

**Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit
Project Summary**

Project Title: Site Stewardship in Montana

Type of Project: Education

Project Discipline: Cultural

Funding Agency: Bureau of Land Management

Other Partners/Cooperators: Montana State University

Effective Dates: 6/1/2013 - 5/31/2018

Funding Amount: \$56,734

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: The Montana Site Stewardship Program (MSSP) will continue to develop the Site Stewardship Program for the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument (UMRBNM) and other BLM lands throughout Montana. This program trains volunteers to monitor at-risk cultural resources and report site destruction or vandalism. The program will promote public awareness of both pre-contact and historic cultural resources in Montana. This is a joint effort between The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and Montana State University (MSU) and Project Archaeology (PA). Program goals are to:

1. Prevent destruction of cultural resources due to the acts of nature, theft or vandalism.
2. Preserve pre-contact and historic cultural resources for the purpose of conservation, scientific study, interpretation, and for their significance to American Indian people.
3. Raise public awareness of the value of cultural resources through education and outreach.
4. Support and encourage high standards of cultural resource investigation throughout the state and add information to research base.
5. Promote stewardship of irreplaceable resources.
6. Enhance communication, understanding, and collaboration among organizations, agencies, tribes, and individuals concerned with the protection of cultural resources.

Objectives for the Montana Site Stewardship Program are as follows:

- Identify archaeological sites to be monitored by volunteers.
- Recruit volunteers for program.
- Complete one or more training workshop(s) per year for site steward volunteers.
- Maintain contact with volunteers and oversee monitoring process.
- Conduct outreach to federal agencies and private landowners.
- Complete one advanced training workshops for site steward volunteers and the interested public.

Outcomes with completion dates: 5/31/2018

Keywords: BLM, Montana State University, site stewardship, volunteers, monitoring, historic, prehistoric, and paleontological resources