

# Cultural Resources on the DE-NCA



# What are Cultural Resources?

- 8100 Handbook: A definite location of human activity, occupation, or use, normally greater than 50 years of age, identifiable through field inventory, historical documentation, or oral evidence.
- The term includes archaeological, historic, or architectural sites, structures, places or sites or places with important public and scientific uses, and may include definite locations (sites or places) of traditional cultural properties.

# What are Cultural Resources?

- Cultural resources are concrete, material places and things that are located, classified, ranked, and managed through the system of identifying, protecting, and utilizing for public benefit described in laws, regulations, and the BLM Manuals.



**Lithics** (chipped stone) refer to both formal tools and *debitage* (flakes)



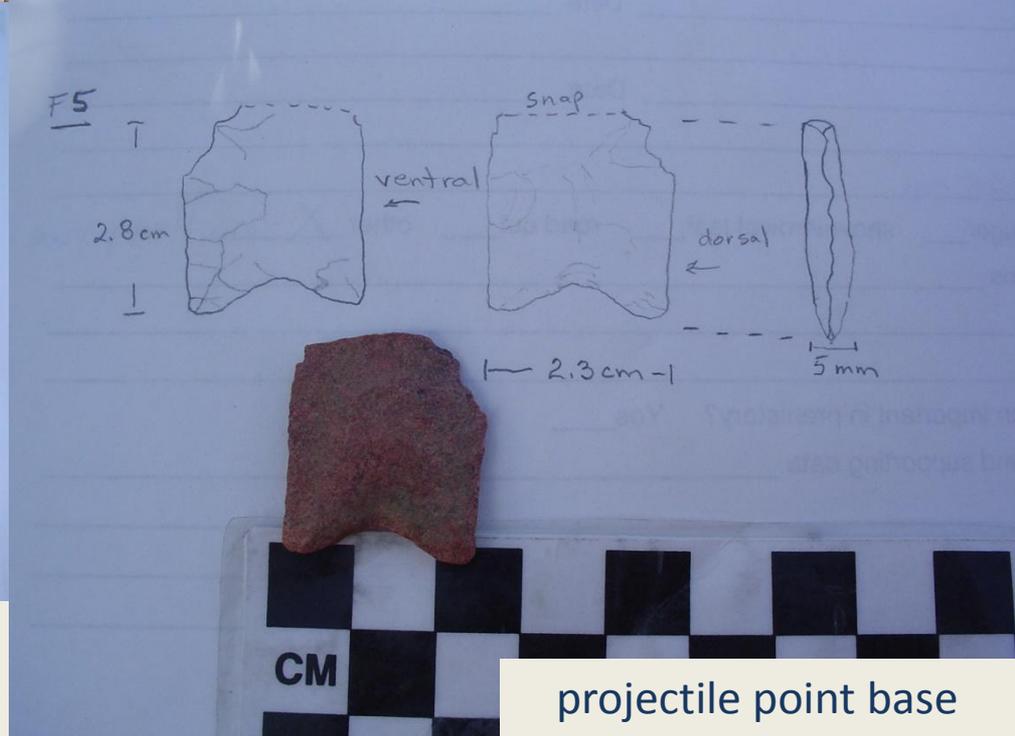
tiger chert flake



chert drill fragment



mudstone  
scraper



projectile point base

**Groundstone** is sometimes shaped before use, becomes shaped through use, or is sharpened to keep the grinding surface “sharp”.



**Mano** – the hand held stone

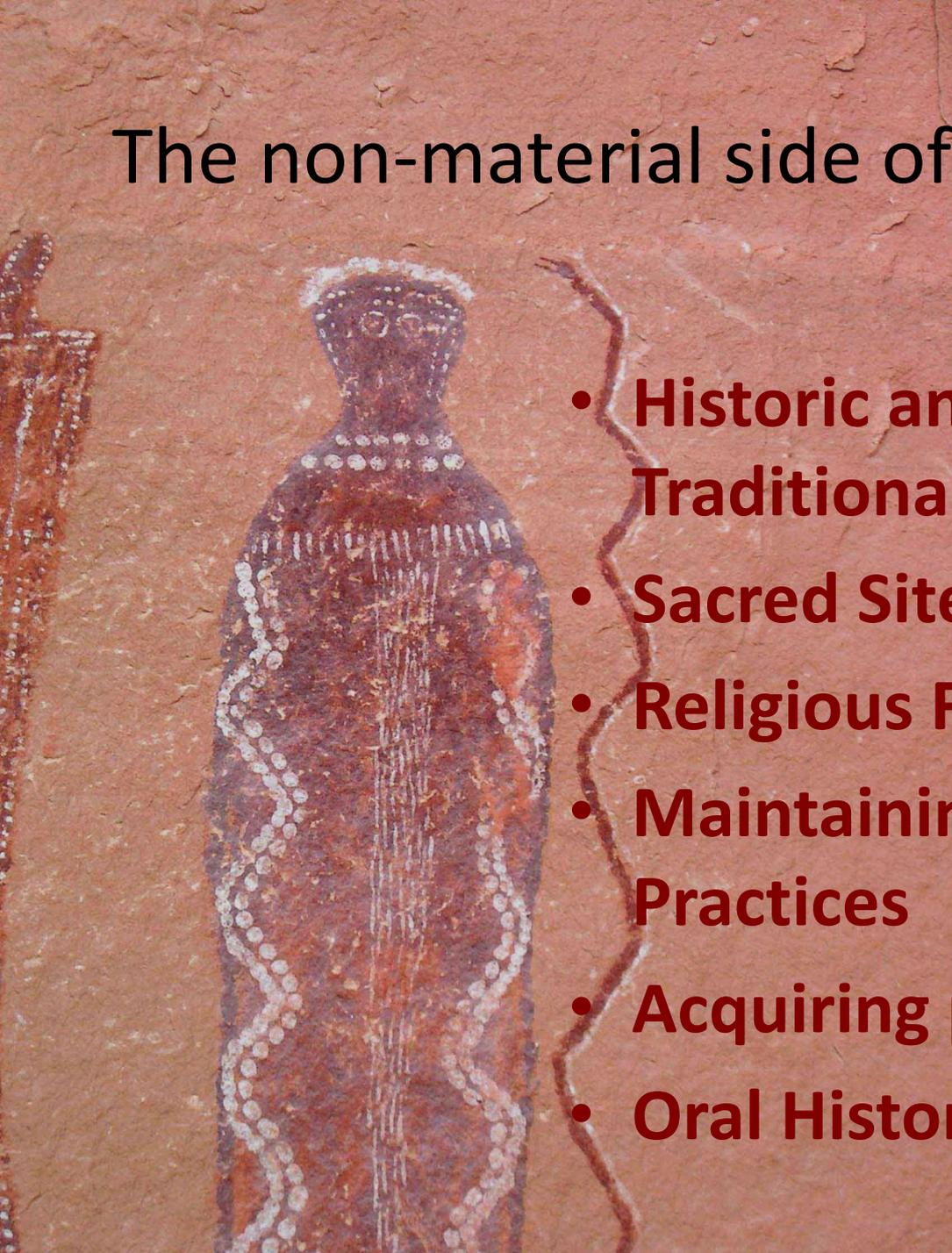


**Metate** – the “mealing” stone



# The non-material side of cultural resources

- **Historic and Current Traditional Uses**
- **Sacred Sites**
- **Religious Freedom**
- **Maintaining Cultural Practices**
- **Acquiring plant resources**
- **Oral Histories**





Certain Ute sites are very important to the Ute. These sites connect them to their traditional lands and their ancestors.

Native American elders provide information about cultural resource sites, sacred sites, and sites of importance for the current religious practices of Native Americans who used to live in the area now known as the DENCA.



# Cultural Resource Laws

- American Antiquities Act of 1906 (16 USC 431-433)
- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (16 USC 470 et seq.)
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 USC 4321, and 4331-4335)
- American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (42 USC 1996 and 1996a)
- Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA) (16 USC 470aa-mm)
- Additional info is located at <http://www.nps.gov/history/laws.htm>

# Compliance - Section 106 of the NHPA

“The head of any Federal agency having direct or indirect jurisdiction over a proposed Federal or federally assisted undertaking in any State and the head of any Federal department or independent agency having authority to license any undertaking shall, prior to the approval of the expenditure of any Federal funds on the undertaking or prior to the issuance of any license, as the case may be, **take into account the effect of the undertaking** on any district, site, building, structure, or object that is included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register...”

# Wickiups



Wickiups are one of Western Colorado's most endangered types of sites because wood is a perishable artifact. This wickiup used a living tree for part of the support. The framework of poles would be covered with hide or brush.

# Section 110 of the NHPA (highlights)

- A) Historic properties under the control of the BLM must be identified, evaluated and where appropriate nominated to the National Register.
- B) That cultural resources eligible for or listed on the National Register are managed and maintained in a way that considers the preservation of their historic, archaeological, architectural and cultural values in compliance with Section 106.
- D) That the agency's preservation-related activities are carried out in consultation with other Federal, State, and local agencies and Indian Tribes.

## Other shelters: sweat houses



This type of site is culturally affiliated with the Navajo and these sites in our area date from the late 1800's to the early 1900's.

# What does the BLM to do comply?

- Step 1: Archaeological Inventory
- Step 2: Report is submitted to land manager with cultural resource staff recommendations.
- Step 3: Land Manager reviews and sends report on to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) who agrees or disagrees with BLM's recommendations of eligibility and effect.
- Step 4: If properties are going to be affected, the agency and SHPO work together to find ways to mitigate damage to cultural properties.

# Adverse Effect

- Some projects result in adverse effects to cultural resources. The BLM and SHPO can come to an agreement to avoid adverse effect by one or more of the actions below:
- Excavation (Data Recovery) - expensive
- Monitoring of sites (used in some cases)
- Relocation of project (avoidance)

# Archaeology in the DENCA

- Set aside for cultural, heritage, and historic values.
- High densities of rock art and cultural sites (1,388 sites recorded by 2010).
- Less than 18% of DENCA is surveyed.



# What do we do besides survey?

- Ethnohistory and Ethnobotany Projects
- Cultural Resource Internships for Native American youth
- Ute Learning Garden
- Site Steward Program
- Outreach to school groups and others



# What can we do with cultural resources in the NCA?



- Conserve
- Protect
- Interpret
- Education
- Promote Heritage Tourism

# BLM Cultural Resource Partners

- Dominquez Archaeological Research Group
- Colorado Historical Society
- Ute Indian Tribe
- Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
- Southern Ute Tribe
- Colorado Mesa University
- Colorado State University Extension Service
- Museum of Western Colorado
- US Forest Service.
- The Public



Research done through the Ute Ethnohistory Project has asked the BLM to consider the conservation of “heritage landscapes” – large areas that embody not only physical cultural sites but natural environmental conditions that have remained relatively unaffected over the last century.



# Site Steward Program

- Monitor at-risk cultural resources, such as rock-art sites, located in sensitive portions of the DENCA.
- Can be trained to join in archaeological surveys.



# Challenges for Cultural Resources

- Large projects like Travel Management, grazing impacts.
- Providing public access to sites and education while protecting sites (Heritage Tourism).
- Native American and community needs.
- Old, incorrect, or outdated data.

