge regarding Utah rock art.

We appreciate the information provided within this Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS). We also appreciate the efforts of Argonne National Lab staff to provide us with maps with the level of detail we need to effectively assess the significance of sites located within proposed boundary areas. The willingness of the Argonne lab staff to provide us with SHAPE files is a surprising, and much appreciated, exception to our experience in dealing with the Utah BLM Resource Management Plans (RMP). We also praise your idea of generating Google Earth maps for our use. This solution provided us with the detail we needed to evaluate map boundaries with respect to significant rock art sites. Because of the Google Earth maps, we withdrew our concerns with some areas and are able to provide you with focused comments regarding other areas. We believe this is a best practice that should be used in all BLM generated environmental impact statements and RMPs.

Overview

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) requires that: the public lands be managed in a manner that will protect the quality of scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, water resource, and archeological values; that, where appropriate, will preserve and protect certain public lands in their natural condition; that will provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife and domestic animals; and that will provide for outdoor recreation and human occupancy and use. It also requires that public lands be managed in a manner which recognizes the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber, and fiber from the public lands.

The FLPMA Sec. 202. [43 U.S.C. 1712] (c) also requires that in the development and revision of land use plans, the Secretary shall-

- (1) use and observe the principles of multiple use and sustained yield set forth in this and other applicable law;
- (2) weigh long-term benefits to the public against short-term benefits.

Multiple use is defined in the act as: the management of the public lands and their various resource values so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people; making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions; the use of some land for less than all of the resources; a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and non-renewable resources, including, but not limited to, recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific and historical values; and harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment *with consideration being given to the relative values of the resources and not necessarily to the combination of uses that will give the greatest economic return or the greatest unit output.* (our italics)

We recognize that this PEIS is being developed as a result of a congressional mandate outlined in Section 369 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. However, we believe that this congressional mandate must be reconciled with the FLPMA, which has contradictory values. The broad scale development of oil shale and tar sand resources within Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado is the antithesis of multiple uses and emphasizes short-term benefits over long-term benefits. There is no doubt that scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air, water, archeological, habitat, and recreation resources will be impaired by this decision.

Commercial oil shale development activities are largely incompatible with recreational land use (e.g., hiking, biking, fishing, hunting, bird watching, OHV use, and camping). As discussed in Section 4.2.1.3 regarding grazing activities, recreational land use could be precluded from those portions of the lease area, depending on the technology employed. While recreational use could be possible in undeveloped or restored portions of the lease area, the amount of land that would be available would vary from project to project.

The change in the overall character of the undeveloped BLM-administered

lands to a more industrialized, developed area would displace people seeking more primitive surroundings in which to hunt, camp, ride OHVs, etc. Many BLM Field Offices have designated lands as open, closed, or available for limited OHV use. Areas that would be open to application for commercial oil shale development may be currently available for some level of OHV use, and commercial oil shale development in these areas would displace this use. Even if access could be granted to portions of the lease area for recreational use, visitors might find the recreational experience to be compromised by the nearby development activities. Such impacts could also occur on recreational users of adjacent, off-lease lands. In addition, impacts on vegetation, development of roads, and displacement of big game could degrade the recreational experiences and hunting opportunities near commercial oil shale projects. To the extent that commercial developments might be clustered together (e.g., possibly in the Piceance Basin), the effect on recreation uses would be magnified by changing the overall character of a larger area and by dominating a larger portion of the landscape. (OSTS PEIS p. 4-19)

There will be a significant short-term benefit to the access to petroleum resources. By our estimate, complete development of the resources under alternative B would generate over eight years of domestic petroleum supply at current usage rates.¹ However, this plan contemplates the complete utilization of all commercially available oil shale and tar sand (OSTS) which violates the short term versus long term planning considerations of FLPMA. In the long-term superior development practices may exist which would allow the extraction of these resources without the impacts required using current technology.

Cultural Resources

We could not have described the impacts to cultural resources better than has been done on pages 4-131/132. However, we are concerned with the following decision:

“This phase of analysis did not identify geographical areas that will preclude moving areas forward for leasing. During the leasing phase, the overviews and ongoing tribal consultation will be reviewed to help determine areas of sensitivity and appropriate survey and mitigation needs.” (OSTS PEIS 4-133) The PEIS excluded areas from leasing based on ACEC status, proximity to scenic byways and trails, and proximity to wild and scenic rivers. Given that exclusion has been created for these criteria we see no reason why exclusion could not have been done based on known, significant cultural resources. We recommend that the PEIS leasing boundaries be reconsidered in light of known, significant cultural resources.

The PEIS demonstrates a consistent use of political double-speak concerning cultural resources. The following viewpoint is expressed over and over in the document: “Under Alternative B, the amendment of land use plans to identify about 2 million acres of public land as available for commercial oil shale development would not result in impacts on cultural resources...Cultural

resources within these areas could be adversely impacted if leasing and future commercial development occur.” (OSTS PEIS 6-59; 61) This viewpoint that allowing leasing doesn’t impact cultural resources, only the actual leasing does, is metaphorically similar to a bartender claiming no responsibility in the fatal accident of a drunk driver. We cannot state our concerns and recommendations with any more eloquence than Jerry Spangler of the Colorado Plateau Archaeological Alliance has already done:

CPAA disagrees with the basic premise that “cultural resources on federal and nonfederal lands would not be impacted by land use plan amendments” (PEIS 2-66). Amending BLM land-use plans to accommodate a particular use of public lands not anticipated at the time the plan was drafted is commonly a process initiated when the proposed activity is considered imminent and viable. Hence, the amendments to these specific land-use plans to allow for the leasing of selected and identified parcels/areas with oil shale or tar sands constitutes a *de facto* acknowledgement that these areas will be leased, even though the BLM readily admits that “uncertainty associated with the preliminary analyses indicated that BLM should defer approving the issuance of commercial leases until adequate information is available to define what the development will entail” (PEIS 2-51).

In effect, BLM admits there is “uncertainty” as to the nature and scope of the development, and that current information about that development is inadequate to make informed decisions at the current time. However, these inadequacies have not precluded the BLM from offering Alternative B (preferred) and Alternative C, each with a stated intent to *facilitate* commercial leasing. Both alternatives come with the acknowledgment that leasing could lead to “construction and operation of commercial projects within the lease areas. Potential impacts may include damage or destruction, and increased potential for vandalism or theft due to increased human access” (PEIS 2-66).

If the actual commercial leasing of public lands for oil shale and tar sands development constitutes a federal undertaking requiring thorough Section 106 review, as is acknowledged in the PEIS, then by logical extension any management decisions to amend the land-use plans (e.g., Alternatives B and C) to allow such leasing to occur is also an undertaking that requires full consideration of direct, indirect and cumulative impacts to cultural resources. No such consideration is offered in the PEIS. Rather, the PEIS states the “potential for future impacts on the environment have been analyzed at the programmatic level with the understanding that future leasing and development will require site-specific NEPA evaluation” (PEIS ES-5) and compliance with agency-specific processes for complying with Section 106 (PEIS 2-3).

CPAA contends that identifying lands for potential oil shale and tar sands leasing without critical analysis of the environmental suitability of those lands for leasing puts the cart before the horse. BLM has made very similar arguments in the past that the *sale* of oil and gas leases would have “no potential to affect” cultural resources, and that site-specific NEPA analysis at the time of the lease development is sufficient to comply with NEPA and NHPA. The Interior Board of Land Appeals has repeatedly rejected this assumption, emphasizing that appropriate NHPA compliance must be completed at each phase of a federal undertaking (cf. IBLA 2004-

124, in SUWA v. UT 055, et al.). Furthermore, state protocol agreements specify the BLM will make reasonable efforts to identify all historic properties and sacred sites on BLM-administered lands where federal undertakings will occur.

We believe the modification of land-use plans to facilitate leasing is a federal undertaking as defined in 36CFR200.16(y) in that it is “a project, activity or program funded in whole or in part under the direct or indirect jurisdiction of a Federal agency, including ... those requiring a Federal permit, license or approval.” As such, we believe the BLM has not demonstrated “reasonable and good faith effort to identify all historic properties within the area potentially affected by the proposed undertaking, evaluate and determine whether identified properties are eligible for inclusion in the National Register, assess the adverse effects upon the identified properties deemed eligible, and develop and evaluate the means to mitigate or avoid such effects” (Save Medicine Lake Coalition, 156 IBLA 219,260 [2002]).

Also disconcerting is that Alternative B, with potential lease areas totaling about 2 million acres, is identified as the preferred alternative based on the rationale that “it would make the largest amount of potential oil resources available for leasing while still providing for an environmentally sound program and would provide the greatest flexibility in locating future development” (PEIS 2-1). This contrasts to Alternative C (830,000 acres of potential lease areas), which excludes those areas where there are already prohibitions on surface disturbance and/or seasonal limitations that have already been implemented by the BLM to protect known sensitive resources (PEIS 2-28).

In effect, the agency preference for Alternative B is based on maximum size of potential lease areas, not “an environmentally sound program.” Alternative B fails to acknowledge that at-risk areas already analyzed in detail by the BLM and found worthy of enhanced environmental protection would continue to receive enhanced protection. Hence, Alternative B places at direct and imminent risk 1.17 million acres of public lands where at-risk resources have already been identified and where they are currently being managed by the BLM to protect those values. Alternative B appears to be in direct contrast to the stated intent of Congress that commercial development of oil shale and tar sands should “be conducted in an environmentally sound manner using management practices that will minimize potential impacts” (PEIS 1-1).

In light of these concerns, CPAA recommends:

- Any amendments to the relevant BLM land-use plans should be accompanied by full Section 106 compliance that includes, at a minimum, a more thorough Class I cultural resources analysis of all sites on lands identified for oil shale and tar sands leasing under Alternatives B and C. This should include the identification of highly sensitive areas where the densities of archaeological sites of National Register eligibility may make those areas unsuitable for leasing (see discussion and recommendations hereafter related to East Tavaputs and West Tavaputs Plateaus).

(Personal correspondence from Jerry Spangler; Colorado Plateau Archaeological Alliance; Response to the Oil Shale and Tar Sand Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement)

Our only amendment to Jerry's recommendation is that we would like to see a Class II intuitive culture survey of the leasing areas.

The PEIS also states the following about mitigation of cultural sites: "For cultural resources that are significant for their scientific value, data recovery is one way in which some information may be salvaged should a cultural resource site be adversely impacted by development activity. Certain contextual data are invariably lost, but new cultural resources information is made available to the scientific community." (OSTS PEIS 4-132) We note that this is generally accurate, but does not apply to rock art sites. Most rock art sites exist on cliff faces or large boulders and are not amenable to recovery. It is hard to move a cliff face into a museum basement collection. It may be argued that pictures and/or drawings of rock art sites are sufficient to meet future scientific needs associated with the sites.

However, pictures do not allow for the use of advanced dating techniques on patina or chemical analysis of paint. Nor do pictures allow us to understand the site in terms of its geographic context. "Place" is important in understanding the meaning of a site. As a result, rock art sites must receive special consideration in terms of cultural preservation. We recommend that the PEIS be re-evaluated to remove rock art sites eligible for national register of historic places (NRHP) status and surrounding visible topography from leasing alternatives.

Water Resources

We are concerned about the issue of water consumption associated with the PEIS. We believe that this analysis does not consider the cumulative impacts of water consumption. The assessment of water requirements is contrasted with water that is legally available and concludes that there is sufficient legal availability of water from the Colorado River and other sources for the development of OSTs resources. (OSTS PEIS 3-72/73). However, this analysis does not consider downstream impacts on other users such as Nevada, California, and Mexico. The Scripps Institution of Oceanography/UC San Diego has completed a recent study, which determines there is a 50% possibility that Lake Mead will be dry by 2021. (<http://scrippsnews.ucsd.edu/Releases/?releaseID=876>) Such a catastrophic impact would require the renegotiation of water allocation within the Colorado River basin. We believe that the PEIS needs to consider these downstream cumulative impacts from OSTs development in making a recommendation regarding the extent of leasing.

Alignment With The RMP Process

Various field offices within the state of Utah have been developing new Resource Management Plans that will amend land use plans for the next decade. We believe that the Vernal, Price, Richfield, and Monticello RMPs overlap with recommendations made in this PEIS. Each of these RMPs has been released in the last few months and it is unclear to us how this PEIS interacts with the recommendations made under these revised RMPs. We do not understand how such a significant project as this PEIS could be developed independently of these RMPs. We recommend that either this PEIS incorporate the implications of the new RMPs or the RMPs be amended to reflect this PEIS and that these documents then be resubmitted for public comment and review.

Exclusion Categories

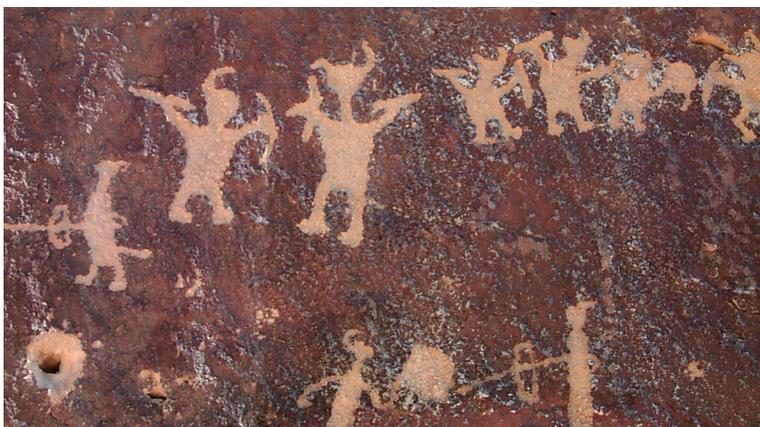
URARA agrees that leasing should be excluded from all wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, national landscape conservation system areas, Wild and Scenic river sections (and eligible river segments), National Historic and Scenic Trails, and areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs) currently closed to mineral development (PEIS 1-7, PEIS 2-19). However, we believe that this list should be extended to include National Register of Historic Places sites and districts as well as Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMA), Special Management Areas (SMA) with cultural protection characteristics. We note that the BLM Monticello field office is actually developing new categories of SRMAs and SMAs with cultural protection components.

Nine Mile Canyon

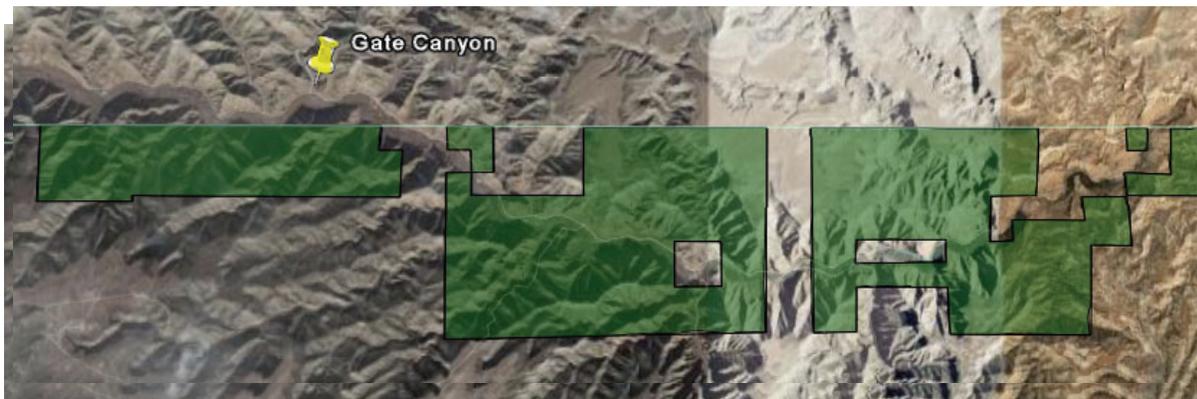
Of all the areas included in the leasing alternatives, we are most concerned about Nine Mile Canyon. Nine Mile Canyon, an ancient thoroughfare, contains an invaluable history of habitation, agricultural and hunting activities. The rock art of early archaic, ancestral Shoshone, Fremont and Ute tribes are critical to our understanding of regional history, cultural development, and interaction. The archeology, while predominately Fremont, demonstrates a fascinating mix of both Fremont and Anasazi characteristics. (Spangler and Spangler; *Horned Snakes and Axle Grease*; p. 44-46; Uintah Publishing; 2003). This location presents an excellent opportunity to gain a better understanding of cultural groups that used the canyon through scholarly research and preservation activities. There are few places in Utah where there is such a concentration of rock art as Nine Mile Canyon and its confluences.

There are, literally, thousands of sites within Nine Mile Canyon and its tributaries. The Argyle Canyon STSA encompasses some of the most archeological significant areas of the canyon.

The area around the Gate Canyon confluence and extending east is dense with sites eligible for the NRHP. For example, Warrior Ridge, located in this region has habitation sites, pottery and lithic scatters, and a series of unique rock art sites. Human conflict is a rare motif in Utah rock art. However, sites along this ridge show many examples of anthropomorphs engaged in battle. Do these sites serve as a male initiation ceremony location? Do they document battles that occurred in the turbulent close of Fremont occupation of Utah? Research in this area has a high potential to contribute to our understanding of the ancient inhabitants of this region.



Images from Warrior Ridge, Nine Mile Canyon

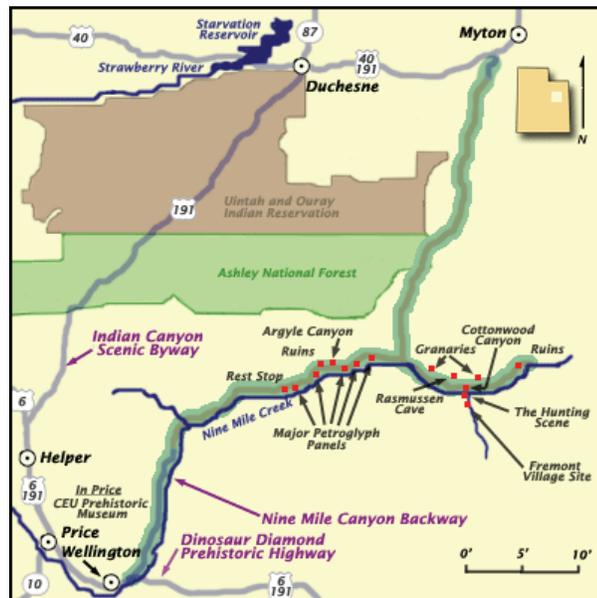


The three tracts show in the above map cover this region of concern. We recommend, at a minimum, that these three tracts be eliminated from the Argyle Canyon STSA. However, we believe that you should follow your own recommendations for exclusion areas and remove larger portions of the canyon from consideration.

The PEIS eliminates areas around National Scenic Highways from consideration of leasing. (OSTS PEIS 4-130) We note with concern that the Nine Mile Canyon Backway has been excluded from table 3.1.2-1. This route is included in the National Scenic Byways <http://www.byways.org/explore/byways/15780/index.html> and includes significant areas impacted by the leasing areas considered for the Argyle STSA.

“To mitigate visual impacts on high-value scenic resources in lands outside of, but adjacent to or near oil shale leasing areas, the following mitigation measures should be applied to siting, development, and operation of oil shale leases, as warranted by the result of the lease stage or plan of development-stage NEPA analyses.

- Oil shale-related development and operation activities within 5 mi of National Scenic Highways, All-American Roads, state-designated scenic highways, WSRs, and river segments designated as eligible for wild and scenic river status should conform to VRM Class II management objectives, with respect to impacts visible from the roadway/river.” (OSTS PEIS 4-130)



It is not clear to us why Nine Mile Canyon has been excluded from this consideration and recommends that the Argyle STSA be amended to remove areas within 5 miles of the Nine Mile Canyon Backway.

Other Areas

We have reviewed the boundaries of the Sunnyside, San Rafael, White Canyon, and Tar Sand Triangle areas and are not aware that they include significant rock art sites. However, we believe a Class I survey of these areas be completed to ensure that we are not missing sites that are eligible for NRHP status. We are concerned with the White River, Hill Creek and Willow Creek areas of the East Tavaputs region and believe that these areas require further study and possible exclusion from the proposed leasing boundaries. These areas should receive a Class II survey before final consideration of leasing boundaries.

It is impossible for us to support leasing in any of these areas without further information about transportation, electrical transmission, pipeline corridors, and pump stations and their impact on rock art and other cultural resources both inside and outside the leasing areas.

Endorsement

URARA hereby endorses, and incorporates by reference, the recommendations of Jerry Spangler of the Colorado Plateau Archeological Alliance (CPAA) with regards to the Oil Shale and Tar Sands Programmatic EIS.

Yours truly,

Stephen Robinson

President, 2008

Nine Mile Canyon Coalition Issues Statement

PRICE, Utah- This year, Santa can't wait for Christmas. A small, but dedicated group of rock art preservationists in Utah -- the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition -- and their allies are fighting to preserve what may be the original Santa Claus.

Nine Mile Canyon -- Located high on the side of a sheer cliff in a rugged place in central Utah is an ancient petroglyph that dates back over 1,000 years; it has an uncanny resemblance to the modern day Santa, an elf, and his nine reindeer.

A petroglyph is a work of prehistoric Indian rock art that is chiseled or "pecked" into rock, usually into a dark patina surface; the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition and their preservationist friends are seeking to save this ancient petroglyph from destruction.

An industrial gas and oil development in the area is slowly destroying this and thousands of other petroglyphs that call this canyon home.

According to Pam Miller, a trained archaeologist and Chair of the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition, "'Santa' is one of more than 10,000 unique petroglyphs and pictographs (prehistoric Indian art painted on rock) found in the canyon that are being obliterated by dust and destroyed by dust-suppressant chemicals (magnesium chloride) that is being sprayed on roads. Additionally, the vibrations of huge trucks, drill rigs, bulldozers, and industrial traffic are also affecting these ancient works of art."

Bill Bryant, the photographer who managed to photograph "Santa" using a super-telephoto lens said that, "The destruction going on here is tragic. This entire canyon is a national treasure that should be made into a national monument or park." (Additional photos of "Santa" and other petroglyphs can be viewed at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/bryant99/>.)

So, why is this happening? The Federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has sold mineral leases in Nine Mile Canyon and on plateaus north and south of it. BLM has not ordered industrial traffic to be re-routed to preserve countless prehistoric and historic sites in the canyon.

“BLM has decided to do the bidding of the gas and oil industry and the Bush Administration while sacrificing cultural and historic values, air and water quality,” Miller said. “It’s time to restore balance to BLM’s public land policies and decisions.”

What can be done? Fortunately, there is time to stop further destruction. A public comment period ends May 1 on the BLM West Tavaputs Plateau Natural Gas Full Field Development Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The proponent prepared DEIS is a proposal from the Bill Barrett Corporation to drill over 800 wells over the next eight years using the historic and scenic National Back Country By-Way Nine Mile Canyon road as its industrial thoroughfare and staging area.

Petro-Canada Resources (USA) is also drilling in the area. Public comments can be submitted electronically and all information can be found on the Nine Mile Coalition web site at: <http://www.ninemilecanyoncoalition.org/>.

“While the intentions and beliefs of the original artist(s) will never be known, the beauty of rock art is that future generations will continue to be inspired by it,” Miller explained. “Of course this ‘Santa’ interpretation must clearly be seen as ethnocentric by later observers; it is not likely that Santa, the elf, and reindeer were in the mind of the original people making the markings.”

According to Miller, “The only way to save ‘Santa’ and the world-renown rock art of Nine Mile Canyon from destruction is for people to get involved and make their voices heard to BLM and their elected officials across the country. This place needs to be saved for future generations.”

CRAA Symposium Slated for May 2-4

The Colorado Rock Art Association (CRAA) Symposium 2008 will convene in La Junta, Colorado at the Koshare Kiva and Museum May 2-4, 2008. The museum houses a world-class collection of Native American art and artifacts, focusing on Plains and Pueblo tribes who inhabited the Great Plains and Southwestern United States.

A variety of activities is planned before and during the weekend. On May 1st at 7pm the Pueblo Archaeological & Historical Society will host a talk entitled “Pigments of the Imagination: Rock Paintings in Canyon de Chelly, Arizona” by Dr. Larry Loendorf. The lecture will be held at the Robert Hoag Rawlings Memorial Library in Pueblo. On May 2 at 1:30 pm, the Education committee will be sponsoring “The Key to Preserving and Protecting Rock Art is the Education of Today’s Youth” at the La Junta Intermediate School. To volunteer please contact Eileen Gose at (719) 676-3249 or gose@ghvalley.net. Symposium participants will be able to register on Friday afternoon. After dinner in town, return to explore the Koshare Museum or grab some dessert and coffee while watching the Koshare Dancers perform in the kiva. Pre-registration forms and vendor applications are available on the website at www.coloradorockart.org. Pre-registration is encouraged.

On May 3, speakers will present invited and contributed papers on topics related to the rock art, archaeology, and ethnohistory of the region. Keynote speakers will include Dr. Linea Sundstrom, a renown Plains Indian Archaeologist, University of Wisconsin and Dr. Larry Loendorf, archaeological consultant overseeing the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site recording project.

A silent auction will be conducted on Saturday and the Koshare Mothers will provide the evening banquet - a sumptuous Italian dinner and dessert. Please bring your silent auction items on Saturday morning.

Field trips are scheduled for Sunday, May 4th. CRAA organized trips tentatively include: Hicklin Springs/John Martin Reservoir, Picture Canyon/Carrizo Springs, Farrington Springs, Picketwire Canyon, Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site (pending access), Salt Canyon and Black Rock City. More details are included in this newsletter. Self-guided tours include Vogel Canyon, Big Timbers Museum, Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site, Kiowa County Museum, Kit Carson Museum, Boggsville National Historic District, Sand Creek Massacre Site, and Otero Museum.

Discounted lodging will be available (reserve by April 10) at the La Junta Inn and Suites: 1325 E Third St 719.384.2571 (\$40 single/\$45 dbl) and the Mid-Town Motel: 215 E Third St. 719.384.7741 (\$40 single/\$50 dbl). Camping is available at the KOA in La Junta.

News Briefs From Around the Rock Art World

Art and Marie Cloutier want a few friends to join them on a hike into the Paria Canyon.

On Earth Day, April 22, I [Art] will lead a hike to the Paria Canyon archeo-observatory. We will hike upstream on the Paria River drainage, from Lees Ferry, Arizona, seven miles making seven river crossings, and will return by the same route on the same day. Needless to say, we will start at daybreak and expect to finish shortly before sundown. Those who wish to keep their feet dry need to plan to use some means of wading the foot deep waters of the Paria without getting their feet wet. I am going to try extra heavy-duty garbage bags to make the crossings, so that I do not have to take my hiking boots off for every crossing.

The principal reason for making the trip, from my point of view, is to replace my 35 mm slides of these rock art panels with digital images. My GPS receiver has furnished lat-long for all the major sites along the way on a previous trip. These readings will be made available for all participants so that in the event that my strength does not permit me to complete the whole trip, others carrying GPS receivers will be able to find all the rock art even if I am not keeping up.

Earth Day is my birthday, so the incentive to complete the trip as planned will be considerable. I will fess up with my age after the trip.

I would appreciate very much if participants would let me know well in advance of their plans. We will meet at the Page Wal-Mart parking lot at five A. M.; bring your own lunch, water, GPS, etc.

Art and Marie Cloutier, 928-645-9395.

Fish Creek Cove documentation project April 5/6, 2008

URARA has been asked to participate in the documentation of Fish Creek Cove, near Torrey. Last summer we visited this site as part of our summer picnic and noted recent vandalism at the site. <http://www.utahrockart.org/vestiges/archives/2007-09.pdf> As a result, the BLM has decided to do a thorough documentation of the site. This project is being lead by the Colorado Plateau Archaeological Alliance and will include surface surveys, sub-surface testing, laser scanning, and rock art documentation. We need a few people who are willing to help with drawing. You will need to bring your own tent or stay in Torrey (about 15 minutes away), clipboard and writing implements, your own

beverages, and anything to accommodate special dietary needs or restrictions. CPAA will provide toasted bagel and hot cereal breakfasts with coffee, teas and chocolate. We will provide fixings for lunch. In addition, there will be evening barbecues in Torrey. If you are interested in participating, please contact Troy Scotter at 801-377-6901 or troyscotter@comcast.net

Las Vegas Paleontology Report from Nevada resident Elaine Holmes

Saving this paleo site in the upper Las Vegas Wash seems to me to be of great importance. Rather than me giving you the info, please take a moment and go to www.tulespringslv.com. The website is beautifully done and is very informative. The best thing about it is that you can sign the petition right there--yes--even if you don't live in Nevada! Since this concerns federal lands anyone can sign from anywhere in the nation. Please take a moment and read about this wonderful discovery and the efforts to preserve it. Thanks, Elaine Holmes.

UTAH PREHISTORY WEEK 2008 Art Show



2007 Poster Contest Winner. Original photograph by George Frandsen.

Art inspired by Utah's archaeological and paleontological past will be on display at the Rio Gallery from April 18 through May 10th, 2008. The art show is open to all and we will welcome photographs, artwork, sculpture and replicas. A prize of \$250 will be given to the "best of show" entry. The prize money was donated by Dr. Alan Schroedl of P-III Associates, a local Salt Lake City archaeological consulting company.

A reception will be held at the Rio Grand Gallery on April 18th from 6 pm - 9 pm.

For more information, go to www.history.utah.gov or contact Ron Rood at 801-533-3564 or at rrood@utah.gov.

John Macumber to lead trip into northwest St. George

John Macumber has volunteered to lead a survey and recording field trip to the Jackson Red Sands area northwest of St. George. This trip is planned in conjunction with the St. George BLM. Knowing John, he will have planned several divergent paths to show us additional highlights as we "go to" and "come from" our assigned area. This adventure will permit participants to be trained in completing important paperwork needed in documenting designated cultural sites. This will be a two day adventure, May 17th

(Saturday) and 18th (Sunday). We will meet at 8:00 AM Saturday morning in the parking lot of Lin's Super Market located on the NW corner of Sunset and Dixie Downs Drive in St. George. Contact John at 435-674-2704, or email at jpmac@questoffice.net if any questions about what to bring.

Fieldtrip leaders needed for October symposium

The October Symposium will be held in Escalante, Utah, October 11-13. We are in need of field trip leaders for Sunday half-day field trips and Monday all-day field trips. Possibilities include the Confluence sites, Pleasant Valley and Capitol Reef sites as well as others in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. With nearly 200 participants at the symposium, we will be in need of many diverse field trips. If you are interested in being a field trip leader, please contact Jeff Allen at 435-986-0977 or allenjeffrey@beyondbb.com.

CEU Museum in Price to feature rock art display

The College of Eastern Utah Prehistoric Museum will be exhibiting a rock art display featuring the unique paintings of artist Charles Hukuba from April 25 - June 22, 2008. Charles will discuss his beautiful art on Friday or Saturday, 25 or 26, and he will be at the museum gallery all day Saturday to meet people. The title of his exhibit is "FINE ART OF THE SHAMAN". It will show original artworks ranging over diverse areas: Wind River WY, Santa Barbara, CA, Reno Highlands, NV, Coso Range, CA, Rochester Creek, San Juan River, Grand Gulch, Muley Point, Horse Canyon, Book Cliffs, Jones Hole, UT, and even the Siberian Peninsula.

Think About It!

By Steve Robinson



“... we will never know the full extent of the significance or functions of Arizona’s paleoart or what motivated its earliest artists. At best, one can probably say that rock art, at its deepest level, constitutes a means of graphic communication in which the psychobiological needs of art and religion, shared universally by the human species, come together with the goal of enhancing survival. Arizona’s and the world’s rupestrian art may, indeed, be seen as “art for life’s sake.” Testimonial to this claim is the tens of thousands of painted and engraved images that make up the manifold styles and traditions of Arizona’s rock art patrimony which ranks among the finest in the world.”

The Rock Art of Arizona: Art for Life's Sake, Text and Photography by Ekkehart Malotki, Illustrations by Mary Jordan, Contributions to text by Donald E. Weaver, Jr., Kiwi Publishing, 2007, closing paragraph, p. 184. [Note: For reviews of the book, see *Vestiges*, December 2007 (Robinson), October 2007 (Gough) and September 2007 (Widdison).]

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Library, Archives, and Publications

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URARA has an extensive library of rock art publications, a collection of articles, and Clifford Rayl's photo collection, which are available for use by members. URARA also has educational materials which members are encouraged to use.

Calendar 2008

May- Proposed, Ferron area, Layne Miller and Troy Scotter in conjunction with Emery County historical society

May 2-4- CRAA Symposium, La Junta, CO. Contact www.coloradorockart.org

May 3-10- Utah Prehistory Week 2008 art show. Contact Ronald Rood, rrood@utah.gov, 801-533-3564

May 23-26- ARARA annual conference, Farmington, New Mexico, Contact www.arara.org

June 5-8- USAS Convention, Price, UT. Contact hack2ney@emerytelcom.net

June- Proposed, Nine Mile Canyon, Steve Manning. Transitional figures in the canyon demonstrating the migration of people

July- Proposed, Brown's Hole, Larry Evans

Aug 16-17- URARA Annual Picnic, Henry Mountains

Sept. - Proposed, Fillmore documentation, Joelle McCarthy, BLM

Oct. 10-13- URARA Symposium

Nov. - Proposed, Bluff, UT, Bob and Sue Ludtke

Dec. 5- URARA Holiday Meeting and Potluck

Jan. 2009- Proposed, Arizona, Arthur and Marie Cloutier