GREAT BASIN NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

Preserving and Promoting our Heritage through Public-Private Partnerships
The Great Basin National Heritage Area was designated by Congress in 2006 and includes White Pine County, Nevada; Millard County, Utah; and the Ely Shoshone, Duckwater Shoshone, Goshute and Utah Kanosh-Paiute nations. As described in our enabling legislation, the GBNHA is a classic western landscape with sagebrush covered valleys and soaring mountains; ranches and rangelands; historic gold mines, ghost towns and railroads; and human endeavors stretching back over 13,000 years. The heritage area works with partners to preserve, interpret, and promote this special place with its wide-open spaces, star-filled night skies, and enduring pioneer spirit.
Great Basin NHA Goals:

Tourism & Recreation
Community Revitalization
Economic Development
Resource Conservation
Education & Interpretation
Partnership Development
The Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership (GBHAP) is a small, private, non-profit organization designated as the coordinating entity of the Great Basin National Heritage Area. GBHAP receives federal funds through the Heritage Partnership Program administered by the National Park Service. This funding supports our Grants Program and projects and programs that further the goals established in our Management Plan. We leverage federal funds by matching them with state and local grants as well as cash and in-kind donations for projects we sponsor.

Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership does not own or administer land, nor do we have jurisdiction over any property within the heritage area. We work through partners, who range from large federal agencies to small historical societies, to achieve our goals. We support our partners with technical assistance and grants.

Since 2013, the heritage area has dispersed over $850K in grant funds which have been matched by our partners with non-federal funds and in-kind contributions of more than $5 million.
Authentic, Entertaining, Inter-generational

There’s nothing like the Old Shepherders Gathering at the Border Inn! Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership co-founder, Denys Koyle, first hosted the event in 2003 to say thank you to the herders who kept her business afloat in the slow winter months. After dinner, attendees began talking about their days on the desert, and the tradition of the annual storytelling event was born.

Every January, shepherders and their families from across western Utah and eastern Nevada converge at the state line for a weekend of camaraderie. But the event is more than mere reminiscing: The Gathering is a venue for passing on history to younger generations and sharing a bit of sheep industry culture with the non-initiated. The Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership supports this event by securing grant funds from Nevada and Utah and private donations to offer quality professional musical acts to complement the storytelling.

In recent years, the Gathering has become more than just an event, with several academic and documentary projects inspired by it. One such project is La Borrega, a film by Carly and Jared Jakins that documents the daily life of shepherders on Utah’s West Desert. Dozens of oral histories have also been recorded in conjunction with the Gathering, many of which have been digitized and transcribed and are now housed at the University of Utah’s Marriott Library.
GBHAP Funds
$9,258

Matching Funds
$2,597

In-Kind Contributions
$61,615

Project Value
$73,471

Volunteer Hours
1,585

Leverage of GBHAP Funds
7 to 1

GREAT BASIN ARBORGlyphS

White Pine County, Nevada

Arborglyphs, or tree carvings, mark aspen groves throughout the Great Basin National Heritage Area. Created by shepherders, these markings document their solitary lives as they traveled with their flocks across the basin and range. The first herders were Basques from northern Spain and southern France, but today’s herders predominantly come to Nevada and Utah on temporary work permits from Peru and Chile.

Since the trees are now threatened by age, fire, and disease, recording the carvings is critical. With support from GBHAP, researchers Nancy Hadlock and Richard Potashin cataloged nearly 400 arborglyphs with photographs, rubbings, descriptions, and family histories. Their research was presented at the Sheepherders Gathering in 2018 and was developed into an exhibit that traveled throughout northern Nevada in 2019.
PAHVANT VALLEY HERITAGE TRAIL

The Pahvant Valley Heritage Trail connects 200 miles of roads and trails between Delta and Fillmore in Utah. GBNHA partnered with Millard County and the Bureau of Land Management to design a series of 12 wayside exhibits that interpret points of interest along the trail.

The goal is for users of the area, ranging from bird watchers to OHV clubs to casual visitors, to have a richer experience as they explore the area. The panels orient visitors with maps, interpret the unique geologic, historic, and cultural features, and provide valuable information on visitor safety and the fragility of the area’s rock art and other sensitive resources.

GBHAP Funds: $7,500
Matching Funds: $20,764
Project Value: $28,264
Leverage of GBHAP Funds: 3.76 to 1

AMERICAN LEGION HALL
FILLMORE, UTAH

Since its construction in 1926, the American Legion Hall, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, has served as a venue for boxing exhibitions, dances, social club meetings, scouting activities, family reunions, and educational programming. As the roof of this octagonal log cabin failed, rain and snowmelt damaged a precious collection of oil paintings housed inside. The American Legion Post 61 partnered with the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership, the Utah State Historic Preservation Office, Fillmore City, Millard County, and private individuals to install a new roof and seal it, allowing its use for veteran events and as part of the annual Old Capitol Arts and Living History Festival in Fillmore.

GBHAP Funds: $3,000
Matching Funds: $33,503
In-Kind Contributions: $6,420
Project Value: $42,923
Leverage of GBHAP Funds: 13 to 1
At the Territorial Statehouse's Building Zion Heritage Youth Camp, teen campers spend their days weaving and whittling, dancing and dipping, cooking and cleaning as they learn the skills that were essential for the survival of Utah's early pioneers. Three years of funding from GBHAP helped to launch the program, which is now at full capacity and self-sustaining. With help from the heritage area, the Statehouse has also created new exhibits including an interactive, digital map of Utah Territory. In 2017, GBHAP funds enabled the Statehouse to partner with the Smithsonian Institute, Latinos in Action, and others to host The Way We Worked traveling exhibit. Museum staff collected and transcribed 25 oral histories from Latino immigrants who work at the Fillmore mushroom farm, bringing local context to the exhibit. Public programming tied to this effort drew more than 11,000 participants to Fillmore and the surrounding area.

**Territorial Statehouse**  
**State Park | Fillmore, Utah**

GBHAP Funds: $27,910  
Matching Funds: $63,635  
In-Kind Contributions: $153,513  
Project Value: $245,058  
Volunteer Hours: 2,268  
Leverage of GBHAP Funds: 8.7 to 1
Old Capitol Festivals

Every September, the Friends of the Territorial Statehouse collaborate with the Territorial Statehouse State Park to celebrate Utah’s pioneer history with three days of living history, musical performances, and heritage arts. Support from GBHAP has enabled the festival to grow and to increase educational programming. The festival now hosts 750 school children each year. Students rotate through a variety of living history activities from blacksmithing to milking cows to give them a glimpse of life as an early settler. With encouragement from the Heritage Area, the festival has secured significant financial support from Millard County and the City of Fillmore.

Each spring, the Old Capitol Storytelling Festival connects area residents with their collective and individual pasts through storytelling and music. Professional storytellers and musicians perform at each event in schools and community centers with the main program being held in Fillmore, Utah.
WHITE PINE PUBLIC MUSEUM
& HISTORIC MCGILL DRUGSTORE

Over the spring and summer of 2016, the White Pine Public Museum (WPPM) embarked on a strategic planning initiative to ensure the organization’s future in preserving and interpreting the natural and cultural history of White Pine County at its museum in Ely and its historic drugstore in McGill. With funding and administrative support from the heritage area, WPPM hired museum specialist Art Wolf to facilitate the critical stages of strategic planning. Throughout the process, the museum’s role in education was emphasized as critical, as was its role in the community. GBHAP has also funded other projects at the museum such as a new map frame, website upgrade, and furnishings for hosting educational events.

ELY & MCGILL, NEVADA

GBHAP Funds
$20,164

In-Kind Contributions
$50,480

Project Value
$70,645

Volunteer Hours
1.870

Leverage of GBHAP Funds
3.5 to 1
The cemetery in the small town of Holden, Utah sits atop a hill with views of the Wasatch mountains to the east and the ranges and valleys of the Great Basin to the west.

Between 1862 and 1868, town residents built a rock walking trail that climbed the steep grade to the cemetery which was used for transporting caskets from the church below. When a better road was built in 1893, use of the trail declined and it eventually became completely grown over.

125 years later, the trail is now being used again, thanks to an Eagle Scout project and funds for materials from the Heritage Area. In addition to the trail restoration, signs installed along the trail interpret the history of the trail and the town of Holden.

Dear GBHAP,

Just wanted to thank you for all your support, funds, interest, etc. that you have given us during this loooong process! It has been quite the experience, but looking back it has been worth every penny and minute that has been put into the cemetery rock trail. The people of Holden are excited to have this part of our town’s history restored and preserved.

~ Linda Nixon

GBHAP Funds: $1,500
Matching Funds: $2,645
In-Kind Contributions: $15,856
Volunteer Hours: 550
Project Value: $20,001
Leverage to GBHAP Funds: 13 to 1
Topaz Museum

Delta, Utah

On February 19, 1942, President Roosevelt signed executive order 9066, authorizing the incarceration of Japanese Americans, 11,212 of whom were taken to Topaz WWII Relocation Center near Delta, Utah.

Seventy-five years later, the Topaz Museum unveiled interpretive exhibits telling the story of the internment and the thousands of lives it irreversibly affected. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act, an official apology for government actions based on “race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership.” The Topaz Museum creates opportunities for students, local residents, and visitors to learn about and learn from this dark part of our nation’s history, and also to be inspired by the stories of people who persevered in spite of the terrible circumstances forced upon them.

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**THE STORY OF TOPAZ**

The history of Topaz shows what can—and did—happen to thousands of Americans during World War II when the government took away their constitutional rights of freedom and liberty.

In 1942, the US government forcibly removed 110,000 people of Japanese ancestry from their homes on the West Coast into ten camps around the country. Not because of anything they did, but because of their race. How did this happen in a democracy?

These are stories told by some of the 11,212 people who were in Topaz. Their hopes, protests, dignity, and anguish. This is the story of Topaz.

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**GBHAP Funds**
$150,000

**Private Donations**
$2,167,000

**Other Federal Grants**
$1,200,000

**Utah State Funds**
$300,000

**In-Kind Contributions**
$598,060

**Project Value**
$4,415,000

**Leverage of GBHAP Funds**
29 to 1
Field Trips to Topaz Museum

The Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership offers grants to schools for transportation costs for field trips focused on the natural or cultural resources within the Heritage Area. The Topaz Museum, in cooperation with the Utah State Board of Education, the Millard County School District, the Utah Division of State History, and the GBHAP, has developed a program to provide educators with curriculum materials about World War II Japanese American internment and its continuing relevance. Transportation grants allow students to visit the Topaz Museum and the internment site to enhance the learning objectives of this program.
CENTENNIAL Fine Arts CENTER
Ely, Nevada

In 2018, the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership began working with the White Pine Community Choir Association (Choir) to restore a historic centerpiece of Ely, Nevada’s downtown. Completed in 1927, the Ely LDS Stake Tabernacle is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The impressive structure, now owned by the Choir, is in need of significant repairs and updates such as accessibility and seismic stabilization. Until recently, Choir and community members saw no possibilities for raising funds and galvanizing support to save the Tabernacle (now known as the Centennial Fine Arts Center). This changed when the Heritage Area organized a community charrette with the Partners for Sacred Places. Robust participation in the charrette showed how much the community cares about this building and motivated the Choir to address its own deficiencies.

Since then, the Choir has reorganized, obtained its federal 501(c)3 status, achieved financial stability, and secured several grants to begin work on the building. Funded through local grants and private donations, a 200-page architectural and engineering assessment was recently completed and lays out in detail the steps necessary for saving the structure. Heritage Area staff continue to give technical support to the Choir as it pursues major grant funding through the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office and various private and corporate foundations.
Deseret Heritage Center
Deseret, Utah

The Community of Deseret, UT, has come together to renovate their old fair grounds into a community center and park. Deseret has been without such a gathering place since record breaking floods inundated the town in 1984. Volunteers worked to dismantle rotting bleachers, clear the grounds of weeds and refuse, replace the leaking roof, and refinish the interior of the old building. Deseret now has a dedicated place where the community can gather for various functions, from reunions to craft bazaars to wedding receptions. Behind the Heritage Center, volunteers have designed a community park and are purchasing outdoor furniture and shade structures that will benefit all who attend future events. Heritage Center land beyond the park is being sold into family lots where new homes are being built. The sale of these lots provides income for the maintenance and future needs of the Heritage Center.

GBHAP Funds
$81,574

Matching Funds
$66,217

In-Kind Contributions
$109,379

Project Value
$257,170

Volunteer Hours
1,791

Leverage of GBHAP Funds
3.15 to 1
EMBRACING ART & HERITAGE TOURISM TO REVITALIZE AN OLD MINING TOWN

The Ely Renaissance Society was founded to revive a dying downtown while celebrating the diverse groups who built the community, hailing from the British Isles, Europe, Asia, and other regions of the United States. Typical of western mining towns, Ely, Nevada has experienced many boom-bust cycles. ERS looked to Art and Heritage Tourism to stabilize the economy and began installing large-scale murals depicting Ely's history throughout the downtown.

GBHAP has partnered with ERS on numerous projects, including the Ely Art Bank, which transformed a closed bank building into a local art gallery, and Where the World Met and Became One, a book honoring the women who turned company houses into homes while the men labored in the mines, smelters, railroads, and ranches. The White Pine Main Street Association is incorporating these stories and the history behind each mural into an audio walking tour of Ely's historic downtown.

GBHAP Funds: $44,474
Matching Funds: $19,695
In-Kind Contributions: $106,166
Project Value: $170,606
Volunteer Hours: 2,285
Leverage of GBHAP Funds: 3.8 to 1
Since January 2019, White Pine County has been actively engaged in the MAIN STREET AMERICA program to revitalize the historic commercial districts throughout the county. White Pine Main Street is implementing proven transformation strategies organized around the Four Points: Economic Vitality, Design, Promotion, and Organization. GBHAP awarded White Pine Main Street a grant to assist the organization with its Articles of Incorporation, IRS filing for 501(c)3 tax exemption status and bylaws. White Pine Main Street was also awarded a grant from the state for branding and signage. The group meets weekly and is dedicated to creating an environment in the downtowns that will be inviting to both businesses, citizens, and visitors and become a source of pride where the community comes to gather for shopping, dining, events, and socializing.
GREAT BASIN OBSERVATORY
& REACH FOR THE STARS
The Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership was an early supporter of the Great Basin Observatory (GBO) project. Spearheaded by the Great Basin National Park Foundation, the GBO is operated in partnership with Great Basin National Park and four universities: University of Nevada, Reno; Western Nevada College; Southern Utah University; and Concordia University.

The GBO is the first research-grade astronomical observatory located within a national park, and it takes advantage of the region’s exceptionally dark night skies. The GBO was dedicated on August 25, 2016, in honor of the National Park Service Centennial.

Since then, partner scientists and their students have been conducting research with the telescope while the education and outreach team has developed a stellar Reach for the Stars K-12 education program. They have engaged over 1,000 local students and park visitors with hands-on lessons about science and technology.

Students and visitors leave with a sense of wonder and awe at the scale and complexity of the cosmos with an inspiration to care for and preserve limited natural resources such as the Great Basin’s pristine dark night sky.

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Each summer the Ely Shoshone Tribe and the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe organize Powwows that allow Native American peoples and the public to come together in celebration and ceremony. These annual festivals include a powwow, music and dance, arts and crafts, tournaments, parades, indigenous games, youth events, and food. The events are free and open to the public.

The goal of these events is to share and celebrate the rich heritage of American Indian culture in the Great Basin. Grants from GBHAP make it possible for the organizers and musicians to successfully perform their duties and have also been given to improve powwow grounds with new lighting, seating, and shade structures.

**Shoshone Powwows**

2015-2019

**Ely, Nevada**

**Duckwater, Nevada**

- GBHAP Funds: $33,040
- Matching Funds: $51,454
- In-Kind Contributions: $39,165
- Project Value: $123,659
- Volunteer Hours: 1,265
- Leverage of GBHAP Funds: 3.74 to 1
The Big Warm Springs is an important site, both culturally for the Duckwater Shoshone people and ecologically for the crucial habitat it provides birds, wildlife, and the threatened railroad valley springfish. The spring was restored in partnership with the Duckwater Tribe and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service several years ago. The site is a popular swim hole but had no restroom facilities. A grant from GBHAP, matched with a private donation from Barrick Mining Corporation, enabled the tribe to install restroom facilities for better protection of the spring and a more positive visitor experience.

GBHAP Funds: $9,592  
Matching Funds: $7,875  
In-Kind Contributions: $1,717  
Project Value: $19,184  
Volunteer Hours: 43  
Leverage of GBHAP Funds: 1 to 1
Nevada Northern Railway National Historic Landmark
ELY & MCGILL, NEVADA

Nevada Northern Railway National Historic Landmark is a primary driver of tourism in White Pine County: a historic treasure and an economic engine. As one of two National Historic Landmarks in the heritage area, the Nevada Northern Railway (NNRY) is a crucial partner in historic preservation and heritage tourism.

The Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership has supported numerous projects at the NNRY. These include funding for the couplers essential to link rail cars together, a shelter to protect visitors from the elements, remodeling the Depot platform for visitor safety, restoring historic wigwag signals, recreation of a historic hand car, restoration of a 1956 Pontiac Hy-Rail Motor Car, and interior restoration of the historic McGill Depot. This summer, GBHAP will be supporting the astronomy-themed Star Trains, which bring visitors to the heritage area from around the world.
Horst & Graben are the ambassadors of the Great Basin National Heritage Area. Their names are synonymous with basin and range topography, with horst referring to mountains and graben to valleys. The pair gets out and about exploring the heritage area and have made many friends in their travels.

The Adventures of Horst & Graben are supported by grants from Travel Nevada and the Utah Tourism Cooperative. Explore Great Basin National Heritage Area with them!

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