

# Cultural Landscapes in the Western United States



A Workshop Cosponsored by the  
Colorado Office of Archaeology  
and Historic Preservation  
and the U.S. National Park Service  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
Denver, Colorado  
October 4 – 5, 2011

# Cultural Landscapes in the Western United States

Part 2 of 4

## Linear Landscapes

This is an automated presentation of the speakers' PowerPoint slides with their notes if provided and some video (mostly from the second day) of the presentations,. Due to the file size of the October 4 & 5, 2011 presentations the workshop has been uploaded in nine thematic segments. The viewer can pause, advance forward or return to any slide by clicking on the index at any time.

## Cultural Landscapes Western United States

Day One

04 October 2011

### segment 1 **Protecting Cultural Landscapes**

- 1 Overview of Cultural Landscapes and the National Register
- 2 Section 106 Compliance and Cultural Landscapes
- 3 Threats to Cultural Landscapes, The National Trust as a Landscape Advocate

Barbar Wyatt

National Park Service

Amy Pallante

CO SHPO

Rebecca Schwendler

NTHP

### segment 2 **Linear Landscapes**

- 4 **The Work of the National Trails Office**

Michael Elliot

National Park Service

### segment 3 **The Hispanic/ Latino Landscape Legacy**

- 5 An Overview of Hispanic American/ Latino Landscapes
- 6 Cultural Landscapes Barrio Logan, San Diego, California

Maria Mondragon-Valdez

Valdez & Associates

Melanie Lytle

URS Corporation

### segment 4 **Nominating Designed Landscapes to The National Register**

- 7 Denver Civic Center
- 8 & 9 CCC Landscapes

Tina Bishop

Mundus Bishop Design, Inc.

Ann Komara

University Colorado Denver

### segment 5 **Innovations in Landscape Surveys**

- 10 Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS)
- 11 BLM Landscape Inventory Initiatives
- 12 Cultural Landscape Inventory

Ann Mullins

WJM Design

Don Bruns

Bureau Land Management

Roberta Young

National Park Service

# CLWUS AGENDA, Tuesday, October 4, 2011

**10:30** Segment 2: **Linear Landscapes: The Work of the National Trails Office**

4. Michael Elliott (NPS)

*Cultural Landscapes in the Western United States*

Michael Elliot  
National Park Service

## **Linear Landscapes**

**THE WORK OF THE  
NATIONAL TRAILS OFFICE**

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Trails Intermountain Region  
Santa Fe, New Mexico



# Linear Landscapes: The Work of the National Trails Office

Michael L. Elliott  
Cultural Resources Specialist

October 2011

# National Trails Intermountain Region (NTIR)

## ■ What we do

- We administer 26,473 miles of trails in 25 states
  - Trails include the California, Oregon, Mormon Pioneer, Pony Express, El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, El Camino Real de los Tejas, Old Spanish, and Trail of Tears National Historic Trails; we do not administer the Lewis and Clark or Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trails
  - There are over 101 million acres and 49 million people within five miles of one or more of our nine National Historic Trails
  - National Historic Trails are not units of the National Park Service

## ■ Why we do what we do

- Congress created National Historic Trails through the National Trails System Act of 1968. The Act states that "National historic trails shall have as their purpose the *identification* and *protection* of the historic route and its historic remnants and artifacts for *public use and enjoyment*."

National Historic Trails administered by the National Trails Intermountain Region office, Santa Fe, NM



DRAFT



Produced by National Trails Intermountain Region (MLE)

September 2011

FILE: NTIR trails.mxd

Data Sources: NPS, ESRI



# NTIR

- Along or near our nine National Historic Trails, lie tens of thousands of associated high potential cultural resource sites, thousands of miles of high potential trail segments, hundreds of National Register properties, dozens of National Historic landmarks, and untold millions of acres of stunning cultural landscapes



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# NTIR

- Trail cultural resources include
  - Ruts, swales, rivers crossings, camps, buildings, forts, towns, graves, cemeteries, and others



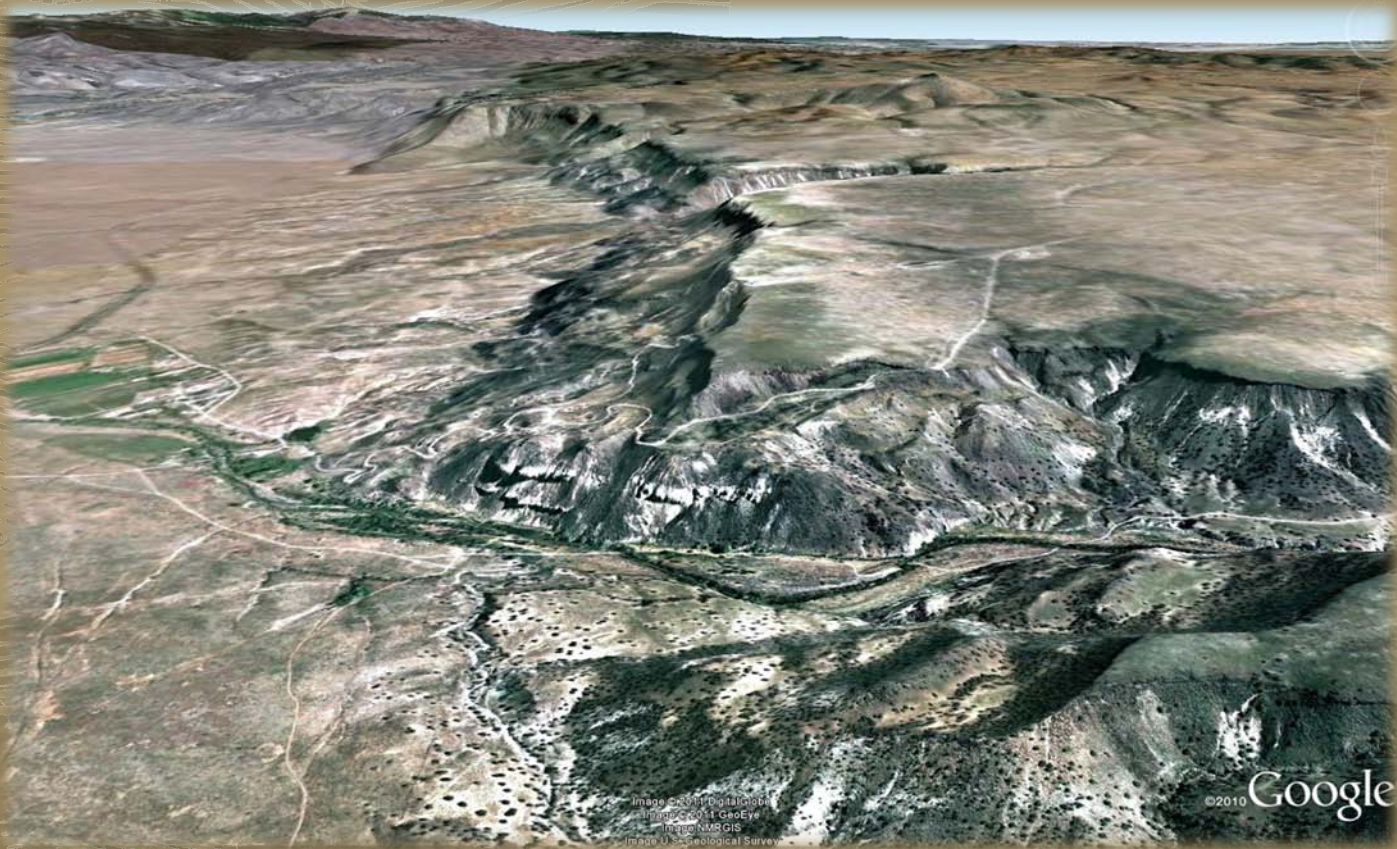
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- We administer the National Historic Trails cultural resources through collaborative partnerships with landowners, other agencies, SHPOs, and trail advocate associations
- We promote identification of trail segments and associated sites through our financial support of cultural resources inventories, such as that done at the La Bajada escarpment
- We promote evaluation and nomination of high potential segments and sites through cooperative agreements and financial support with SHPOs and trail associations
- We promote protection of important trail resources through NEPA and Section 106 compliance review and internal NPS advocacy

# NTIR

- Trail landscape resources include
  - Mountains, hills, drainages, springs, vegetation, wildlife, viewsheds, and other



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# NTIR

- We administer the National Historic Trails landscape resources through collaborative partnerships with landowners, other agencies, SHPOs, and trail advocate associations
- We promote identification of high integrity cultural landscapes through our financial support of cultural landscape inventories at specific sites, such as the La Bajada escarpment shown on the previous slide
- We promote protection of important trail landscape resources through NEPA and Section 106 compliance review and internal NPS advocacy
- We promote evaluation and nomination of cultural landscapes through cooperative agreements and financial support with SHPOs and trail associations

# NTIR

- The NPS cultural landscape process involves resources inventories, evaluation (both of significance and of integrity), National Register nomination, comprehensive reporting, and management recommendations
- National Historic Trails are vernacular landscapes; part of a larger group of linear resources such as acequias, waterworks, powerlines, and constructed transportation networks
- Establishing boundaries for such vast landscape resources as those we administer can prove difficult
- NPS owns very little of the land over which the trails pass, and—indeed—most trails cross numerous land ownerships, often with conflicting management goals

# NTIR

- Even given the many partnerships and agreements we work with, we do not have cultural resource or cultural landscape inventories for the vast majority of our trails, nor the resources to obtain them. Thus how do we fulfill the second part of our purpose, which is “*the protection of the historic route and its historic remnants*”



# Protection

- NTIR has developed a system to protect significant trail associated cultural and landscape resources through collaborative partnerships with land managers, private landowners, trail associations, SHPOS, site stewards, and even law enforcement for monitoring
- We seek appropriate locations for special agency protections and negotiated preservation easements
- Another element of protection is condition assessment and preservation treatments
- One other component of our protection strategy is compliance review
  - Compliance review consists of the evaluation of effects of development projects on trail segments, associated sites, and on the landscape component, the trail setting



# NTIR

- Trails, associated sites, and their settings are threatened by large energy projects, transmission lines, mining, logging, grazing, road construction, residential development, and deterioration from factors such as flooding, erosion, and climate change
- It is much easier to avoid or mitigate direct adverse effects to trail segments and associated sites through either the NEPA or Section 106 pathways
  - Move the affecting activities and avoid
  - Mitigate effects through direct or compensatory actions

# NTIR

- It is much more difficult to avoid or mitigate adverse effects to trail settings
  - This is where cultural landscape concepts fit well into trail administration. The National Trails System Act defines a high potential trail segment as providing a high quality recreation experience in a portion of the route having greater than average scenic values or affording an opportunity to vicariously share the experience of the original users of a historic route
  - (“High potential” is the way we say “significant.” )

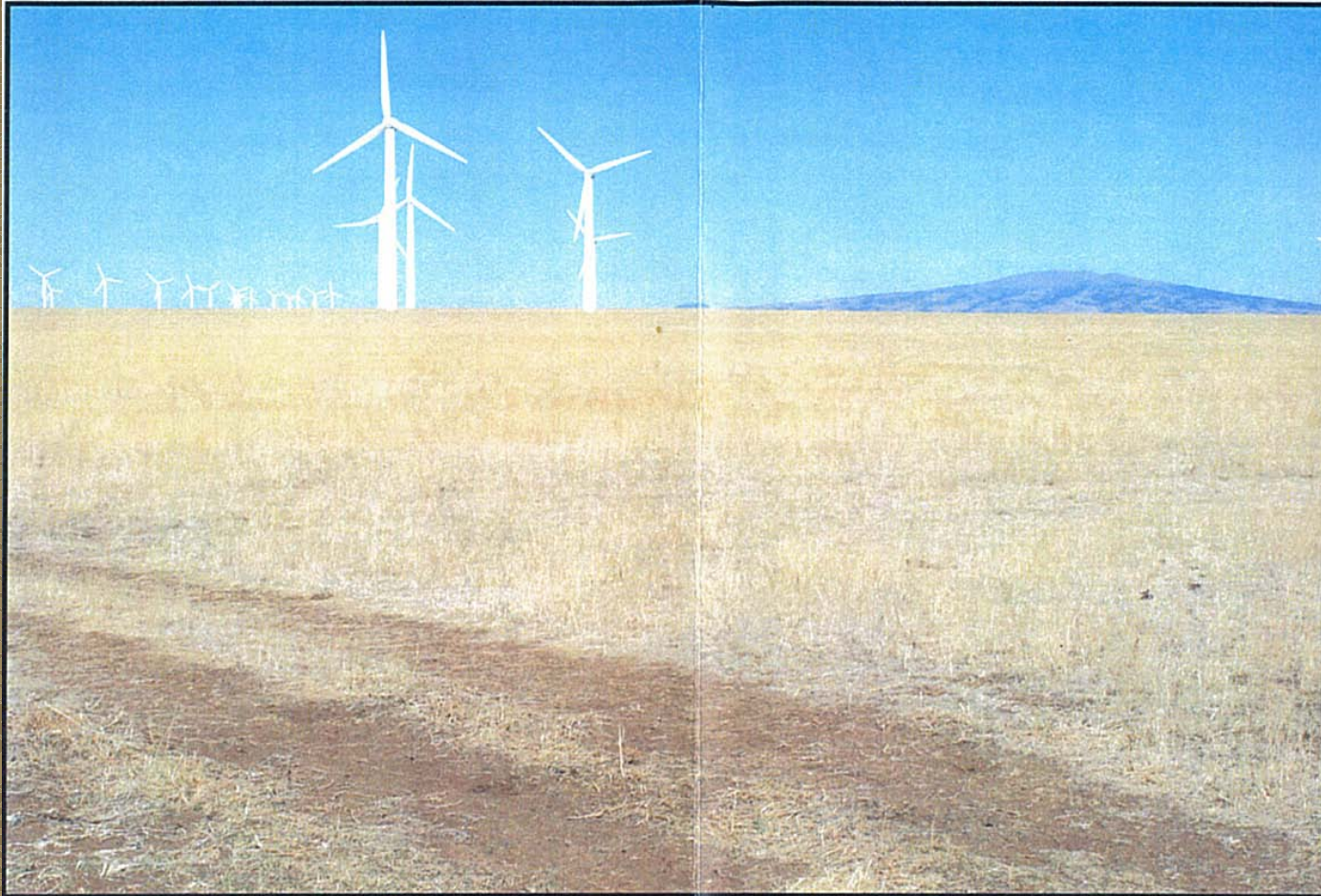
# NTIR

- We interpret this to mean that trail settings and their associated landscape features are important elements of a National Historic Trail that we must protect even though we do not own or manage the trails, except for tiny portions
- We use this understanding in our analyses of effects of development projects on trail segments, associated sites, and settings
  - The particular trail setting is analyzed to determine if it has significance and integrity as a cultural landscape according to NPS standards
  - This becomes, in effect, our abbreviated version of a cultural landscape inventory performed from afar, i.e., what landscape and cultural resources are there, how have they changed through time, do they retain integrity, are they eligible
  - If so, the nature of the project determines the level of our response

# NTIR

- On flat land, the horizon is about 3.22 miles away to someone who is 6 feet tall, depending on the weather and the time of day
- A 100-foot tall tower is visible for 13.84 miles in all directions on flat land, but appears smaller and smaller the further away it is depending on an individual's visual acuity
- For most surface developments up to a couple of stories high, we ask for at least a 5-mile buffer to avoid adverse effects to high potential trail settings and landscape features that have integrity

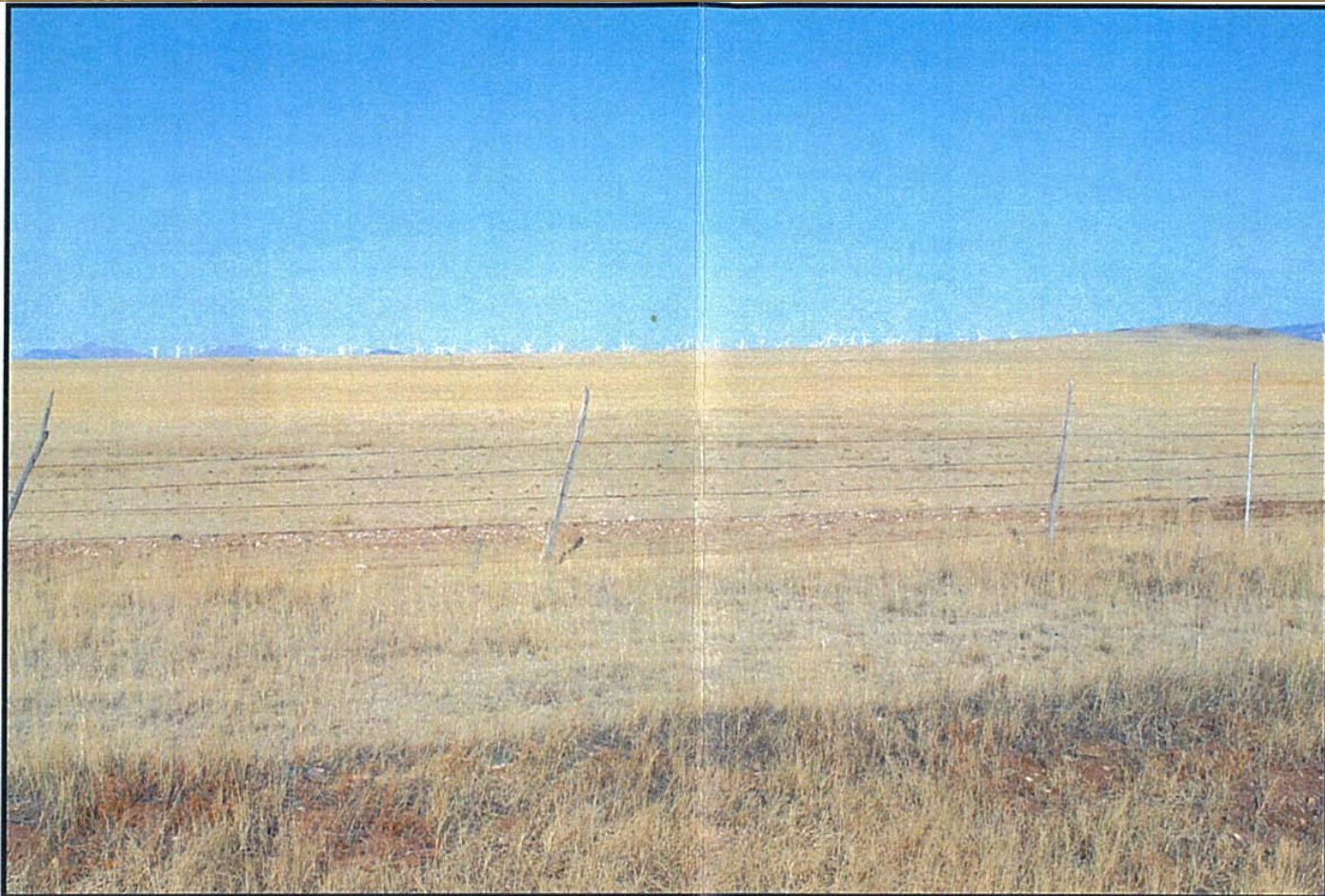
# Case Study #1-Gladstone Wind Farm, near the Santa Fe Trail in New Mexico



## **Simulated Condition**

Nearest turbine feature is approximately 0.45 mile away from the viewpoint.

# What can be done?



## **Simulated Condition**

Nearest turbine feature is approximately 4.94 miles away from the viewpoint.

# Case Study #2-New Mexico Spaceport, near El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT



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# What can be done?

- The Jornada del Muerto segments of El Camino Real represent the most significant and best preserved segments of the entire trail in terms of historic integrity and landscape integrity
- The chosen location of the Spaceport was politically untouchable, but ;
- The landscape approach resulted in the creation of what was called the “setting” APE, a 5-mile buffer around the actual Spaceport footprint
- This provided the tools for creative NEPA and Section 106 consultation, during which a variety of standard and non-standard mitigation measures were designed and are in the process of being implemented



# New Mexico Spaceport Mitigation

- “Standard”
  - Building design to reduce the visual footprint
  - Avoidance of archaeological sites, fencing
  - Data recovery excavations
- “Non-standard”
  - Problem-oriented research excavations
  - Hydrological study to aid in identifying trail resources
  - Archival study of trail-related sources
  - Intensive inventory of El Camino Real in the setting APE using a variety of surface and remote sensing techniques
  - Generation of a comprehensive management plan for segments of El Camino Real on New Mexico State Trust lands

# Summary

- NTIR has responsibilities to protect a variety of cultural resources and cultural landscapes
- The resources are distributed over a vast area
- NPS does not own most of the resources
- NPS has very little cultural resource or cultural landscape inventory data, but is acquiring more information little by little
- Using a cultural landscape approach has helped us understand the nature of the resources we administer, and to protect them

Thanks for listening!  
Please ask if you have any questions.



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Michael L. Elliott  
National Trails Intermountain Region  
PO Box 728  
Santa Fe, NM 87504  
(505) 988-6092  
[michael\\_elliott@nps.gov](mailto:michael_elliott@nps.gov)



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