



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.

Meeting lays plans to interpret heritage

Representatives of federal agencies, state agencies, local governments, businesses and individuals met on the Utah /Nevada Border in early November to begin planning for interpretation of the Great Basin National Heritage Area. Interpretation is the presentation of stories about heritage features that helps the viewer to make intellectual and emotional connections with the features. Those connections should, in turn, help move the viewer to actions that meet objectives that our partners help us set.

Participants were asked to identify primary and secondary target audiences for the Partnership's messages and helped to define the objectives of the communications. They also helped to confirm and add to the list of significant heritage features within the Area. Finally, they assisted in devising stories to interpret those features.

The largest landholder in the Area, and subsequently, the largest holder of significant heritage features is the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) of



the US Department of the Interior. Representatives attended from both the Ely and Fillmore BLM offices. Important stake holders for the development of the Heritage Area include the Utah Travel Council and Nevada Commission on Tourism. Representatives from each of these agencies were among the 25 participants at the planning session. Other attendees represented ranching interests, a municipality, local tribes, the National Park Service, the National Forest Service, local museums, and local businesses.

The session was facilitated by Dave Bucy, of Corvallis, Oregon who is a professor of communication and a

Event preserves sheepherding traditions



Plans are being laid this month for the 7th annual Old Sheepherders Gathering to be held on the Utah/Nevada border on January 15th and 16th, 2010. The annual event has become a new social

tradition that opens a window on old sheepherding cultural traditions. The

gathering of genuine old timers involved in the sheep industry from around the region affords them a good time and provides the partnership an opportunity to record stories of sheepherder heritage.

The sheep industry in Utah is dependent on winter range in the remote West Desert of Utah. As everywhere in the United States, the sheep industry is declining steadily.

Herding Traditions continued Page 3

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November 2009

Meet Some of Our Partners:

- ◆ *Great Basin National Park, Baker*
- ◆ *White Pine County Tourism & Recreation Board*
- ◆ *BLM Fillmore Field Office*
- ◆ *University of Utah Digital Archives*
- ◆ *McGill Drugstore Museum*
- ◆ *Nevada Division of Museums and History*
- ◆ *Utah Department of Transportation*

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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

Great Basin National Heritage Partnership Board:

President.....Denys Koyle

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.....Kyla Overson

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Utah Associate Gordon Chatland

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

Phone (775) 234-7171

A Status Report from the President

The Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership is a small non-profit organization with a board of directors made up of representatives appointed by Millard County, Utah and White Pine County Nevada and of members of each Indian tribe involved. This representation was directed by the Congressional Act that created the Great Basin National Heritage Area. In theory, none of the Board members need have represented any of our partner organizations!



The actual situation is, fortunately, much different.

Currently one of the Board members from Nevada sits on the County Board, another on the Ely City Council. One of these is also associated with the Historic Nevada Northern Railroad, while the other is also associated with the White Pine Tourism Board.

I, as a Board member, represent private visitor accommodations as operator of a motel, restaurant and campground that straddles the Nevada/Utah boarder. I also can represent the White Pine School Board of which I am a member. (The low population of the area often requires folks around here to wear many hats.)

A board member from Utah heads up the Topaz Museum while another, until recently, has been associated with the Utah State Park's Territorial Statehouse Museum.

So, the Board does represent a few of the organizations with which we need to partner. But representation of eight or ten organizations does not begin to form the kind of large and diverse group of partners that will become a real driving force to make the Heritage Area successful.

The process of identifying and contacting other groups has been long and somewhat difficult. The great distances between towns, features and potential partners (and our state capitols) often means planning a two to five hour drive just to make a personal contact!

So it was with great pleasure that I noted that our recent Interpretive Planning session (reported upon on this newsletter's front page) attracted 25 participants representing more than 25 organizations. This was the beginning of the formation of a real partnership that will transcend our small operating Board. And, this is only the beginning. I expect over time we will be able to bring more than twice that number of partners into our active fold in promise of a successful Heritage Area. A real accomplishment in these wide open spaces!

Denys Koyle, GBNHP President

From page 1.....**Sheep herding traditions**

Back in 2004, the Border Inn, a private business near Garrison, Utah and Baker, Nevada decided to host an appreciation dinner for the sheepherders who had been good customers helping the business survive through the long, cold winters for many years. It was expected that 40 or 50 sheepherders would show up for what was billed as The Old Sheepherders' Party. Ninety old-timers from as far away as Buhl, Idaho and Sanpete County, Utah showed up to have a wonderful time dining on lamb stew, fried spuds and baking powder biscuits while relating their experiences on the desert. Before the evening ended, the old timers were saying "You will do this again next year, won't you?"

Word of mouth spread the news and the tradition of the Old Sheepherders' Party was born.

In 2005, 150 old timers arrived for the Party which strained the capacity of the building. At this point, the owner of the Border Inn

Party. The Heritage Area received a grant from the Nevada Humanities Committee to record oral histories and to document the heritage of the sheep industry in the Great Basin. The Utah Humanities Committee paid for Hal Cannon, founder of the Western Folklife Center and Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, Nevada to attend and film the third annual event in 2006.

In 2007, it was decided to expand the event to two days. This was done because the services available in the area could not handle more than the 150 participants and it was hoped that the two day event would allow more participation which it did do. Again, Nevada Humanities and Hal Cannon participated.

Western Folklife Center installed a sheepherder exhibit and a film at the Great Basin National Park Visitor Center which the participants could attend. In the afternoon, the



Long time friendships are rekindled as old-timers in the Great Basin sheep business gather to tell stories and reminisce. The event provides the Partnership an unparalleled opportunity to collect oral histories that otherwise might be lost.

Silver Sage Family Band from Delta, Utah provided a program of old time cowboy music. This was followed by an authentic family style Basque dinner featuring beef tongue appetizer, bean and cabbage soup, lamb roast and sorbet with carafes of wine at each table.

The format for the 2007 event became the template for each ensuing year.

The Old Sheepherders' Party is a good example of how a partnership between private business and heritage areas is advantageous to both sides. The event has involved as partners the Great Basin National Park, and Utah and Nevada Humanities committees and the Great Basin Heritage Partnership.

The 2010 event promises to continue entertaining the old sheepherders and visitors and perpetuating sheepherding traditions.



Sheep wagons begin to arrive at the Border Inn on the foggy afternoon before the Old Sheepherders Dinner.

(also, President of the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership) realized that she was on to a good thing and that she needed help. She partnered with GBHAP to plan the third annual Old Sheepherders'

singing camp songs, yodeling, reciting poetry or telling humorous or sad stories of life on the range.

The second day started with a sour dough pancake breakfast. The

Local heritage partners may benefit from planned regional conference

The 2010 National Association for Interpretation Region 9 Spring Workshop will be held on Friday, April 24th and Saturday, April 25th, in Ely, Nevada. One of the Heritage Area's partners, the Nevada Northern Railway Museum will be hosting this event. The Great Basin Heritage Partnership will also help in hosting. It is encouraging its partners in the Heritage area to attend and learn more about the art and value of interpretation.

The National Association for Interpretation (NAI) is an association for those involved in the interpretation of natural and cultural heritage resources in settings such as parks, zoos, museums, nature centers, aquaria, botanical gardens, and historical sites. It works to encourage networking, training, and collaboration among members and partners in support of its mission: inspiring leadership and excellence to advance heritage interpretation as a profession.

NAI's network of members includes volunteers, docents, interpreters, naturalists, historians,

rangers, park guards, guides, tour operators, program directors, consultants, academicians, planners, suppliers, and institutions. There are 5,000 members in over 30 countries.



Workshop attendees will learn about and ride on the Northern Nevada Railway. It is one of the country's best maintained rail museums with the country's most complete archive for a facility of its type.

NAI is divided into regions and sections to help members network with others who work near them or who work with similar subject-matter content. Region 9, the sponsor of the April workshop in Ely is known as the Sierra Pacific Region and is made up of members from a huge geographical region that includes Northern California, Guam, Hawaii and Northern

Nevada. Those attending the workshop, however, can be from anywhere.

Plans are currently being made to determine the exact content of the workshop and to determine the costs. It is likely that there will be a program presented by a National Park Service interpretive planner and/ or by someone with the GBNHA.

Some of the themes likely to be addressed include interpretive challenges in this time of financial instability, closures, and service cutbacks. The planning group is also exploring the possibility of internet broadcast of certain presentations. These could be accessed by partners with low budgets that would not otherwise be able to benefit from the workshop.

The event will be held in the White Pine Convention Center in downtown Ely, within walking distance to most hotels and restaurants.

Further information will be available as it develops at: <http://www.naeregions.org/9/SpringWorkshop.html>

Great Basin National Heritage Area Website gets a new look

The Great Basin Heritage Partnership website has debuted its new look. Designer Bruce Rettig of Charter Communications is putting the finishing touches on the first comprehensive revision to the site since it was begun in 2003. Last minute checks are being made to navigation. The first few pages are now up and operating. The rest are expected to be operational by the end of the month. To the right is an example of one of the pages. To check on our progress visit:

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

Home | Heritage Features | Heritage Events | Travel Info | About Us | Support Us | Become a Partner | Partner Pages

WELCOME to Great Basin National Heritage Area

The Great Basin National Heritage Area is a geographical region encompassing White Pine County, Nevada and Millard County, Utah and adjacent Indian reservations that contains nationally significant archaeological, historical, cultural, natural and scenic features that are emblematic of the entire Great Basin Area. This website will help you learn more about the Great Basin National Heritage Area, its important heritage features, how to best visit the area, and how to become involved with the organization that helps coordinate promotion of the Area and its heritage. National Heritage Areas are designated by Congress in recognition of the contributions they make in making up the unique fabric of our country. There are more than 40 such Areas in the United States. Designation confers no authority to manage or regulate land use in any way.

GBHAP to partner with digital archive

The Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership (GBHAP) Board took preliminary action at its September meeting to partner with the Mountain West Digital Library (MWDL) to archive significant stories and materials from the Great Basin National Heritage Area. When the proposed memorandum of understanding is complete between the two organizations, the oral histories that the Partnership has been collecting from old shearherders will be maintained and made available to anyone on the internet along with other Area materials.

The Mountain West Digital Library is a project of the Utah Academic Library Consortium. Data hosting hubs are maintained at the Utah State Archives and the Utah State Library and also at cooperating University of Nevada libraries in Reno and Las Vegas. Digitizing (turning recordings or graphic materials into computer readable format) will be done for the Heritage Partnership by the J. Willard Marriot Library at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.

A pilot project between the GBHP and the MWDL has resulted

in digitization of nine items including three oral histories of shearherders. One, for example, is titled *"Oral history interview of David Sharp by David Tilford, January 19, 2008, at the Shearherders Gathering at the Border Inn, Baker, Nev., Part 1 of 2 digitized from audio cassette master by J. Willard Marriot Library, University of Utah."* It may be heard at:

<http://mwdl.org/index.php/browse/byInstitution/41>

Later projects that could be initiated between the GBHAP and the Mountain West Digital Library include scouring the Heritage Area for significant old photographs or postcards or other significant graphic heritage materials that could be digitized and archived. The J. Willard Marriot Library is developing a mobile digitization unit that may be taken from community to community to record materials under a program promoted and advertised by the GBHAP.



The Mountain West Digital Library is an aggregation of digital collections about the Mountain West region of the United States. Their portal provides free access to more than 270,000 resources in over 300 collections from universities, colleges, public libraries, museums, archives, and historical societies in Utah, Nevada, Idaho, and Hawaii.

Quarterly Heritage Partnership Board meeting yields program ideas

The Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership Board met for its regular quarterly meeting at the Northern Nevada Railroad Depot in Ely, Nevada on November 21.

In addition to its regular business, the Board discussed auditing issues and considered projects and programs to be budgeted for in the upcoming fiscal and upcoming Federal years. The latter discussion elicited con-

siderable enthusiasm from Board members.

One of the favored recommendations was that the Partnership present an annual heritage conference for its partners. Presentations could be offered in two tracks—one for organizations that manage Heritage Features or attractions and one for merchants, hoteliers and restaurateurs. Both tracks would provide

training to strengthen offerings to heritage visitors. High profile speakers could be brought in by the Partnership to assist.

Board Members also spent time at the meeting considering the difficulty of finding on-going funding given both the tight economy and the relatively few financial resources available within the two county Heritage Area region.



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The Newsletter of the Great Basin National Heritage Partnership.

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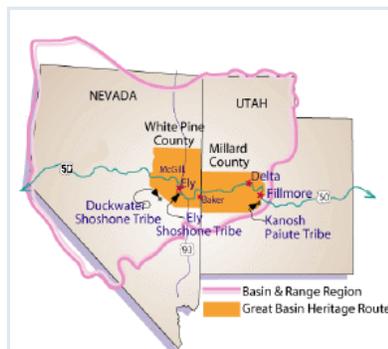
The Great Basin National Heritage Partnership

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.
