The USDA Forest Service is entrusted with the care of over 300,000 ancient ruins, historic cabins, trails, and roads on nearly 200 million acres of public land. We identify and maintain the historic value of these cultural heritage sites and places.

The Forest Service cares for the past in order to serve the nation by:

- providing opportunities for the people to discover the human story etched on the landscapes of our national forests and grasslands, and
- drawing connections between people and the land in a way that helps us better understand and manage our forests and grasslands.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication (Braille, large print, audiocassette, etc.) should contact USDA’s TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
We serve present and future generations through an understanding of the past.

Heritage tourism meets the desires of visitors while serving the economic needs of forest communities by contributing to their viability and vitality.

Windows on the Past
This program provides public access to historic sites and provides opportunities for experiential education through heritage interpretation.

Over 2000 heritage sites on national forests and grasslands are interpreted to the public, enhancing people’s understanding of their relationship with land and culture.

Rent a piece of history with an awe-inspiring view. Many old fire lookouts and a few cabins have been refurbished for public use, inspiring personal connections with the land and Forest Service history.

Did you know?
Visiting historic sites is ranked in the top two or three reasons people take vacations.
Over 88 million people visit historic sites each year.
Heritage tourism is one of the fastest growing segments of the nation’s $350 billion tourism industry.
Travelers to historical/cultural sites spend more than the average traveler.

Passport in Time
volunteers share the thrill of discovery in activities ranging from excavating archaeological ruins to restoring historic buildings. Since 1991, over 15,000 volunteers have contributed over 400,000 hours to caring for heritage sites while having the time of their lives!

For more information and project schedule, visit the Passport in Time Web site: www.passportintime.com

“After our PIT project, we went to museums in the area and artifacts just came alive. It was an invaluable experience for my daughters, one neither they nor I will forget!”
– PIT volunteer

Heritage Expeditions offer tours and programs where participants to learn about and care for heritage sites. Participants pay for the experience and their contributions are used to preserve, protect, and further our understanding of heritage sites.

“I have been taking classes for 20 years and this is the best I have ever attended”.
“The effort to make this possible is outstanding, much more than I could have imagined”.

Comments from past Heritage Expedition participants