

APPENDIX E: CULTURAL RESOURCES USE CATEGORIES

EXCERPT FROM BLM MANUAL 8110

8110 - IDENTIFYING AND EVALUATING CULTURAL RESOURCES

.4 Categorizing According to Uses. Categorizing cultural resources according to their potential uses is the culmination of the identification process and the bridge to protection and utilization decisions. Use categories establish what needs to be protected, and when or how use should be authorized. All cultural resources have uses, but not all should be used in the same way. Cultural resources can be allocated to the various recognized use categories even before they are individually identified. The clear advantage in doing this is that it allows Field Office managers to know in advance how to respond to conflicts that arise between specific cultural resources and other land uses. Relative to the national Programmatic Agreement, categorizing resources to uses provides a mechanism for the Field Office manager and the SHPO to confer and concur on how to handle most routine cases of conflict in advance, enabling the Field Office manager to put decisions into effect in the most appropriate and most timely manner.

.41 Allocations to Use Categories.

A. Field Office managers shall allocate to appropriate use categories all cultural properties known and projected to occur in a plan area. Allocations are made in land use plans (RMP), and may be applied both to individual properties and to classes of similar properties. Appropriately qualified staff professionals recommend suitable uses for each cultural property or class of properties, considering the properties' characteristics, condition, setting, location, and accessibility, and especially their perceived values and potential uses. A cultural property may be allocated to more than one use category or it may pass from one category to another (e.g., from Scientific Use to Public Use, as when an archaeological property becomes appropriate for in-place interpretation and conservation for future scientific use, upon completion of scientific investigation). During the compliance process for proposed land uses, allocations allow Field Office managers to analyze needs and develop appropriate mitigation and treatment options. Allocations should be consistent with historic context documents and State Historic Preservation Plans.

B. Allocations shall be reevaluated and revised, as appropriate, when circumstances change or new data become available. Conditions and/or criteria for revising allocations must be included in the RMP, or else revisions may require a plan amendment.

C. A Field Office more than 1 year from an RMP start may assign cultural resources to use categories through an implementation plan (e.g., integrated or interdisciplinary plan, coordinated resource management plan, landscape management plan) that implements any commitment in an existing land use plan to manage cultural resources appropriately (even if only a commitment to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act; see next to last sentence in A. above). Assignments made in implementation plans do not become full allocation decisions until incorporated in an approved RMP.

.42

8110 - IDENTIFYING AND EVALUATING CULTURAL RESOURCES

.42 Use Categories

A. Scientific Use. This category applies to any cultural property determined to be available for consideration as the subject of scientific or historical study at the present time, using currently available research techniques. Study includes methods that would result in the property's physical alteration or destruction. This category applies almost entirely to prehistoric and historic archaeological properties, where the method of use is generally archaeological excavation, controlled surface collection, and/or controlled recordation (data recovery). Recommendations to allocate individual properties to this use must be based on documentation of the kinds of data the property is thought to contain and the data's importance for pursuing specified research topics. Properties in this category need not be conserved in the face of a research or data recovery (mitigation) proposal that would make adequate and appropriate use of the property's research importance.

B. Conservation for Future Use. This category is reserved for any unusual cultural property which, because of scarcity, a research potential that surpasses the current state of the art, singular historic importance, cultural importance, architectural interest, or comparable reasons, is not currently available for consideration as the subject of scientific or historical study that would result in its physical alteration. A cultural property included in this category is deemed worthy of segregation from all other land or resource uses, including cultural resource uses, that would threaten the maintenance of its present condition or setting, as pertinent, and will remain in this use category until specified provisions are met in the future.

C. Traditional Use. This category is to be applied to any cultural resource known to be perceived by a specified social and/or cultural group as important in maintaining the cultural identity, heritage, or well being of the group. Cultural properties assigned to this category are to be managed in ways that recognize the importance ascribed to them and seek to accommodate their continuing traditional use.

D. Public use. This category may be applied to any cultural property found to be appropriate for use as an interpretive exhibit in place, or for related educational and recreational uses by members of the general public. The category may also be applied to buildings suitable for continued use or adaptive use, for example as staff housing or administrative facilities at a visitor contact or interpretive site, or as shelter along a cross-country ski trail.

8110 - IDENTIFYING AND EVALUATING CULTURAL RESOURCES

E. Experimental Use. This category may be applied to a cultural property judged well-suited for controlled experimental study, to be conducted by BLM or others concerned with the techniques of managing cultural properties, which would result in the property's alteration, possibly including loss of integrity and destruction of physical elements. Committing cultural properties or the data they contain to loss must be justified in terms of specific information that would be gained and how it would aid in the management of other cultural properties. Experimental study should aim toward understanding the kinds and rates of natural or human-caused deterioration, testing the effectiveness of protection measures, or developing new research or interpretation methods and similar kinds of practical management information. It should not be applied to cultural properties with strong research potential, traditional cultural importance, or good public use potential, if it would significantly diminish those uses.

F. Discharged from Management. This category is assigned to cultural properties that have no remaining identifiable use. Most often these are prehistoric and historic archaeological properties, such as small surface scatters of artifacts or debris, whose limited research potential is effectively exhausted as soon as they have been documented. Also, more complex archaeological properties that have had their salient information collected and preserved through mitigation or research may be discharged from management, as should cultural properties destroyed by any natural event or human activity. Properties discharged from management remain in the inventory, but they are removed from further management attention and do not constrain other land uses. Particular classes of unrecorded cultural properties may be named and described in advance as dischargeable upon documentation, but specific cultural properties must be inspected in the field and recorded before they may be discharged from management.