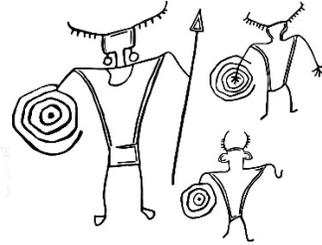


# VESTIGES



July 2017  
Volume 37  
Number 6

*Monthly Newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association*

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## From the Prez

Steve Acerson

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is busy with the changing directions of the new administration. National Monuments are being evaluated for size and use by citizens living close to them. BLM field offices are continuing their class 1 and 2 assessments of cultural resources. These data collection and survey methods will help the BLM decide what kind of projects and activities occur on the public lands, and if multiple use and permits can be issued without effecting cultural and natural resources.

The Price Field office is preparing an oil and gas lease sale for the Molen Reef area, south east of Ferron. Johnathan Bailey, and Diane Orr have been walking the area trying to locate unknown cultural locations. This is the area that has been deferred from oil and gas lease sales the last two times by two State Directors due to the amount of known rock art in the area. The Nine Mile Canyon corridor is being reviewed to begin developing the interpretive plan to enhance the visitor experience and inform them of the history and cultural aspects of the canyon.

The Vernal BLM field office is proposing oil and gas leases adjacent to Dinosaur National Park. Tim Sweeney and Darlene Koerner are our URARA representatives for the Vernal field office. They both are retired archeologists, one having previously worked for the BLM and the other for the Forest Service. As residents of Vernal they know the area well. Both the Vernal and Price BLM field offices are conducting their oil and gas lease sales in the month of December. Comments are being accepted now on the draft Environmental Assessments for both areas. See details p. 4 .

Monticello Field office is working on its probability model within their jurisdiction and also the Bears Ears Monument area.

*July 2017*

The Sevier Playa Potash project is finishing up its probability model in the Fillmore Field office. Ground activity should begin soon. The playa (dry lake bed) is south of Highway 6/50 west of Delta, Utah.

Salt Lake Field office is still trying to finalize the target shooting closure. In the last three weeks there have been several wild fires inadvertently started by shooters, and rock art images continue to be threatened, damaged, or destroyed.

I have been informed of a new issue on the West Mountain area west of Payson, Utah. There is a currently operating gravel pit and asphalt plant asking for an expansion further into BLM land. The residents of the area are trying to get a zoning change. I've met with some of these and other concerned citizens who have informed URARA of boulders with rock art that could be in the expansion area. They would like our input on how to protect these boulders.

We just returned home from the Range Creek field trip where half of those attending were first timers. Carbon County Recreation guided and led us to a beautiful canyon with structures and images left by the Fremont people.

Thanks for all our members who volunteer their time to support the activities that make URARA a place to share with others, and accepting assignments to achieve our goals: Visitation, Preservation, and Education.

## **URARA C&P Grants**

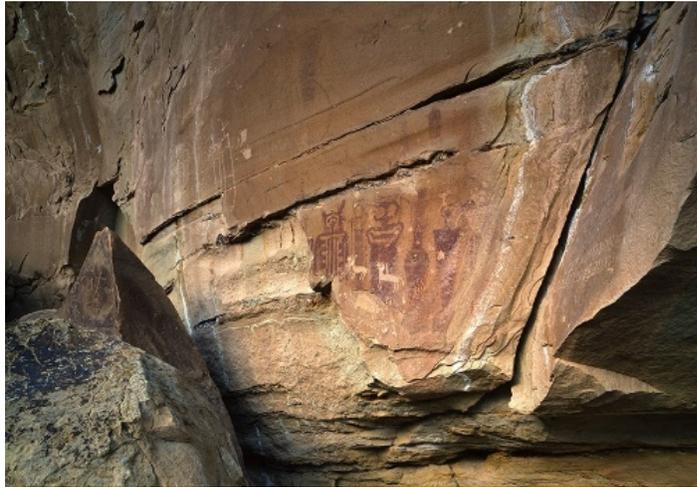
### **Margo Fenton**

URARA has been actively seeking to live up to its mission to help preserve and study rock art. In the last few months, the URARA Board has authorized payment of grants to 2 projects:

- 1) \$2000 - to Steve Manning (Utah Archaeology Research Institute) for site documentation at the Lakeside and Molen Reef rock art areas
  
- 2) \$7000 - to Cottonwood Archaeology for completion of the 'Prehistory of Moab's Colorado River System Multiple Property National Register of Historic Places' nomination. URARA's funding will help with continuing research, completing the nomination write-up, and consultation with local entities and tribes. This district includes 850 recorded sites with six areas of concentration: Roaring and Jug Rock, Bartlett Flat, Seven Mile, Behind-The-Rocks, The Portal, and Mill Creek. There has already been a substantial effort in conjunction with Moab area entities to document these sites. Cottonwood Archaeology will produce a final draft for National Register submission to the Utah State SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office).

## URARA 37<sup>th</sup> Symposium Call for Papers

David Sucec



The Symposium Committee announces a call for proposals for presentations for the Utah Rock Art Research Association 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Symposium, October 06-09, 2017, in Green River, Utah.

Proposals should have a Title and Abstract, and abstracts should not be more than 200 words. The deadline for proposals is August 7<sup>th</sup> 2017. We ask that everyone submitting a proposal for consideration honor the deadline so we can finalize the program in a timely manner.

Preference will be given to presentations that relate to Utah rock art. Presentations will be allowed a maximum of 30 minutes; site reports a maximum of 20 minutes. Abstracts will be reviewed for suitability, balanced of points-of-view, and to ensure that the number of papers does not exceed the time available for presentations. All presentations must be in Power Point.

Accepted presenters will receive a \$100 Honorarium to help with expenses, free symposium registration, and will be guests of URARA at the banquet.

Please send abstracts to David Sucec, Presentations Coordinator, preferably by email to [bcproject@xmission.com](mailto:bcproject@xmission.com) or by mail to 832 Seago Ave, Salt Lake City UT 84102.

## URARA Represented at Kanab Earthfest

Richard Jenkinson



Photo courtesy Laurel Anderson

On May 20 I represented URARA at the Amazing Earthfest in Kanab. The Earthfest is an annual event organized by Rich Csenge. It lasts for a week with presentations, movies, hikes and other outdoor events every day. This year the focus was on the night sky. Lynn and I hosted the artist-in-residence, Jared Warren, who has taken spectacular photos of the night sky and of the Utah landscape. My presentation was an introduction to rock art at public sites near Kanab and in Utah in general. I also gave out URARA brochures and answered

questions about our organization. The presentation, about an hour in length, was well-attended and well-received.

# BLM Seeks Comment on Environmental Assessments for Oil and Gas Lease Sales

## BLM Press release June 22, 2017

**Vernal, Utah**—In keeping with the Administration’s goals of American’s Energy independence and strengthening local communities, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Vernal and Price Field Offices continue to support energy exploration efforts here in Utah. The BLM is seeking public comments on two separate environmental assessments (EAs) analyzing BLM proposals to offer parcels in northeastern Utah for competitive oil and gas leasing. The final analyses, including your comments, will be used to develop a list of parcels to be leased at auction, and identify resource protection measures for the parcels. BLM welcomes and values diverse views. Maps, photos, and additional information about the two projects and proposed parcels are included in the EAs, which are available on the BLM’s ePlanning website. The two projects are as follows:

1) **Vernal** December 2017 Oil and Gas Lease Sale (<https://go.usa.gov/xN9Gu>):

The EA analyzes 64 parcels comprising 66,626 acres within Duchesne and Uintah counties, including approximately 2,080 acres of split-estate land. Air quality, cultural resources, lands with wilderness character, special status plants and animals, wildlife (including Greater Sage Grouse), and visuals are some of the key resources analyzed in detail. Comments may be submitted online, emailed, faxed, or mailed using the addresses below and referencing “December 2017 Oil and Gas Lease Sale” in your subject line.

- Online through the [BLM ePlanning project page](#)
- E-mail: [UT\\_Vernal\\_Comments@blm.gov](mailto:UT_Vernal_Comments@blm.gov)
- Mail: 170 South 500 East, Vernal, Utah 84078
- Fax: (435) 781-4410

2) **Price** December 2017 Oil and Gas Lease Sale (<https://go.usa.gov/xNwVK>)

The EA analyzes 15 parcels comprising 32,013 acres within Emery County, Utah, primarily southeast of town of Ferron, Utah. Air quality, cultural resources, lands with wilderness character, special status species plants and animals, wildlife, recreation, and visuals are some of the key resources analyzed in detail. Comments may be submitted online, emailed, or mailed using the addresses below and referencing “December 2017 Oil and Gas Lease Sale” in your subject line.

- Online through the [BLM ePlanning project page](#)
- E-mail: [BLM\\_UT\\_PR\\_MAIL@blm.gov](mailto:BLM_UT_PR_MAIL@blm.gov)
- Mail: 125 South 600 West, Price, Utah 84501

## BLM (continued)

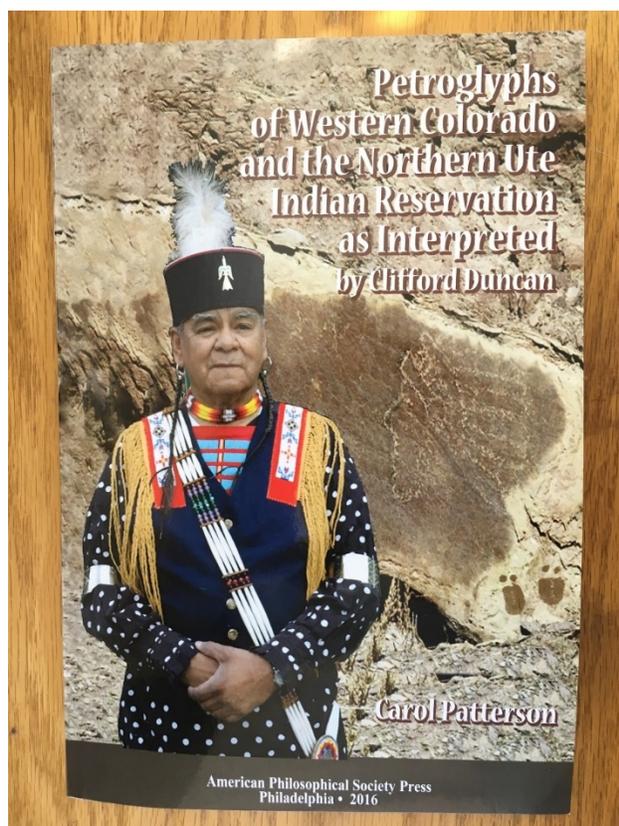
The public review and **comment periods for both projects close at 4:30 p.m. Monday July 24, 2017.** Comments are most useful when they identify issues relevant to the proposed action or contain new technical or scientific information. Comments that contain only opinions or preferences will not receive a formal response, but may be considered in the BLM decision-making process.

Commenters should be aware that their entire comment, including personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. Requests to withhold personal identifying information from public review can be submitted, but the BLM cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so.

BLM anticipates issuing the Notice of Competitive Lease Sale, which lists parcels available for leasing, on August 31, 2017. The competitive online auction is tentatively scheduled for December 11, 2017.

## Carol Patterson Book Review

Richard Jenkinson



Carol Patterson--*Petroglyphs of Western Colorado and the Northern Ute Indian Reservation as Interpreted by Clifford Duncan*. American Philosophical Society Press. Philadelphia. 2016. 151 pages.

URARA member Carol Patterson will be a featured speaker at our symposium in Green River. She has a new book out which looks at seldom seen Ute rock art. The book has 97 photos and drawings of rock art in Western Colorado and on the Uintah and Ouray Reservation. Featured is the interpretation of Ute elder Clifford Duncan. His indigenous perspective is quite different from what we usually get from Anglo scholars. He emphasizes the rock art's connections to myth and ritual. The Native American perspective is often missing in the interpretation of rock art, but in this book it is paramount. Dr. Patterson also uses symbols from Indian sign language to interpret some panels.

Patterson's book is a unique contribution to rock art literature. It is great to see Clifford Duncan's interpretations preserved for future generations of Utes and for the rock art community. Highly recommended!

# Moab Graffiti Removal Training Workshop

Carol Duecker

During the week of May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Werner and I joined a group of volunteers and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Moab Field Office for a four-day training session in graffiti removal at the Segó Canyon rock art site. The volunteers consisted of URARA members and BLM Moab Rock Art Site Stewards.

Moab Field Office archaeologist Don Montoya organized the session. Graffiti removal techniques were taught by Don and by nationally recognized conservator Claire Dean, who has extensive experience in working with Native American rock imagery.

The Segó Canyon site is located near Thompson Springs and has three large and culturally distinct panels of rock images recognized as Ute, Fremont, and Barrier Canyon-style Archaic work. Because it is located near Interstate 70, the Segó Canyon site is easily accessible to casual travelers, so it receives a large number of visitors. Its high visitation makes it susceptible to vandalism. In a recent incident, a group traveling on I-70 stopped at the site and scratched a large message over the Barrier Canyon panel which they photographed and posted to Facebook. The BLM was able to win a settlement for restoration from that vandalism incident which was used to hire Claire.

On Monday morning, Don introduced us to treatment techniques for various types of graffiti. We prepared treatment tool kits, composed of various items, including erasers, brushes, spray bottles and other tools. Then the group spent the afternoon removing scratched and charcoal-scrawled graffiti in Moonflower Canyon near the Colorado River.

Claire joined us on Tuesday, and we spent the next three days at the Segó Canyon site. Work began with a talk and blessing by Southern Ute Elder Alden Naranjo. The BLM consults with Native American tribes, who historically used this region and/or continue to use the area. Consultation includes work associated with rock imagery, and this project incorporated the tribes' comments and requirements.

Because the majority of the vandalism was scratched graffiti, Claire trained the group in techniques for treating scratches and she supervised our work near the panels. She taught us that the best treatment is the use of the least invasive effective method available. We sharpened white plastic erasers and used short strokes to remove loose residue along the scratches, then lifted any remaining loose particles by rolling moistened cotton swabs over the scratched lines. That treatment was effective in fading scratch scars into the rock surface. Claire explained that lightening the scratches sufficiently to make them less visible can be very effective, and we were surprised to see how well the technique worked to fade graffiti to nearly invisible. Moistening the treated surface with a spray bottle and dusting with a little sand completed the job.

Claire worked alone on graffiti associated with the Native American images. She used techniques to soften, and where possible, eliminate scratching from around the images. No work was done on scratch lines or other graffiti directly on images, a condition requested by consulting tribes.

By Thursday afternoon, we had successfully treated several marked surfaces, and Claire's work eliminated or sharply reduced the visibility of vandalism on the Ute and Barrier Canyon panels.

Don told us that the BLM is seeing a rapid rise in the incidence of graffiti in the Moab Field Office area as the area's popularity increases. He stressed the importance of removing graffiti as soon as possible, because visitors are more likely to add new graffiti to an area that has already been vandalized. He also cautioned that well-meaning visitors should not attempt to remove graffiti on their own, as attempts at removal may worsen the damage, and also because some important imagery, particularly historic signatures, may be interpreted as graffiti and lost forever. Visitors who find graffiti should instead report it immediately to the federal, state, or local land managing agency.



Claire Dean instructs a group of volunteers in graffiti removal techniques



The group gets to work



Removing scratches from a rock surface with an eraser and a cotton swab

Photos: Leigh Grench

# Range Creek Field Trip Report

Layne Miller

This is not the usual rock art field trip report, but any trip to Range Creek is an extra-ordinary experience and this trip was way above and beyond extra-ordinary. Range Creek resembles Nine Mile Canyon but is much greener, filled with vegetation, and without the usual names and dates carved on the rock art, or beer cans in the ruins. The trip was organized through Carbon County Recreation. All group trips into the canyon must be taken with an established outfitter and guide. Overnight stays are not allowed. For our 2-day trip we camped outside the canyon and went in each day.

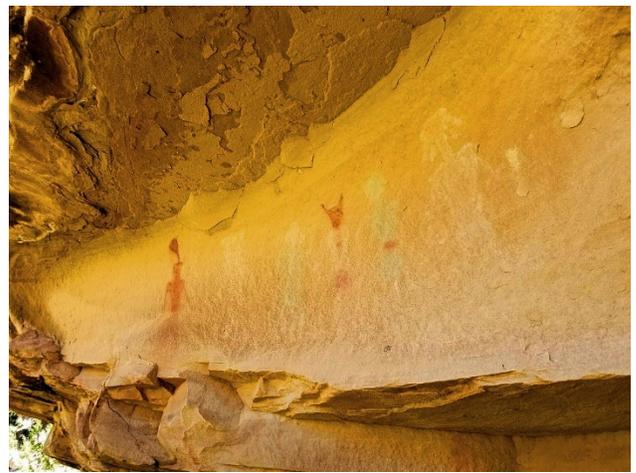
The URARA group experienced a second day tour few visitors have been fortunate enough to have. They were guided by archaeologist and ranch manager Corrine Springer. She has lived at the Wilcox Ranch ever since the ranch was purchased from Waldo Wilcox 2001 and the canyon was opened for escorted visitors in 2002. URARA was invited early in the process to help document the rock art located in the canyon. Corrine explained that about 80 sites were documented the first year and the numbers have increased annually and now total nearly 500 sites.

The rock art sites located below the lower gate are unique to the canyon and the entire area. One wonderful petroglyph panel seems to welcome visitors travelling north into the canyon and two wonderful pictographs grace cliff faces in two places. But I think most URARA members will not brag about the rock art but will brag about the wildlife encountered during the two days.

We usually see bears about every third or fourth trip, but this time we saw twin bear cubs. The cute little guys were very shy and skittish but their appearance thrilled the visitors. Besides the bear cubs, the group saw a bull moose, coyote, deer, a buffalo, and a group of rams (see Layne's facebook page for details).



Photo Steve Acerson



Photos Layne Miller

## Calendar and URARA Fieldtrips 2017

June 24-25	URARA Guided 2-day field trip Range Creek \$80
July 15-16	URARA Field trip, Vernal area
August 10-13	80 <sup>th</sup> Pecos Conference, Pecos, NM <a href="http://www.pecosconference.org">www.pecosconference.org</a>
August 19-20	URARA summer picnic, Blanding area
September 9-10	URARA Field Trip, Cedar City area
September 16-17	Nine-Mile Coalition gathering, TBD
October 6-10	URARA Symposium, Green River
Oct. 13-15	CAS Annual Meeting (tentative date)
November 4	San Diego Rock Art Conference, San Diego
November 4-5	URARA Field trip McElmo Canyon
December 9-10	URARA Field trip, St George area
2018 Jan 25-26	URARA Board Retreat
January 27-28	URARA Field trip, Mesquite

URARA field trips are available to members only. For info or sign-up, please go to <https://urara.wildapricot.org/events>, or contact Oscar Olson at 801-485-0862. Registration will open approximately (45) days prior to the start of the field trip. At that time you will be able to register until the set number of participants is filled; then your name will be added to the waiting list.

Southern Nevada Rock Art Association (SNRAA) meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month; see: <http://snraa.org/snraa.org/EVENTS.html>

Dixie Archaeological Society (DAS) meets on the second Wednesday of the month; see: <http://www.dixierockart.com/>

San Diego Rock Art Association (SDRAA) meets at the Kumeyaay Center in Poway every other month, sometimes on the first Sunday, sometimes not; see: <http://sandiegorockart.org/meetings>

# URARA Board and Contacts

Utah Rock Art Research Association: Box 511324, Salt Lake City, UT 84151-1324.

Please address all membership applications/renewals and checks to URARA, Box 1351, Washington, UT UT 84780. [www.utahrockart.org](http://www.utahrockart.org).

## 2017 URARA Board and Officers

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Layne Miller, Vice President	435-820-4326	<a href="mailto:laynem@priceutah.net">laynem@priceutah.net</a>
Margo Fenton, Treasurer	435-640-2275	<a href="mailto:fourfen@comcast.net">fourfen@comcast.net</a>
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## URARA Conservation Coordinators

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West Desert	Fillmore	DeLoy Norton	801-571-0935	<a href="mailto:dlnorton5@hotmail.com">dlnorton5@hotmail.com</a>
West Desert	Salt Lake			