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UINTA HEADWATERS RC&D PROMOTES HERITAGE TOURISM

Heritage tourism is a huge economic engine that provides an incentive for rural communities to celebrate and protect their heritage, historic sites, and natural resources, while attracting tourists to their area. It's a great way to create jobs and help preserve what makes the area unique.



The Uinta Headwaters RC&D helps the annual Mountain Spirit Heritage Festival with grant management, planning, and partner development. In 2009, the festival will be held in Coalville and Wanship to expand the positive impact of the festival on local communities. Plans are to add a "ranch rodeo" at the Coalville fairgrounds, along with the traditional activities including a wagon train, blue grass competition and performances, working telegraph and heritage artisan demonstrations.

The RC&D Council is also working with the Heber Valley Heritage Foundation that is developing a walking tour of Heber City, inventorying and restoring historic buildings, establishing a museum, and creating a heritage profile of the Heber Valley.

Utah has four state-designated and two federally-designated heritage areas: When a heritage area is federally-designated, they receive federal funds (usually about ten million dollars) through the National Park Service to develop and promote heritage activities in the area.

Heritage areas in Utah are: Bear River Heritage Area (State and Federal), Great Basin Heritage Area (State and Federal), Mountain Spirit Heritage Area (State), and National Mormon Pioneer Heritage Area (State and Federal).

For more information, visit the RC&D's website at www.uintaheadwaters.org or the other heritage area websites:

<http://www.utahheritage.com/>; <http://www.greatbasinheritage.org/partnership.htm>;
<http://www.bearriverheritage.com/>

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