



MEMORANDUM

TO: All those permitted to conduct archaeological investigations in Utah

FROM: Archaeology Group, Trust Lands Administration

DATE: 1 March 2026

RE: Requirements for conducting archaeological work on Utah trust lands

This memo clarifies the requirements for conducting archaeological investigations on school and institutional trust lands in Utah.

The statutory requirements for working on school and institutional trust lands in Utah can be found in *Utah Code Annotated* § 9-8-305. In addition to those found in the statute, the Trust Lands Administration (TLA) has the following requirements:

1. Only those permitted by the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office (PLPCO), and those working under another's permit, may conduct archaeological work on trust lands.
2. You are required to submit a completed Field Work Authorization (FWA) form before you conduct any archaeological work on or across trust lands. This form can be found on the trust land website at <https://trustlands.utah.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/New-Field-Work-Authorization-Form-April-2023-2.pdf> Please submit your request to both Kristine Curry (kristinecurry@utah.gov) and Lisa Beck (lisabeck@utah.gov).
3. You are responsible for knowing on whose land you are working. Do not rely on what your client may tell you. Make sure you verify the land ownership. If you have any question about whether the land your project crosses is trust land, please check out the maps on our website (<https://trustlands.utah.gov/tools/maps/>). The

ownership layer is updated weekly. You can download a copy of the ownership layer that you can insert into your own maps.

4. You are still required to obtain written permission from the TLA when making an application for an excavation permit from the PLPCO. We also require reviewing your research design and methodology prior to you obtaining your excavation permit from PLPCO.
5. In fulfillment of your FWA, you are required to submit to us an electronic copy of the final report, any site forms for sites wholly or partially located on trust land, any tabular data, and all associated GIS files. All files are to be named and formatted to comply with SHPO's e106 requirements. This requirement is in place for every project for which you receive a FWA, even if the TLA is not the lead agency. Do not assume the lead agency will forward a copy of your report deliverables to us; you are responsible for sending us copies directly.
6. Please follow the established guidelines for linear sites (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Kblr0co9ZPY8blOSFnfpzDkfUIp519Zv/view>). Trust land specific guidelines will be found on our website.
7. For trust land only projects, please follow the guidelines for Post World War II featureless sites. The guidelines, spreadsheet template, and template example can be found on our web site in the Archaeology section (<https://trustlands.utah.gov/work-with-us/archaeology/>).
8. Please continue to report incidents of archaeological vandalism or looting you see occurring on trust lands. We appreciate you being our eyes when you are out in the field.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

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