



GREAT BASIN National Heritage Area

The Newsletter
of the Great Basin
National Heritage
Partners

There is a reason they call it Great! —Its loneliness and wide open spaces appeal to the special few.

GBNHP 10th annual meeting planned

The Board of the Great Basin National Heritage Partnership will meet at the visitor center of the Great Basin National Park on Saturday, June 12 at 9:00a .m. The event marks the 10th annual meeting for the Partnership, incorporated in May of 2000 to promote designation of the Great Basin Heritage Area as a National Heritage Area.

In addition to the regular business meeting, a very entertaining featured speaker, Charlie Flynn, Director of the

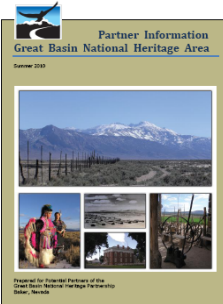
Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area, will detail how partners can leverage their relationship with Heritage Areas based on his experience in setting up and operating two National Heritage Areas.

Following a luncheon, the EskDale School Choir is scheduled to perform.

Members of the general public, heritage partners and friends of the GBNHP are invited to attend. Comments and suggestions for operational objectives are always welcome.

Partner packets are ready

An informative packet has been developed for staff and board members to



give to potential partners when explaining the benefits of partnering within the Heritage Area.

The materials explain what a heritage area is, how it works, what our

organization is about and lists other stakeholders. A unique “Write your Own” partnership agreement form is included.

Interpretive planning moves ahead

An April 14 meeting of area planning partners significantly moved the process of interpretive planning ahead for the GBNHA’s management plan. More than 20 representatives of federal and state agencies, local governments, businesses and individuals met on the Utah /Nevada Border to help determine and verify the final array of sites to be included in the interpretive network, the stories and key concepts to be communicated, the most appropriate stories to be told and to agree on the most appropriate (and feasible) strategies for providing interpretation.

Disney/Pixar chooses GBNHA for live-action fantasy, adventure filming

The Great Basin National Heritage Area’s starkly beautiful Tule Valley in Millard County, Utah has been the site for early summer filming of a Disney science fiction film based on a story by Tarzan creator Edgar Rice Burroughs. Details at: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Carter_of_Mars_\(film\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Carter_of_Mars_(film))



Volume 2 Issue 2

June 2010

Meet Some of Our Stakeholders:

- ♦ *Great Basin National Park*
- ♦ *Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition*
- ♦ *Millard County Office of Tourism*
- ♦ *National Pony Express Association*
- ♦ *Duckwater Shoshone Tribe*
- ♦ *Nevada Rock Art Foundation*
- ♦ *Utah Humanities Council*

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GREAT BASIN HERITAGE NEWS

GBH News is the official newsletter of the Great Basin National Heritage Partnership and is produced by its Executive Director, R. Dan Gooch.

GBH NEWS is published periodically. All issues are posted on the GBNHP website. Some copies are also mailed or e-mailed to GBNHA partners and associates.

GBH NEWS will accept articles from partners or interested parties on heritage issues or events occurring within the Great Basin National Heritage Area. Articles may include photos (preferably in JPG format) accompanied by a cover letter with the author's name, address and telephone number. They may be mailed to:

GBH News
PO Box 78
Baker, NV 89311

or e-mailed to greatbasinheritage@wirelessbeehive.com

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-Kyla Overson
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Become involved...

GBNHP seeks partners to join us as supporters, funders, operators of heritage features, volunteers, or even as critics.

Contact us at:
PO Box 78
Baker, NV 89311
or e-mailed to greatbasinheritage@wirelessbeehive.com

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A Report from the President



Since the Partnership's last Board meeting in February, much progress has been made on the management plan. The second meeting between partners and interpretive planning consultant Dave Bucy was productive and Dave has submitted a draft interpretive plan for us to review at the annual meeting. Once the interpretative segment is completed, the only major component of the management plan left to do is the Environmental Assessment. Our Executive Director reports that he is on schedule to have the draft management plan completed by this fall. It seems like it has been a slow process, but in reality we are right on schedule for completion of the plan.

Financially, all of the 2008 federal monies have been spent. We still have all of the 2009 and 2010 funding remaining. This means we have \$300,000 to use to produce and print the management plan and keep going for another couple of years. Of course, that is money for which we will have to find matching funds.

That is why I am particularly excited to have Charlie Flynn, Director of Yuma Crossing National Heritage Area as our guest speaker at the Partnership's Annual Meeting on June 12. In the past I have mentioned Charlie to the Board because he is the master at taking federal money and matching and re-matching to maximum effect. The national average for match to federal money is eight to one. Charlie matches twenty to one or even higher. I am sure that his visit to Great Basin National Heritage Area will benefit all our partners as well as us.

In March, our Director and I attended the Nevada Rural Round-up which is fun and gives us a chance to touch base with others around the state and what is happening in the tourism industry. It is always important to meet with the folks from the Nevada Commission on Tourism (NCOT). NCOT has always been our major source of funding and without the support of Larry Friedman at NCOT there would be no Great Basin National Heritage Area.

Early in May, I participated in a local heritage event associated with the Pony Express 150th anniversary. Mail was delivered to students in White Pine County by Pony Express riders. And the students sent letters on with the riders. Keith Anderson of the Ely Pony Express re-riders did an excellent job of involving all the students in White Pine County and gave a brief history lecture to each school. Baker Grade School, McGill Elementary and David E. Norman Elementary were visited by the Pony Express riders. It is good to have local children exposed to their own regional heritage in a participatory way at an early age.

Denys Koyle, GBNHP President

ENLC protects heritage landscapes



The official mission of the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition (ENLC) is to restore the dynamic and diverse landscapes of the Great Basin for present and future generations through collaborative efforts.

Using similar words, one might say they are in the business of restoring and maintaining the **heritage landscape** of the Great Basin. The Coalition is a partner readers of this newsletter should know about.

The concept of large-scale restoration of the public lands was already being discussed when in 1999 devastating wildland fires swept through Nevada, scorching 1.7 million acres of the public lands, statewide. Armed with the understanding that a well-organized group of partners with a

broad base of support could accomplish more than a single entity, a small number of federal and state agencies, and private non-profit organizations began to come together. Thus was born the 501c3 non-profit Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition, which was established in March 2001 to help facilitate the enormous but vital task of restoring health to more than 10 million acres of public lands in eastern Nevada.

The ENLC today boasts more than 100 non-federal partners.

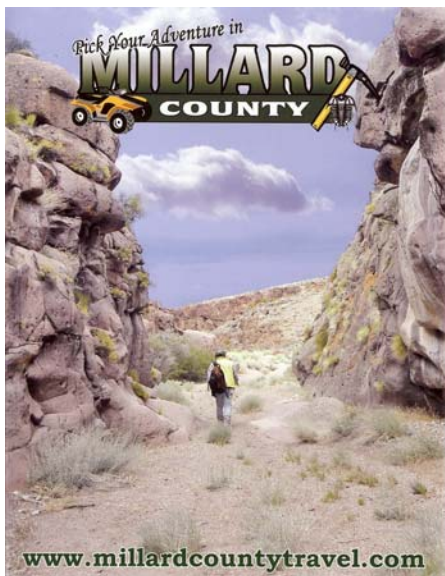
The ENLC is also continuing to build

relationships with the region's Native American tribes and considers their involvement vital to future successes. In addition to its partners, the ENLC brings to bear on all proposed projects a rigorous scientific review. The ENLC Science Committee consists of a diverse group of professionals comprised of professors from universities in Nevada and Utah, BLM land managers, Extension agents, ecologists from The Nature Conservancy and other scientists. Visit the ENLC on-line at <http://www.envlc.org/>.



Millard County Tourism piece is published

The Millard County Tourism Office has released a new edition of its comprehensive and popular guide to adventures in Millard County.



www.millardcountytravel.com

The 40 page full color publication is loaded with maps, photos and detailed information on everything a visitor might want to know. It

lists and describes the county's cities and towns, places to see and things to do. It details the county's recreational facilities and planned public events. The piece also lists motels and campsites. (Restaurants had appeared in previous editions however, frequent openings and closings made it difficult to maintain current information over the life of the publication.)

Historic heritage highlights include the Territorial Statehouse Museum, the Great Basin Museum, the Topaz Relocation Site, Old Fort Desert and Cove Fort.

Heritage related activities include hunting, fishing, rock hounding and exploration of west desert trails, hot springs and the scenic Notch Peak and visiting the annual Snow Goose Festival.



Featured sites included Cove Fort (above), and Topaz Museum (below). Featured activities included rock hounding for topaz semi-precious gems (right).



The promotional piece is loaded with excellent maps like the one to the left. Maps like these are vital to aid visitors in navigating the vast spaces.

Pony Express 150th anniversary to be observed along trail

In spite of its brief life (April 1860-October 1861) the Pony Express enjoys lasting fame in American cultural heritage. The 150th anniversary of its beginning will be celebrated locally this month with a number of events.

On April 3, 1860 pioneer mail haulers the Russell, Majors and Waddell firm started the Pony Express mail service. Before the Pony Express, it took eight weeks for the mail to get from the east coast to the west coast via ship to Panama, across Panama by mule and by ship again to San Francisco. The Pony Express, transporting mail from St. Joseph, MO to Sacramento, CA across what is now the Great Basin National Heritage area would reduce this time to eight

days. Way stations for the express company were built about 10 to 15 miles apart along the route to provide accommodation for the riders and to rest the horses. Several Pony Express stations in the GBNHA were located in Spring Valley and on the east and west sides of Steptoe Valley.

The Pony Express lasted a short 19 ½ months until November 20, 1861. By this time, the telegraph was being constructed along the side of the trail. The combination of the telegraph, the Civil War, and other economic factors caused the downfall of the Pony Express.

However, the adventure of riding the trail lived on. A re-ride of the Pony Express was held in 1923. Sixty participants rode across the eight states that had originally made up the Pony Express trail.

The National Pony Express Association (NPEA) is a non-profit, volunteer-led historical organization. Its purpose is to preserve the original Pony Express trail and to continue the memory and importance of Pony Express in American history in partnership with the National Park Service.

Since 1980, the National Pony Express Association has held a re-ride every year in June. NPEA members ride across the 1,966 mile route non-stop over 10 days. Beginning in St. Joseph, Missouri and ending in Sacramento, California (alternating direction yearly), riders carry commemorative mail in special pouches called mochillas. Each rider covers one to ten miles and must be able to change horses and/or mochillas in less than 15 minutes.

Normally, the Re-Ride is a 10-day, 24-hour a day, non-stop event by over 500 riders and horses. This year's annual re-ride will begin in San Francisco, California on June 6 and end in St. Joseph, Missouri on June 26. This re-ride is longer this year and will only be conducted during daytime hours to give local communities and state Divisions the opportunity to hold celebrations and memorial dedications.

Locally:

Observances of the Pony Express 150th anniversary within in the GBNHA will be associated with scheduled stops along the re-ride route.

The primary one is on US Highway 93 where

it intersects with the trail at Shellbourne Station.

There, on June 12 at 8 am, The Shellbourne Re-riders of the Nevada Division of the National Pony Express Association will come through with the mail.

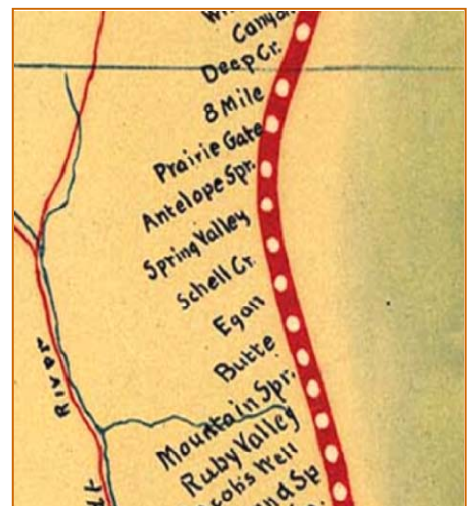
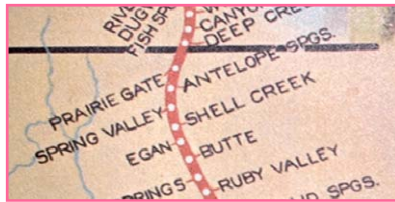
There, at the same time, the Nevada Pony Express Silhouettes Association, together with the Pony Express Trails Association will dedicate a gigantic metal silhouette of a pony express horse and rider. The silhouette is one of four planned projects at sites in Nevada where the Pony Express route crosses highways. Interpretive messages will be associated with each silhouette.

The re-ride schedule for stops in the GBNHA includes:

Depart Overland Pass
(in the Diamond Mountains)
Friday, June 11, 9:30pm PDT

Stop at Shellbourne
Saturday June 12, 8:00 am PDT

Arrive in Ibapah
Saturday, June 12, 4:00pm PDT.



Original names for stations and stops in the GBNHA appear on the two historical maps on this page.



Trilobite fossil hunting will be a heritage event

An unusual (perhaps the first of its kind) heritage related event is being sponsored this summer within the Great Basin National Heritage Area by fossil enthusiasts associated with American Trilobite Suppliers headquartered in Las Vegas. The event is designed to excite fossil collectors and visitors from around the US and beyond for four days of education, competitive and recreational digging and companionship related with the local trove of trilobites.

This event has many of the features valuable to the Heritage Area: it attracts visitors, celebrates local heritage, embodies research and discovery, exposes outsiders to the Heritage Area, builds pride in local citizens and supports the local economy. This is the first year for this event so it is not known what kind of a draw it will have, but it is being widely promoted and has the potential of becoming an annual event.

The Wheeler Shale and Marjum Geological Formation, located in west central Millard County are world renowned for their Middle Cambrian faunas.



Thin layers of Wheeler Shale yield abundant fossil specimens.

These 350 million year old deposits yield abundant trilobite and other fossils. The company has leased state lands and will be providing a newly exposed 1000 foot strip of vastly unexplored shale. There is literally no telling what can be dug up! Patrons of the event will be

able to keep everything they find—even the rarest of species.

The beds at Marjum Pass are famous for the abundance of Hemirhodon trilobites that occur in the interbedded shales and limestones. The Wheeler Amphitheater is equally famous for its abundance of Olenoides trilobites. The event site, being situated roughly half way in between these two classic locations contain both faunas.

The event, titled TRILOBITEJAM, will offer collectors and enthusiasts four full days of uninhibited fossil collecting on over 300 acres of trilobite and fossil-bearing rocks from Thursday, July 22 to Sunday, July 25.

Activities include educational sessions from basic digging techniques to tools to a seminar on digging a systematic and geometric hole. Key points will be stressed in guiding the collector in time management, talus allocation, site assessment, and maximization of surface area. Experts will be on site to assist in identification of species.

A “Dig-Off” is going to be held on Saturday, July 24. This event is a multi-part event. Several awards will be handed out in various disciplines. Digging teams of no more than two people will be judged. Awards will be made to teams that dig the largest hole, the most systematic hole, and to the team that discovers the largest trilobite in the Dig-Off. Another award will be given to the collector who discovers the rarest trilobite species and another for the team that discovers the finest trilobite specimens. A combination of size, rarity, and relative quality will be used to judge this category.

At the end of the Jam, a “Biggest Catch Award” will be made. Awards

will be given to those collectors who found outstanding specimens, and to the patrons that traveled the furthest to attend the TRILOBITEJAM. Prizes will include tools, trilobite specimens, and other TRILOBITEJAM memorabilia.



***Bathyriscus fimbriatus* – This beautiful trilobite can be found at Bathyriscus Bonanza dig area. Molted carapi of this trilobite are fairly common, while complete specimens with the free cheeks attached are a little more difficult to come by.**

Photos courtesy of American Trilobite Suppliers

The American Trilobite Suppliers will also be providing a buffalo dinner for everyone.

There will be campfire gatherings each night.

There is a registration fee for the event. Interested parties may contact: TRILOBITEJAM 10496 Raining Sky St. Las Vegas, NV 89178. Or log onto: www.trilobitejam.com.





Heritage News
PO Box 78
Baker, NV 89311

The Newsletter of the Great Basin National Heritage Partnership.

We are on the Web. Visit us at:

<http://www.greatbasinheritage.org/>

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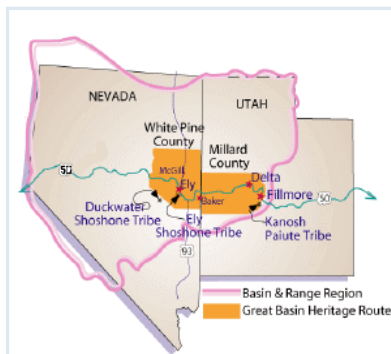
The Great Basin National Heritage Partnership

Our mission is to: develop and enable partnerships to help identify, research and evaluate, conserve, protect, interpret and promote the archaeological, historical, cultural, natural, scenic and recreational resources of the Great Basin National Heritage Area in a way that enhances economic opportunity without managing or regulating land use.

You may want to know a little about our history and our objectives...

And join us as a partner

The Great Basin National Heritage Area (GBNHA) was designated by Congress in 2006 to recognize its "classic western landscape that contains long natural vistas, isolated high desert valleys, mountain ranges, ranches, mines, historic railroads, archaeological sites and tribal communities." The recognized Area is made up of two neighboring counties, White Pine in Nevada, Millard in Utah, as representative of the larger geographic Great Basin.



The Great Basin National Heritage Partnership (GBNHP) was designated as the local coordinating entity for the Area.

The Partnership has been in operation formally since 2002 when it was incorporated. It had been active informally prior to that.

In addition to developing a management plan, the Partnership is currently reformulating its relationship with organizations and agencies that were,

are or could be partners. Partners are nothing more than individuals, non-profit organizations, governmental agencies, businesses, or even foundations that have an interest in the Great Basin National Heritage Area and want to participate in what the partnership is doing. Relationships can be formal; the partnership has a written agreement with the National Park Service and we are working on developing memorandums of understanding with local BLM Offices. Or, they can be informal; we have simple letters of support from a number of groups. No written documentation is necessary if individuals want to volunteer.