

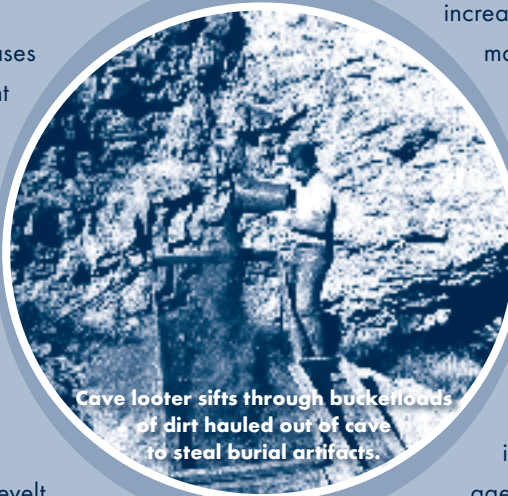
## 100 Year Old Act Started Historic Preservation

The man who looted Elephant Mountain Cave in northwestern Nevada ended up in jail owing \$2.5 million in civil penalties and was forced to return human remains and thousands of artifacts. Four looters of prehistoric and sacred sites throughout Nevada also went to jail, were fined \$520,000, ordered to pay \$260,000 in restitution, and were forced to return thousands of artifacts.

These and other criminal and civil cases pursued by the Federal government to protect the nation's historic and prehistoric heritage were made possible because the Antiquities Act of 1906. The Antiquities Act expressed the will of the people to protect this heritage and make it available for all Americans, and not just those who could get to it first.

Signed by President Theodore Roosevelt, the Antiquities Act was the first law in the United States to give general protection to cultural or natural resources. As such, it can be viewed as the progenitor for other later laws relating to general environmental and resource protection. Prior to 1906, Congress had acted to create and give protection to some important and specific places such as Yellowstone National Park. But the Antiquities Act was different. It established the nation's first public policies about archaeological resources.

- The Act outlawed unauthorized excavations and established penalties for doing so. This was primarily in response the destruction of archaeological sites for personal and commercial gain, especially in the prehistoric ruins in the American Southwest.



Cave looter sifts through bucketloads of dirt hauled out of cave to steal burial artifacts.

- The Act creates a means for the President to designate areas of historic importance on public lands for preservation and management. Today these areas are better known as national monuments.
- The Act established a requirement for the granting of permits to ensure that archaeological work is done by qualified persons and institutions. Permits may be issued to increase knowledge and ensure that collected materials are preserved.

The Antiquities Act worked for a long time, but changes became necessary as court decisions found parts of it vague and indefensible. The objectives of the Act were restated and reinvigorated with passage of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, or ARPA, in 1979. This law is used by federal agencies to manage permitting systems for investigations of archaeological sites. The ARPA also provides the means to prosecute people who illegally excavate or collect artifacts on public land.

While the essential concepts and provisions of the Act persist, the ethos it established for public responsibility for archaeological information as well as historical values is its enduring legacy. Measures for protection and management of archaeological remains would be joined by similar devices for protecting historical buildings and structures, and for places and resources of value to

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## State Director's Column

One hundred years ago Congress passed the Antiquities Act to protect historic and prehistoric sites on public lands from looting and vandalism. The act also empowered the President to designate national monuments that are managed by BLM and other agencies. Subsequent legislation to protect cultural resources affects nearly every BLM activity today.

has taken an active role in finding and prosecuting vandals and looters.

BLM is proud to be a part of the legacy that defines who we are and where we come from. We continue to safeguard the ruins, archaeological sites, fossils, natural and geological wonders, objects of scientific interest, and historic landmarks on the public lands.

The BLM is commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Antiquities Act with some special events around the state. Please join us in May to celebrate Nevada's rich heritage during Nevada Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month.

– Ron Wenker

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The anniversary of the Act is an opportunity for the BLM to make public land users aware of the rich cultural history found on these lands. The Act is the first of a number of laws passed to protect this large, diverse and scientifically important cultural treasure.

While the Antiquities Act provided for protection from looters and vandals, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) developed a process for BLM and other agencies to consider historic, prehistoric and tribal heritage resources when making land use decisions and to minimize the inadvertent destruction of these resources from authorized uses. In Nevada we analyze between 1,000 and 2,000 undertakings a year using the NHPA process.

The protections offered in the Antiquities Act and NHPA were reinforced when President Nixon issued an Executive Order in 1971 instructing federal land-managing agencies to protect cultural resources. BLM was required to inventory and evaluate all significant cultural resources under our jurisdiction within two years—an impossible task for an agency managing about 262 million acres of land—and protect them from inadvertent harm. BLM Nevada has inventoried about 2 million acres and recorded about 47,000 historic and prehistoric sites. With the passage of the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), managing cultural resources became one of the BLM's multiple use responsibilities.

The Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 complemented the Antiquities Act and has become the primary authority for criminal and civil remedies to the problem of looting and vandalism on public lands. Since 1976, BLM in Nevada

(continue from page 1)

Native American tribes and individuals. Other major Federal laws enacted since 1906 that foster public and agency responsibility for preservation of archaeological and other cultural resources are the Historic Sites Act of 1935 and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Without these laws and efforts by agencies such as the BLM, much invaluable information about Nevada's and the country's past would have been lost or destroyed, either by the greed of those collecting for personal gain, or by the legitimate use and development of public lands and resources. Today we can appreciate Nevada's archaeological past in museum collections and in reports and books. In Nevada, we can visit archaeological sites such as Grimes Point, Sloan Canyon, and the Pony Express stations. Invaluable and irreplaceable collections of artifacts and records are held in perpetuity in museums. Professional archaeologists conduct inventories and excavations on the public lands. But the BLM and the professional archaeologists are not acting alone. They are joined every year by many volunteers and site stewards who promote the public's roles and responsibilities in protecting Nevada archaeological resources. It all started 100 years ago.



## Antiquities Act Centennial Events

### May is Archaeological Awareness and Historic Preservation Month

**May 11-12** Lovelock Cave Antiquities Act Centennial tours, educational activities, and site cleanup for Winnemucca Grammar School fourth grade classes. *Peggy McGuckian, 775-623-1521*

**May 13** Lovelock Cave tour for general public and National Public Lands Day activities including site repair and maintenance. *Peggy McGuckian, 775-623-1521*

**May 13** Guided tour of prehistoric and historic archaeological sites near Elko, hosted by BLM Elko Field Office. *RSVP to Dr. William Fawcett at 775-753-0279*

**May 13** Carlin Canyon National Public Lands Day and Antiquities Act Centennial tree planting, marking of the California National Historic Trail and cleanup of interpretive sites. *Tom Warren, 775-753-0255*

**May 23** Operation Indian Rocks: Protecting our Heritage, 7:30 p.m. Public lecture at Nevada State Museum in Carson City. *State Museum Public Information Office, 775-687-8323*

**June 3-4** Antiquities Act Centennial and National Trails Day event along Pony Express Trail in Eureka County to place route makers and a kiosk. Additional community events are planned. *Lisa Wolf, 775-374-0596*

**Sept. 16** Sand Springs Pony Express Station and Pony Express Trail Public Lands Day and Antiquities Act Centennial cleanup and repair. *Terry Knight, 775-885-6173*

**Sept. 17** Ruin Wash Trilobite Public Lands Day and Antiquities Act Centennial site cleanup and installation of interpretive exhibits with the Lincoln County schools. *Bruce Winslow, 775-726-8111*

**Sept. 30 and Oct. 1** High Rock Canyon National Public Lands Day and Antiquities Act Celebration will offer a variety of projects to stabilize and protect historic and biological resources in the canyon and surrounding wilderness areas. *Dave Lefevre, 775-623-1770*

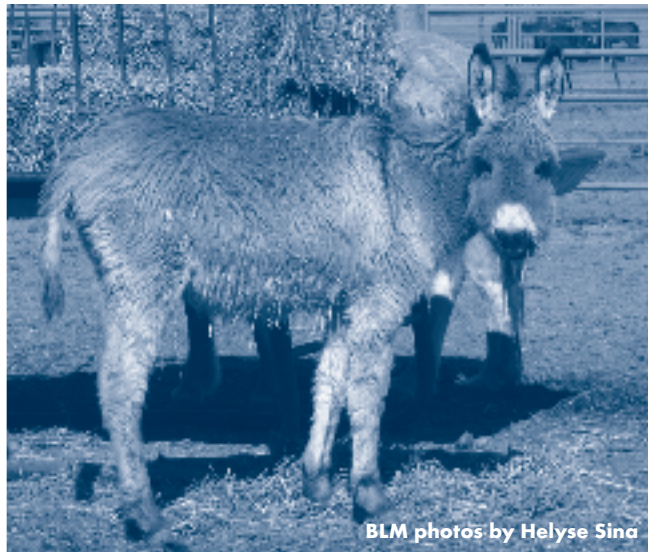
**Sept. 30** Nevada Northern Railway National Public Lands Day and Antiquities Act Centennial event will maintain and improve the facilities, trails and signs close to the railway. *David Jeppesen, 775-289-1910*



# BURRO ADOPTION

## The Truth About Burros

Pets are a great way to teach children responsibility and provide companionship, love, and hours of entertainment. While dogs, cats and hamsters are great, they would never be able to carry an adult or be able to survive as far as ten miles away from water. And although you may consider yourself a bit of a breed snob when it comes to Fluffy and Fido, dogs and cats cannot be called “living legends.” Adopting a burro from the National Wild Horse and Burro Facility in Palomino Valley would provide your family with a true blue companion, willing employee and a piece of history that most people never even get the chance to see.



Burros available for adoption at the National Wild Horse and Burro Center at Palomino Valley.

For skeptics of burro adoption, there are a few common misconceptions about burros that should be dispelled. The average person generally associates burros, or wild donkeys, with the image of a stupid creature obstinately unwilling to move when being tugged by its owner. “Stubborn jackass” and “stubborn as a mule” can hardly bring very flattering things to mind. This fallacy most likely came about because of a lack of understanding. The resolve with which burros refuse to move, while exasperating, is actually their way of making sure that wherever they are being led is safe.

This burro behavior is “an indication of how intelligent they are as compared to horses,” said Mike Myers, assistant manager of the National Wild Horse and Burro Center in Palomino Valley. “Horses that get spooked will bolt for any way out, which could mean they are getting into a worse situation with what is out there.”

Another widespread belief is that burros are a common animal. In fact, there are only about 4,400 burros living in the 10 western states as compared to some 27,400 wild horses. Also, burros are found in only five out of those 10 states and about 15 of the BLM Nevada’s 102 herd management areas. The burros currently being held in Palomino Valley are

# BURRO ADOPTION



Burros available for adoption at the National Wild Horse and Burro Center at Palomino Valley.

from two complexes managed by the Winnemucca Field Office. The Blue Wing Complex is made up of several herd management areas located in Humboldt, Pershing and Washoe counties. The McGee Mountain Herd Management Area is in Humboldt County, near the Sheldon Antelope Range.

So what makes burros so special? They are a part of Nevada’s rich mining history and were used to haul ore, rock and machinery before the invention of the steam engine. They are great herd and flock guardians and will chase away coyotes. Excellent pack animals, burros are being used by Marines to help train for

warfare in tough, high terrain where helicopters, trucks and horses are unable to succeed. Burros are able to endure a water loss of 30 percent of their body weight and can replenish the loss after drinking for only five minutes. A water loss of that magnitude would kill most animals, including humans. They also make great companion animals, due to their high level of intelligence and emotional receptivity.

Burros may not be able to sleep at the foot of your bed, sunbathe on the windowsill or lick themselves clean. But these animals can provide a deep level of companionship, security for herd animals and the chance to learn about the rich history of Nevada.

– **Helyse Sina**  
Student Intern  
BLM State Office

FIND OUT  
REQUIREMENTS TO  
ADOPT A BURRO ON  
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# RED ROCK CANYON

## Red Rock Canyon

An aged mahogany tree fans its branches against a sandstone wall; a burnt yucca is a stark abstraction against a denuded desert floor; flower buds crown a prickly pear; a dirt-crusting desert tortoise snout seeks the sun's warming rays; an ochre smeared hand creates a pictograph that humanizes the past. These are some of the winning images of the 2005 Red Rock Canyon photo contest.

### 3RD PLACE CREATIVE CATEGORY

**Mahogany tree** by Eric Koppitsch

### 1ST PLACE HIGH SCHOOL CATEGORY

**Burnt yucca** by Kacie Almborg

### 1ST PLACE CHILDREN'S CATEGORY

**Flowering prickly pear** by Shanelle Braxton

### 2ND PLACE EMPLOYEE CATEGORY

**Desert tortoise** by Mark Rekshynskyj

### 3RD PLACE CHILDREN'S CATEGORY

**Hand pictograph** by Octavia Braxton



# RED ROCK CANYON

## 2005 Photo Contest



**2005  
RED ROCK  
CANYON  
PHOTO  
CONTEST**



## RED ROCK CANYON Red Spring Picnic Area Gets a Facelift

Visitors to Red Spring in the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (NCA) were in for a treat when the picnic area reopened in November. Red Spring received a \$1.6 million face lift through funding from the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA). For years, Red Spring was a place where people gathered to have fun and leave the city behind. Heavy use of a small picnic area and meadow eventually took its toll, as many who visited Red Spring were more interested in partying than in being responsible stewards of public land.

One of the most significant new features at Red Spring is a boardwalk and self-guided tour. The boardwalk surrounds the meadow and includes interpretive signs about the unique cultural and natural resources of the

area. Overall, the Red Spring renovations consisted of removing all the old infrastructure—the existing road, restrooms, fencing, parking and picnic areas – and rehabilitating these areas to a more natural setting and building new facilities. New fencing was installed to protect the wetlands and riparian area. New perimeter trails were built to avoid the riparian area and provide a link to existing hiking trails. Visitors will now find a paved parking lot with space for 160 cars.

“Public feedback is extremely positive and the area is experiencing heavy visitation since we reopened,” said Mark Rekshynskyj, NCA manager. “There is now a more educated and protected way to hike, bird watch, picnic and rock climb at Red Spring.”

Red Spring is reached via the Calico Basin Road about 1/2 mile east of the Red Rock Scenic Loop entrance. No fee is charged.

– **Hillierie Patton**  
Las Vegas Field Office

Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton uses Red Spring as a backdrop to announce funding approval for Round 6 projects through the Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act in early February. Total expenditures for the round is more than \$1 billion for parks, trails and natural areas; capital improvements; conservation initiatives; land acquisitions, Clark County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Planning; and Lake Tahoe set-asides and restoration projects. Information about the Act and the expenditures is available online at [www.nv.blm.gov/snplma](http://www.nv.blm.gov/snplma).



## White Pine County Residents Join Federal Agencies to Manage Off-Highway Vehicle Use

When something works, it makes sense to do it again. Ely's success with travel management planning in the Duck Creek Basin is encouraging White Pine County residents to develop similar planning for the south Steptoe Valley.

Seeing a similar need, the White Pine Coordinated Resource Management Steering Committee established the South Steptoe Technical Review Team, or TRT, to develop the consensus-based plan that proponents say will increase recreational opportunities south of the high desert community while improving public land health.

South Steptoe TRT members represent area landowners, ranchers, the general public, user groups and other interested parties, local government, and state and federal agencies.

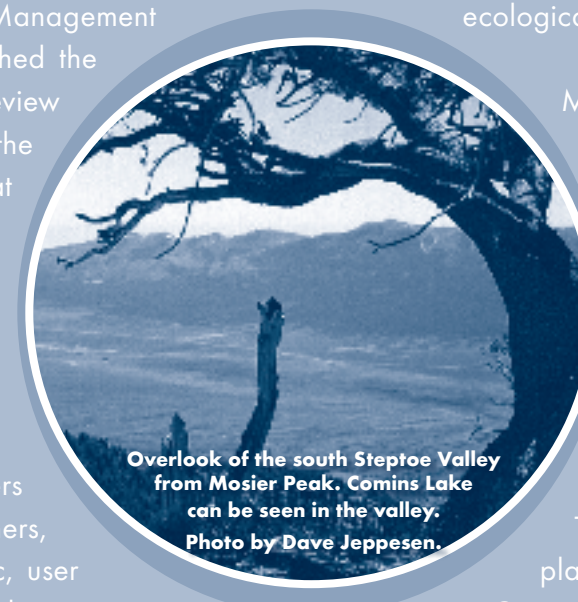
The plan, which is expected to be similar to one implemented in 2004 in the Duck Creek Basin, will take about 18 months to complete and will result in the closing and rehabilitation of selected roads.

The Duck Creek Basin Travel Management Plan responded to public concerns over an increased number of roads, basin-wide. Located about 30 miles northeast of Ely, the 120-square mile basin is a long-time popular recreation destination and residents feared the proliferation of roads would permanently damage the basin's long-term ecological health.

Much like the plan for Duck Creek, the plan for south Steptoe Valley calls for development of a vehicle access management program, a vehicle access map to direct and help educate users, and a resource monitoring program.

The south Steptoe Valley plan will conform to White Pine County's land-use plan, as well as BLM and Forest Service land-use plans. The two federal agencies will complete all appropriate environmental planning steps before implementing the plan, which will provide additional opportunities for interested individuals to voice concerns.

– **Chris Hanefeld**  
Ely Field Office





# CARLIN & CHANCE

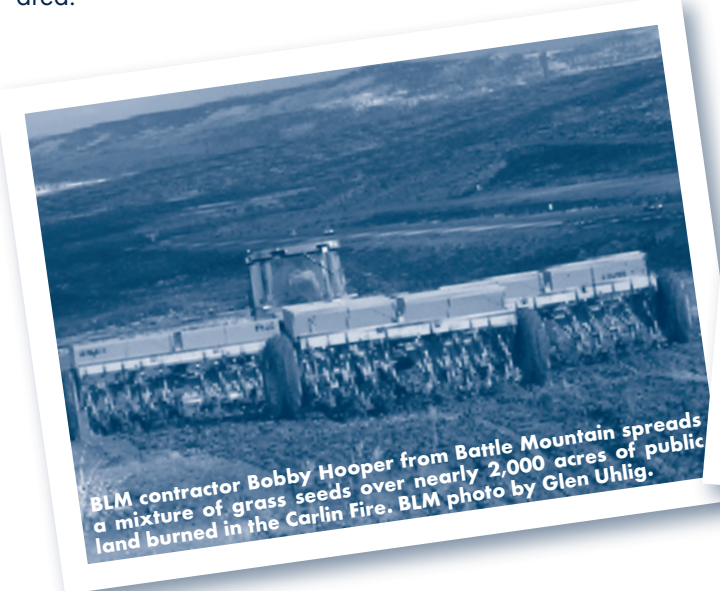
## Fire Rehabilitation

### Carlin Fire

The fast-moving human-caused Carlin Fire roared to life on the heels of several wildfires scattered across Elko County. The fire burned about 5,000 acres along Interstate 80, causing the highway to be closed for several hours. A few weeks after the fire was out, heavy winds blew dust and ash across the freeway, severely reducing visibility resulting in a fatal traffic accident.

Public and private lands adjacent to I-80 that were burned in the fire are being restored through an emergency stabilization seeding project. The Nevada Division of Forestry completed seeding on private lands along the freeway and BLM seeded the public lands.

According to BLM Rehabilitation Manager Tom Warren, the burned area was seeded with a mixture of native grasses on the majority of the fire and crested wheat grass along the highway. The area was seeded with drills to get perennial grasses and shrubs established to prevent soil erosion from wind and water and prevent the spread of cheat grass and noxious weeds. A helicopter spread shrub seeds over the area.



BLM contractor Bobby Hooper from Battle Mountain spreads a mixture of grass seeds over nearly 2,000 acres of public land burned in the Carlin Fire. BLM photo by Glen Uhlig.

### Chance Fire

Illegal barrel burning of trash touched off a rapidly spreading fire that had residents of Spring Creek, Osino, Ryndon and Elburz in fear of losing their property last August.

The Chance Fire started Aug. 28, and was declared contained on Aug. 31 after burning nearly 24,000 acres. Public lands east of Elko burned in the fire are being restored under an emergency stabilization seeding project.

BLM Range Conservationist Tyson Gripp said the area is being re-seeded with a mixture of native grasses, shrubs and forbs. Nearly 2,500 acres on the south side of Elko Mountain were drill seeded and a helicopter spread seed over watersheds and drainages. Areas with the greatest potential for soil erosion were targeted first. The seeding is also expected to help prevent the spread of invasive plants and weeds.

– Mike Brown  
Elko Field Office



An El Aero helicopter out of Elko carries a bucket containing about 750 pounds of grass, shrub and forb seed, enough to broadcast over about 60 acres. BLM photo by Tyson Gripp.

# ADOPTION REQUIREMENTS

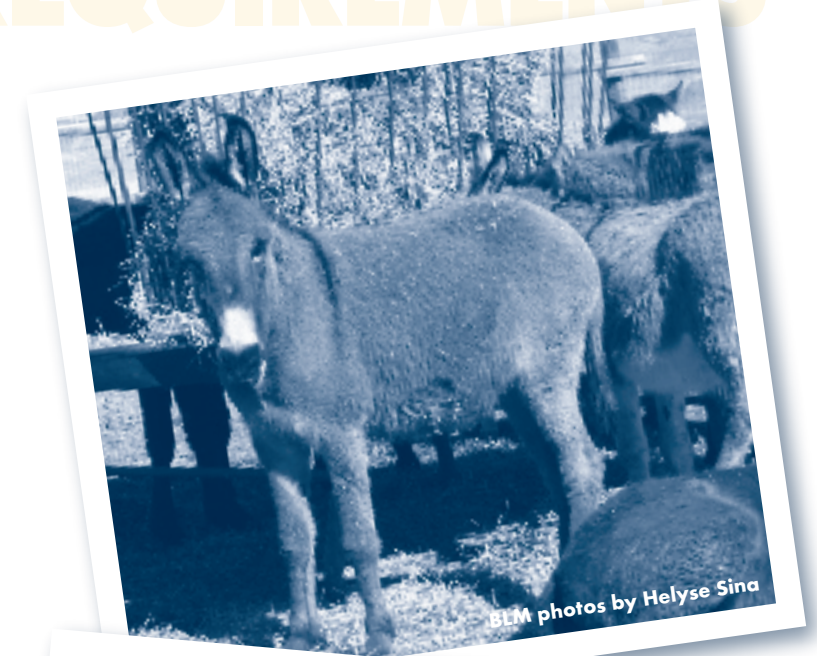
## Adopt a Burro

### You must:

- Be at least 18 years old
- Complete Form 4710-10, the Application for Adoption of Wild Horse(s) or Burro(s).
- Have no prior conviction for inhumane treatment of animals or violation of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act.
- Have adequate feed, water and facilities to provide humane care for the number of animals requested.
- Provide a home for the animal in the United States until you receive a Certificate of Title from the BLM.

### Facility Requirements:

- Minimum of 400 square feet (20 feet x 20 feet) for each animal.
- Corrals must be at least 4 1/2-feet high for ungentled burros, 5-feet high for ungentled horses younger than 18 months old, and 6-feet high for ungentled horses older than 18 months.
- Corrals must be constructed of heavy duty poles, pipes, or planks with a minimum of 1 1/2-inch thickness and without any dangerous protrusions. Barbed wire, large mesh-woven, stranded and electric materials are considered unacceptable fencing. Woven small-net wire fencing is acceptable with a minimum of two sightboards, one on the top and one in the middle of the enclosure.
- Shelter from inclement weather and temperature extremes must be provided. It must have at least two sides with a roof, adequate ventilation, drainage and access for the animal. It must block winds and protect the major part of the body of the animal. Tarps are not acceptable.



BLM photos by Helyse Sina



BLM photos by Helyse Sina

**TO ADOPT A WILD HORSE OR BURRO,  
PLEASE CONTACT THE NATIONAL WILD HORSE AND  
BURRO CENTER AT PALOMINO VALLEY:  
775-475-2222  
P.O. BOX 3270, SPARKS, NV 89432**

# Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics for Heritage Sites



Historic, archaeological and fossil sites are special places that tell the story of our past. These fragile irreplaceable heritage resources may not be readily visible so be aware and practice Leave No Trace principles.

## LEAVE WHAT YOU FIND

- Artifacts and fossils left where they are help tell the story of the past. Rearranging them limits their scientific value and the experience of future visitors.
- It is illegal to dig, remove or collect artifacts and vertebrate fossils without a permit.
- Leave historic and prehistoric structures intact.
- Take photographs or make a drawing of the rock art of gravestones you visit. Touching, chalking and making rubbings and latex molds cause damage.

## BE CONSIDERATE OF OTHER VISITORS

- May Native Americans consider their ancestral land sacred.
- Respect the Past-Heritage sites hold clues to what life was like long ago.
- Educate others never to dig at sites or collect artifacts.
- Graffiti is vandalism—it damages rock art, ruins, cliff walls, trees and historic structures. Attempting to remove graffiti can cause further damage.

## REPORT VANDALISM

If you see people vandalizing sites, report it as soon as possible by contacting the local law enforcement agency or land management office. Never confront or approach vandals or do anything to endanger your safety. From a distance, observe and report their physical description, activities, license plate number, time and location.

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