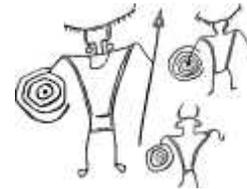


VESTIGES

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URARA Assists BLM with Master Lease Plans

Diana Acerson

URARA members have attended meetings this past month with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) with regard to Master Leasing Plans being developed for Moab, Price, and Monticello Field Offices. URARA members have been cooperating as consultants to the BLM with information to help them in their Class I (existing data) and Class II (on site survey) inventories of cultural resources. The "Moab Master Leasing Plan" is well into the process and has laid the groundwork for additional MLP's in other areas of the state.

The Moab Master Leasing Plan and Draft Resource Management Plan Amendments/Draft Environmental Impact Statement public comment period began August 21, 2015 and ended November 23, 2015. This document includes four alternative proposals for managing mineral leasing and development pertaining to oil, gas, and potash on public lands managed by the BLM. The BLM formulated a reasonable range of alternatives based on issues raised during scoping, planning criteria, public comments received on the preliminary alternatives, guidance applicable to specific resources, and the use of an interdisciplinary team of BLM resource specialists and cooperating agencies.

In 2010, the Bureau of Land Management introduced leasing reform to manage for oil and gas development on public lands. Although the BLM Handbook and Instruction Memorandum pertain to oil and gas leasing decisions, the BLM determined that the MLP concepts are also applicable to potash leasing decisions. Leasing reform allows the BLM to conduct a more in depth review for areas that are or may be opened to leasing at the planning level through master leasing plans (MLP).

The purpose of an MLP is to plan for oil and gas and potash development at the land-use plan level in a defined area containing a high-level of potential resource concerns.

The two main components of MLPs are:

- Develop goals for maintaining or improving the condition of natural resource values in the area.
- Identify resource protection measures and best management practices that may be adopted as lease stipulations in a resource management plan (RMP).

This Moab Master Leasing planning effort is not a full RMP revision, but rather is focused on the issues of oil and gas and potash leasing and development in portions of the Moab and Monticello Field Offices. As Price and Monticello prepare their inventories in specific portions of their field offices in advance of their Master Leasing Plan development, URARA will be included as a consulting party in their efforts.

Richfield and Fillmore field offices are beginning their Class I inventories as well and have contacted URARA to be a consulting party during that process. URARA members who have not forwarded their site data to Troy for the database, should do so to insure those sites become included in these BLM inventories. This data will help insure the sites will be protected under the Master Leasing Plans to be developed.

Rock Art Database

Troy Scotter

Many URARA members were in a meeting with the BLM last week. The Price, Monticello, Moab, and Richfield field offices are undertaking major new planning efforts and would love any additional site information we can provide. The rock art database is a great tool for assisting them in these efforts.

I was lying in bed (which I should do more often) and thinking (which I should also do more often) about how to build the database more efficiently. I want to link photos to the site locations we already have in the database. But it is hard for me to figure out how to get my own pictures into the database, let alone how to tell others to send me photos linked to site locations. Then I realized that if the photos were taken with a camera with a GPS device built in, I don't need to link the photos to a site location; the photos can be their own site location. No linking necessary. This may sound simple, but it is a breakthrough in my own way of thinking about the database design and makes things MUCH easier for both you and me.

I know we have been telling you to turn the GPS app off when taking pictures of rock art, so the coordinates don't escape and find their way to the internet. But if you DO have digital photos taken with a GPS enabled camera, you can just send them to me. I don't need any additional information in writing. Give me any number of pictures even if you took 15 photos of that one tiny site. Burn them to a CD or DVD or put them on a thumb drive. I'll supply the thumb drive if you

need one. The photos need to be formatted as JPEGs or TIFFs. I don't think I can use RAW. Also, if you send me an email (please don't do this unless you have very few photos) you need to send them as attachments rather than inline (pasted into the body of the email).

I'm still interested in site information without photos. If you kept a notebook and have the time and interest in translating those written notes into a digital file give me a call and we'll figure out a way of doing that which works for both you and me. If your site information is already stored in a mapping program it is probably very simple to export those sites and send the information to me.

URARA Meets with BLM on Lake Mt.

Diana Acerson

The beginning of February, members of URARA attended the second meeting with Jenna Whitlock, the BLM Acting State Director, on the protection of the rock art around the west side of Utah Lake at Lake Mountain. The first meeting held in November 2015, was to inform the acting director of URARA's position that the area needed to be closed to access and target shooting where rock surfaces are being destroyed by shooters who were unaware of the cultural resources behind their targets. People are also leaving trash, vandalizing, and picking up the smaller rocks and taking them home.

The BLM is currently preparing the Environmental Assessment (EA), as part of their process to close the area to target shooting and extend and replace the current temporary shooting restriction that expires in December, 2016. This current closure issued in 2012, was to protect the public from getting their homes shot at and fires caused by the shooters. This closure covers from state highway 68 and west to the powerlines from the road. The area where the rock art is located west of the powerline boundary. So people drive through the closure area and shoot, most likely unknowingly, into the rock art. The EA is going to take until December, 2016 to complete if they stay on schedule.

The population continues to grow in this area, which increases the number of people going the short distance to shoot their firearms. URARA's position to the State BLM office was that every day they don't do something to close this area, some of the oldest rock art will continue to be damaged, destroyed or disappear. URARA asked for an immediate vehicle closure and shooting cessation. The BLM told us at the November meeting, they would get back to us with what they were going to try and do before Christmas.

Christmas came and went, and at URARA's Board meeting in January, there was discussion about the lack of response by the BLM, by the Board. Finally in February after several inquiries from URARA, the BLM contacted us and invited us to discuss their ideas on what actions they could implement which might protect the rock art until the EA is completed.

There were five main points that came out of the discussion:

- 1- BLM to hire seasonal employees to be at the access roads to this area to advise those entering the current no shooting zone about the rock art and try to get them to go to another area to shoot.
- 2- Possibly physically place rocks or other solid objects that can be carried to block the line of firing, to keep bullets from hitting the rock art. Installing fencing along the road

- 3- Close recent undesignated roads and trails in this area, which would not require the use or cost of equipment, therefore limiting the places people could access.
- 4- Have BLM office/desk personnel at the field offices direct people to other areas when they inquire about information on places to go and shoot.
- 5- The last and most important to URARA's position of protection of the rock art in this area is to develop a plan to close vehicle access to the rock art areas. The BLM will start the vehicle route inventory and initiate the EA for the Transportation Plan discussed in the meeting. This step would not be completed by the December 2016 date, but could possibly be done by June 2017.

URARA members participating in this discussion felt this is a big step towards a 20+ year process to protect the rock art. At the end of the meeting it was suggested by the BLM that URARA organize a "workshop" type meeting with all of the consultants who have been involved in the meetings for the closure to target shooting effort. The BLM would provide a facilitator for this meeting. The intent of the gathering would be to develop an immediate action plan and get support with more ideas and participation to insure these points are completed and that there is some protection in the meantime.

If any other URARA members, family or friends are interested in participating with ideas or volunteering in some capacity until the process is complete, please contact the URARA representative acting as consultants on this project.

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Diana Acerson dace1950@gmail.com 435-262-7044

San Rafael Field Trip March 19-20

Steve Acerson

It looks like the weather is starting to change, and hopefully the mancos shale will have dried out. We are planning to start this weekend at Ferron, and depending on who shows up and road conditions we will visit places that will excite your camera lenses, make your legs fill good again, and start your sun tan. Contact Oscar or myself (contact info below) so we can sign you up, and get additional information to you. Get your list of things to bring out so you don't forget the important items to sustain life in the wilderness. Make sure your membership is up to date.

Temple Mountain Site Stewardship Project

Steve Manning

During the week of March 21, following the March field trip, SITLA will put up a fence and install an information kiosk at the Temple Mountain Wash Pictograph site. SITLA has asked URARA for volunteers for assistance with the grunt work of placing posts and painting beginning on March 23 (Wednesday). SITLA will supply the materials if we help with the labor. There is a campground a mile west of the panel. If you go, call Steve Acerson (contact info below) for directions and last-

minute information. Apologies for the weekdays, but this IS a government project. The famous site is worth the trip to see even without the work. Details of the project follow:

The Temple Mountain Wash Site Stewardship Project

The Place

The Temple Mountain Wash Pictograph site (42Em65) is a locally well-known pictograph panel found in Emery County, Utah. It is found along the Temple Mountain Road, just north of Goblin Valley as it enters the San Rafael Reef. The site consists of large and striking, dark red pictographs that have been painted on a cliff face overlooking the wash. This site is exceptional in that it appears to contain both Barrier Canyon Style and Fremont images. Of particular significance is the apparent superposition of Fremont over the Barrier Canyon Style (Schaafsma 1971; Manning 2001). This superposition was one of the principal evidences used by Schaafsma that allowed her to place the Barrier Canyon Style in the Archaic period, thus preceding the later Fremont (Schaafsma 1971; Manning 2001). While other researchers have argued that the Barrier Canyon Style persisted much later than the Archaic (Manning 2001), the debate is far from over. Therefore, while the images at Temple Mountain Wash are not only beautiful to look at and admire, they also contain valuable information that can help tease apart the detailed prehistoric record of Utah.

The Problem

The Temple Mountain Wash Pictographs, like many other locations in southeastern Utah, is and always has been well known to locals. It has also been noted a variety of guidebook used by visitors unfamiliar with the area. Needless to say the panel has suffered because of it. Hundreds of historic and modern signatures and images can be found on the cliff face directly to the right of the panel while numerous other signatures, images, bullet holes and charcoal designs have been added to the panel itself. To further complicate the issue, undisciplined camping at the panel has resulted dozens of abandoned fire hearths and a variety of scattered trash. While it is unclear whether this sort of behavior is due to plain ignorance or by the notion that “nobody cares about this place” it is clear that this sort of disrespectful visitation degrades the resource and sends the wrong message to future visitors.

The Solution

Despite its mistreatment over the years, The Temple Mountain Wash Pictograph site remains one of the most visually appealing cultural resources found on state trust lands. In recognition of the site’s importance, and in view of the above-mentioned problems, the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), is implementing a plan to conserve the site for the long term. This plan includes identifying a preferred camping area, effecting limited road closures and realignments, and constructing informational / interpretive kiosks and associated fencing (map). Each of these is briefly discussed below.

Camping and Parking. Camping will still be allowed at the panel. However, we hope to restrict camping to the southwest edge of the parking by using signs and possibly additional fencing. This should allow enough space and a flow of traffic for people that just want to visit the site to be able to do so without the feeling of “invading” a stranger’s camp. The buck and rail fence and informational kiosk will be placed near the base of the cliff, close to the site and should provide an obvious parking place for those wishing to view the rock art.

Road Closures and Realignment. In its current configuration, there are three access roads into parking/camping/site area. This plan closes/reclaims the middle road and slightly realigns eastern entrance. This modification not only eliminates a short section of road that is being constantly eroded due to its placement in a small drainage but also creates a loop that helps keep visitors from unknowingly driving into the camping area. Informational and Interpretive

Kiosks. One informational/interpretive kiosks will be constructed. It will be placed near the base of the cliff, close to the site. It will provide visitors with information about the site as well as encouraging them to visit this site and Trust Lands in general, with the respect they deserve.

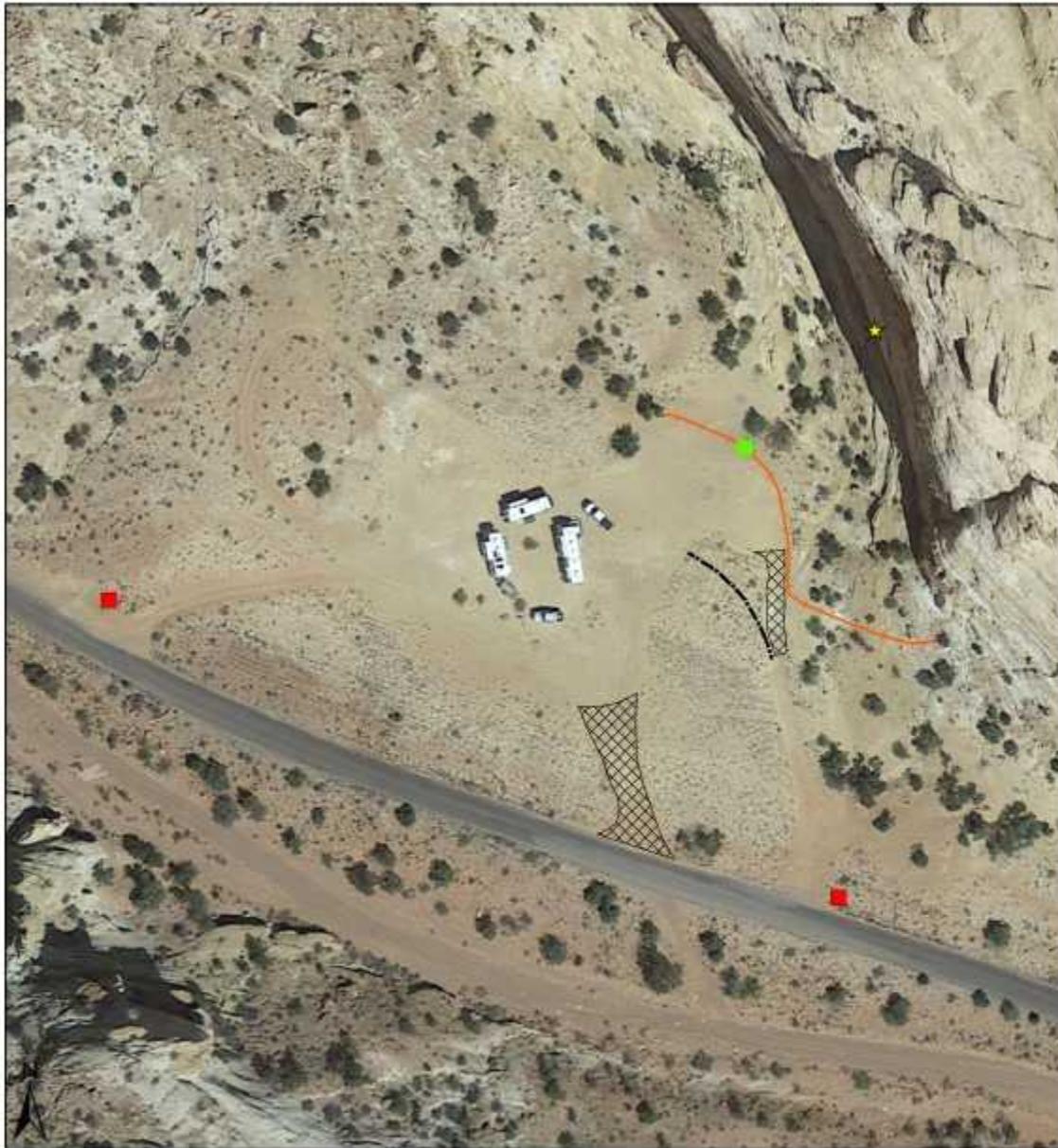
Fencing. Around 250 ft. of fencing will be constructed at the site area. The fence will be a buck and rail style constructed from heavy, pressure treated timber that will be bolted together and stained for added protection. The fence will run around the edge of the parking area, in front of the panel and then to the southeast where it will cut off a recently pioneered ATV trail. The fence is designed to eliminate camping directly under of the panel and to discourage visitors from climbing up to the panel itself.

Summary

SITLA management and staff have crafted this project and will be responsible to its implementation. Agency funds have been used to purchase the materials used to build the fence and kiosk. The goal of the project is to prevent the sort of vandalism and undisciplined camping that has adversely affected The Temple Mountain Pictographs to date. In short, SITLA aims to tell future visitors that “this place matters, someone cares about it” and, most importantly, “we want you to treat it well while you’re here.” The agency has learned from experience that appropriately scaled, thoughtfully tailored development that includes some site interpretation is the best way to minimize the impacts of heavy visitation to the school trust’s important cultural resource assets.

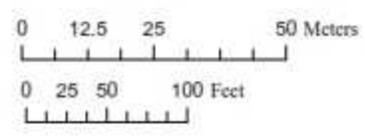
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Schaafsma, Polly, 1971, The Rock Art of Utah. Papers of the Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, Volume 65. Harvard University, Cambridge Massachusetts.



- ★ Pictograph
- Directional Sign
- Kiosk
- Road Realignment
- Buck and Rail Fence
- ▨ Road Closure

Figure 1. Temple Mountain Wash Site Stewardship Plan Map



Rock Art in the News

Ben Everitt

Great Bend of the Gila Final Report, Dec 2, 2015, by Archaeology Southwest, available for download. <https://nthp-savingplaces.s3.amazonaws.com/2015/12/02/16/55/11/147/Great%20Bend%20Final.pdf>

Rep. Beto O'Rourke introduces Castner Range National Monument Act, December 16, 2015
www.elpasotimes.com/.../orourke...castner-range-monument/77453390/
See also: <http://castnerrangenationalmonument.org/>

Petroglyphs & Paint, Diana Acerson in UB Standard and Vernal Express, Feb 7, 2016
http://www.ubmedia.biz/ubstandard/opinion/letters_to_editor/article_5fb397f6-caa7-11e5-9a72-4b92bce9f96f.html.

Eagle Mountain Developer Works to preserve petroglyphs, Fox Channel 13 News, Feb 8, 2016
<http://fox13now.com/2016/02/08/city-officials-developers-work-to-preserve-petroglyphs-discovered-in-eagle-mountain/>

Eagle Mountain creating park to protect, display ancient petroglyph art, Cathy Allred, Daily Herald Feb 8, 2016
http://www.heraldextra.com/news/local/north/eagle-mountain/eagle-mountain-creating-park-to-protect-display-ancient-petroglyph-art/article_8b57876b-f4fa-5e24-a0d6-42d4f2b8be97.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share

Native American rock panels are Utah's works of art, Kevin Jones op ed Salt lake Tribune Feb 9, 2016, p. A 11, <http://www.sltrib.com/opinion/3504124-155/op-ed-native-american-rock-panels-are>

Report on the Bear's Ears Coalition and proposed Bear's Ears National monument, Stephen Trimble, High Country News, Feb 17, 2016, http://www.hcn.org/articles/to-save-their-homeland-25-tribes-unite-in-the-southwest?utm_source=wcs1&utm_medium=email
See also: <http://suwa.org/tribes-formally-present-bears-ears-proposal-to-pres-obama/>

Scenic St. George Hosts the February Field Trip

Steve Acerson and Oscar Olson

What a place to have to go for field trips! The beautiful red rock terrain leading up to the majestic Pine Valley Mountain. The multiple canyons, ridges and valleys draw your eyes in a huge panorama. Close to the ever-popular Snow Canyon, the Saint George area is well known for its high density of cultural resources. This amazing weekend began with five hardy and energetic souls; Pat Sullivan, Gina Hupka, Oscar Olson, Joe Brame, and Nina Bowen, gathering at Nina's home at 9:00 on Saturday morning. From there they drove out of the city on dirt roads to the historic Fort Pearce area and walked down to the Red Man pictograph site.



The five-foot pictograph was well worth that walk. After lunch, Joe, Pat, and Gina went up the wash to the Fort Pearce wash petroglyph sites, and Oscar and Nina shuttled cars to the Fort parking area, meeting the rest of the group when they came out of the wash.

From Fort Pearce they drove out across the flats and then down towards Sand Hollow Wash, Warner Valley, and the Bear Paw site. Driving to the ridge top overlooking Warner Valley, Nina pointed out a lightning strike site.



Back in St George, Nina took them to the Confluence Site where the Santa Clara River, Fort Pearce Wash and the Virgin River all come together. The day ended at a great little Mexican Restaurant called Los Coyotes.

Sunday began at the entrance to the Kayenta Estates on the old highway out of Santa Clara and went up the Santa Clara River towards Gunlock. First stop was the Shanghai Mormon 1858 historic inscription where they took pictures from the highway. They visited several petroglyph sites in the Santa Clara river canyon, noting the different styles on different rock types. The tour ended in the old Mormon town of Gunlock, tucked into the Santa Clara River Canyon.



Homemade spaghetti at Nina’s made a great end to a wonderful weekend. Thanks to tour guides Joe and Nina for their generous hospitality.

Calendar and URARA Fieldtrips.

March 19-20	Field Trip, Ferron; San Rafael Swell
March 23	Temple Mountain Work Party
April 9-10	Field trip, Green River, Great Gallery
May 14-15	Field trip, Green River, Book Cliffs, Westwater
May 27-30	ARARA annual meeting, Las Cruces, New Mexico
June 18-19	Field trip, Vernal
July 16-17	Field trip, Torrey
August 4-7	Pecos Conference, Arizona
August 13-14	URARA summer picnic, Blanding
September 17-18	Field trip, Price, Nine-mile Canyon
Sep 30-Oct 3	URARA Symposium, Delta
October 7-10	Colorado Archaeological Society Conference, Grand Junction
November 5-6	Field trip, Bluff
December 10-11	Field trip, Moab

Gadgets and Software

Joe Brame

From Rupestrian Cyber Services, new apps for the iPad and iPhone to assist rock art researchers in the field called LabStretch are available for free download from iTunes.

See <http://www.rupestrian.com/labstretch.html>

LabStretch (iPad) <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/labstretch/id1049040326>

LabStretch2 (iPhone) <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/labstretch2/id1066022874>

URARA Contacts

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