

Scope-of-Work
For the Ecoregional Ethnographic Assessment Pilot Program
With Chief Dull Knife College and the Northern Cheyenne
Tribal Historic Preservation Office

Introduction

Climate change is influencing western lands and resources in many ways. As average temperatures rise, droughts are increasing, snowpack is declining, and water supplies are diminishing in key areas. Wildfires have become larger and more frequent and noxious weeds and invasive species are crowding out native plants and wildlife. These changes undermine the ecological health of BLM-managed lands and impact our quality of life. Healthy public lands produce vital water supplies and natural resources for energy, food, and shelter. They also provide valued recreation opportunities, and places of solitude and beauty, which nurture and replenish our spirit. These core values and benefits are threatened by the environmental changes underway.

The BLM is developing a “landscape-scale” management approach to better understand these challenges and support balanced stewardship of the diverse natural resources of the public lands. A landscape approach examines such larger areas to more fully recognize natural resource conditions and trends, natural and human influences, and opportunities for resource conservation, restoration, and development. The approach seeks to identify **important ecological values** and patterns of environmental change that may not be evident when managing smaller, local land areas.

Due in part to a “holistic” world view, physiographic landscapes and the natural and cultural resources that they contain are inseparable from American Indian culture, traditions, religion, and belief systems. As an example, in Cheyenne cosmology all things are related, with people, land, water, plants, animals (as well as rocks, minerals and fossils) all having a spiritual connection to each other. There are numerous native plants (over 170 species) harvested by the Northern Cheyenne people for traditional ceremonial, medicinal, industrial, and subsistence uses, with each plant having special rules and cultural traditions governing its procurement and use. The Cheyenne people also regard animals as relatives. Eagles and hawks, in addition to being spiritual mediators, are also recognized as sacred. Game animals and predator species also serve ceremonial functions (Northern Cheyenne 2002:7-9). Native plants and animals continue to play an important role for the Northern Cheyenne, both in their diet and in their ceremonial life. As a result, the **consequences of climate change** have the potential to result in a **disproportionate effect** upon American Indian peoples, particularly with respect to the maintenance of their traditional cultural life-ways and religious/ceremonial practices.

The concept of **landscape** takes on particular importance in traditional American Indian world view and religion. As noted in a discussion of Northern Cheyenne cultural resources:

“From a tribal-historical perspective, cultural resources are evidence that the **landscape** has always been physically and spiritually compatible with tribal peoples. The location of archaeological sites is interpreted as being evidence that

sometime in the past, tribal peoples recognized the physical and spiritual characteristics of the landscape that made it an appropriate place to camp, hunt, fast and so on. Because traditional tribal peoples today can still recognize these same physical and spiritual characteristics of the landscape, there is a continuing tie between the people and the landscape, and between the people who created the site and those who view it today. It is this sense of connectedness that is important. . . . Because traditional tribal peoples today can still recognize these same physical and spiritual characteristics of the landscape, there is a continuing tie between the people and the landscape, and between the people who created the site and those who view it today. . . . The presence of the sites/features indicates an earlier relationship with the landscape and validates the continuing relationship with the area into the present.” (Northern Cheyenne Tribe 2002:2-3)

The adoption of a landscape-scale model or approach will provide a unique opportunity to identify complex natural resource and cultural resource issues which are of importance to tribal governments and the American Indian people.

Project Background

Project specific compliance for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) for the most part effectively deals with site specific cultural resource issues. However, tribal concerns regarding properties of traditional religious and cultural significance, sacred areas, and cultural landscapes have proven to be exceedingly difficult to address in an adequate and timely manner. For such complex issues, project specific compliance efforts are often too little (small in scale and scope), and too late (not enough time to collect appropriate cultural information from tribes). NEPA compliance and EA preparation under Oil and Gas Leasing Reform are running into similar issues of how to adequately respond to tribal concerns for properties of traditional religious or cultural concerns, sacred areas, and cultural landscapes. Tribal concerns are often suspected, but not confirmed, resulting in potential lease parcels being repeatedly deferred pending tribal consultation efforts that are frequently insufficient to resolve the issues.

In 2010 the BLM launched seven Rapid Ecoregional Assessments (REAs) to improve the understanding of the existing condition of major western landscapes, and how conditions may be altered by ongoing environmental changes and land use demands. REAs look across an ecoregion to more fully understand ecological conditions and trends; natural and human influences; and opportunities for resource conservation, restoration, and development. REAs look across all lands in an ecoregion to identify regionally important habitats for fish, wildlife, and species of concern. REAs also help identify areas that do not provide essential habitat; that are not ecologically intact or readily restorable; and where development activities may be directed to minimize impacts to important ecosystem values. The BLM will use the REAs to inform resource management at the ecoregional and local levels. At the ecoregional level, along with input from stakeholders, partner agencies, and Tribes, the REAs will aid in developing broad-level management strategies for an ecoregion’s public lands. This *ecoregional direction* will identify priority areas for conservation and development, including focal areas for

conserving wildlife habitats and migration corridors, and focal areas for potential energy development and urban growth.

The ecoregional model may be **precisely the approach** (proactive analysis of appropriate scale of scope) needed to address issues involving the identification and protection of properties of traditional religious or cultural significance, sacred areas, and cultural landscapes. Information obtained in **partnership** with tribes, could then be easily integrated with REA ecoregional efforts, providing a comprehensive baseline with which to evaluate and guide future management actions.

Scope and Intent of the Proposed Investigation

The intent is to propose a program for the Montana/Dakotas BLM that will form a partnership with Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs), tribal colleges and universities, respective State Historic Preservation Offices, and/or other interested Federal agencies or departments. The intent of the partnership will be to produce Ecoregional Ethnographic Assessments that can be integrated into developing ecoregional direction for the future management of public lands in the Montana/Dakotas.

As an initial pilot effort, the Bureau of Land Management, in partnership with the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and Chief Dull Knife College, would like to enter into an Assistance Agreement with Chief Dull Knife College to conduct an **ecoregional ethnographic analysis** of the Northern Cheyenne Tribes aboriginal occupation and use of the Northwestern Plains and Middle Rocky Mountain Ecoregions. The **goals of the study** are to: 1) initiate a process to identify, document, evaluate, and map places of traditional religious or cultural significance to the tribe; 2) identify culturally important plant and animal species, and their associated ecosystems, that are critical for the maintenance of Northern Cheyenne culture and traditions; 3) delineate appropriate conservation elements; and 4) assess the potential effects of identified change agents upon identified conservation elements.

The methods employed in the ecoregional ethnographic assessment would include a combination of historical/archival research, oral history studies, informant interviews, language studies, ethobotanical investigations, cultural resource documentation and evaluation; and the incorporation of Geographic Information System (GIS) technology at Chief Dull Knife College for the locational documentation of identified resources. Given the extent of the study area and the multidisciplinary approach required, it is the intent of this project to provide a systematic review of available information and as comprehensive as possible in view of potential funding and temporal restraints. In order maximize our efforts; this study proposes a “staged” or “phased” approach, with the intent of making the most efficient use of available funding. A more detailed discussion of the proposed study components and methodology follows.

This document describes the proposed Scope of Work (SOW) that will be performed through the partnership of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, Chief Dull Knife College and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Analysis Area

The BLM Northwestern Plains ecoregion stretches across Montana, Wyoming, and North and South Dakota with extensions into Nebraska. The Northwestern Glaciated Plains, which runs north and southeast along the northern boundary of the Northwestern Plains, is included in this ecoregion for the assessment. The resulting ecoregion has an area of approximately 206,000 square miles and includes all or portions of 13 BLM offices.

The assessment area of the Northwestern Plains ecoregion (Figure 1), as defined by BLM, includes the area within the boundaries of the Northwestern Glaciated Plains (9.3.1) and the Northwestern Great Plains (9.3.3) Level 3 Ecoregions (Commission for Environmental Cooperation 2006) plus a buffer area. The buffer area surrounding the Northwestern Plains ecoregion includes the ecoregion boundary and all the 5th level hydrologic units that intersect the two ecoregions. The purpose of the buffer is to help ensure seamless boundaries between mapped layers generated for REAs in neighboring regions and to avoid problems associated with “edge effects” during geographic information system (GIS) analyses. The extent of the assessment area, including the buffer area for this REA, is approximately **236,249 square miles** (611,885 square kilometers).

Much of this ecoregion receives less than 16 inches of precipitation a year. Variable precipitation combined with prolonged drought and periodic wildfire has created an environment where native prairie species have adapted, but also prevents major forest establishment, with the exception of moister upland areas. This ecoregion is dominated by mixed-grass prairie. Woodlands throughout this ecoregion consist mainly of ponderosa pine, substantial amounts of Rocky Mountain juniper, and in Montana in particular, limber pine; however, riparian forests and hardwood-dominated draws are also located throughout. Extensive areas of shrub-steppe occur throughout Wyoming and areas of Montana, and substantial wetlands are located throughout the northern and eastern portions of this ecoregion study area (the Northwestern Glaciated Plains, which corresponds to the western portion of the Prairie Pothole Region in the United States). The Missouri River and associated tributaries, coupled with the prairie pothole wetlands, comprise the dominant aquatic features throughout this portion of the ecoregion. Many bird and mammal species breed only on the Western Great Plains. As much of this area has been converted to agriculture, the remaining intact grasslands provide specific habitat for Great Plains endemics (Samson and Knopf 1996). The region supports extensive livestock grazing and dry land farming and has high value for recreation and public enjoyment. The Northwestern Plains and bordering mountains form the primary watershed for the upper Missouri River. The region also contains major reserves of oil, gas, and coal, as well as areas of high potential for wind and geothermal energy development.

The Middle Rockies ecoregion includes portions of western Montana and Wyoming, eastern Idaho, and several small, non-contiguous areas in central Montana, northeastern Wyoming, and western South Dakota (Figure 2). The ecoregion has an area of 63,400 square miles, including 3.9 million acres of public lands. The ecoregion includes all or portions of 20 BLM field offices. The spatial boundary for this REA will include this ecoregion (Middle Rockies Level III Ecoregion – 6.2.10), as defined by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (2006), plus a buffer consisting of those 5th level Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) watersheds that overlap the

ecoregion boundary. The purpose of the buffer is to help ensure a seamless boundary between mapped layers generated for REAs in neighboring regions, and to avoid problems associated with “edge effects” during geographic information system (GIS) analyses. With the buffer area, the extent of the Middle Rockies REA will be approximately **105,000 square miles** (271,949 square kilometers).

The predominant feature common to areas within the Middle Rockies ecoregion is mountainous terrain that supports forested, alpine tundra, and shrub/grassland ecosystems. The ecoregion arose from a rich and complex geologic history overlying parent material interlaced with faults, and changed over time by numerous tectonic events as well as glacial and volcanic influences. In addition to its wide range of elevations, the ecoregion presents strong contrasts in precipitation and temperatures, resulting in diverse mosaics of ecosystem types and associated plant and animal communities. Coniferous forests occur in mountainous areas throughout this ecoregion on all substrates and aspects, and are characterized by lodgepole pine, Douglas-fir, whitebark pine, limber pine, Ponderosa Pine, and spruce/fir stands. Above the forested zone, vegetation is characterized by alpine communities comprised of dwarfed woody plants, grasses, sedges, and forbs. These species are adapted to cold temperatures, windy conditions, intense sunlight, and heavy snows that occur in the tundra. Sites dominated by rock outcrops and talus slopes also occur at the upper elevations, where often only the hardiest cushion plants can survive. Deciduous forests are usually dependent on extra moisture from streams and other contributing factors, including high water tables and fire frequency. Those that occur at higher elevations support aspen and alders, and at lower elevations cottonwood are intermixed with grasslands. The foothills regions are covered with woodlands and shrublands intermixed with grasslands. Snowmelt seeps, and springs provide water for perennial streams that support a wide diversity of aquatic species, although in limited areas. The non-contiguous portions of the ecoregion occur as isolated “islands” among adjacent ecoregions that share more ecological characteristics with Middle Rockies, such as coniferous forests, higher elevations, and their associated species. These can be areas of relict rare plant and animal species as well. Land use throughout this ecoregion is characterized by livestock grazing, recreation, logging, and mining. Natural vegetation communities in the lower elevations and intermontane valleys have largely been converted to agricultural or urban land uses.

Description of Work

Pre-Assessment – (Phase I) - Project Organization

It is the intent to designate an interdisciplinary team composed of representatives from the Chief Dull Knife College, Northern Cheyenne Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Northern Cheyenne Cultural Committee, Montana State Historic Preservation Office and Bureau of Land Management, to oversee and manage the successful completion of the pilot project, and address potential areas of tribal concern. Areas of potential tribal concern include the following:

- Due to the size and scale of the ecoregional areas, it may not be possible to carry out a complete survey or conduct a complete inventory of traditional religious or culturally significant properties or sacred sites in the identified ecoregional areas.

- Asking individuals or groups to reveal information about the whereabouts and nature of sacred sites is a delicate issue. It is not necessarily appropriate for the location and purpose of sites to be made available to the public under most circumstances.
- Northern Cheyenne and other Native concepts of the sacred do not fit easily into the non-Native concepts of sacred, boundaries around the sacred, access to the sacred, relationships with the sacred or even protection and preservation of the sacred.
- Protocols need to be developed that protect the proprietary nature of information collected while providing sufficient information to document the properties location and importance to the tribe.

The team will establish procedures to protect proprietary information by categorizing collected and compiled information into one of three categories:

TRIBAL INFORMATION ONLY- Due to the cultural sensitivity of the information, it should only be made available to tribal members, or select groups of tribal members, as determined by the Northern Cheyenne Cultural Committee, and will be archived with appropriate access restrictions by Chief Dull Knife College.

TRIBAL/BLM INFORMATION – Information that is not for public dissemination but required by the BLM in order to manage identified cultural properties. This information would include the geographic location of recorded cultural properties and cultural knowledge required to evaluate the significance of identified cultural properties. Collected information will be archived by Chief Dull Knife College and shared with the BLM and respective State Historic Preservation Offices.

TRIBAL/BLM/PUBLIC INFORMATION – Where deemed appropriate information will be identified that can be shared with the general public for educational and interpretive purposes. Information will be archived by Chief Dull Knife College, and shared with the BLM, respective State Historic Preservation Offices, and made available to the general public for interpretation and educational purposes.

The team will establish criteria for the formal delineation of “conservation elements” which will be utilized during the course of the “ecoregional ethnographic assessment” and that will be able to be easily incorporated into ongoing BLM Rapid Ecoregional Assessments (Middle Rocky Mountains and Northwestern Plains) and Landscape Conservation Cooperative efforts (Prairie Pothole LCC and Great Northern LCC). Delineated conservation elements may be of varying scale including cultural and/or historical landscapes, areas of traditional cultural or religious importance (such as sacred areas or traditional plant/resource collection areas), and “traditional use sites”. Traditional use sites are archaeological properties that contain features or feature types that are commonly associated with traditional cultural practices and spiritual beliefs. Commonly, these feature types are described today as being "sacred" or culturally/spiritually significant. These include large cairns (2+ m diameter) (Deaver, 1986; Calder, 1977; Deaver and Deaver, 1988; Davis, 1976), pilgrimage/trail marker cairns (Deaver, 1993), vision quest or fasting structures (Conner, 1970, 1982; Deaver, 1986; Rood, 1988; Deaver and Kooistra, 1992), eagle trapping pits (Allen, 1981, 1983; Greiser and Greiser, 1984; Greiser et al., 1986; Howard, 1954; Wilson, 1928), Medicine Wheels, arrows, alignments, prayer lines (Brumley, 1986; Calder, 1977; Deaver, 1982; Dempsey, 1956; Kehoe, 1954; Kehoe and Kehoe, 1959) and very large and very small rings. (Deaver, 1985; Frison, 1983; Altamont, 1994).

The following site types, features, artifacts and site attributes, may have religious significance for the Northern Cheyenne (Northern Cheyenne 2002:7-7):

1. large (numerous rings) ring sites which contain large diameter rings (indicating either the warrior society lodges associated with the New Life Lodge or Arrow Renewal, or the dance lodges associated with the Animal Dances);
2. isolated fasting beds, isolated poles with associated buffalo skulls on rugged, high altitude, isolated topographic features (indicating fasting activities);
3. rock art sites; and,
4. large diameter fasting structures associated with mass fasting experience, some of which take medicine wheel form.

Table 1 provides a summary of currently known cultural properties that are of significance to the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

Pre-Assessment – (Phase II) - Existing Literature Review/Data Compilation

Literature Review: It is said that the Northern Cheyenne have been the most studied American Indian tribe in North America. As such, there is a wealth of primary and secondary ethnographic, historical, and archaeological information available that may contain information important for this analysis. For example, there are several comprehensive studies that have been conducted which summarize Northern Cheyenne ethnographic and cultural resource information for segments of the analysis area (e.g. southeastern Montana and the Northern Powder River Basin). These existing materials should be utilized as a strong foundation upon which to expand efforts which will encompass the remainder of the analysis area.

Reference Materials

Deaver, Sherri

1986 American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA) Background Data. Report prepared for the Bureau of Land Management, Montana State Office, Billings, MT.

McCormick, Mary, Mitzi Rossillon, Ken Dickerson, Mark Hufstetler, and Joan L. Brownell

2006 North Powder River Basin, Southeast Montana: Cultural Landscape-Scale Overview of the High Potential Coal Bed Natural Gas Development Area. Report prepared for the Bureau of Land Management, Montana State Office, Billings, MT.

Northern Cheyenne Tribe

2002 The Northern Cheyenne Tribe and Its Reservation. A report to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the State of Montana Department of Natural Resources. Report on file, Bureau of Land Management, Montana /Dakotas State Office, Billings, MT.

Peterson, Lynelle A. and Sherri Deaver

2001 An Ethnographic Overview of Southeast Montana. Report prepared for the Bureau of Land Management, Montana State Office, Billings, MT.

Tall Bull, William

n.d. Plant Lore of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe. Northern Cheyenne Cultural Committee and Chief Dull Knife College, Lame Deer, MT.

Other regionally available materials will have to be identified, and evaluated in order to determine if they contain primary or secondary source information that would be of benefit for the analysis. Faculty and students from Chief Dull Knife College will perform a systematic review of available ethnographic, historic, and archaeological information on the traditional uses and aboriginal occupation of the Northwest Plains and Middle Rocky Mountain Ecoregions by the Northern Cheyenne. As part of the literature review an annotated bibliography will be compiled identifying what sources were examined, whether information useful for the study was identified, and where primary source information (filed notes, informant audio types, etc.) may be currently housed. Potential information sources may include local and state libraries, institutional libraries, tribal archives, and the internet. The focus will be to review available materials and identify which sources contain information of the Northern Cheyenne Tribes aboriginal occupation and traditional use of the Northwestern Plains and Middle Rocky Mountain Ecoregions. Documentation of traditional use will include constructing inventories of significant plants, animals, minerals, and landforms for both ecoregions being assessed.

Oral History Study. Based on input from the Northern Cheyenne Cultural Committee, a selected group of Northern Cheyenne Elders with cultural and ethnobotanical knowledge appropriate for the study will be interviewed for information concerning traditional uses and historical events in the project area. Those elders recommended by the Cultural Committee will be interviewed individually to provide information about the analysis area. Interviews will be audio taped and in some instances videotaped with the interviewees permission. Cultural and natural resource locations identified during the course of oral history interviews will be documented and identified on maps as accurately as possible. A questionnaire to facilitate and establish protocols for oral interviews may be developed by the interdisciplinary team, as well as preliminary cultural resource documentation forms.

Native Language Input. Efforts will be initiated to insure native Cheyenne language input will be a critical element throughout all phases of the study. Efforts will be made to keep audio and written forms of Cheyenne language terms for plants and animals, and their uses, as well as traditional names for important locations, landscapes, and areas of traditional cultural or religious importance. Traditional place names often have stories attached that reveal information about natural resources, historical use and important events pertinent to the area. Place names identified will be summarized and mapped using GIS.

Compilation and Maintenance of Data on Traditional Use Sites. Based on criteria established by the interdisciplinary team for the delineation of conservation elements, cultural resource files maintained by the respective State Historic Preservation Offices and/or the respective State Archaeologists will be queried to compile a comprehensive listing of previously recorded cultural resources representing the identified conservation elements (e.g., traditional use sites). A data base will be created identifying these cultural resources by Smithsonian site number and documenting important site characteristics such as site type, type and number of features present, type of artifactual materials identified, recorded site area, and where possible mapped GIS locational information .

Assessment – (Phase III) – Site Documentation

Site Forms. Based upon the results of work completed in Phase II, copies of the site forms for all previously recorded cultural properties will be obtained from the respective State Historic Preservation Office or Office of the State Archaeologist. Digital copies of available site forms will also be obtained. Preliminary site forms will be completed for any cultural resources that have not been formally recorded which identify the type and description of the resource as well as any locational information that is available.

After review of site information by the interdisciplinary team and the Northern Cheyenne cultural committee, a priority list will be compiled of those sites/locations that need to be field verified to obtain additional information to complete the site form, verify site location, and/or those sites that Cultural Committee identify for field visits. The BLM will provide access to any identified locations on BLM or other federal lands, and try to facilitate access to properties identified on private lands. Site assessments will be conducted with the participation of Northern Cheyenne elders and/or members of the Cultural Committee, where possible couples will be selected to participate. The rationale for inviting spouses or couples is that in traditional Northern Cheyenne culture, knowledge is held complementarily by men and women and thus they both should be invited to assess a site from a traditional perspective.

Tribal elders will be taken to a range of properties identified by the interdisciplinary team and the Culture Committee. They will spend as much time as needed at each site. Then they will be asked to discuss their findings either privately or in a small group, as appropriate. Depending on the number of sites to be visited and travel time associated with each, it is anticipated that up to ½ day or a whole day may be spent at each location. Expenses associated with this task involve salary and consulting fees for all participants, travel, and field supplies.

Assessment – (Phase IV) – Site Evaluation

Site Eligibility. The interdisciplinary team, in coordination with the Northern Cheyenne Cultural Committee, will seek to establish protocols for evaluating identified cultural resources in terms of the established criterion for the National Register of Historic Places:

Criteria for evaluation. The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and:

- (a) **that are associated with events** that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- (b) **that are associated with the lives of persons** significant in our past; or
- (c) **that embody distinctive characteristics** of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- (d) **that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information** important in prehistory or history.

Criteria considerations. Ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces, or graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, such properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

(a) A religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or

(b) A building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event; or

(c) A birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no appropriate site or building directly associated with his productive life.

(d) A cemetery which derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events; or

(e) A reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or

(f) A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own exceptional significance; or

(g) A property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance. [This exception is described further in NPS's "How To" booklet No. 2, entitled "[How to Evaluate and Nominate Potential National Register Properties that Have Achieved Significance Within the Last 50 Years](#)," available from NPS.]

Integrate GIS Data Base. The GIS data base compiled in Phase II will be updated to include National Register Eligibility recommendations for the identified cultural properties.

Assessment – (Phase V) – Ethnobotanical/Ethnozoological Data Compilation

A comprehensive database will be compiled which documents ethnobotanical and ethnozoological information on those species critical for the maintenance of Northern Cheyenne cultural traditions. The data base will include the scientific name and common name of identified plant and animal species, as well as the Cheyenne name. Information will include the traditional cultural uses of the plant or animal, any associated traditions guiding the collection and use of the plant or animal. The locations of traditional plant or other resource collection areas will be documented in a GIS data base. The assembled data base will also be linked to the Montana Natural Heritage Program and the Natural Heritage Network. Compiled ethnobotanical/ethnozoological information will then be examined to identify additional CONSERVATION ELEMENTS. Species specific ethnobotanical/ethnozoological information will then be incorporated into broader scale associated ecosystems data that can be easily linked to ongoing Rapid Ecoregional Assessments and Landscape Conservation Cooperative efforts.

Post Assessment –(Phase VI) – Visual Impact Analyses

In the evaluation of potential impacts to areas of traditional cultural or religious importance to American Indians, visual impacts or the introduction of visual intrusions can be a significant concern. For sacred sites and certain features such as fasting beds, it is the view shed from those properties that is of primary concern, any unnatural intrusion to the view shed can adversely affect the relationship of the individual to the “power” of the location. Similarly, for historic landscapes and other cultural properties that are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places the integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association are important elements to be considered. The intrusion of visual elements can adversely affect the integrity of setting, feeling, and association which may adversely affect the eligibility of the property. For cultural properties identified as being of traditional cultural or religious importance to the Northern Cheyenne, a visual impact analysis will be conducted to identify areas of potential visual impact associated with the documented properties. Visual simulations will be based on available visual impact modeling information and conducted using basic GIS analyses. Zones of potential impact will be identified for examined properties and maintained in a GIS data base. Recommendations for potential mitigation of visual impacts will also be proposed. Recommendations for visual buffers around traditional use sites will also be made depending upon the class or category of traditional use site (e.g., rock art, burials, fasting beds, etc.).

Post Assessment –(Phase VII) – Establishment of Permanent Data Archive

The Northern Cheyenne Nation has not been afforded the opportunity to create or maintain a comprehensive, permanent archive of cultural, ethnographic, historical, or archaeological information pertaining the Cheyenne people. The proposed project offers the opportunity for the Northern Cheyenne people to begin to assemble a permanent record of information that has been collected over many decades of academic study. It is time that the documented history of the tribe is preserved by the tribe. The study will establish the archival basis for creating a permanent archive of published and unpublished information on the Cheyenne people at Chief Dull Knife College. A compiled archive of information would prove useful to future researchers as well as to students in various academic programs at Chief Dull Knife College.

In addition, the archive of cultural properties and site records documented on and off the reservation would be of invaluable use by the Tribal Historic Preservation Office and the Cultural Committee for the management, protection, and preservation of these resources.

Deliverables

Draft Cultural Resource Site Forms. Newly identified and recorded cultural resources will be individually documented on site forms that meet the approval of the interdisciplinary team. Typed site forms will be submitted to the respective State Historic Preservation Office or appropriate state agency for the issuance of Smithsonian site numbers. Where feasible and practicable, original black & white, color, or digital photographs will also be included with submitted site forms. Digital copies of the site forms will be linked to the GIS locational information by assigned site number. With digital copies of site information provided to the

BLM and/or other Federal Agencies with cultural resource management responsibilities, and the respective state Historic Preservation Offices.

Draft Report. A draft report will be written and submitted to the BLM which summarizes the methods used, provides a general overview of Northern Cheyenne ethnohistory and aboriginal occupation and use of the in the analysis area, discusses the results of the study, and provides recommendations for future management of traditional cultural and religious sites of importance to the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

Final Report. A final report shall be typed and printed on 8 1/2" x 11" paper and shall be single spaced and submitted to the BLM. Finalized site forms will be bound as a separate volume in the final report.

Mapping. Locations of significant cultural sites identified during the study including trails, traditional place names, ethnobotany/ethnozoology locations, traditional use sites, areas of traditional cultural or religious importance, and/or the locations of identified conservation elements will be located on GIS-based data coverage with a USGS topographic maps layer at a scale of 7.5'. Both hard copy and digital maps will be provided as an appendix to the final report.

Key Officials

Assistance Agreements Responsible Official:

Dr. Richard E. Little Bear, President
Chief Dull Knife College
PO Box 98
Lame Deer, MT 59043

Northern Cheyenne Tribal Representative

Conrad Fisher, THPO
Northern Cheyenne Tribe
P.O. Box 128
Lame Deer, MT 59043

Project Manager for Chief Dull Knife College

(assign a project manager)
Chief Dull Knife College
PO Box 98
Lame Deer, MT 59043

Address for Deliverables and Invoices:

Attn: Mark Sant, Tribal Coordinator
Bureau of Land Management
5001 Southgate Dr.
Billings, MT 59101

Estimated Schedule/Period of Performance

TASK	COMPLETION WITHIN
Pre-assessment	
Phase I - Project Organization	6 Months
Phase II - Existing Literature Review/Data Compilation	18 Months
Assessment	
Phase III- Site Documentation	24 Months
Phase IV - Site Evaluation	30 Months
Phase V - Ethnobotanical/Ethnozoological Data Compilation	24 Months
Post Assessment	
Phase VI - Visual Impact Analyses	36 Months
Phase VII - Establishment of Permanent Data Archive	36 Months

Proposed Budget

Pre-assessment	
Phase I - Project Organization	
Phase II - Existing Literature Review/Data Compilation	
Assessment	
Phase III- Site Documentation	
Phase IV - Site Evaluation	
Phase V - Ethnobotanical/Ethnozoological Data Compilation	
Post Assessment	
Phase VI - Visual Impact Analyses	
Phase VII - Establishment of Permanent Data Archive	

Justification for Non-Competitive Procurement

Proposed Purchase:

ECOREGIONAL ETHNOGRAPHIC ASSESSMENT OF THE NORTHWESTERN PLAINS AND MIDDLE ROCKY MOUNTAINS ECOREGIONS - CHIEF DULL KNIFE COLLEGE AND THE NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE

Description of Service. We are requesting that Chief Dull Knife College and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe conduct an ethnographic study of the Northwestern Plains and Middle Rocky Mountain Ecoregions. The goal of the study is to initiate a process to identify, document and map places of special significance to the tribes for future management consideration under federal cultural resource protection laws by the Bureau of Land Management. This information is an important element of the tribal consultation requirements as identified in the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, and the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, as well as Executive Order 13007 and 13175.

Sole Source Justification. The solicitation is asking for information that specifically refers to knowledge of resources, resources uses, trails, and places that are known only to members of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe or incorporated in their oral histories. Outside contractors would not have immediate or secondary access to this information. Since this information is proprietary, the Northern Cheyenne would not allow free and unencumbered access to the information from a private contractor or the BLM. It, therefore, seems appropriate that given the protected nature of the data, that the government obtains the information without competition directly from the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

This project also represents a continuation and expansion of work the Northern Cheyenne Tribe has already successfully initiated and completed for the Miles City Field Office – Coal Bed Methane EIS. The Northern Cheyenne Tribe has already invested considerable time and effort in compiling important information and historical data sources for the ethnographic study and is therefore better equipped and positioned to complete the study than a private contractor.

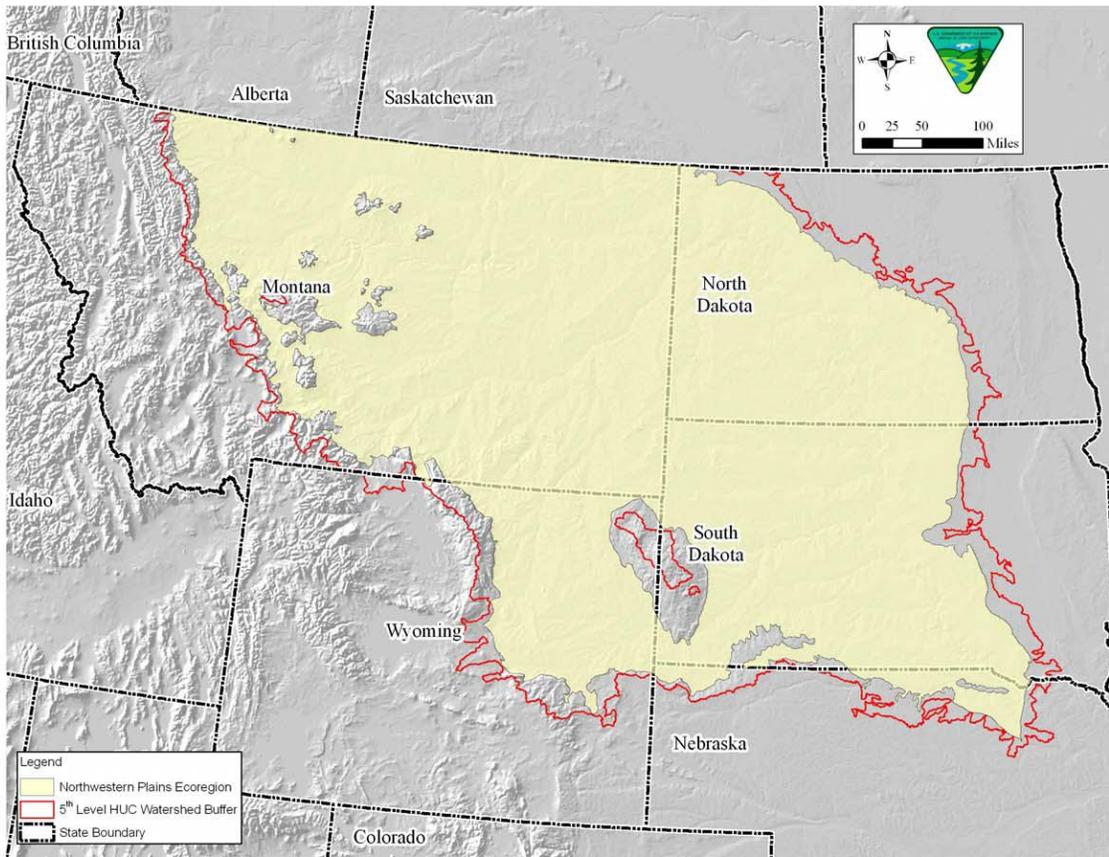


Figure 1. Extent of the Northwestern Plains Ecoregion.

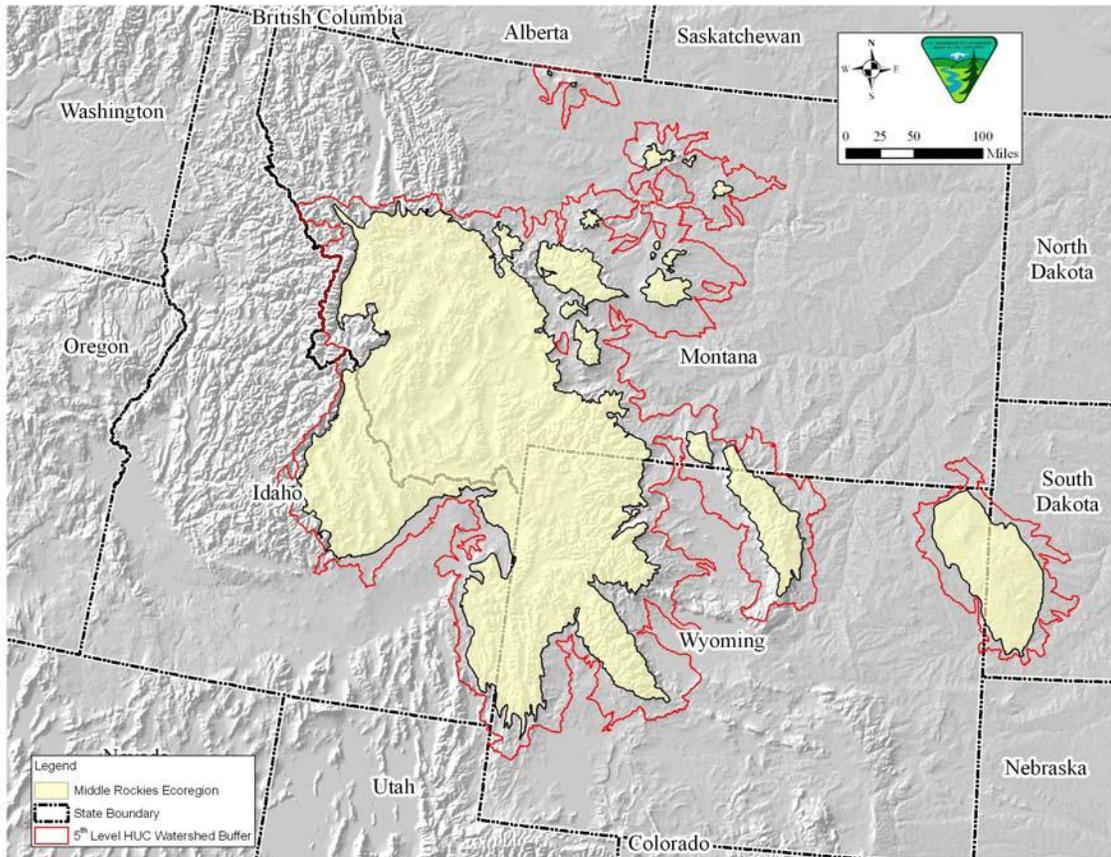


Figure 2. Extent of the Middle Rockies Ecoregion

Table 1.
Known Northern Cheyenne Cultural Properties

Ethnographic Landscapes

Bear Butte, SD (*Noavose*)
Chalk Buttes, MT
Devils Tower, WY
Tongue River Valley
Big Horn Medicine Wheel

Historic Landscapes

Little Big Horn Battlefield
Rosebud Battlefield (Where She Saved Her Brother) 24BH2461 June 16, 1876
Wolf Mountain (Battle Mountain) Battle 24RB787/2007
Reynolds Battle on the Powder 24PR89 March 17, 1876
Prairie Dog Creek Battle 24BH2882
Tongue River Battle Jan. 8, 1877
Cedar Creek Battlefield (?)

Areas of Traditional Cultural or Religious Importance

Lake DeSmet
Deer Medicine Rocks, MT (Medicine Rocks State Park?)
Medicine Rock, MT (south of reservation)
Medicine Rock, SD (near Cave Hills)
Other potential fasting areas (?):
 East of Tongue River Valley
 West of Pryor Mountains
 East of Big Horn Mountains

Poker Jim Creek Plant collection
Tongue River Plant collection
Tongue River Reservoir Plant Collection

Traditional Use Sites (lists of known recorded sites in Deaver 2002 and RTI 2006)

Rock Art (petroglyphs and pictographs)
Fasting Beds/Vision Quest locations
Eagle Catching Pits
Large Tipi Ring Features
Stacked Rock Cairns/other rock alignments
Medicine Wheels
Burial Locations