Object Stabilization and Mounts Created for Display
Thorne Collection at the Uintah County Heritage Museum in Vernal, Utah
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The Uintah County Heritage Museum has a significant collection of early Ute and Fremont Indian material (Thorne and Pickup collections). In a joint project organized through the Utah Humanities Field Services Initiative, staff at the Museum worked together with museum professionals to stabilize and move the collection in 2014 to a new museum facility. In 2015, the project team worked to reorganize the objects in their cases and create mounts to stabilize and properly display the collection.

- The objects were displayed in 16 glass cases and on freestanding shelves. As a condition of the Thorne gift contract, the Museum had agreed to long-term display of the collection.
- Following the 2014 move into a new facility, the project team decided that the main priority was to construct display mounts that would stabilize and support each object and separate them on exhibit.
- The first goal in the 2015 phase was to stabilize objects currently on exhibit and considered at risk. These were the organics, textiles and the more fragile ceramics.
- Display cases were assessed and objects prioritized for risk.

Project Outcomes
- Fragile objects stabilized and support mounts created.
- Staff training in collections safety issues.
- Improved collections stewardship.
- Legacy of systems, procedures, materials, and relationships left for the Museum.
- Improvement in effectively delivering support to community members by the Field Services Team.

The second goal of the project was to provide on-site training and mentoring for the Uintah County Heritage Museum staff. The museum staff actively participated in the project, learning to assess and then address collection safety issues.
- Training included participation in workshops, on-site mentoring to understand and identify conditions which place objects at risk, and finally, working together as a team to create the needed conservation environments for each object.
- Display and storage issues were considered as mounts were created that stabilized, supported, and protected objects, both on exhibit and for eventual storage.

Addressed Utah State Performance Goals for Museums
Section II: Staff
d. Demonstrate a commitment to professional development to your staff and volunteers.
Section V: Collections/Conservation
e. Museum will maintain collection care standards.
Section VI: Exhibitions
c. Protect objects while on display and give special attention to mounting procedures, environmental controls, and security as per collections management policy.