



:Nine Mile Canyon Coalition News

Spring 2010

NATIONAL REGISTER LISTINGS BEGIN

by Bill Walsh

There was great joy in Utah and the nation among Nine Mile Canyon and rock art enthusiasts on November 30, 2009: the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) finally listed sixty-three sites in Nine Mile Canyon on the National Register.

The Nine Mile Canyon sites, 27 in Duchesne County and 36 in Carbon County, join more than 80,000 other significant national heritage listings on the National Register. With Nine Mile's 800+ officially recorded sites, and many more known but unrecorded, it would have been much simpler to list the entire canyon on the Register, but we won't quibble at this point.

Background on the Nomination process:

- There was a Nine Mile Canyon Nomination in the 1970's that failed because a majority of landowners did not favor the nomination and there just wasn't enough official documentation of resources at that time.
- In the late 1980s and 1990s the local chapter of USAS, BYU, and the College of Eastern Utah carried out archaeological surveys in various areas of the canyon to build up a log of recorded sites to support the nomination of an Historic District in the canyon. These surveys followed on a survey in the 1970s carried out by BYU graduate students, including Pam and Blaine Miller among others. Deanne and Ray Matheny were very involved too.
- In 1999 Coalition Chair Edythe Marett renewed the NRHP education process by inviting Cory Jensen, Architectural Historian for the Utah Division of State History, to our Coalition Board meetings and Cory attended many more meetings as the process progressed.
- In 2001 the then BLM State Director, Sally Wisely, assured the Coalition that BLM would work with us to nominate Nine Mile Canyon to the National Register.
- BLM became excessively unresponsive to the nomination during the George W. Bush administration, and leadership and attitudes changed. In 2007 the Coalition hired Jerry Spangler of the Colorado Plateau Archaeological Alliance to write the narrative for the nomination; BLM agreed to provide the required photographs and maps.
- In the spring of 2004, the National Trust for Historic Preservation listed Nine Mile Canyon on their annual list of *America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places*.
- In June of 2008 the written nomination was presented to the Board of State History and the

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BOARD CHAIR'S MESSAGE

by Dr. Deanne Matheny

To say the least, 2009 was a busy year for the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition. We not only sponsored our Annual Clean-up Day in Nine Mile Canyon in April and the annual Fall Gathering in September, but we were involved in many other activities that we hoped would promote the preservation and protection of the Canyon and its rich cultural resources, both prehistoric and historic. Near the end of 2009 and at the beginning of 2010, we saw some of these efforts come to fruition. It was working with other organizations and groups that made positive action possible. The list of these groups and organizations, as well as individuals who were helpful is long, but we would like to especially thank: the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, The Wilderness Society, Utah Rock Art Research Association, Colorado Plateau Archaeological Alliance, and the Utah Statewide Archaeological Society.

Bill Walsh (one of our current Directors and former Chair), who has long supported the nomination of Nine Mile Canyon sites to the National Register of Historic Places, has written an article in this edition of the newsletter detailing how the first 63 sites are now on the Register. All told, this took more than 30 years and the efforts of many to achieve, and the good news is that more sites will be nominated.

In early 2009 the Coalition was invited by the BLM to be a Consulting Party (relating to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act) in the planning and development of a programmatic agreement (PA) for the West Tavaputs Plateau Natural Gas Full Field Development Plan. Coalition representatives attended meetings with representatives of the BLM, various Utah State agencies, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Carbon and Duchesne Counties, industry, and numerous Consulting Parties interested in the well-being of Nine Mile Canyon. The Coalition's representatives gladly volunteered their time, travel expenses, and energy to participate in the Section 106 process. We had been told that it was a process and a "conversation" between the various groups participating. Indeed, as the months passed, we saw that such was the case. When the process was at last complete, the Coalition had to make a decision about whether to sign the PA as a concurring party or not. Certainly the Coalition did not gain its most important objective through the PA, which was an alternative route that would direct industrial traffic through a much shorter portion of Nine Mile Canyon, thus greatly lessening the impact on cultural resources. On the other hand, the PA does contain certain protections for the cultural resources in the canyon and some adjacent areas which were not previously in place. In deciding to sign the PA, the Coalition signaled its on-going commitment to the protection and preservation of the canyon by being willing to continue its involvement with the PA process as it moves forward. The signing of the PA at the Utah State Capitol on January 5, 2010 was celebrated by those, including the Coalition, who had traveled on the long path of its development. When the PA was announced and the media became involved, as is often the case, the Coalition took a few "hits" from the media and others. Some apparently thought we were too happy about the signing of the PA, and others thought we were not happy enough. As Pam Miller, our President, has noted, the signing of the PA is not the end of the process, it is just the first step. In order for the PA to have any real value, the provisions it contains must be faithfully carried out. The Coalition wants to see the PA be successful and is hopeful that the signatories will carry out their obligations as expected.

Another highlight of 2009, although the Coalition was not directly involved, were the improvements carried out at the Great Hunt Panel in Cottonwood Canyon. We salute those who dedicated their time and efforts to giving better protection to this wonderful site.



The Coalition is continuing its efforts in Nine Mile Canyon during 2010. There is much left to do, and we plan to continue educating the public about the value of the canyon with its amazing prehistoric and historic legacy. There is also the possibility of organizing a site stewardship program, and we will let you know more about that as things develop. Sometime during 2010, we hope to have a fun celebration of some of the successes of the past year – all achieved with the help and support of many individuals and groups. Stay tuned for more information about this, as we'd like to invite all of the friends of Nine Mile Canyon to celebrate with us.

(continued from front page)

State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) where it received an enthusiastic response. In the required NRHP comment process with landowners in Nine Mile Canyon, only two of the eight objected. The County Commissioners in Carbon, Duchesne and Uintah Counties all opposed the nomination.

- In October of 2008 the State BLM and SHPO put out a press release saying they were nominating Nine Mile Canyon to the NRHP as a Multiple Property Submission rather than an Historic District.
- In July of 2009, staff to the Keeper of the NRHP visited Nine Mile Canyon for a tour.
- On November 30, 2009, after years of following the required process, the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places officially signed the listing of Nine Mile Canyon to the Register.

So What's Next?

Interestingly, the Nomination covers prehistoric *and* historic properties. The Coalition originally wanted that to be the case, but was told to do one at a time. At the last minute BLM and SHPO decided to include both. Consequently the Coalition NRHP Nomination bank account shows a surplus and we can apply that to registering more sites.

Utah Rock Art Research Association (URARA) volunteers in Salt Lake City are busy at work with the State BLM Archeologist, Byron Loosle, preparing the paperwork to register additional sites. Mr. Loosle facilitated the completion of the BLM process.

There is talk among some landowners in Nine Mile to also nominate sites on their property to the NRHP and they are looking at nominating districts rather than individual sites.

There is discussion going on about having an event in the fall of 2010 to celebrate the listing of the canyon with a symposium or similar event. There could even be a party!

The Coalition is grateful to everyone involved with securing the Nomination of Nine Mile Canyon to the National Register. The list of individuals is too long to print here, but we offer special thanks to the following organizations:

URARA (Utah Rock Art Research Association)
Hopi Tribe
Utah Statewide Archaeological Society
National Trust for Historic Preservation
Hunt Oil Company
CPAA (Colorado Plateau Archaeological Alliance)

On January 4, 2010, Nine Mile Canyon Coalition Chair Deanne Matheny and President Pam Miller participated in the signing ceremony for the West Tavaputs Programmatic Agreement. It was an historic moment, the culmination of nearly a year of conversation and compromise for the sake of the cultural resources in Nine Mile Canyon.

Representatives of government agencies, industry, and preservation groups were present to sign the agreement as signatories or concurring parties. The Coalition is a concurring party. The Coalition feels it is important to protect the past for future generations, and it would be irresponsible to destroy the cultural wonders of Nine Mile Canyon in a rush to develop the natural gas fields on the West Tavaputs Plateau.

The Coalition has been soundly and roundly criticized by groups not understanding the complexity of the issues facing the cultural resources in the canyon or our stand in monitoring the stipulations of the programmatic agreement. We see the agreement as the first step toward protecting the “world’s longest art gallery” and one of the finest collections of ancient Indian rock art in the world, not to mention other types of archaeological and historic sites. It will be a continuing effort among all the pact’s signers – BLM, BBC, conservation groups, historic preservationists, the state and eastern Utah counties – to ensure this priceless treasure is protected. It is our ob-

ligation and role to stay involved and keep the signers informed of any changes that we observe in the status of the canyon during industrial development. We are not looking for failure; on the contrary, we are earnestly hoping and looking for success in the efforts to mitigate the potential dangers. Only with feedback, whether positive or negative, can the responsible agencies effectively manage the project, the land, and the resources.

The agreement requires BBC to pay for three types of studies to pinpoint and record all the sites that are at risk. The dust must be controlled and suppressed. If it is not, BBC could lose its permits to drill. Very important to all of us Nine Mile Canyon volunteers, the BLM will work with the Coalition, archaeologists, the College of Eastern Utah’s Prehistoric Museum and the state on a long-range site stewardship plan to monitor particular cultural sites in the area of impact.

The Coalition feels it is our role to be diligent in Nine Mile Canyon’s preservation – for our children and grandchildren, and for all of the citizens of the United States. This is a national treasure and our national heritage.

You will find the programmatic agreement in its entirety at:

http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/price/energy/Oil_Gas/Programmatic_Agreement.html



Photo courtesy of Paul Carroll

Governor Gary Herbert and John Fowler (Executive Director of The Advisory Council On Historic Preservation) look on as Dr. Pam Miller signs the Programmatic Agreement on behalf of the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition



Hello Pam!

My Name is Uinta Cappel. I am ten years old. I am glad to write about Nine Mile Canyon.

My Grandpa (who passed away in December 2007) is Bud Houskeeper. When he was little he spent much time in Nine Mile Canyon.

Native American history is very important to me. My favorite tribes are Navajo, Fremont, and Anasazi.

When my family and I went to Nine Mile, we camped at the Nine Mile Ranch. There were horses, sheep and neat little cabins.

It was the perfect place to be.

Each and every petroglyph tells an amazing story of the Native American tribes. All of them are very special.

Like on Brother Bear, "Where the lights touch the earth."

It's hard for me to say what is my favorite thing about Nine Mile.

The magic in the canyon made me feel the spirits of the Indians.

Nutter and Wimmer Ranches were neat also. I love the old school. My grandpa used to tell very neat stories of his family living in Nine Mile. Where I was taught to only leave footprints, but take pictures.

Nine Mile Canyon is a very special place to me. I really hope when I am older and have kids of my own, they will be able to see this special, magical place.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I will always be a part of making a difference, for special places such as Nine Mile Canyon.

Uinta Cappel

P.S. Thank those and yourself who have worked so hard for something so special to me.

Thank you Uinta!

On Wednesday, March 3, 2010, the BLM Price Field Office hosted a public meeting in Price, Utah to discuss the development of a site stewardship program relating to the West Tavaputs Plateau, including Nine Mile Canyon. The development of a site stewardship program in this area was one of the provisions in the recently signed West Tavaputs Plateau Natural Gas Full Field Development Programmatic Agreement ("PA").

Generally speaking, site stewardship programs provide opportunities for volunteers who have received appropriate training to work with professional archaeologists to help protect cultural resources by visiting sites on a periodic basis to record natural and man-made impacts. Some programs also include the documentation of sites.

For the March 3, 2010 meeting in Price, the BLM Price Field Office made copies of site stewardship programs from a number of areas available for review by attendees. Jerry Kenczka, BLM Price Field Office, Acting Field Manager, welcomed the attendees to the meeting, and Charmaine Thompson, Archaeologist, Manti La-Sal National Forest acted as the facilitator for the meeting. Blaine Miller, Archaeologist, BLM Price Field Office, presented an

overview of the archaeology of Nine Mile Canyon and the West Tavaputs Plateau, followed by an introduction to site stewardship programs by Leigh Grench, Archaeologist, BLM Moab Field Office. Ms. Grench is involved with the site stewardship program in Moab and explained how that program works. Tyler Ashcroft, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, BLM Price Field Office, led a brainstorming session regarding a mission statement and goals for a West Tavaputs Plateau site stewardship program. This was followed by a discussion of next steps in developing a site stewardship program led by Byron Loosle, Deputy Preservation Officer, BLM Utah State office. Several volunteer committees were formed to work on different topics. Jerry Kenczka noted the interest of the attendees and scheduled the next meeting to discuss the site stewardship program on Tuesday, April 6, 2010 from 6-8 pm, before closing the meeting.

There is a good start to the development of a site stewardship program, but it will require the efforts of many to develop it and then make the program a success. If you are interested in participating, please contact Tyler Ashcroft, Price Field Office BLM (435-636-3600).

The Nine Mile Canyon Coalition enjoys hearing from our supporters and other canyon enthusiasts. Regarding a recent trip to Nine Mile Canyon with his wife JoAnn, longtime member of the Coalition and current president of the Federal Bar Association, Lawrence Baca, made the following observations-

"While Nine Mile was beautiful as always I was saddened by the amount of dust on panels. We ran into a couple from Germany at the Great Hunt Panel and they wanted to find the panel just up the road. I boldly said, 'no problem I can take you right to it.' It was so covered with dust that I drove past it twice before I spotted it."

"When JoAnn and I were coming out of the canyon we developed a flat tire on the SUV we were driving. This is 5pm on a Sunday. I pulled over and before I could get my jack out a pick-up pulled over and a young man (mid-30s) asked if he could help. Less than ten minutes later another driver pulled over and then the grandfather of the first man stopped and asked how many folks it took to change a tire. Before long a fellow from the ranch across the road came over and also asked if we were ok. It was a wonderful experience that you just don't have very often in most urban areas."

The Coalition thanks Lawrence and JoAnn, for sharing their Nine Mile experiences with us.

Canyon Enchantment

She celebrates life with radiant red earth,
Green spruce, fir and lacy aspen.
Kaleidoscoping motion rolls red to brown, golden tan to white.
Evergreen becomes sage foam, canary yellow rabbit brush,
Pinion, juniper and spiny greasewood.

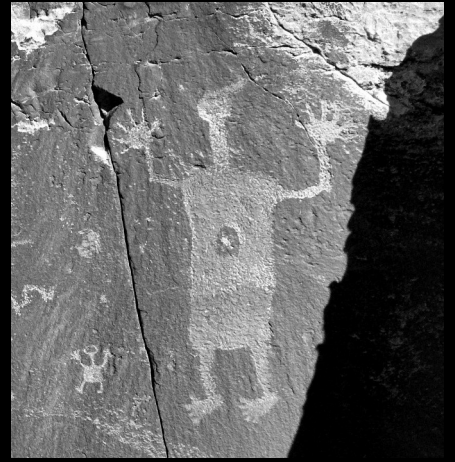
Unpretentious cliffs break through, rise to meet the azure sky, rebelling,
Resisting, yet yielding to soothing, singing water song.
Deeper in time, brown ledges become ribbons,
Turquoise, purple, emerald, resplendent rainbows.
Rock walls rise majestically, over a thousand feet,
Curving, glimmering, facing relentless sun and wind.

Mysteries lie in her side canyons, twisting, hiding and disclosing.
They vibrate with woman-like scream of lion challenge, and howl of coyote.
Their names make statements of truth and reality. Blind Canyon ends.
Is it fantasy that Dry Canyon runs water and Water Canyon is dry?
Cow Canyon, a veranda for early homesteading is spacious and commanding.
Desert facade of Houskeeper Draw belies stands of Douglas Fir
Used for cabin building, corrals and derrick pole.

Brown slates beckoned ancient artists who
Chipped messages lasting over a thousand years.
They thrived here. Settlers grubbed greasewood and sage,
Built cabins of log and stone.
Twice life abounded here, communities lived.
Now they are gone, vanished.

The land shaped the people, and
The people shaped the land.

by Norma Dalton



Thanks to all who participated in the 2009 Fall Gathering! 

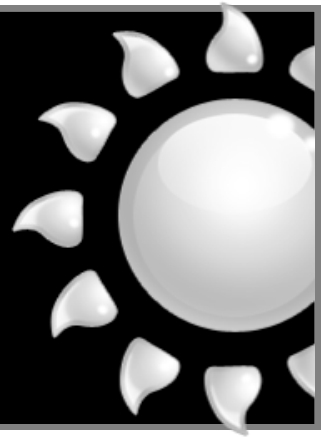


Spring Clean-Up 2010

Please join us on Saturday, April 17th for our annual roadside clean-up. This year we'll meet at 9AM, at either the Nine Mile kiosk in Wellington (Walker's parking lot) or the kiosk in Myton (east of the Hollow Moon). From there we'll work our way towards the Cottonwood Glen picnic area (mile post 27.2) where we'll meet at 1PM for a short board meeting and our traditional potluck lunch (please bring a contribution to share).

If you have any questions please contact us at:

9MCC@xmission.com

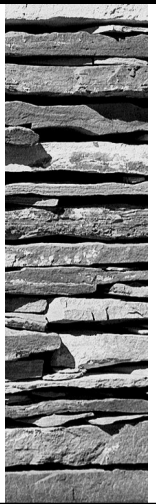


Mission Statement

The Nine Mile Canyon Coalition exists to preserve and protect Nine Mile Canyon, in partnership with land holders, user groups, federal, state and local agencies, and Native American organizations. To that end, the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition will foster educational and interpretive programs which include but are not limited to: assisting in the coordination of canyon interests; promoting programs of scientific research in the canyon; helping with inventory of cultural and natural resources; raising funds, from earnings or gifts, for research, education, interpretive or preservation programs, as such funds become available.

ninemilecanyoncoalition.org

Let us know what you'd like to see
on our webpage!



Nine Mile Canyon Coalition

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JOIN THE COALITION, RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP OR SIGN UP A FRIEND!

Please mail this form to: **Nine Mile Canyon Coalition, P.O. Box 402, Price, Utah 84501**

Please circle membership type:

Name: _____

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Your support has helped create real
change in BLM's management of
Nine Mile Canyon!

Annual (\$25)

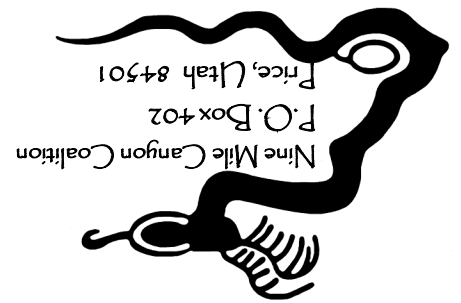
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Please make check or money order payable to: **Nine Mile Canyon Coalition**

Thank you for your support!



Spring Clean-Up 2010

Saturday April 17th