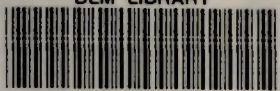
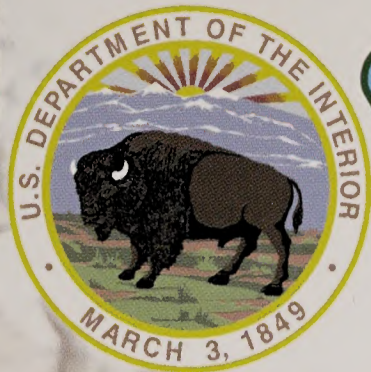


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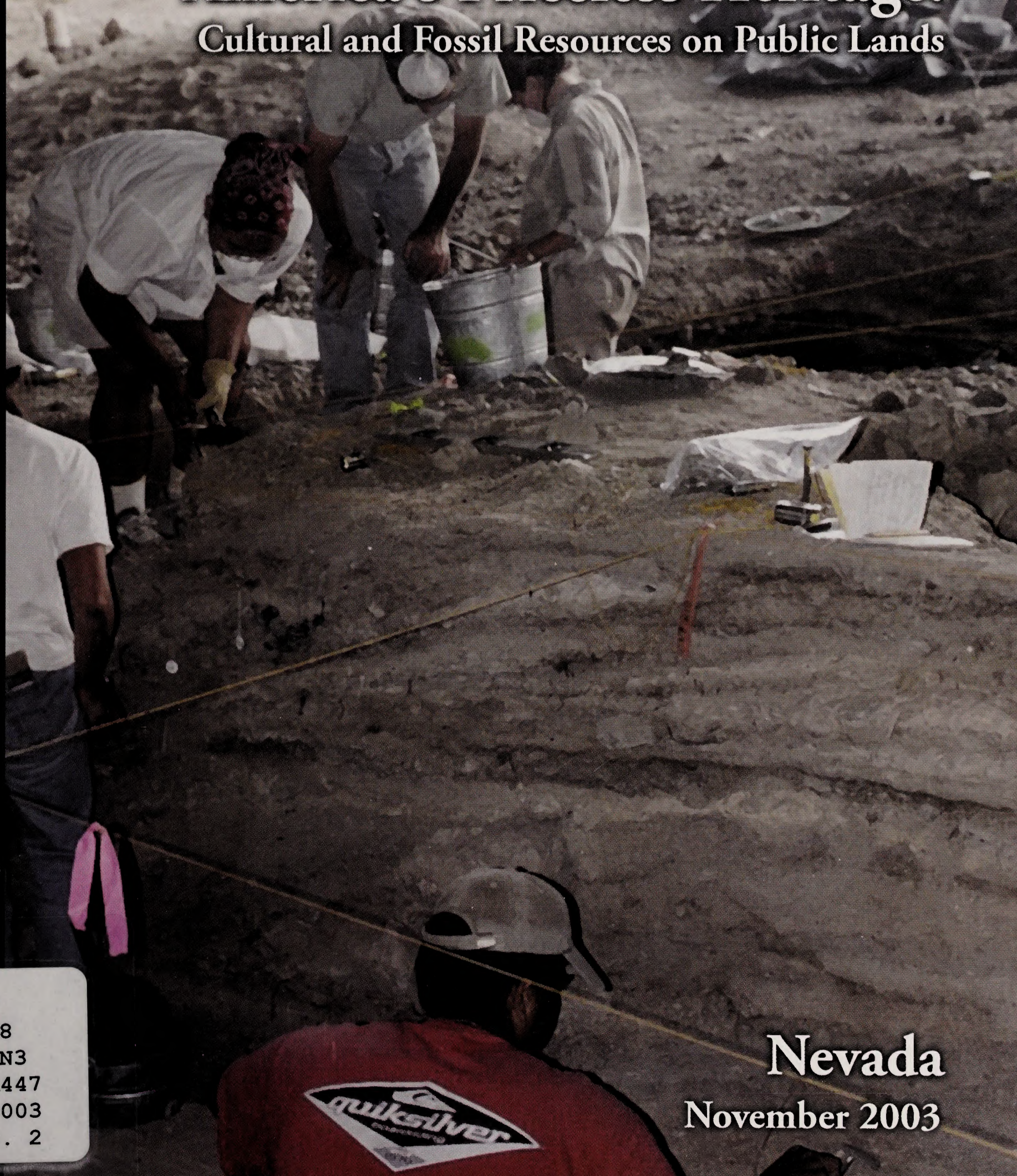


U.S. Department of the Interior

# BLM

## America's Priceless Heritage: Cultural and Fossil Resources on Public Lands

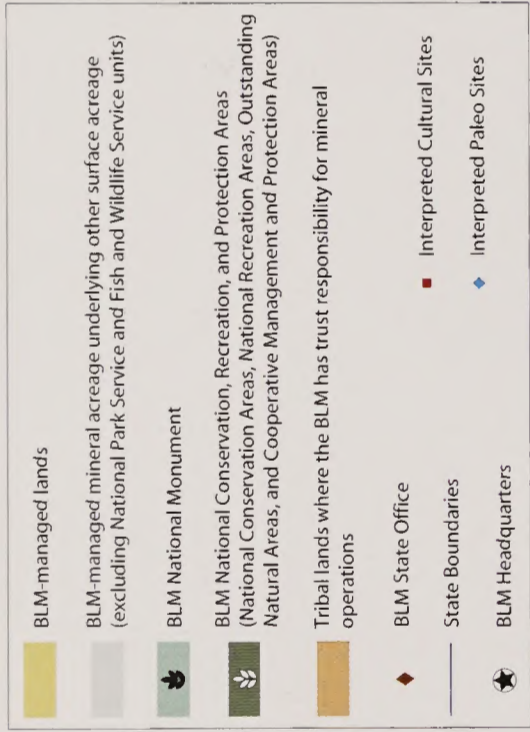
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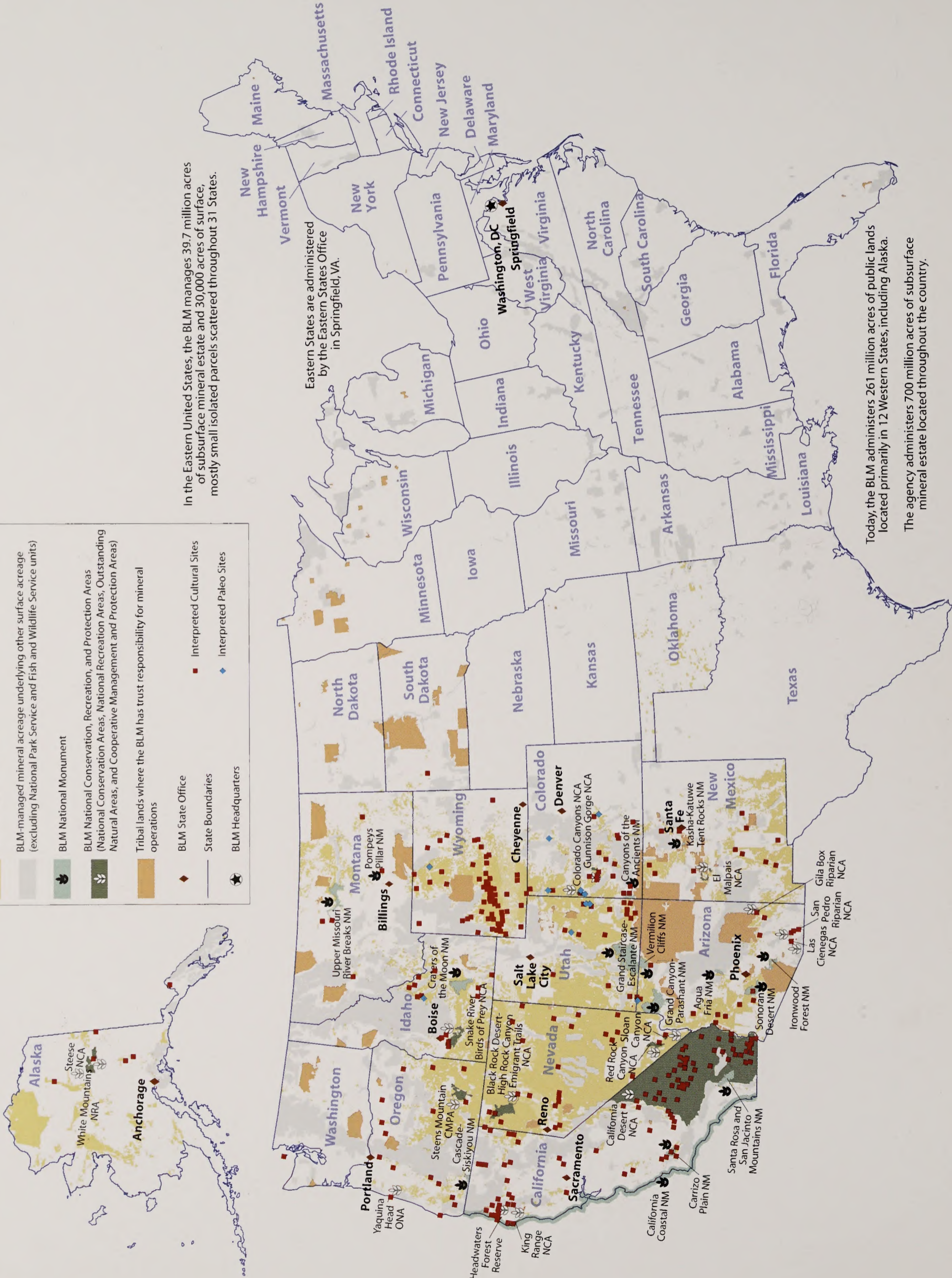
Nevada  
November 2003





In the Eastern United States, the BLM manages 39.7 million acres of subsurface mineral estate and 30,000 acres of surface, mostly small isolated parcels scattered throughout 31 States.

Eastern States are administered by the Eastern States Office in Springfield, VA.



Today, the BLM administers 261 million acres of public lands located primarily in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The agency administers 700 million acres of subsurface mineral estate located throughout the country.



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# America's Priceless Heritage:

## Cultural and Fossil Resources on Public Lands



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Bureau of Land Management  
November 2003

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BLM's central challenge is to balance the demands of growth and the imperative for conservation.



# Preface:

## An Invitation to the Reader

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is responsible for managing 261 million acres of public land—about one-eighth of the United States. Most of these lands are in the Western United States, including Alaska, and they include extensive grasslands, forests, high mountains, arctic tundra, and deserts. BLM also manages about 700 million acres of subsurface mineral resources, as well as numerous other resources, such as timber, forage, wild horse and burro populations, fish and wildlife habitat, wilderness areas, and archaeological, historical, and paleontological sites.

BLM administers the public lands within the framework of numerous laws, the most comprehensive of which is the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). FLPMA directs BLM to follow the principle of “multiple use,” which means managing the public lands and their various resource values “so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people.” This multiple use mission requires BLM to address quality of life issues, including providing clean air and water; providing recreational opportunities; protecting wildlife; and safeguarding cultural and fossil resources; as well as providing for a sound economy through the production of energy, food, and fiber and by sustaining local communities and their heritage.

Given the scope of its multiple use mission, BLM affects more Americans on a daily basis than any other land management agency. The Bureau constantly faces the challenge of ensuring a balance of land uses among perspectives that are occasionally, if not often, competing. BLM recognizes that people who live near the public lands have the most direct connection and knowledge of them, as well as a commitment to their stewardship. At the same time, the Bureau maintains a national focus because these lands belong to all Americans, whose appreciation of them continues to increase.

BLM’s central challenge is to *balance the demands of growth and the imperative for conservation*. America is entering into a new era of conservation to achieve a healthier environment and a more secure economy—what Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton







calls the “new environmentalism.” Secretary Norton sums this new environmentalism up in a visionary approach she calls the “four Cs”—using communication, cooperation, and consultation, all in the service of conservation. At the heart of the four Cs is the Secretary’s belief that for conservation to be successful, BLM must involve the people who live on, work on, and love the land.

The Bureau’s ability to partner with public land users; local residents; nonprofit groups; universities; “friends of” organizations; and State, local, and tribal governments fosters a wide and diverse support network. This network is essential not only because the agency has limited staff and budget resources, but because there is a wide variety of stakeholders who are concerned about public land management. The Bureau has been working cooperatively with partners and volunteers for decades and that work has yielded outstanding results towards attaining common goals and values.

Secretary Norton’s approach to conservation is especially relevant to the management of cultural and fossil resources on public lands. These resources are a constant source of fascination for visitors. People look to these resources for recreational opportunities...for fulfilling their curiosity about the recent and remote past...for contemplating their origins...for preserving and continuing their cultures...for finding peace and quiet. The Secretary’s approach to managing these resources was furthered on March 3, 2003, when President Bush signed a new Executive Order, which directs Federal agencies to advance the protection, enhancement, and contemporary use of historic properties, particularly by seeking public–private partnerships to promote the use of such properties as a stimulus to local economic development. The Executive Order is an important component in a new White House initiative called *Preserve America*, which was announced on March 3, 2003 by First Lady Laura Bush. The *Preserve America* program will serve as a focal point for the support of the preservation, use, and enjoyment of America’s historic places.

The Bureau is proud of its mission and understands why it is crucial to the Nation’s future. The Bureau’s vision is to live up to this ambitious mission and thereby meet the needs of the lands and our people. In order to achieve this goal, the Bureau must seek new ways of managing that include innovative partnerships and, especially, a community-based focus that

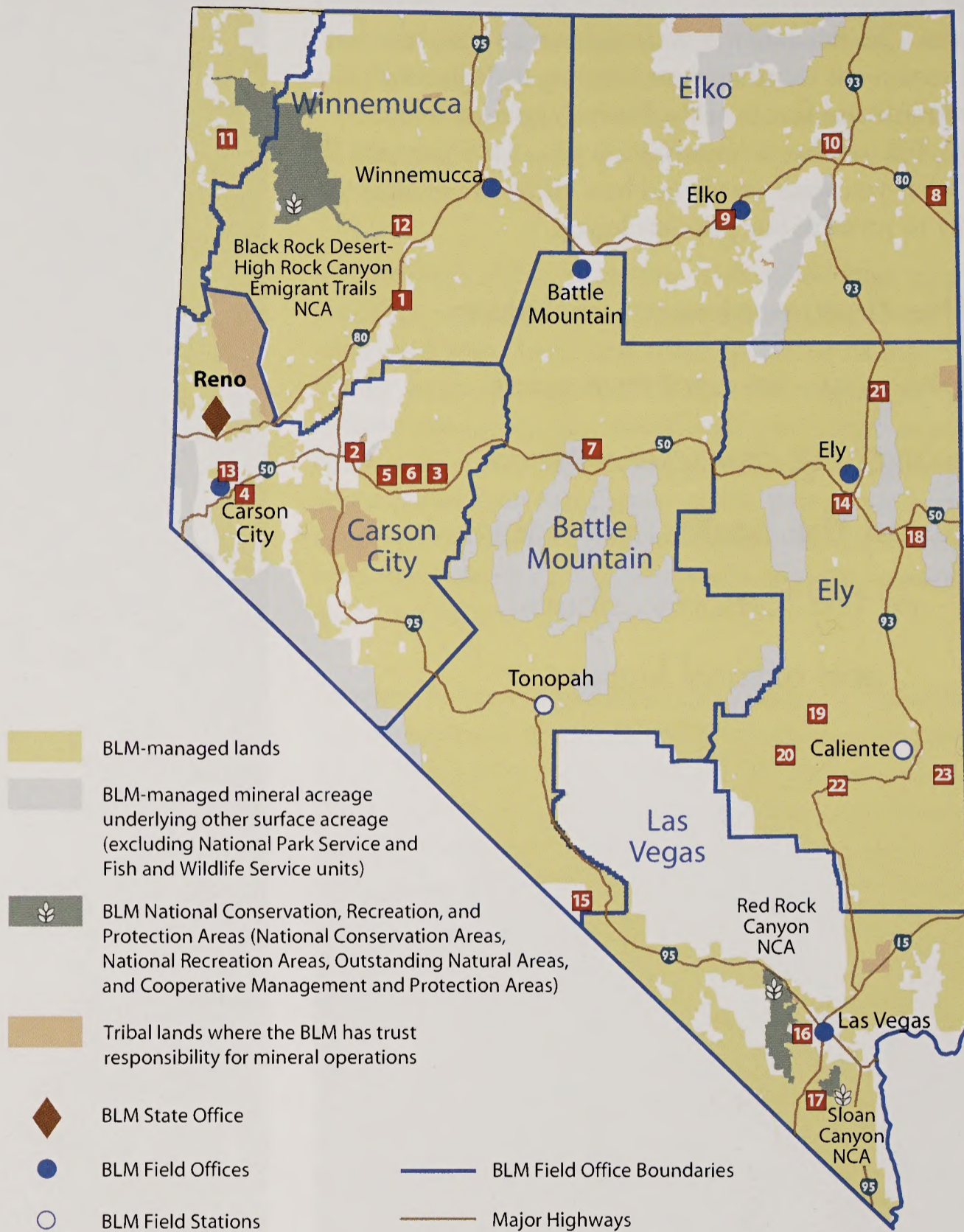


involves citizen stakeholders and governmental partners who care about the public lands and the cultural and fossil resources found on them. This document is an invitation to you—the public BLM serves—to continue your ongoing dialogue with us about the health and future of the Nation’s cultural and natural legacy. Tell us what is important to you, what you care most about, what you want saved, and how BLM can work collaboratively to preserve our priceless legacy.

This document is an invitation  
to you...to continue your  
ongoing dialogue with us  
about the health and future  
of the Nation’s cultural  
and natural legacy.







**Interpreted Cultural Sites**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>1</b> Marzden House Museum/Lovelock Cave Backcountry Byway | <b>13</b> Virginia City-Comstock National Historic Landmark |
| <b>2</b> Grimes Point/Hidden Cave Archaeological Area         | <b>14</b> Ward Charcoal Ovens/Cemetery/Townsite             |
| <b>3</b> Rock Creek Stage/Telegraph Station                   | <b>15</b> Rhyolite Historic Area                            |
| <b>4</b> Silver Saddle Ranch                                  | <b>16</b> Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area        |
| <b>5</b> Sand Springs Pony Express Station                    | <b>17</b> Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area           |
| <b>6</b> Cold Springs Pony Express Station                    | <b>18</b> Baker Village Site                                |
| <b>7</b> Hickison Summit Petroglyphs                          | <b>19</b> White River Narrows Petroglyphs                   |
| <b>8</b> Wendover-Hastings Cutoff                             | <b>20</b> Mt. Irish Rock Art Site                           |
| <b>9</b> Southfork Dam-Hastings Cutoff                        | <b>21</b> Schellbourne Pony Express Station                 |
| <b>10</b> California Trail Backcountry Byway                  | <b>22</b> Crystal Wash Rock Art Site                        |
| <b>11</b> Stevens Camp  | <b>23</b> Panaca Summit Charcoal Kilns                      |
| <b>12</b> Imlay-Lassen-Applegate Trail                        |   |





# NEVADA

## Statistical Overview

Acres of public land	47.8 million acres
Acres inventoried for cultural properties (FY 2002)	98,364 acres
Acres inventoried for cultural resources (to date)	1,913,078 acres
Cultural properties recorded (FY 2002)	1,921 properties
Cultural properties recorded (to date)	41,690 properties
Cultural Resource Use Permits in effect (FY 2002)	66 permits
National Register of Historic Places listings (to date)	31 listings
National Register of Historic Places contributing properties	239 properties
Section 106 class III undertakings (FY 2002)	360 undertakings
Section 106 data recovery, projects (FY 2002)	17 projects
Section 106 data recovery, properties (FY 2002)	47 properties
Interpreted places	23 places

## Cultural Resources

### 1. Program Summary

In Nevada, BLM manages some of the most important and best preserved prehistoric and historic archaeological sites in the American West. These sites span the entire range of human occupation in the New World, from 13,000 years ago to the present. They include properties as diverse as Paleo-Indian mammoth kill sites, Archaic hunting camps, giant ground figures (intaglios), pueblo ruins, rock art, ghost towns, historic ranches,

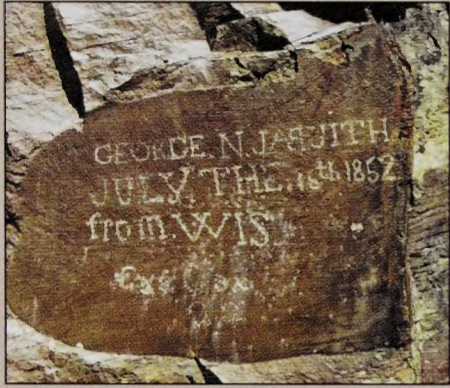
In Nevada, BLM manages some of the most important and best preserved prehistoric and historic archaeological sites in the American West.



**Petroglyphs in Sloan Canyon.**







Emigrant inscription in High Rock Canyon.

BLM manages a large number of significant sites in Nevada—sites related to Native peoples as well as to historic pioneer and immigrant trails, mining, ranching, and railroads.

and numerous historic trails and wagon roads such as the Pony Express Trail and the California Trail. Thirty-one individual properties and districts are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and one is a National Historic Landmark. Over 1.9 million acres of Nevada public land have been inventoried for cultural resources and over 41,000 properties recorded. Twenty-three of these have been interpreted for public visitation, including rock art, historic trails, and Pony Express sites.

Nevada Areas of Critical Environmental Concern designated entirely or partly to provide special management attention for cultural resources protection include High Basins, Rhyolite, Sloan Canyon, and Stewart Valley. Congress has designated three BLM-managed National Conservation Areas in Nevada: Red Rock Canyon, Black Rock Desert High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails, and Sloan Canyon. Two of these, Sloan and Black Rock, were designated because of nationally significant cultural resources. Three National Historic Trails run through Nevada: the Immigrant Trail, the Pony Express Trail, and the old Spanish Trail.

## 2. State Cultural History

Cultural resources in Nevada represent prehistoric and historic cultures and archaeological regions (Fremont, Anasazi, Northwest Plateau, Great Basin, Southern California Desert, and California Sierra) that span the entire history of human occupation in North America. This diversity of cultures ranges from American Indian hunters and gatherers through village-dwelling agriculturalists, and includes the historic and modern developments of the 19th and 20th centuries. BLM manages a large number of significant sites in Nevada—sites related to Native peoples as well as to historic pioneer and immigrant trails, mining, ranching, and railroads.

In Nevada, the prehistoric period covers human habitation in the Great Basin dating back some 12,000 years and stretching to the early 1800s. The tools, weapons, and dwellings of the prehistoric Paiute, Shoshone, Washoe, and other Indian groups testify to these people's remarkable adaptability and to that of the people who came before them. Significant prehistoric sites in Nevada include hundreds of dry caves that preserve textiles, food remains, and wooden artifacts usually lost in other sites; numerous rock art sites; and numerous Anasazi and Fremont



agricultural and pueblo sites. Among the archaeological treasures associated with these sites are a wealth of stone artifacts, numerous ancient baskets, and extensive panels of rock art.

The historic period in Nevada generally began with the arrival of trappers and immigrants in the early 1800s and continues through the boom-and-bust cycle of Nevada's mining camps to the present day. Historic resources include remains such as old bottles, weapons, and tools, as well as buildings and other structures, important trails, and mining districts. Historic photographs and written accounts of western life supplement the archaeological evidence and help to bring the period alive, both for scholars and the modern public. Significant historic sites in Nevada include the remains of numerous mining towns, camps, and mine works; Pony Express stations; and immigrant trails.

Cultural resources in Nevada also include numerous traditional cultural properties that are significant to Native American tribes and other groups. Spirit Mountain in southern Nevada has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a significant traditional cultural property.

### 3. Cultural Resources At Risk

Cultural resources in Nevada are affected by a wide range of activities. Rock art sites and historic cemeteries are being vandalized. Many caves and rock shelters are being systematically looted and illegally excavated. Native American traditional use sites, as well as standing historic and prehistoric structures, are being affected by catastrophic wildfires and natural erosion. Illegal collecting is taking place on many open prehistoric sites, as well as on numerous historic mining sites. Recreational activities and heritage tourism are also taking their toll on sites as people are unknowingly abusing historic trails, rock art sites, and other remnants of the past.

### 4. Major Accomplishments

- Received a \$350,000 Save America's Treasures grant to prepare a preservation plan and complete preservation and restoration activities for the historic cemeteries at the Virginia City National Historic Landmark.



**Historic ruins uncovered by August 1999 fires near Winnemucca, Nevada.**

Cultural resources in Nevada are affected by a wide range of activities.



**Volunteers cleaning up Grimes Point.**







A duck decoy from Lovelock Cave, dating back to 2200 B.C., is the oldest known decoy in the world.

There are numerous tribes having an interest in cultural resources on BLM-managed lands in Nevada...

- Completed a Class I ethnographic/ethnohistoric overview of Northern Paiute and Western Shoshone land use practices.
- Completed two environmentally stratified probabilistic planning models for oil and gas exploration in eastern Nevada.
- Completed a landscape-level interagency/interstate planning overview in northeastern Nevada.
- Completed a brochure, driving guide, and signs for the Lovelock Cave Backcountry Byway.
- Initiated an ongoing rock art site stewardship program in cooperation with the Nevada Rock Art Foundation.
- Developed the “Under One Sky” exhibit at the Nevada State Museum in partnership with the museum and western Nevada tribes.
- Discovered a 10,000-year-old living floor in the Bonneville Estates rock shelter.
- Received a \$100,000 Joint Fire Science Program grant to investigate fire history in central Nevada.
- Nominated six segments of the Old Spanish Trail/Mormon Road to the National Register of Historic Places.
- Continued research at Black Dog Mesa on the westernmost Basketmaker culture and the only dated Basketmaker II site in southern Nevada.

##### 5. Ethnic, Tribal, and Other Groups to Whom BLM Cultural Resources Are Important

There are numerous tribes having an interest in cultural resources on BLM-managed lands in Nevada:

Shoshone Tribes: Duck Valley Shoshone-Paiute Tribal Council; Duckwater Shoshone Tribe; Ely Shoshone Tribe; Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone; Battle Mountain Band of the Te-Moak Band of Western



Shoshone; Elko Band of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone; South Fork Band Council of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone; Wells Band of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone; Yomba Shoshone Tribe; Timbisha Shoshone Band.

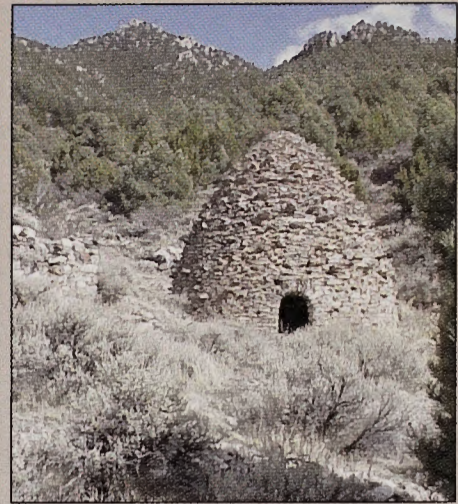
Paiute Tribes: Fort McDermitt Tribal Council; Pahrump Paiute Indian Tribe; Lovelock Paiute Colony; Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe; Summit Lake Paiute Tribe; Walker River Paiute Tribe; Moapa River/Paiute Tribe; Yerington Paiute Tribe.

Other Tribes: Goshute Tribal Council; Washoe Tribal Council; Reno-Sparks Indian Colony; Winnemucca Colony of Paiute and Shoshone Indians; Fallon Paiute-Shoshone Tribe; Ft. Hall Shoshone-Bannock Tribe.

Other groups potentially interested in BLM's cultural resources include descendants of the Hispanic, Basque, Chinese, and Japanese peoples who worked and lived on Nevada's public lands in the past. Various amateur and professional archaeological groups, historical societies, and others with an interest in the past also may find BLM's cultural resources of importance.

## 6. Existing Partnerships

- The University of Nevada, Las Vegas, for rock art management and the University of Nevada, Reno, for historic and prehistoric archaeology field schools; Hamilton College for Paleo-Indian research; and Great Basin College for prehistoric archaeology field schools in Elko.
- The Nevada State Museum for long-term curation, museum exhibits, and basic research; the American Museum of Natural History for interpretation of Hidden Cave; the Marsden House Museum for management of Lovelock Cave; and the Churchill County Museum for management of Hidden Cave.
- The Washoe Tribe and Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe for data sharing.
- The Nevada State Historic Preservation Office for data automation.



Phillipsberg charcoal kiln in the Diamond Mountains.

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A typical petroglyph boulder at Grimes Point.



The Sand Mountain Pony Express station with the Sand Mountain traditional cultural property in the background.

- The Desert Research Institute for paleoenvironmental research and Beta Mu for archaeological research.
- The Society for California Archaeology for rock art interpretation, the Nevada Historical Society for archival research, the Oregon-California Trail Association for historic trails interpretation and management, the Comstock Cemetery Foundation for cemetery management of the Comstock National Historic Landmark, the Friends of Sloan Petroglyphs for management of the Sloan site and rock art in Clark County, the Old Spanish Trail Association for historic trails research, the Great Basin Natural History Association for management of the Baker site, and the Nevada Archaeology Association for rock art management and public involvement.
- The Nevada Division of State Parks for management of Ward charcoal ovens and Great Basin National Park for interpretation of the Baker site.
- The Nevada Mining Association for historic mining interpretation.
- The Nevada Rock Art Foundation for recording and monitoring rock art sites.

## 7. Economic Benefits

There is no direct evidence of the economic benefits of heritage tourism and other recreational uses of cultural resources from BLM-managed lands in Nevada.





# Paleontological Resources

## 1. Program Summary

The BLM manages nearly 48 million acres of public land in Nevada, comprising 68 percent of the State's land base. Approximately five Paleontological Resource Use Permits are active each year in the State. These permits involve university students, volunteers, and professional paleontologists conducting all aspects of research associated with the study of fossils.

In Nevada, BLM has established one Area of Critical Environmental Concern to recognize the fossils of the Stewart Valley area. This area contains finely detailed botanical fossils, delicate remains of fossil fish, and extinct mammals. Researchers from the University of California, Berkeley; the University of Nevada, Reno; and the Nevada State Museum in Las Vegas participate in the study of Nevada's fossil fauna.

## 2. State Paleontological History

Nevada has a tortured geologic history. Some of the rocks now exposed on its surface are among the oldest on Earth. For much of its history, Nevada was an area of volcanoes spewing out ash and other debris. During its long geologic history, Nevada was covered several times by oceans and inland seas containing trilobites, corals, and other exotic invertebrates, and later was home to primitive fish and large ichthyosaurs (marine reptiles that resembled dolphins) and other swimming reptiles.

The basin and range landscape of Nevada is the result of millions of years of violent activity in the Earth's crust, which eventually created the distinctive pattern of mountain ranges and valleys in the State. More recently, huge lakes occupied the spaces between the mountain ranges where Ice Age animals and the environment looked very much like the African savannas of 50 years ago.

## 3. Paleontological Resources at Risk

Nevada's paleontological resources are being lost primarily to the natural processes of weathering and erosion. However, the State's population is growing faster than any other State in the

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As these areas grow, public uses of the land will increase, bringing recreational and other kinds of uses to areas that have potentially important fossil values.

nation. As towns and cities expand, they reach Federal land that surrounds all of Nevada's major cities. As a result, planners and developers in Las Vegas, Reno, Sparks, Henderson, and Carson City look to BLM land as they deal with the pressures brought by this rapid growth. As these areas grow, public uses of the land will increase, bringing recreational and other kinds of uses to areas that have potentially important fossil values.

#### 4. Major Accomplishments

- Collected Ice Age fossils of the giant short-faced bear, American cheetah, horses, camels, and more than 50 other species, which were estimated to be as young as 9800 years, in Mineral Hill Cave.
- Collected a mastodon skeleton, which was discovered by local residents, with the assistance of the University of Nevada, Reno.
- Published the "Trilobite Trail" brochure (Caliente Field Office).
- Salvaged a mammoth skeleton in the Black Rock Desert with the assistance of the Desert Research Institute.

#### 5. Existing Partnerships

- The Desert Research Institute and the Utah Division of Minerals for excavation and interpretation of Mineral Hill.
- The Keck Museum for curation and Carson City mammoth site excavation.
- The University of Nevada, Reno, for Black Rock mammoth research.





- The San Bernardino County Museum for Pleistocene ground sloth research.
- U.S. Geological Survey for mapping.
- The Northeastern Nevada Museum for a mammoth exhibit.

## 6. Economic Benefits

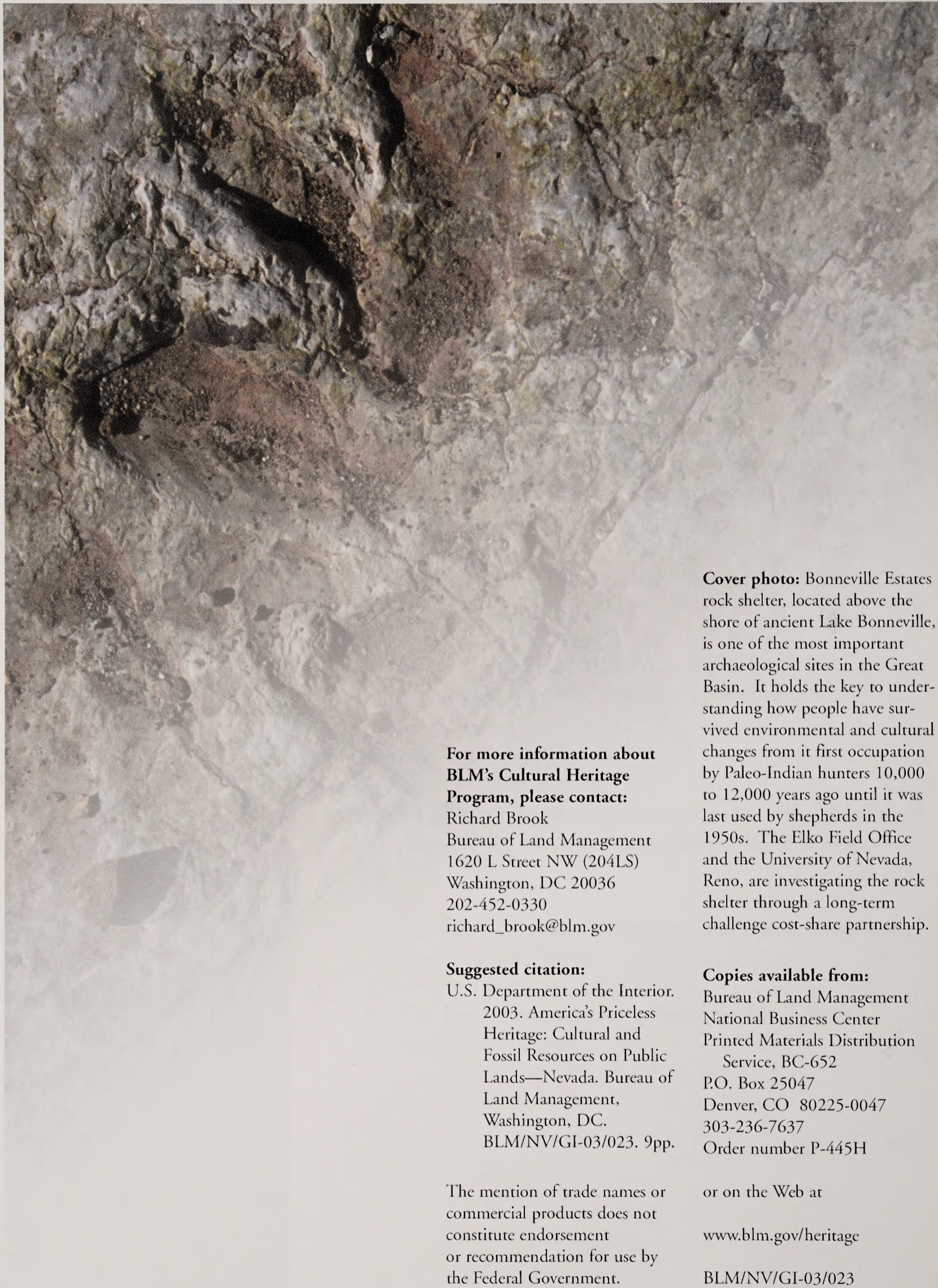
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**A paleontological dig of prehistoric mastodon remains in the Pine Nut Mountains southeast of Gardnerville, Nevada, which was sponsored by the University of Nevada at Reno.**







**Cover photo:** Bonneville Estates rock shelter, located above the shore of ancient Lake Bonneville, is one of the most important archaeological sites in the Great Basin. It holds the key to understanding how people have survived environmental and cultural changes from its first occupation by Paleo-Indian hunters 10,000 to 12,000 years ago until it was last used by shepherds in the 1950s. The Elko Field Office and the University of Nevada, Reno, are investigating the rock shelter through a long-term challenge cost-share partnership.

**For more information about BLM's Cultural Heritage Program, please contact:**  
Richard Brook  
Bureau of Land Management  
1620 L Street NW (204LS)  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-452-0330  
richard\_brook@blm.gov

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# The Bureau of Land Management *Today*

## *Our Vision*

To enhance the quality of life for all citizens through the balanced stewardship of America's public lands and resources.

## *Our Mission*

To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

## *Our Values*

To serve with honesty, integrity, accountability, respect, courage, and commitment to make a difference.

## *Our Priorities*

To improve the health and productivity of the land to support the BLM multiple-use mission.

To cultivate community-based conservation, citizen-centered stewardship, and partnership through consultation, cooperation, and communication.

To respect, value, and support our employees, giving them resources and opportunities to succeed.

To pursue excellence in business practices, improve accountability to our stakeholders, and deliver better service to our customers.

