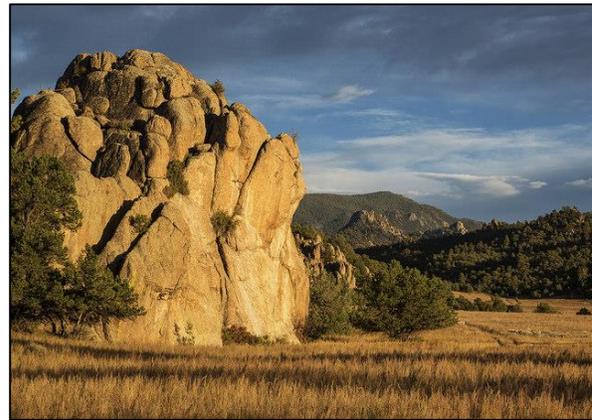


## Background Information

The BLM identifies cultural resources by performing inventory activities, including fieldwork, archival research and remote sensing, using GIS resources. After a cultural resource is identified, the BLM evaluates its integrity and its suitability for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and whether it might be important to Native American or other traditional communities. Cultural resource integrity might be affected by physical destruction, damage, neglect, alteration, isolation, transfer, sale, or lease of a resource, or alteration of the resource setting. Loss of cultural resource integrity affects many aspects of a site, including the completeness and accuracy of the scientific information it contains, its aesthetic, historic, or interpretive value, and its importance for maintaining social and cultural traditions.

The Royal Gorge Field Office (RGFO) manages cultural resources that range from 50 to 12,000 years in age. Populations of both aboriginal and European ancestry occupied the eastern part of Colorado at different times in our history and left a diverse array of sites on BLM-administered land. Many of the sites possess rich cultural information and have the potential to greatly enhance our understanding of the past.

Two branches of a National Historic Trail (the Santa Fe Trail), pass through southeastern Colorado, and segments are present on BLM-administered land. The BLM manages the segments as historic properties with special emphasis on locating physical remains of the trail, thus refining the known corridor.



No Native American groups reside within the jurisdiction of the RGFO; however, 17 tribes have historic ties to the area. As part of both its Section 106 and Section 110 responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act, the BLM manages sacred sites, possible traditional use areas and potential traditional cultural properties with the same high level of care that it affords all historic properties. In addition, the BLM evaluates every site for its possible importance to Native Americans, and if a need is identified through consultation, employs additional measures that emphasize security, protection, and access for interested tribes.

## Potential Decisions:

Planning to address cultural resources and tribal concerns as part of the Eastern Colorado RMP/EIS might:

- Identify special cultural resource restrictions that may affect the location, timing, or method of development or use of other resources in the planning area
- Identify site-specific use restrictions for cultural resources currently being actively managed
- Identify area-wide criteria for recognizing potential cultural resource conflicts, such as geographic characteristics of sacred sites, historic properties, or cultural landscapes (e.g., springs, ridges, peaks, caves, and rock shelters)
- Identify measures to proactively manage, protect, and use cultural resources, including traditional cultural properties

## Planning Issues:

- How will cultural resources be managed?
- How will tribal concerns be addressed?