

PART 401 – CULTURAL RESOURCES (ARCHEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC PROPERTIES)

SUBPART B– Administrative Responsibilities

NM401.11 Lead Agency Responsibilities

c. As part of the lead agency responsibilities in New Mexico, BLM is the lead agency for BLM Federal EQIP projects in New Mexico. NRCS New Mexico is the lead agency for all EQIP projects on non-federal lands in New Mexico including any that may incidentally cross public lands.

i. For the BLM (Federal) EQIP program, the BLM agrees to conduct any required cultural inventories on all lands including state lands using its own professional cultural heritage specialists.

ii. For all regular EQIP projects on non-federal lands, NRCS is the lead agency for completing cultural resource inventories for regular NRCS EQIP programs and will complete the consultation with SHPO. NRCS will describe the entire undertaking and its extent on private, state, and federal land within a coordinated resources plan. These coordinated resources plans will be provided to the BLM range staff and it will be the BLM range staff's responsibility to share this complete information with the BLM cultural heritage specialists. In addition, copies of these plans can always be obtained from the local office of the NRCS or from the NRCS State Conservationist in Albuquerque.

iii. For completing the cultural inventories on BLM lands resulting from coordinated plans; BLM will conduct the survey using its own cadre of professional cultural heritage specialists. NRCS trained field personnel cannot conduct the archeological surveys on public lands independent of BLM direct in-the-field supervision. Even with the BLM archeologists it is NOT an option for NRCS trained field personnel to conduct the survey. The inventory report will follow either the requirements for either a small-scale or large-scale inventory report as described within the *H-8100-1 Handbook*. Regardless of the inventory reporting format, all archeological sites encountered on public lands will be recorded by BLM professionals according to standards established by the New Mexico Cultural Resources Information System.

iv. NRCS has agreed to provide the BLM with lists all projects anticipated affecting public lands for each fiscal year. This list of projects should help facilitate the BLM-NRCS face-to-face coordinated resource management meetings. Utilizing the information on the list, the participants at the meeting will be able to come to agreement on how requirements for environmental compliance can be met for each project.