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STATE OF UTAH

SCHOOL & INSTITUTIONAL TRUST LANDS ADMINISTRATION

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STEWARDSHIP PROJECT ENHANCES PROTECTION OF ANCIENT ROCK ART

The Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (TLA) recently partnered with several interested parties completing a stewardship project, enhancing the protection and public enjoyment of one of Utah's most famous ancient rock art specimens – the Great Hunt Panel.

Located in Nine Mile Canyon, 51 miles Northeast of Price, Utah, the Great Hunt Panel is part one of the largest concentrations of ancient rock art in the world. The famous panel is one of the most photographed and most visited panels in the canyon located on TLA property. With increasing traffic in the canyon, it became apparent that measures to protect the panel from damage were necessary.

The first project, undertaken five years ago was re-routing the road—originally within just a few feet of the panel. This work was done by Bill Barrett Corporation (BBC), a natural gas exploration company with operations in the area.

Since that time, BBC and TLA have worked with Carbon County, College of Eastern Utah, Utah State University, the Castle Valley Chapter of the Utah Statewide Archaeological Society, and the Nine Mile Coalition, creating the recently completed improvements.

During the first three weeks in April, TLA provided construction materials and equipment while TLA employees, College of Eastern Utah (CEU) Sun Center volunteers and members of the Nine Mile Coalition provided labor for the project. Rustic fences were installed, defining the site, an interpretive kiosk was placed in the parking lot, and a graveled walkway from the parking lot to the site was created. A seating bench was built, and other improvements made. This site is now a destination for everyone who visits the canyon.

The Trust Lands Administration encourages the public to visit this important site and to remember that cultural resources, such as the Great Hunt Panel, are irreplaceable heritage assets reminding us of our commonly shared past.

The School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration is an independent state agency that manages 3.4 million acres of Utah trust lands for the financial benefit of Utah's public schools and 11 other public institutions. Money generated from school trust lands is deposited in the state Permanent School Fund, a perpetual endowment that annually distributes income to each K-12 public school in Utah.

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