

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – September 30, 2021

**UTE INDIAN TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE AGREEMENT
EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**

On September 22, 2021, the Ute Indian Tribe (Tribe) of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation Business Committee and the Director of the National Park Service (NPS) fully executed the Ute Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) agreement and it is now in full effect. As a result, the Tribe's THPO has assumed a formal and legal place in the National Historic Preservation Program, a landmark achievement for the Tribe.

The fully executed THPO agreement authorizes the Tribe's Cultural Rights and Protection Department (CRPD) to exercise certain cultural and historic preservation activities over the Uintah and Ouray Reservation under the National Historic Preservation Act. These preservation activities were previously a legal authority that was exercised by Utah's Historic Preservation Office.

Effective immediately, the Tribe's THPO will have Federal authority to assume duties from the State, including:

- Advise and assist Federal and State agencies and local governments in carrying out their historic preservation responsibilities.
- Consult with Federal agencies on Federal decisions that may affect Tribal historic properties.
- Work with the Secretary of the Interior, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and other Federal and State agencies, local governments, organizations, and individuals to ensure that Tribal historic properties are taken into consideration at all levels of planning and development.
- Identify and nominate properties to the National Register of Historic Places and administer applications for listing in the National Register.
- Prepare and implement a historic preservation plan for the Tribe.
- Provide public information, education, training, and technical assistance in historic preservation.
- Survey and inventory Tribal historic properties.

The Business Committee acknowledges the critical nature of protecting and preserving the Tribe's cultural and historic resources for generations to come and has worked diligently with the CRPD to establish this Office. The THPO will play a vital role in accomplishing these goals while simultaneously reinforcing the Tribe's sovereignty and authority to safeguard its culturally significant historic properties on and off the Reservation.