



# Heritage

## Application Overview

Natural Resource Manager's (NRM) Heritage application is the central, online database for collecting and managing data from projects, cultural resources, and assemblages across the Forest Service. It provides the Agency with information needed for long-term management of cultural resources and compliance with the National Environment Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act.

In 2017, NRM released a modernized Heritage application that includes geospatial capabilities allowing cultural resources and heritage projects to link directly to locations on national forests. Mobile application features are being developed and tested.

## Key Features

- Tracks maintenance needs of historical structures and target accomplishments at the forest level
- Provides a summary of data from all national forests such as new sites, improvement expenditures, and protections
- Enables the Agency to exceed legal requirements for managing cultural resources and generates accurate yearly reports

## Agency Benefits

- Mitigates wildfire risks by providing critical information to emergency response teams to protect significant cultural resources
- Allows for effective damage investigations and assessments for future mitigation
- Expands natural resource expertise through ongoing updates to national and state databases
- Improves decision-making through nonredundant internal reporting and accurate external reporting, especially to decisionmakers such as Congress



## Case Study

Nineteen hundred known archaeological and historical sites are located within the 2013 Rim Fire burned area on the Stanislaus National Forest. The NRM Heritage application was used to identify and map these at-risk resources. Sites include pre-historic camps, bedrock milling features, lithics (flaked stone), historic Forest Ranger Stations, cabins, logging camps, trestles, ditches and mines. With frequent field examinations throughout the wildfire suppression, critical data was continuously updated into Heritage. This information was provided at wildfire strategy meetings assisting the Incident Commander and the Planning and Operations Section Chiefs in making well-timed, critical decisions.

Data collected by the Rim Fire archaeologist was used to survey previously-documented resources, identify resource conditions, and document newly-discovered resources. Data also served to save cultural resources from additional post-fire damage. Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) efforts protected over 400 high risk sites by stabilizing soils, removing hazard trees, and placing 3,280 feet of protective rock barriers.

*"The ability to input field data into the NRM Heritage application allowed decision makers to respond immediately and confidently during the Rim Fire. Even after the fire, the application offered further analysis and reporting features."*

Donna Day  
National Heritage Information Manager