



Nine Mile Canyon Rock Art in Utah

PUBLIC LANDS PROGRAM

For over 20 years, the National Trust has advocated for the preservation of historic and cultural resources on public lands. The Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service and the National Park Service controls millions of acres of land rich in resources, ranging from Native American cliff dwellings and sacred sites to ranger cabins and early twentieth-century dude ranches. A variety of factors, including inadequate survey information about cultural resources, insufficient funding, pressure from competing uses like energy development and recreation, and lack of agency will, combine to expose resources on these lands to many types of threats.

Through the Public Lands Program, the National Trust is enhancing federal stewardship of cultural resources on public lands by identifying ways to increase federal funding for cultural resource identification and protection, and by ensuring adherence to existing regulations and policies.

The Trust has been involved in numerous successful individual projects on public lands including the protection of Weatherman Draw, sacred to several Native American Tribes from the Northern Plains and the conversion of McGraw Ranch at Rocky Mountain National Park to a park research center. However, systemic change in how cultural and historic resources are managed on public lands in the West is needed. We are building on a history of successful preservation victories on the ground and establishing a comprehensive national program that can begin to influence agency practice and federal policy as it relates to historic and cultural resource protection.

GOALS OF THIS PROGRAM ARE TO:

- Strengthen the preservation ethic at the BLM, USFS, and NPS;
- Develop survey data on the location and significance of cultural resources to improve agency decision on appropriate land use;
- Increase funding for resource protection;
- Seek to ensure agency compliance with existing legal requirements;
- Develop increased public awareness, involvement, and participation in saving cultural resources on public lands;
- Improve National Trust resources and capacity for dealing with historic and cultural resources on public lands; and
- Congressionally establish the Bureau of Land Management's National Landscape Conservation System.

THROUGH AN INTEGRATED STRATEGY, WE WILL ACCOMPLISH THESE GOALS BY:

- Developing reports outlining the current state of cultural and historic resource protection on public lands and recommended policies and actions that should be taken to improve federal stewardship of these resources;
- Developing and executing an advocacy strategy based on new research;
- Developing and executing a communications strategy;
- Developing partnerships and conservation groups, Native American tribes, industry, and recreational users of public lands; and
- Expanding upon our previous work of identifying and participating in key pilot projects with federal agencies that save cultural resources and historic places on public lands.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation provides leadership, education, advocacy and resources to help people save places that matter to them.



Hammond Cabin at the White Grass Dude Ranch, Grand Teton National Park, WY