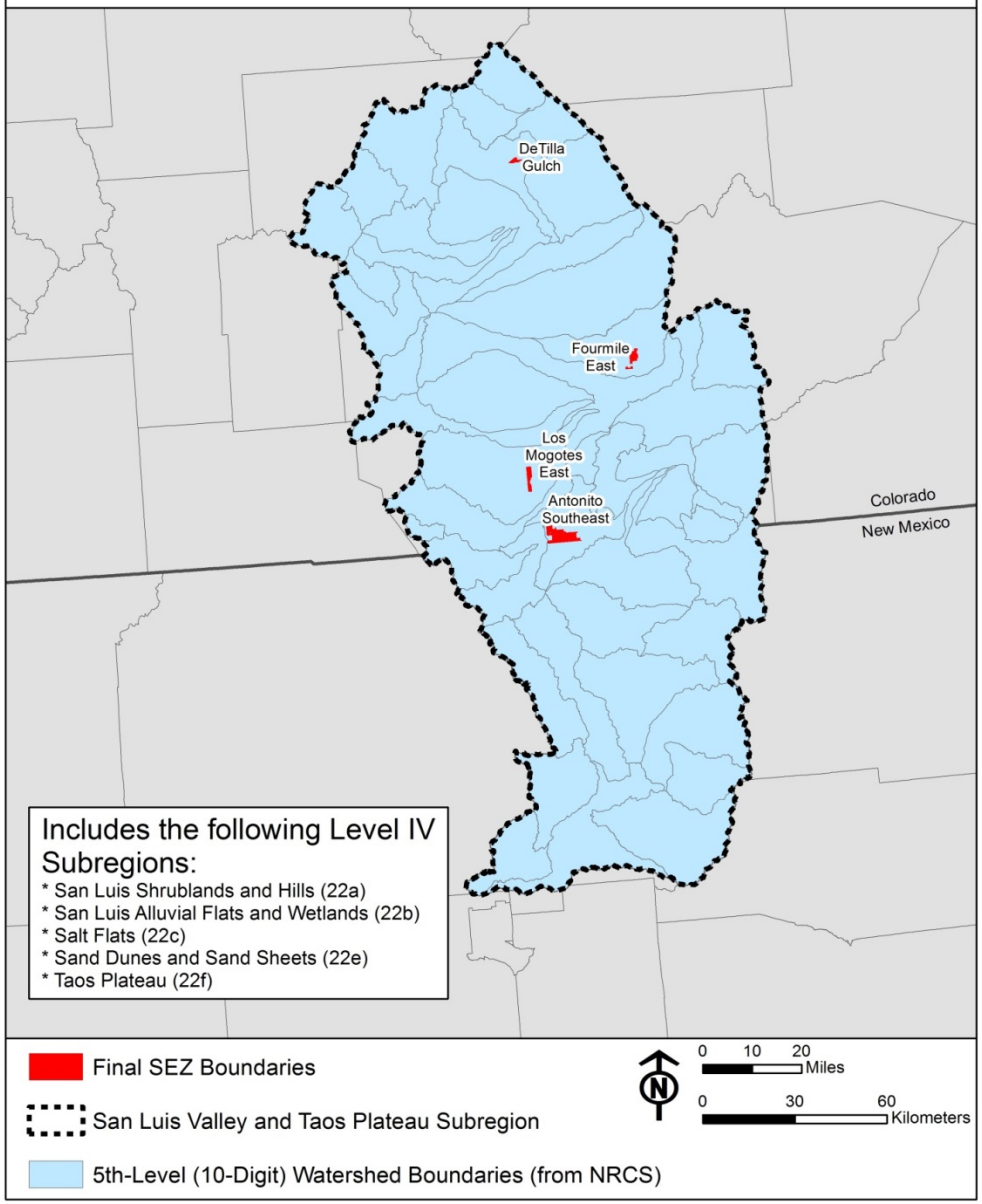
Cultural Landscape Assessment: San Luis Valley –Taos Plateau

Presented by:
Konnie Wescott, Argonne National Laboratory

Colorado SEZ Solar Regional Mitigation Strategy, BLM Public Workshop
Alamosa, Colorado
September 10, 2014

San Luis Valley-Taos Plateau Cultural Landscape Assessment

Level IV Ecoregion Assessment



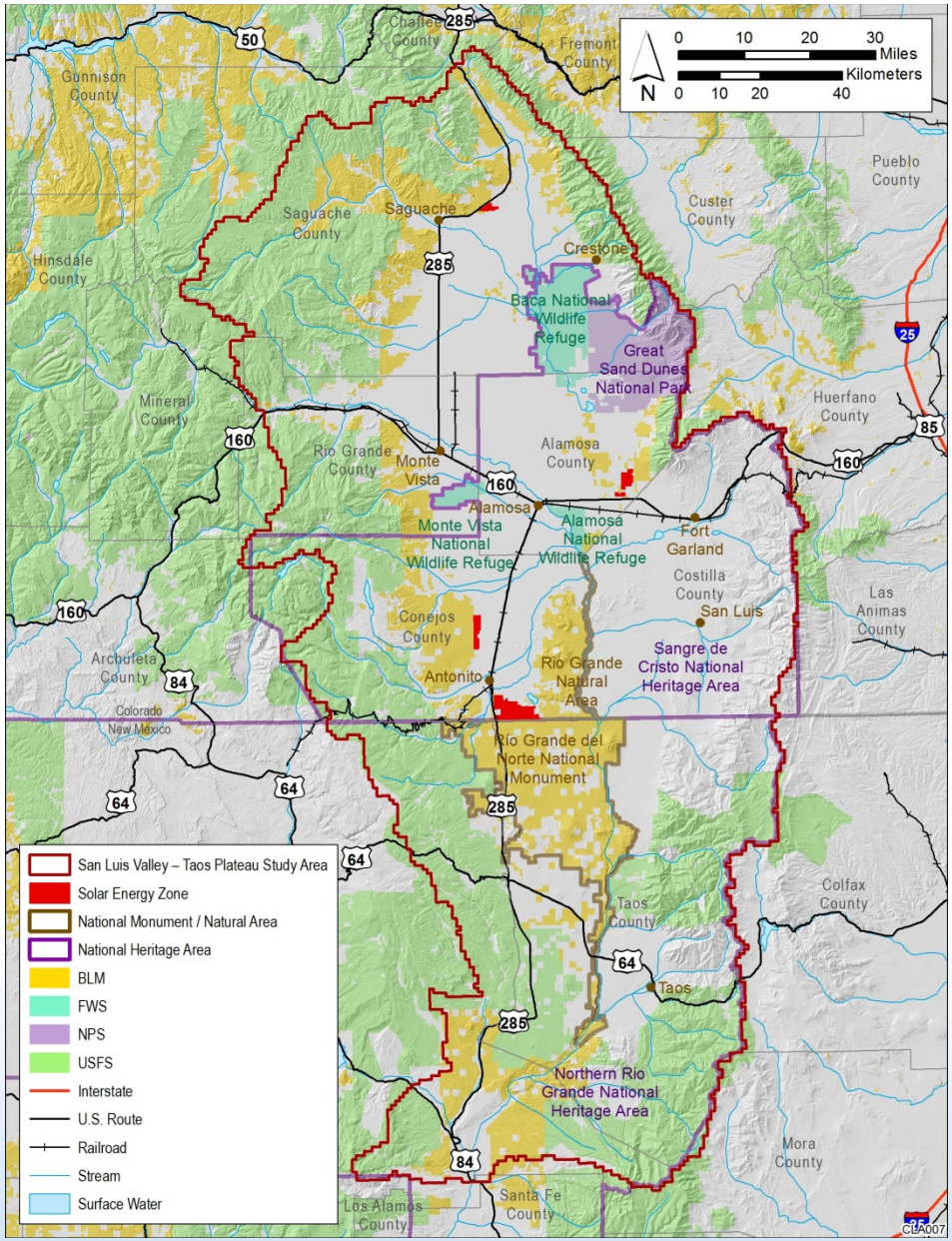
Goals of Cultural Landscape Assessment

- Synthesize existing cultural data
- Identify cultural sensitivity areas
- Identify baseline condition, long-term trends, vulnerabilities, and risks
- Develop a research design and research questions
- Prioritize resources (significance, risk, ability to answer research questions, stakeholder interest)
- Identify regional mitigation options
- Document methodology

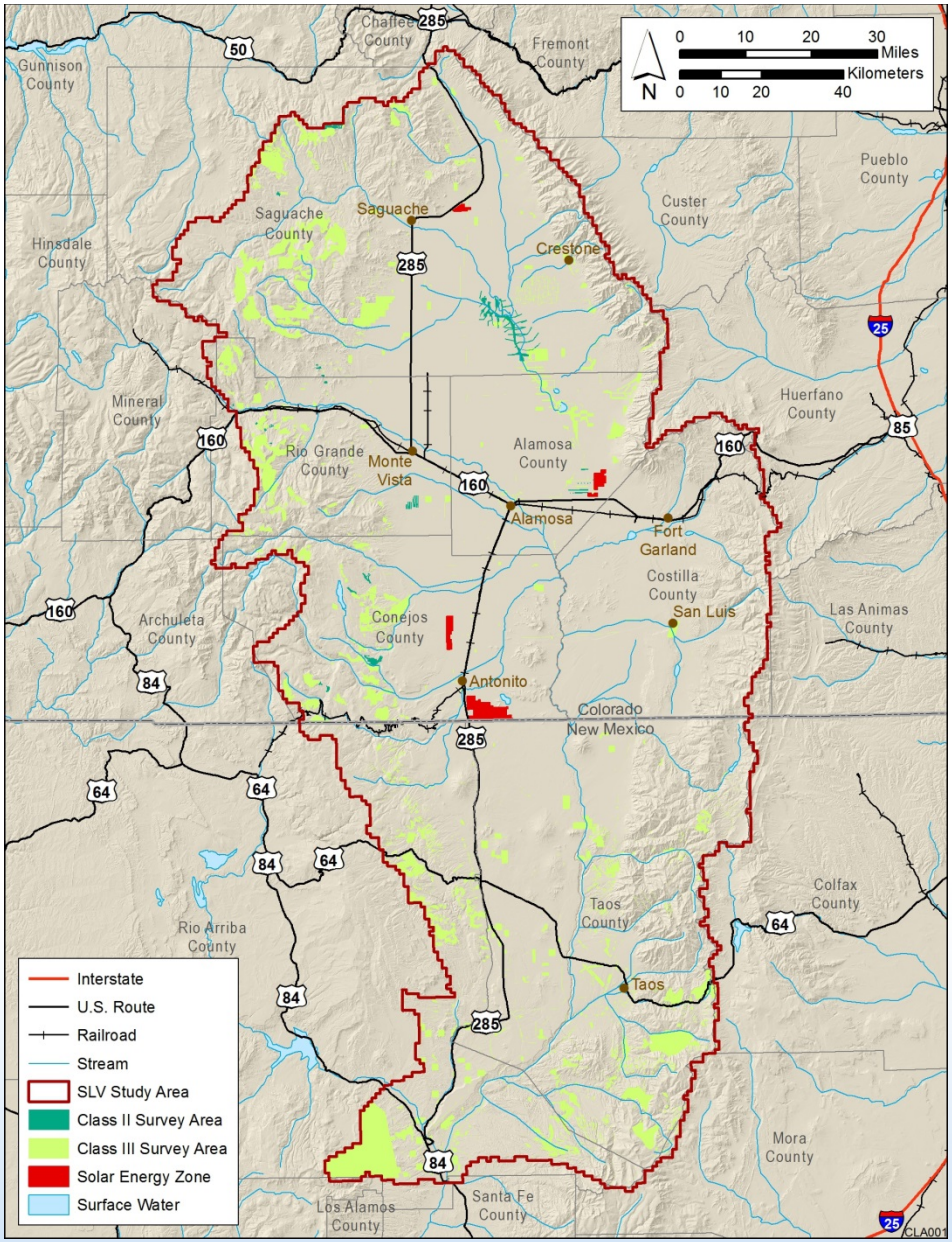
Cultural Conservation Elements

- Cultural Conservation Elements Identified
  - Traditional Cultural Properties
  - Traditional Cultural Landscapes
  - Traditional Resource Collection Areas
  - Trails, Passes, and Travel Corridors
  - Culturally Modified Trees/Woodlands
  - Hispano Land Grants and Communal Use Patterns
  - Paleoindian Sites
  - Paleontology
  - Eligible Historic Properties

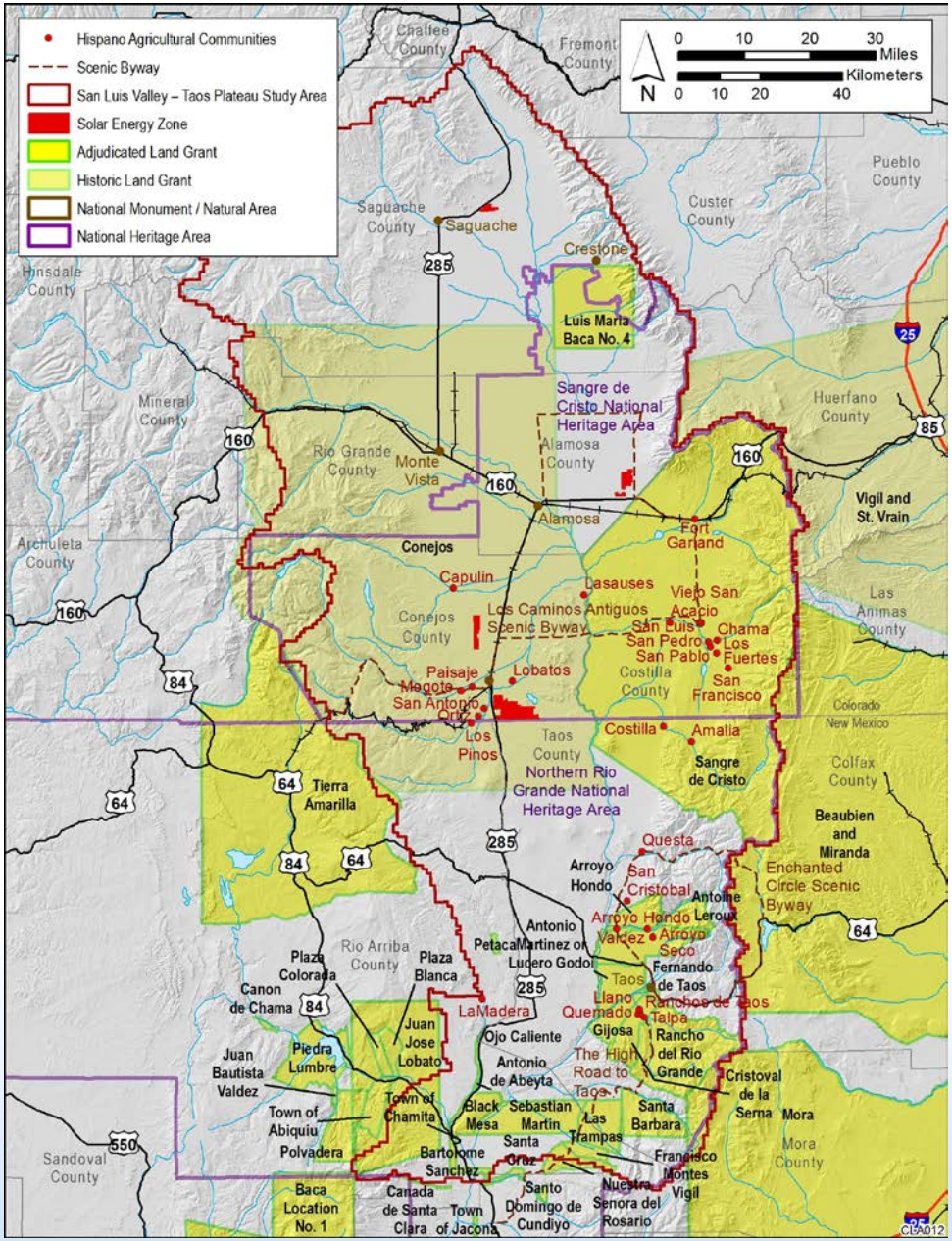
Jurisdictions



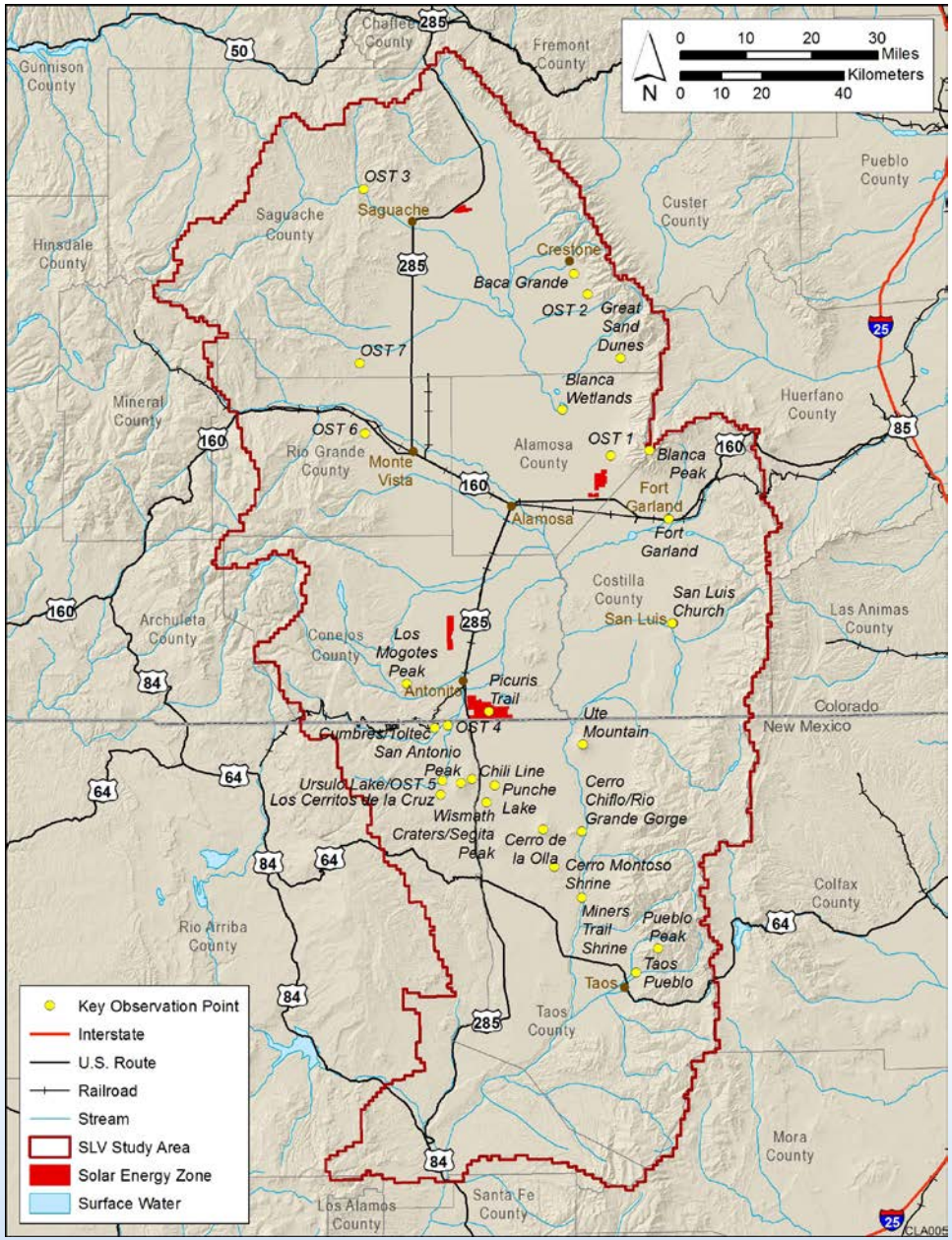
Surveyed Areas



Land Grants and Hispano Agricultural Communities



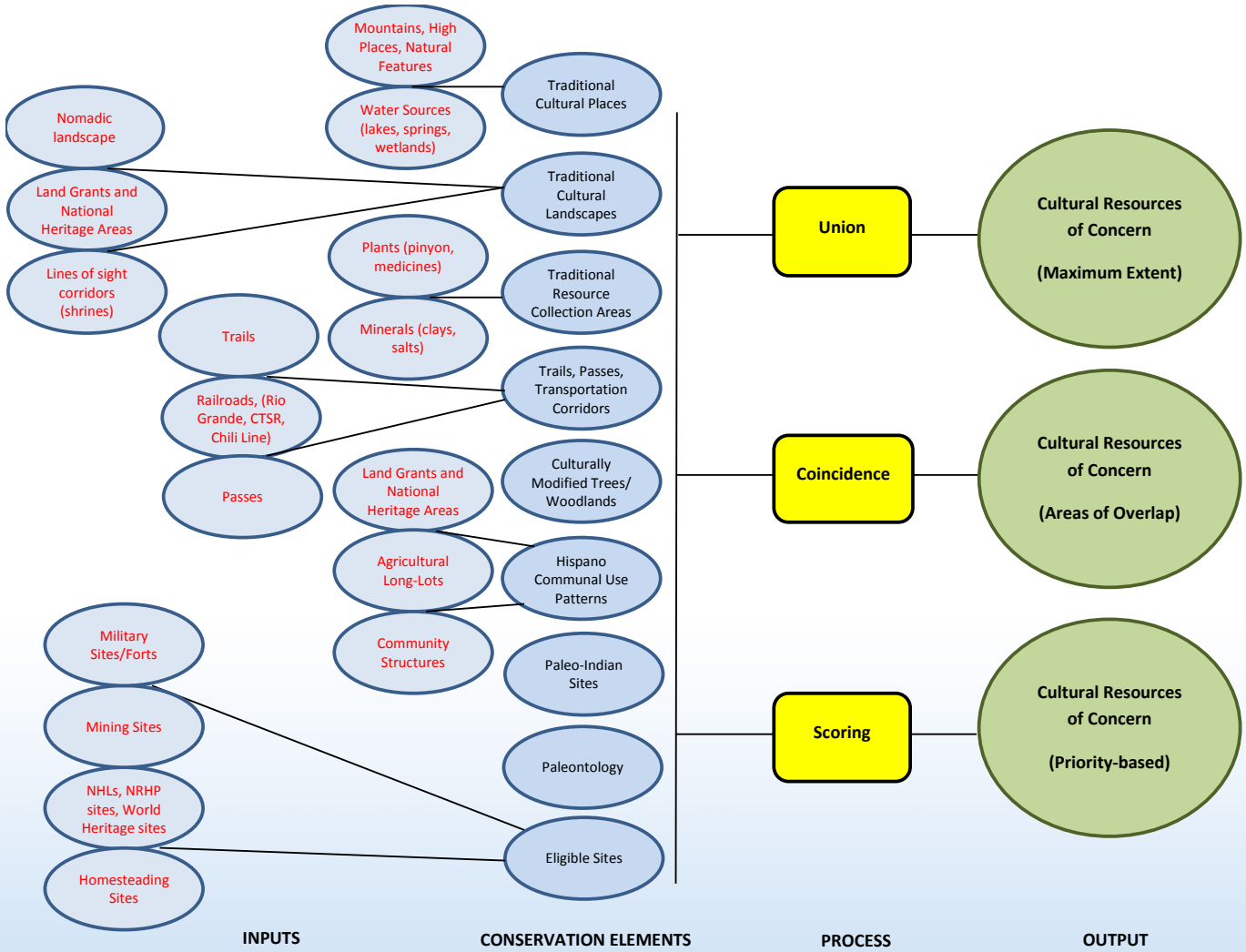
Key Observation Points for Cultural Viewshed Analysis



Applicability of Change Agents

Conservation Element	Climate Change	Fire	Invasive Species	Human Development
Traditional Cultural Properties	yes	yes	yes	yes
Traditional Cultural Landscapes	yes	yes	yes	yes
Resource Collection Areas	yes	yes	yes	yes
Trails, Passes, and Corridors	yes			yes
Culturally Modified Trees	yes	yes	yes	yes
Hispano Use Patterns	yes	yes	yes	yes
Paleoindian	yes			yes
Paleontology	yes			yes
Eligible Properties	yes	yes		yes

Geoprocess Steps for the Cultural Resources of Concern Models



+ Change Agents