



# 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.

## GBHAP meeting planned for Fillmore

The public is invited to join the board of the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership (GBHAP) when it meets at the Fillmore Library 25 South 100 West Fillmore, UT on Saturday, September 10 at 10:00 a.m. MDT.

During the regular organizational business meeting the Board will discuss current and proposed projects. One such project is the Partnership's role in assisting the Topaz Museum Board in its effort to develop a new design for a proposed museum to be constructed in Delta, UT. Another project slated for discussion is

the assistance the Partnership is providing for development of a mining museum in Ely, Nevada.

The board will also get an update on the environmental requirements for approval of its long term Management Plan that is currently under draft review.

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

## Draft management plan moves toward approval

The draft management plan for the Great Basin National Heritage Area was released June 3 for comment by the public, our partners and our Park Service advisors. The review period has now ended and the final draft is being written. It appears that the plan may not have to be accompanied by any en-

vironmental review because it appears to qualify for a categorical exclusion. The plan will be submitted to the Secretary of the Interior through Park Service personnel around the end of September. Additional funding for the Partnership is contingent on plan approval.

## Murals tell the stories of early Ely eras

This edition of the newsletter features murals from Ely (see page 4). Below: Local artist Chris Kreider completed the first part of this mural, Ward Charcoal Ovens, in 2003. It shows the role Italian immigrants played in building and operating the charcoal ovens at Ward. The ovens were used to produce charcoal for smelting.



Volume 3 Issue 2

September 2011

### Meet Some of Our Stakeholders:

- ◆ *Great Basin National Park—Baker, NV*
- ◆ *Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition*
- ◆ *Cosmic Ray Center-Delta*
- ◆ *Long Now Foundation*
- ◆ *Vans Hall-Delta*
- ◆ *Utah Humanities Council*
- ◆ *Reflections Magazine*
- ◆ *Scipio, UT*

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## **GREAT BASIN HERITAGE NEWS**

GBH News is the official newsletter of the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership and is produced by its Executive Director.

GBH NEWS is published periodically. All issues are posted on the GBNHP website. Some copies are also mailed or e-mailed to GBHAP 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](mailto:greatbasinheritage@wirelessbeehive.com)

### **Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership Board:**

President.....Denys Koyle

Treasurer.....Julie Gianoli

Directors.....Jane Beckwith

.....Kyla Overson

.....Virginia Sanchez

.....Delanie Spilsbury

.....Dave Tilford

.....Cheryl Noriega

.....Greg Seymour

Bookkeeper .....Susan Wetmore

### **Become involved...**

GBHAP 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](mailto:greatbasinheritage@wirelessbeehive.com)

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# A Report from the President

With the completion of the Draft Management Plan for the Heritage Area, I think we all sighed a big sigh of relief. The document is winding up the process of public comment. I attended the meeting at the Nevada Northern Railroad Museum where the plan was presented to Ely. I was pleased that it appeared to be well received. The plan had been compiled from a myriad of local suggestions gathered at previous scoping meetings here and around the Heritage Area.



As part of the management planning process, several Board members and I attended a meeting at Great Basin Visitor Center with Gordon Bell, NEPA specialist, at Great Basin National Park. The purpose of the meeting was to go through the process to determine if we could get a categorical exclusion to the NEPA requirements for an EA (environmental assessment). This process continues but prospects are bright.

I attended two BLM meetings concerning the draft EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) that has been released for the Southern Nevada Water Authority's groundwater project. The document is two volumes and is 1500 plus pages long. I haven't read the whole document but I did read the chapters concerning socio-economic, visual and cultural impacts. Representing GBHAP at the Baker meeting, I commented on the cultural impacts (mainly the importance of historic landscapes and how Spring Valley represents the history and the landscape of Nevada). I questioned how mitigation can be accomplished if history and historical artifacts are destroyed during the construction of the pipeline.

The comment period for this EIS has been extended to October 11. All of you may submit written comments to the BLM. You don't need to read the whole document. The three chapters I just mentioned are in Volume B. Chapter 3 of the document. Also, I recommend reading Chapter 4 which is only four pages long but in spreadsheet form lists the "Irreversible and Irrecoverable Commitment of Resources". Copies of the document are in the Ely, Delta and Fillmore Libraries and it is available on the BLM website.

The Great Basin National Park Foundation has approached us to discuss jointly hiring an employee who would be based in our office and manage the day to day activities of both organizations. This would allow us to keep our office open when the Director is away and expand the scope of activities of the Heritage Area. We will discuss this at the Fillmore meeting.

The Board has recommended to the White Pine County Board that former Partnership Director Greg Seymour be appointed to replace Robin Bell on our Partnership Board. We are still short one Board member to represent Millard County,

Anyone who is interested or has a suggestion, please contact me.

Thanks to you all for your hard work and support.

**Denys Koyle, GBHAP President**

## Its not too late to join us as a partner

The process of forming a National Heritage Area and getting it up and running is a long and arduous one. It has involved seeking congressional designation, gathering partners, holding scoping sessions to collect ideas for what the Heritage Area should be and do. It has included developing of resources, both physical and fiscal, to support the organizational and planning process. And it has involved creation of a proposed management plan that will both guide the operation of the heritage area's managing entity (the GBHA Partnership) as well as open the door for continued potential funding for the Heritage Area when the plan is approved by the Department of the Interior.

Staff and volunteers to do all this work have been few and priorities have demanded attention that may not have always allowed time to continually work with all of the groups that had initially expressed interest in joining the Partnership.

During the long process some of those groups may have become so involved in their regular course of business that they may not have had time to keep up with what the Heritage Area was doing or to further any formal association with the Partnership. (This is particularly likely in view of the impact from the economic downturn that has often resulted in reduction of personnel and available hours.)

Fortunately, now that development of the management plan is

wrapping up, the Partnership staff and hopefully its volunteer Board members will have more time to spend in the field seeking out stakeholders and potential partners and explaining the benefits to them and to the region of getting more involved with the Heritage Area.

It is not too late for stakeholders to become partners. Partners simply agree to cooperate in some way in the life of the official Heritage Area and usually the arrangement is mutually beneficial. The partnership has created a simple do-it yourself agreement form that can guide development of a two way relationship.

Interested stakeholders may contact the Partnership office for details.

## Two grant opportunities may be of interest to our partners within the Great Basin National Heritage Area

### Call for Grant Proposals: Preservation Technology and Training Grants

The National Center for Preservation Technology and Training seeks innovative projects that advance science and technology for historic preservation. The PTT Grants program funds projects that develop new technologies or adapt existing technologies to preserve cultural resources. NCPTT does not fund "bricks and mortar" projects or straight-forward documentation projects using well-established methods.

Grants are awarded competitively with a maximum of \$25,000. All grants require a one-to-one match of cash or in-kind services. Source of the match may be federal or non-federal resources.

Research Priorities: NCPTT funds projects within the following areas: archeology, architecture, collections management, engineering, historic landscapes, materials conservation

Projects that result in tangible grant products that disseminate information beyond traditional ways (online web based training, webinars, podcasts, videos, DVDs, electronic publishing, etc.) will be reviewed favorably.

The Grant Application Process: Applicants desiring assistance may submit an optional preproposal anytime up to October 1, 2010. Applicants must submit a PTT Grant application between September 1, 2010 and October 15, 2010.

### Conservation Project Support Grant

Grants of up to \$150,000 are available from the Institute of Museum and Library Services for many types of conservation activities including surveys, training, treatment, and environmental improvements. Applicants seeking support should define projects that address one of the institution's formally recognized highest conservation needs. In every case, applications must demonstrate that the primary goal of the project is conservation care, not collection management or maintenance.

# Murals tell the stories of early Ely

Following the boom and bust cycle of mining in White Pine County, Ely was on the downswing again in 1999 when yet another large mining operation in the area shut down. Then local businessman Norm Goeringer commissioned cowboy artist Larry Bute to paint a huge mural of a western scene on the side of his building and a template was set for historic interpretation in Ely.

Other businesses jumped on the band wagon, having Bute paint more murals depicting life in the Old West. Then a group of community-minded individuals came together as the Ely Renaissance Society and promoted development of more murals.

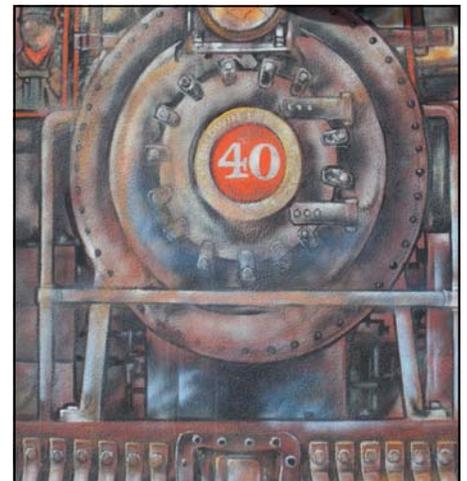
Now there are nearly 20 murals and sculptures spread throughout the town and Ely. Artists have been commissioned locally and from farther away.

The murals are perhaps best viewed on a walking tour of Ely's downtown area. The Ely Renaissance Society has produced a brochure and descriptive map for each location.

Some of the murals on the tour are pictured on these pages.



***Prospecting and mining brought the first prosperity and growth to Ely in the mid 1800's. The Overland Stage (above depicted on the wall of the Hotel Nevada) became the first method of public transportation into town. In 1906 it was replaced by the Nevada Northern Railway the building of which is celebrated by a mural [below] on the wall of the First National Bank of Ely. The railroad's engine number 40 also appears on the wall of the Hotel Nevada [right].***





*Mining near Ely was in full swing on an industrial scale by the 1920s. It attracted thousands of immigrant workers depicted on the mural of the Liberty Pit [below] that is painted on a building at the corner of 4th and Altman. Across 4th Street on the Garnet Mercantile building is another mural [right] depicting the industrial nature of the area's mining. This art deco style work is done on glass.*

*Prosperity that attracted immigrant miners also attracted prostitutes that worked in the "cribs" shown on the mural [above] painted on the wall of the historic Big 4 Bordello—still in operation.*

*Meanwhile lands beyond the mines supported the grazing of thousands of head of sheep. Most of the shepherders of the time were of Basque heritage. The mural [above right] was commissioned by the Renaissance Society in 2000. It was painted on the side of a car wash owned by Joe Ciscar who is of Basque decent. He submitted a photo of his father to be used for the mural. The artists were Don Gray and Jared Gray.*



# Arts festival will draw crowds to Fillmore

The Old Capitol Arts Festival comes again to Fillmore, UT on Sept 9-10 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.



Fine art, mountain man demonstrations, and live entertainment are

just a few of the attractions at the Old Capitol Arts Festival. The event takes place at the Territorial Statehouse Park in Fillmore.

A full agenda of activities fill the two-day festival. The park is overflowing with artists' booths featuring original artwork and crafts. A quick draw auction is a popular

event, with the sale of artwork created on the spot. Demonstrations of early pioneer skills keep attendees captivated. Civil War reenactments and antique car and horse-drawn wagon rides are added attractions.



The stage is continuously filled with live entertainment such as Cowboy Poetry, Great Country & Western Vocalists, Old Time Fiddlers, A Quick Draw Art Exhibition and local talent.

For the children, arts and crafts activities are available all day for their entertainment. They can ex-



**A variety of food concessions ensure no one will go hungry.**

perience pioneer games, help weave a rug, card wool, dip candles, make art projects, hear stories, sing songs and make a pot of their own.

Admission is free.

## Two day conference will be of value to tourism oriented partners

state of nevada  
**G GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE**  
on tourism  
NOVEMBER 29-30, 2011  
RIO ALL-SUITE HOTEL & CASINO • LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

**GovernorsConference.org**  
twitter.com/NVGovConference  
#NVGovCon

Partners in the Great Basin National Heritage Area that deal with tourists or promote their facilities for tourism may want to consider attending the 2011 Nevada Governor's Conference on Tourism planned for November 29-30 in Las Vegas.

The Nevada Governor's Conference on Tourism is the most comprehensive symposium for tourism professionals. The conference provides delegates with insight about tourism issues in Nevada, education about what's new in the industry, and serves as a networking forum where tourism professionals can exchange ideas and experiences.

The annual event took a brief hiatus in 2009 to iron out some financial challenges, then it made a successful return to meet in Reno in 2010. For the 2011 conference travels to Las Vegas, and will take place at the Rio All Suite Hotel & Casino. The agenda will cover the

changing climate in consumer behavior and travel trends, and provide insight into how to weather the economic uncertainty.

The official state tourism office, the Nevada Commission on Tourism, produces the conference, which is expected to attract approximately 250 tourism, hospitality and travel industry leaders from the following tourism associations in Nevada including convention and visitors authorities/bureaus, chambers of commerce, hotel and casino resorts, state, county and city agencies, travel agencies, tour companies, meetings and events planning companies, state, regional and local parks, museums and galleries, tourist attractions and cultural tourism providers.

Those interested in attending can get more information on line at: <http://governorsconference.org/home.aspx>.

# Nevada Northern Railway presents Plein Air Weekend

September 2-4, 2011

Nevada Northern Depot, East Ely, Nevada—Visitors come to watch, come to paint

En plein air is a French expression which means "in the open air", and is particularly used to describe the act of painting outdoors. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the Labor Day weekend the Nevada Northern Railway is providing painters and photographers the opportunity to capture the heritage of the historic rail yards, engine house and rolling stock.

Festivities kick off on Friday, September 2nd at 6:30 with an opening reception on the "Artist Special" (ticketed) steam engine passenger train excursion. Meanwhile the opening reception continues at the depot for artists and visitors.

On Saturday, September 3rd the grounds will be open 6:30am - 8:30pm for painting and photogra-



**East Ely Yard is a 9 x 12 Oil on canvas painted on-site by April Raber.**

phy. A plein-air oil-painting demonstration featuring artist April

Raber, OPA, LPAPA will be presented at 9:00am.

At 5:00pm there will be a special "Late Afternoon Light" tour of the engine house and yard.

Ticketed train trips include a steam engine passenger train excursion at 11:00am and a BBQ dinner excursion on the Steptoe Valley line at 6:30pm.

On Sunday, September 4th the grounds are again open all day for painting and photography.

Artwork will be on display and for sale at the depot 9:00am - 5:00pm. A ticketed steam engine passenger train excursion will be available at 9:30am.

Advanced train reservations are recommended.

## Guidelines promote energy efficiency for heritage structures

The National Park Service Technical Preservation Services released the *Illustrated Guidelines on Sustainability for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings* to help improve the energy efficiency of historic buildings while preserving their historic character. The guidelines offer practical advice to building owners, developers, and preservation practitioners, showing recommended - and not recommended - approaches to projects from solar panel installation to heating and air conditioning upgrades to weatherization and insulation.

The guidelines were developed to advance the growing trend of "greening" historic buildings. "While historic buildings are inherently sustainable because they already exist, by adding energy saving features like cool roofs and solar technology these icons of our

past can be bought into efficient twenty-first century use.

Waterless toilets, recycled pop bottle carpets, and compact fluorescent lights are just the latest components of green building. Front porches and shutters originally fitted onto heritage structures were early designs that save energy.

Park Service sources report that more and more developers think "sustainability" when they consider historic preservation projects today. The Service believes it makes sense from a couple of perspectives. Historic preservation projects generally have a lighter carbon footprint. They also make great economic sense when a project qualifies for the National Park Service's program that confers a 20 percent federal tax credit for



**High ceilings in the Nevada Northern Railroad Depot in Ely, NV provided an early form of comfort control that constituted energy saving at the beginning of the 20th century.**

historic rehab projects.

The guidelines are part of an ongoing commitment by the National Park Service to ensure a place for our shared built heritage in a future of energy uncertainties and environmental concerns. Visit <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/>



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### The Newsletter of the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership.

We are on the Web. Visit us at:

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

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### *The Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership*

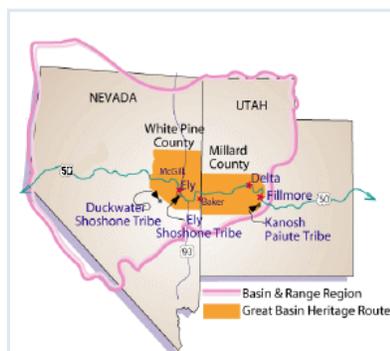
*Our mission is to: develop and enable partnerships to help identify, research and evaluate, conserve, protect, interpret and promote the archaeological, historical, cultural, natural, scenic and recreational resources of the Great Basin National Heritage Area in a way that enhances economic opportunity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

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**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 Heritage Area Partnership (GBHAP) 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.