BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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 cultural 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 dedicated funding for the BLM’s National Cultural Resources Information Management System. 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 too-often overlooked preservation success story.

FY 2021 Appropriations Request

Please support $20.131 million for the Cultural Resources Management at the Bureau of Land Management in the FY 2021 Interior Appropriations bill.

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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 2018</td>
<td>$17.131 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2019</td>
<td>$17.131 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2020</td>
<td>$18.631 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2021</td>
<td>$15.304 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY 2021 NTHP Recommendation</td>
<td>$20.131 million</td>
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</tbody>
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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.
ABOVE: The Largo Schoolhouse Pueblito is part of the Pueblitos of Dinétah in New Mexico that were constructed in the 17th and 18th centuries. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

PHOTO COURTESY BLM NEW MEXICO

LEFT: The Garnet Ghost Town in Montana features more than 25 historic buildings along with historic mining features dating back to the 1890s.

PHOTO BY BOB WICK/BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Cultural Resources Management*

BLM has inventoried cultural resources on 26.277 million acres (10% of its land base) and recorded approximately 400,400 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 2018 Public Lands Statistics report and FY 2018 BLM Budget Justification

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