



Notice of Town Council and RDC Work Session
Meeting of Tuesday August 8, 2017

*****6:00 pm*****

Conference Room – TOR Municipal Building

To Discuss Rangely Museum's development of a Coalition
Partnership Five-Year Plan and Funding needs
To support an agreement with D.A.R.G to pursue
Strategy and Goals



P.O. Box 131 • Rangely, Colorado 81648
(970) 675-2612

July 5, 2017

Dear Community Member:

Rangely Outdoor Museum has partnered up with a group of Archeologists, Paleontologists, and University Historians that are known throughout the Historical World as D.A.R.G., the Dominquez Archeological Research Group. This partnership has resulted in the attached proposed development plan that will establish an on-going collaborative partnership among diverse stake holders with vested interests in the cultural resources of Rio Blanco County. It is a work in progress and will be in continual revision and expansion in coming weeks and months. We have now reached the point where it is time to enlist partners and support for our community-based coalition for cultural resource and preservation, research, and education. Our near-term goal is to formulate a strategy and implementation plan designed to:

- Enlist coalition participation with partners in funding, development, and research.
- Establish on-going archaeological and ethno-historical research, historic preservation, and public education programs.
- Engage diverse communities of interest in local and surrounding regions for mutual benefit and cooperation, including Native Americans, scientific and historic preservation professionals, and local and regional historic preservation stakeholders.
- Align with, and leverage the goals, objectives, and resources of municipal, county and regional economic development programs supporting **tourism, education, and outdoor recreation.**
- Align with and leverage the goals, objectives, and resources of state and federal cultural resource management agencies and organizations.

D.A.R.G. has also recently guided the way for our local county museums to receive training that will allow the state of Colorado to issue certificates as certified repositories. This will allow our local museums to store and display artifacts, dinosaur bones, etc. that are found in our area.

D.A.R.G. leaders will be attending our museum meeting July 18, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. that will be held in the Town Hall Conference Room. We invite you, as a community leader to attend this meeting and meet these leaders of D.A.R.G. They will be reviewing the attached proposals and answering questions.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Gaila Bell at 970 629 5317. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Rangely Board of Directors

(DRAFT) Proposal for Development of a Community-based Coalition for Cultural Resource Research, Preservation and Education in Rio Blanco County, Colorado

Prepared by

Richard W. Ott, Project Coordinator/Grant Administrator, Dominquez Archaeological Research Group, Inc. (DARG)

and

Gaila Bell, Board of Directors, Rangely Outdoor Museum

June 30, 2017 (Version 0.2)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At present, records curated by the Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation list thousands of archaeological and paleontological sites located in Rio Blanco County. Twelve of these sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and many hundreds more are designated as eligible for the register. A significant majority of all the recorded cultural resources in the County are located on Federal Public Lands, which comprise more than 73% of the total land area in the county (Western Rural Development Center 2006).

OAHP Compass Files Search 6/20/17

Rio Blanco County, Colorado

5268 Prehistoric Archaeology Sites
1600 Historic Archaeology Sites
544 Architectural Sites
558 Paleontological Sites

Cultural resources in the county reflect human occupation of the region during the past 11,000 or more years, and ancient life from hundreds of millions of years ago. They also represent priceless value to the communities of people who continue to make their homes and earn their livelihoods in this region, and those whose ancestors lived here before and whose legacy remains. Unfortunately, human activities today are presenting increasingly significant risks to cultural resources throughout the area. Activity from energy development and outdoor recreation on public lands, long vital to the economic health and well-being of residents in the area, continues to threaten and negatively impact fragile archaeological and paleontological sites. Collected artifacts continue to be removed from public awareness by scientific, amateur, and malicious collectors. Outright vandalism and unintentional damage from land disturbance also remains a persistent danger for many sites, especially those located within easy reach of human activities. At the same time, public interest in historic and prehistoric cultural resources continues to represent a significant opportunity for boosting economic activity in the area from both tourism and education.

This document is an iterative version (Version 0.2) of a proposed development plan that will establish an on-going collaborative partnership among diverse stakeholders with vested interests in the cultural resources of Rio Blanco County. It is a work in progress and will be in continual revision and expansion in coming weeks and months as we enlist partners and support for our community-based coalition for cultural resource preservation, research, and education.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

At this writing, the proposed coalition we envision consists of the Rangely Outdoor Museum (ROM), represented by Gaila Bell, Board Member, and Dominquez Archaeological Research Group, Inc. (DARG), represented by Richard Ott, Project Coordinator/Grant Administrator.

Rangely Outdoor Museum will serve as the primary organizational agent for the coalition. Dominquez Archaeological Research Group, Inc. will contract initial professional consulting services for grant and project development. Both ROM and DARG are 501(c) (3) non-profit corporations. Additional information on both organizations are attached below.

Our near-term goal is to formulate a strategy and an implementation plan designed to:

- Enlist coalition participation with partners in funding, development and research.
- Establish on-going archaeological and ethno historical research, historic preservation, and public education programs.
- Engage diverse communities of interest in local and surrounding regions for mutual benefit and cooperation, including Native Americans, scientific and historic preservation professionals, and local and regional historic preservation stakeholders.
- Align with and leverage the goals, objectives and resources of state and federal cultural resource management agencies and organizations.
- Align with and leverage the goals, objectives and resources of municipal, county and regional economic development programs supporting tourism, education, and outdoor recreation.

We are currently, with this document and those versions to follow, seeking to enlist a core group of collaborative coalition partners and seed funding of approximately \$17,000, followed by a proposed round of cash-match funding in the range of \$10,000 - 50,000 for an initial State Historical Fund competitive archaeological grant. SHF competitive grants can leverage cash-match funding by a factor of four, and are a powerful tool for funding significant archaeological research, reconnaissance and intensive surveys, resource protection, curation, excavation and data recovery, exhibits, field schools and site planning and management.

Currently, we are planning to present these ideas to the Rangely Outdoor Museum (ROM), the Rio Blanco County Historical Society, the Rio Blanco County Commissioners, the Town of Rangely, and Colorado Northwestern Community College (CNCC).

Seed funding will produce the following deliverables:

- An overview and summary context of pre-historic and historic archaeological resources in Rio Blanco County, from literature and files searches in official, professional and public archives.
- Analysis and identification of initial research opportunities for archaeological assessment grants from the State Historical Fund (SHF).
- Preparation and submission of an initial SHF archaeological assessment grant application in time for field work to commence during the 2017 season.

- Analysis and identification of competitive grant opportunities for archaeological grants from SHF.
- Preparation and submission of an initial competitive archaeological grant application for the October 1, 2017, submission deadline.
- Preparation of a long-range strategy and development plan for on-going collaborative archaeology and other cultural resource programs among coalition members.

Potential near-term deliverables expected from initial successful SHF grant applications:

- Report of findings, analysis, and recommendations for future work on archaeological resources examined and recorded for the initial SHF Archaeological Assessment Grant. Identification of subsequent SHF Archaeological Assessment Grants, in associated or other resource areas.
- Report of findings, analysis, and recommendations for future work on archaeological resources examined and recorded for the initial SHF Competitive Archaeological Grant. Publishable descriptive products for public outreach and education. Identification of subsequent SHF Archaeological Competitive Grants, in associated or other resource areas.
- Publishable descriptive products for public outreach and education.

Potential long-term development of on-going programs that support mission goals of coalition partners:

- Participation in regional, statewide, and national cultural resource management and preservation networks and programs, with an initial focus on participation in a northwestern Colorado museum support network now in development by History Colorado and regional accredited museum partners. This initiative could potentially lead to official repository designations for Rangely and Meeker Museums for artifact and specimen collections from local archaeological and paleontological sites.
- Collaboration with Northwestern Colorado Community College in development and support of archaeological and GIS programs and related technical fields.
- Outreach and collaboration with the Ute Tribes in the development of archaeological and related technical programs at CNCC.
- Outreach and collaboration with the Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservations in exploring a development strategy for creation of a Ute Cultural Center in the Rangely area.
- Collaboration with regional tourism and outdoor recreation organizations in support of expanding tourist activity in local areas.
- Collaboration with local, regional and statewide economic development plans and programs: e.g. History Colorado, Colorado Tourism groups, Rio Blanco County development plans, Rangely, Meeker Development Plans and CNCC program development.

Near-term Milestones:

Approximate anticipated timeline for initial grant applications and initial deliverables

2017

July	Enlist partner participation and secure seed funding
August	Submit SHF Archaeological Assessment Grant Application
September	Submit SHF Competitive Archaeological Grant for Draft Review
October 1	Submit SHF Competitive Archaeological Grant Application
October (Late)	Begin field work on SHF Archaeological Assessment Grant
December	Progress Report and Draft Long-range Strategy and Plan

2018

January-February	Award announcement for SHF competitive grants
Early Spring	Final report for initial SHF assessment grant
Early Spring	Begin work on initial SHF competitive grant
Early Spring	Prepare and submit follow-up assessment grant(s)

Note: SHF Assessment Grants and Competitive Grants ordinarily are awarded for two years from date of contract signing. In some cases, especially for assessment grants and smaller competitive grants, projects may be completed in much shorter times. Grant recipients are generally limited to awards of a single competitive grant for each round of applications which close on April 1 and October 1 each year. Assessment grants may be submitted at any time and in some instances a recipient may have more than one such grant underway.

NEXT STEPS

Meetings with potential coalition partners are currently being scheduled, and preliminary research and analysis for preparation of SHF grants is underway. This planning document will be updated and distributed to all interested parties as subsequent interactions occur.