



McMaster Ranch located north of Winston, Montana, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2021 for its 19th century structures built by Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania settlers.

PHOTO COURTESY BOB WICK/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 historic landscapes, archaeological sites, and paleontological resources on public lands, as well as associated data and museum collections, for the benefit of the public. The cultural resources program also supports National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 review of land-use proposals, Section 110 inventory and protection of cultural resources, compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, and consultation with Tribes and Alaska Native Governments. This work includes surveys of sensitive areas, site protection, and stabilization projects for sites vulnerable to unauthorized activities and damage.

National Cultural Resources Information Management System (NCRIMS)

In FY 2020, Congress provided \$1.5 million in funding directed to the NCRIMS. In FY 2021, Congress provided an additional \$1 million for the program's predictive modeling capacity. Recent successes include a BLM California effort to support rights-of-way consolidation

for large utilities. This will allow more proactive work to address wildfire risk factors associated with the utilities' electrical transmission and distribution facilities, while ensuring better management of cultural resources. BLM Oregon is using NCRIMS to plan and prioritize anticipated broadband rights-

of-way requests. This will enable the agency to more efficiently work with applicants to establish best management practices for avoiding, minimizing and mitigating effects to historic properties. NCRIMS is a significant and often overlooked preservation success story.

FY 2023 Appropriations Request

Please support \$23.6 million for the Cultural Resources Management at the Bureau of Land Management in the FY 2023 Interior Appropriations bill, including an additional \$1 million for the NCRIMS.

APPROPRIATIONS BILL: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management

ACCOUNT: Management of Lands and Resources

ACTIVITY: Land Resources

SUBACTIVITY: Cultural Resources Management

Recent Funding History:

FY 2020 Enacted Funding: \$18.631 million

FY 2021 Enacted Funding: \$19.631 million

FY 2022 Enacted Funding: \$19.631 million

FY 2023 President's Budget Request: \$21.438 million

FY 2023 NTHP Recommendation: \$23.6 million

JUSTIFICATION: Increased funding is necessary to fulfill BLM's statutory requirements for inventory and protection of cultural resources. Directed funding for NCRIMS would support sustained digitization of data and expansion of predictive modeling to include factors like soil, vegetation, and geology. NCRIMS ensures that cultural resources are considered early in the planning process to inform decisions, reduce conflicts with cultural resources, and facilitate more efficient project planning and implementation. This is especially important as the agency implements the recent infrastructure bill, including fuels reduction to minimize wildfire risk, siting of multistate power and transmission lines and renewable energy projects. It also supports enhanced collaboration with State Historic Preservation Offices and can also support additional data sharing with Tribes, including improving Tribal access to information about ancestral cultural sites and resources.

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



Cultural Resources Management*

BLM has inventoried cultural resources on 29.271 million acres (roughly 12% of its land base) and recorded approximately 447,208 properties. Resources include:

- 208 National Register of Historic Places (National Register) listed properties
- 2,191 National Register contributing properties
- 61,643 National Register eligible properties
- 444 maintained historic structures
- 42,391 recorded paleontological localities
- 12 million artifacts and specimens in 170 museums and universities

**Data current through the FY 2021 reporting year.*

The 84 miles of the Green River winds through Desolation Canyon in Utah creating stunning vistas. Geologist John Wesley Powell explored Desolation Canyon over 150 years ago and detailing its formations and specimens. The Desolation Canyon area managed by the Bureau of Land Management was expanded in 2019.

PHOTO COURTESY BOB WICK/BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT