

FACT SHEET

Revision of the 2014 Protocol Agreement between the Colorado BLM and SHPO

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) National Programmatic Agreement (NPA) with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (amended September 30, 2025), encourages each BLM state to review and revise state protocols. BLM Colorado and the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) determined that the 2014 Protocol would benefit from revision, based on 11 years of experiences using the Protocol.

The Colorado Protocol is a two-party agreement between the BLM and the SHPO that emphasizes a collaborative and cooperative relationship, while striving to improve the management of cultural resources on both BLM-administered lands in Colorado and lands that might be affected by BLM's actions. It provides:

- Alternative procedures for implementing Section 106, as well as requirements pursuant to Sections 110 and 111(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act.
- Details about the means of BLM and SHPO consultation and interaction.
- Streamlined Section 106 requirements for consultation with SHPO regarding undertakings;
- A proactive Section 110 management program.
- A program for continued and enhanced communication between BLM, SHPO, Indian Tribes, and other consulting parties potentially affected by BLM undertakings.

The revised Colorado Protocol includes the following important changes:

- More comprehensive introductory statements.
- Better-defined roles and responsibilities among parties.
- More detailed processes for coordination on land use planning efforts, as well as the addition of phased and programmatic identification strategies.
- Clarification on use of the Protocol when other Federal agencies or bureaus are involved, as well as BLM's responsibilities for Section 106 on non-Federal lands.
- Reorganization to more closely follow the standard Section 106 linear process.
- Process for submitting documentation for cancelled or delayed Section 106 projects.
- Expansion of screened undertakings (formerly exempt undertakings).
- Addition of standard areas of potential effect.
- List of resource types excluded from full recording.
- Addition of a standard discovery plan.

The revised Protocol has maintained many of the effective streamlining features of the past, though terminology may have changed. For example, the Protocol still provides for processes to expedite the Section 106 process for what were previously called, "routine undertakings." The terms, "routine" and "non-routine" are no longer within this Protocol but the previous provisions for handling a majority of BLM undertakings by simply informing the SHPO has remained.