An Inspiring Heritage

Spanning 250 miles, from the small town of Fairview, Utah, southward to our border with Arizona, the area encompassed by the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area includes outstanding examples of historical, cultural, and natural resources shaped by Mormon pioneers. The story of the Mormon pioneers is one of the most compelling and captivating in our nation's history. After traveling 1,400 miles from Illinois either by wagon or by pulling a handcart, the pioneers came to the Great Salt Lake Valley. Along the way, the pioneers experienced many hardships. Many people died during their journey. The Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area will serve as special recognition to the people and places that have contributed greatly to our nation's development. Throughout the heritage area are wonderful examples of architecture and cultural events that demonstrate the way of life of the pioneers.

—Senator Robert F. Bennett, introduction to the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Act

By telling the Mormon pioneer story, we will inspire Utah's residents and visitors now and in the future as they meet the challenges of tomorrow.

Respectfully yours,

Sandra S. Bigler
Mayor, Mt. Pleasant City
Utah Heritage Highway 89
Alliance Management Entity

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Vice Chairman
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Secretary
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Koosharem Band of Paiutes
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Mt. Pleasant City Chair
Community and Fiscal Agent
Mayor Sandra Bigler

Native American Ombudsman
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District of Columbia and Trails Coordinator
Clinton V. Ewell
The History

Most Utah residents and visitors are aware of the story of the Mormon pioneers—how they entered the Great Salt Lake Valley and commenced a colonization effort that extended into what is now Idaho, Oregon, Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, and California. The settlement patterns of the pioneers tell the Mormon pioneer story; the Heritage Highway 89 Alliance strives to preserve that story through the establishment of the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area (MPNHA).

Soon after Mormons arrived in Utah, Brigham Young announced his intention to spread the new Zion from the Rocky Mountains west to the Sierra Nevada. The northern border of the territory would be Oregon and the southern border Mexico. Parts of California would be annexed as well, in part to bring Mormon immigrants by sea rather than over the rough land crossing from the east.

The small towns along the corridor convey this heritage, offering a rich opportunity for schoolchildren, parents, and others in the state’s more populous counties and for visitors at large to understand and appreciate the colonization heritage of the Mormon pioneers.

The Black Hawk War Treaty was signed at the Relic House in Mt. Pleasant. Buildings throughout the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area communicate the heritage of the Mormon settlers.

The Utah State Legislature established Fremont State Park in 1985 to preserve Clear Creek Canyon’s treasury of rock art and archaeological sites. This Fremont home is one of 80 Native American residential structures, pithouses, and storage granaries in the Park. (Photo courtesy of Utah State Parks)
Themes

The key themes of the MPNHA span the past, present, and future. These themes relate to the five heritage districts of Little Denmark, Sevier Valley, Headwaters, Under the Rim, and Boulder Loop:

- Interaction of people with the landscape
- Interaction of people with each other
- Interaction with the institutions people created

When he first articulated his support for the MPNHA, Senator Robert F. Bennett noted that driving down I-15 doesn’t give the traveler a feel for the towns that reflect the heritage of Mormon colonization. That, he said, can only be found along the Highway 89 corridor.

Senator Bennett also noted that with I-15, the traveler cannot get a feel for the towns that reflect the heritage of Mormon colonization. That, he said, can only be found along the Highway 89 corridor. It is crucial, noted Senator Bennett, to maintain and preserve the heritage of the small towns along Highway 89, Boulder Loop of Scenic Byway 12 (Utah’s first All-American Road), and the Capitol Reef Country Scenic Byway (SR 24).

Hollywood came to Kanab starting in the 1920s to film Westerns. The Western Legends Roundup highlights this era in an annual festival, which goes beyond filmmaking and captures the essence of the cowboy spirit of the West.
The Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area (MPNHA) helps our citizens and visitors appreciate how Mormon pioneer colonization contributed greatly to the development of the West and America. Telling the Mormon pioneer story instills pride in our communities and motivates people to build on their heritage and plan for the future by remembering the past.

Mission

The Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area preserves, interprets, promotes, and enhances Utah's pioneer heritage. We work to increase tourism, encourage economic development, revitalize communities, provide heritage educational opportunities, and improve the quality of life in Little Denmark, Sevier Valley, Headwaters, Under the Rim, and Boulder Loop.
Goals

Education and Interpretation Goals

- Support community efforts to appreciate and tell the story of the pioneers, their settlements, and their interaction with the land
- Assist existing attractions and institutions in communicating the breadth of the area’s story to the public
- Place resources in a regional context

Revitalization Goals

- Identify and document significant Mormon pioneer heritage resources
- Provide recognition and support to communities in Little Denmark, Sevier Valley, Headwaters, Under the Rim, and Boulder Loop as they preserve heritage resources

Tourism and Economic Development Goals

- Reinforce existing attractions and cultural institutions, helping these organizations communicate the story of the region
- Develop connections between attractions and assist visitors in experiencing the region’s settings and venues
- Increase cultural and heritage tourism, creating economic benefits for the region and its communities

Quality of Life Goals

- Set an agenda with a long-term vision and short-term goals that will bring positive benefits across the region
- Achieve tangible, quantifiable outcomes that build support and constituency in the region
- Operate efficiently and effectively, with the flexibility to respond to unforeseen opportunities and situations
- Encourage communities and organizations to set their own priorities and to define their place within the MPNHA framework

The Hole in the Rock reenactment provides a glimpse into the pioneer trek in the Escalante area. (Photo courtesy Allysia Angus)
Demonstration Projects

The demonstration projects planned throughout the MPNHA heritage districts illuminate the rich and varied history and culture in the area. Three demonstration projects will serve more than one district in the heritage area.

The Central Utah Pioneer Heritage Center, with its museum and interactive displays, will serve as the major interpretive site for the north end of the MPNHA. This center highlights the adjacent Manti Temple, which Mormon pioneers from throughout the heritage area worked to build.

In 2004, the Utah State Legislature authorized creating a center to encourage research and studies that enhance Mormon pioneer heritage. This center, called the Mormon Pioneer Heritage Center, will be located in the Karen H. Huntsman Library on the campus of Snow College. The library will stand on a heritage plaza that will feature a bronze statue of two Mormon pioneers, Lorenzo and Erastus Snow.

The Traditional Building Skills Institute (TBSI), also housed on Snow College campus, will offer workshops, classes, and even a degree to help perpetuate the artisan and craft skills in the MPNHA. These skills are a heritage of the pioneers who built homes and commercial buildings in this area. Travelers will be able to visit TBSI and sites where products are created.

Plans for Revitalization

Opportunities for the entire heritage area:

- Develop the Central Utah Pioneer Heritage Center
- Develop the Mormon Pioneer Heritage Center in the Karen H. Huntsman Library
- Build a structure to house the TBSI
Heritage Districts

Little Denmark
A place shaped by Scandinavian settlement that offers compelling stories of immigration

Sevier Valley
A rich landscape where farmers and ranchers followed the ancient Native American tradition of living off the land

Headwaters
A Southern Utah area with communities as diverse as their traditions, tied together by common rivers and tributaries

Under the Rim
An area on the southern edge of the MPNHA that is named after the red rock rims of the High Plateau of Utah

Boulder Loop
An area in the awe-inspiring heritage byway that begins and ends on Highway 89 and includes Highway 12, the All-American Road
Little Denmark

Little Denmark emphasizes the influence of Scandinavian pioneers sent by Brigham Young to settle the area. Masterful Scandinavian woodworking and stained-glass skills are reflected in many of the marvelous local bed and breakfast inns in Little Denmark as well as at artisan studios and gift shops in buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places throughout the area.

Visitors can find rich, local flavor at the Scandinavian Heritage Festival in Ephraim and the Mormon Miracle Pagaent performed on the hillside near the Mati Temple. Nearby, they can catch a film festival or live performance at the Casino Star Theatre, a Beaux Arts theater in Gunnison.

Little Denmark is home to three Carnegie Libraries in Mt. Pleasant, Ephraim, and Manti. The libraries were constructed early in the 20th century as part of an effort by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie to establish public libraries. Also in Little Denmark is the Wasatch Academy, the oldest boarding school in the West. Students from 22 states and 23 countries attend this school started by a Presbyterian minister who founded the school system in Utah.

Plans for Revitalization

Opportunities in Little Denmark:

- Develop materials about early co-op mercantile experiments and help the Ephraim co-op establish partners throughout the region
- Enhance the Scandinavian Heritage Festival and the Mormon Miracle Pageant
- Restore Carnegie Libraries in Mount Pleasant, Ephraim, and Manti
- Restore the original Wasatch Academy building and the Old Spring City School
- Restore the Gunnison Casino Star Theatre
- Construct an Equestrian Park and Arena that emphasizes agritourism
- Restore historic Fairview Social Hall
- Support the Mt. Pleasant Relic House

The Casino Star Theatre has a rich history that precedes the silent movie era. It demonstrates the role the arts have played, and continue to play, in the heritage area.

The Ephraim Carnegie Library, built in 1917, is the first restoration project for the libraries in the heritage area.

Little Denmark’s panoramic landscape speaks to artists and artisans, who find it an ideal setting for their studios and works of art. (Photo courtesy of Larry Nielson, an MPNHA artist)
Sevier Valley is located just south of Little Denmark. In this district, heritage is tied to the rich landscape where farmers and ranchers followed the ancient Native American tradition of living off the land.

Whether visitors are buying custom-made saddles, boots, and Western wear; listening to the bark of the auctioneer at a local livestock auction; or sitting around a campfire after a Dutch oven dinner listening to the tales of Butch Cassidy, they will never be far from the land the descendants of pioneers continue to love and nurture.

Sevier Valley traces its roots to the Old Spanish Trail and trappers and explorers like Kit Carson and Jedediah Smith.

**Plans for Revitalization**

Opportunities in Sevier Valley:
- Draw on Utah’s investment in the Fremont State Indian Park
- Connect stories and resources of the pioneers with Native American heritage and work with Paiute Indian leaders on revitalization initiatives
- Develop heritage events and shows for the Black Hawk Arena
- Construct a Railroad Heritage Center for Big Rock Candy Mountain and Lemonade Springs
- Work with the Richfield Downtown Committee on preservation projects

Richfield, Utah, is a National Main Street Community. The MPNHA will strive to make connections between Richfield and the two other Main Street Communities along the Heritage Highway: Mt. Pleasant and Panguitch.
Communities along the Headwaters are as diverse as their individual traditions, while still connected by the common rivers and tributaries that make the land in Southern Utah blossom.

In this district, residents and visitors find a rich mining heritage, complete with abandoned mines and tales of lost gold. One can visit tiny towns where the spirit of hardworking miners endures, including the old town of Winkelman, which still stands.

South of these mining towns lies Panguitch, where stores and homes made from locally fired red brick house a wealth of heritage shops and historic sites.

The Headwaters district ends in the south at the Long Valley Junction, where Highway 89 meets Highway 14. Residents in Long Valley tell of the settlers who faithfully lived the United Order, an early Mormon lifestyle based on sharing all personal resources with the entire community. Long Valley is also the eastern gateway to Zion National Park.

Plans for Revitalization

Opportunities in Headwaters:
- Refit and restore a 1930s glazed-tile building in Marysvale that is reminiscent of the Bullion Canyon mineral era boom from the mid-1880s to the early 1900s
- Develop sites and products to tell the story of Butch Cassidy
- Coordinate with the Panguitch Main Street Committee on restoration projects and events, especially the Quilt Walk
- Develop Old Town Winkelman as a cooperative economic development project

Pioneers settled Marysvale in 1863 and earned their living baling sheep’s wool.
Under the Rim

Under the Rim is located at the southern rim of the MPNHA. Its name comes from the location of the red rock rims of the High Plateau of Utah.

Hollywood fell in love with Kanab, often filming Western movies and television shows featuring this panoramic backdrop.

Under the Rim is also the location of a burgeoning arts community where cozy shops and galleries display fine art, photography, Western memorabilia, and high-quality Native American crafts and jewelry.

In Kanab, the story of Little Hollywood is told. Scores of actors, directors, and producers used the rugged landscape to tell movie-going America about the West. These stories continue to be told at the annual Western Legends Roundup Festival.

Plans for Revitalization

Opportunities in Under the Rim:
- Strengthen the relationship and coordinate with heritage attractions in the Kanab area
- Strengthen private and public efforts to make Orderville a historic site
- Work closely with the Kane County Travel Council in telling the story of Little Hollywood and Zane Grey
- Expand the interpretive efforts at the Old Rock Canyon Church in Mt. Carmel
- Support the Western Legends Roundup
- Construct an outdoor theatre in Kanab to help tell the story of the cowboy
- Restore the Old Rock Canyon Church
- Construct a Center for Education, Business, and the Arts in Kanab
The Boulder Loop begins and ends on Highway 89. Visitors can drive Utah’s first All-American Road (SR 12) and the Capitol Reef Country Scenic Byway (SR 24) as they take in breathtaking views of Grand Staircase-Escalante Monument. Capitol Reef and Bryce Canyon National Parks turn a marvelous heritage journey into an unforgettable visual treat.

Along the way, residents and visitors find some of the most isolated towns in America, where artists, potters, and woodworkers display their handiwork for locals and visitors to appreciate.

Here you can also experience guided horse pack or 4-wheel vehicle trips along cowboy and pioneer trails. And a stop at Anasazi State Park offers an insightful glimpse into ancient Native American heritage.

On the southern end of the heritage area, the Escalante Heritage Center will share the story of the Hole in the Rock trek and preserve the Mormon pioneer heritage of the southeastern pioneers.

**Plans for Revitalization**

Opportunities in the Boulder Loop:

- Develop the Escalante Hole in the Rock Heritage Center
- Draw on the resources and interpretive capacity of Capitol Reef National Park and Bryce Canyon National Park
- Work with Envision Escalante in fostering the arts, culture, folklore, humanities, history, agriculture, and the natural environment
- Complete construction on the Tropic Heritage Community Center
- Construct a historic Heritage Park that will consist of the Ebenezer Bryce Museum, a pioneer cabin, Tropic’s old post office, a Daughters of the Utah Pioneers museum, and other buildings

*This cabin in Torrey, Utah, is nestled against the distinctive red rock of the Boulder Loop. (© Copyright 2007 onlineutah.com, Kathy M. Wiersdorf)*
Management and Finance

The partnership for the Mormon Pioneer National Heritage Area (MPNHA) consists of individuals representing organizations in the public and private sectors who are enterprising, entrepreneurial, and results-oriented.

Utah Heritage Highway 89 Alliance

The Utah Heritage Highway 89 Alliance is the managing entity of the MPNHA. It has a board of directors that consists of two members from each of the six counties, with the State Historic Preservation Officer serving as an at-large member. This committee has grass-roots connections to the heritage businesses and provides for connections to elected local officials. The city of Mt. Pleasant serves as its fiscal agent and chair community.

Community Chapters

Community chapters are local entities that preserve, promote, develop, or interpret an aspect of the heritage of the communities in the MPNHA. The Utah Heritage Highway 89 Alliance will help community chapters offer an enjoyable and educational visitor experience.

MPNHA Advisory Group

The MPNHA Advisory group is made up of representatives from organizations in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors that are committed to the success of the heritage area. These include federal and state agencies with large landholdings within the heritage region such as the national parks in the area. These organizations have made significant contributions to developing this plan and selecting the projects for the heritage area.

Budget Planning

Budget planning centers on phase I (years 1 through 5) and phase II (years 6 through 10).

- Phase I includes demonstration, early action, and revitalization projects and totals $44.25 million.
- Phase II will focus on projects and programs in the five heritage districts with a projected budget of $10.305 million.

The enabling legislation authorizes the MPNHA to receive up to $10 million, which will be matched by the community chapters. The next few pages show a more detailed breakdown of how the budget is allocated.
## Phase 1 Proposed Budget

### Demonstration Projects

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### Summary

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</tbody>
</table>
Acknowledgements

This effort has involved literally generations of Utah residents. The following list of our partners is a tribute to the communities’ steadfast efforts to create a heritage area and reconnect with our heritage.

**Mayors**
Claren Heaton, Alton  
Dale Albrecht, Annabella  
Shannon Allen, Antimony  
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Sherwood Albrecht, Bicknell  
Richard Parsons, Big Water  
Bill Muse, Boulder  
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Gordon Topham

**Wayne County**
DeRae Fillmore
Thomas A. Jeffery
Stanley W. Wood

**Koosharem Band of Paiutes**
Elliott Yazzie

**MPNHA Advisory Group**

**National Parks and Monuments**
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Rene Berkhoodt, Manager, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
Kate Cannon, Superintendent, Canyonlands National Park
Al Hendrix, Superintendent, Capitol Reef National Park
Eddie Lopez, Superintendent, Bryce Canyon National Park
Cordell Roy, Utah State Coordinator, National Park Service

Jock Whitworth, Superintendent, Zion National Park

**National Forests**
Allen Henningson, Supervisor, Fishlake National Forest
Robert Macwhorter, Supervisor, Dixie National Forest
Rod Player, Acting Supervisor, Manti-LaSal National Forest
Richa Wilson, Regional Architectural Historian, Intermountain Region of the USDA Forest Service

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Dan Burke, Director, Utah Museum Services
Palmer DePaulis, Director, Utah Department of Community and Culture
Beverly Evans, Rural Executive, Governor’s Office of Economic Development
Gael Hill, State Coordinator, Scenic Byways, Utah Travel Office
Margaret Hunt, Director, Utah Arts Council
Ally Isom, Deputy Director, Utah Department of Community and Culture
Wilson Martin, Deputy Director, Utah Division of State History
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Kendall Farnsworth, Escalante
Michael Franklin, Coral Pink Sand Dunes
Bob Hanover, Fremont Indian
Mike Nelson, Anasazi State Park Museum
Shon Tripp, Palisade
Kaymar Willis, Paiute and Otter Creek

Educational Institutions
Philip Barlow, Arrington Chair of Mormon History and Culture, Utah State University
Noel Cockett, Vice President, Utah State University Extension Service
Susan Rugh, Professor, Department of History, Brigham Young University
Scott Wyatt, President, Snow College

Foundations and Nonprofit Organizations
Cynthia Buckingham, Executive Director, Utah Humanities Council
Amy Cole, Sr. Program Officer/Regional Attorney Mountains/Plains Office, National Trust for Historic Preservation
James Cowlin, The US Route 89 Appreciation Society
Lisa Eccles, Executive Director, George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation
Kirk Huffaker, Executive Director, Utah Heritage Foundation
Karen Platt, Fort Harmony Historical Society
Clive Romney, Utah Pioneer Heritage Arts
Corinne Roring, Hole-in-the-Rock Foundation
Ann Torrence, Highway 89 Project
Richard Turley, Managing Director, Family and Church History Department, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Regions
Kevin Arrington, Travel Director, Sevier County
Kevin Christensen, Economic Development Director, Sanpete County
Michelle Coleman, Economic Development Director, Wayne County
Russ Cowley, Six Counties Association of Governments
Bruce Fullmer, Travel Director, Garfield County
Kay Giles, Director, Kane County
John Holland, Coordinator, Scenic Byway 12
Malcom Nash, Economic Development Director, Sevier County
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