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**ANNUAL REPORT ON THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S
CULTURAL RESOURCE ACTIVITIES AT
COLORADO UMTRA PROJECT SITES
FOR OCTOBER 1991 THROUGH
SEPTEMBER 1992**

Draft

October 1993

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NOTE

This report includes legal locations of cultural resources that were identified during cultural resource surveys. Please limit distribution of this report to protect the cultural resources from vandalism.

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CULTURAL RESOURCE ACTIVITIES AT COLORADO
UMTRA PROJECT SITES FOR OCTOBER 1991
THROUGH SEPTEMBER 1992**

October 1993

**Prepared for
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer**

**Prepared by
Jacobs Engineering Group Inc.
Albuquerque, New Mexico**

ABSTRACT

This report summarizes the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) cultural resource studies that were undertaken in support of the DOE's Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Project in the state of Colorado for the period of October 1, 1991, through September 30, 1992. This report fulfills the DOE's obligation to provide an annual report to the state of Colorado on the status and results of cultural resource studies conducted during the above period of record. This requirement is stated in a programmatic memorandum of agreement executed between the DOE, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer in December 1984. Previous reports were based on a calendar year reporting period. However, in order to be more consistent with the programmatic memorandum of agreement, the period of record for this and subsequent annual reports has been changed to the Federal fiscal year.

The current status and summaries of 1992 cultural resource surveys are provided for all UMTRA Project sites in Colorado. The sites are Durango, Grand Junction, Gunnison, Maybell, Naturita, Rifle, and Slick Rock.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<u>Acronym</u>	<u>Definition</u>
ac	acre
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
EA	environmental assessment
EIS	environmental impact statement
GRI	Grand River Institute
HBIR	Historic Building Inventory Records
ha	hectare
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
PMOA	programmatic memorandum of agreement
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
UMTRA	Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action
VP	vicinity property

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the cultural resource investigations conducted at the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Project sites in Colorado. The UMTRA Project is a cooperative (state and Federal) remedial action project mandated by Public Law 95-604, the Uranium Mill Tailings Radiation Control Act, to clean up 24 inactive uranium mill tailings sites throughout the United States. Nine of these sites are in Colorado.

On December 6, 1984, the DOE, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) entered into a programmatic memorandum of agreement (PMOA) (DOE, 1984). The PMOA specifies procedures by which the DOE shall fulfill its obligations under the various state and Federal regulations for cultural and historic resource preservation. The PMOA requires an annual report; this report summarizes the UMTRA Project cultural resource investigations in Colorado for the Federal fiscal year 1992.

This report is organized by site. It summarizes the status of general site activities, the cultural resource investigations, Historic Building Inventory Records (HBIR) that were completed for 1992, and, when known, the DOE's plans for cultural resource activities in 1993.

2.0 DURANGO

The final environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Durango UMTRA Project site was published in October 1985; the selected remedial action was to relocate all contaminated materials by truck to the Bodo Canyon disposal site. The remedial action was begun in 1987 and completed in 1991.

2.1 STATUS OF CULTURAL RESOURCE ACTIVITIES

Cultural resource activities related to the Durango remedial action were completed in 1988. The Durango remedial action was completed in 1991, and no additional cultural resource activities are anticipated for this UMTRA Project site.

2.2 HISTORIC BUILDING INVENTORY RECORDS

All included vicinity properties (VP) and processing site remedial actions for Durango have been completed; therefore, there were no HBIR activities.

3.0 GRAND JUNCTION

The final EIS for the Grand Junction UMTRA Project site was published in December 1986. The selected remedial action is to relocate all contaminated materials by a combination of truck and rail transportation to the Cheney disposal site. Remedial action began in 1991; it is anticipated that all tailings materials and most of the VP materials will be stabilized at the Cheney disposal site by 1994.

3.1 STATUS OF CULTURAL RESOURCE ACTIVITIES

Cultural resource activities for the Grand Junction remedial action were completed in 1990. No additional cultural resource activities are anticipated for this UMTRA Project site.

3.2 HISTORIC BUILDING INVENTORY RECORDS

The Grand Junction UMTRA Project site has an estimated 4224 VPs, of which about 3929 had been cleaned up by the end of 1992. Six HBIRs were completed and submitted to the SHPO in 1992. All of these properties were exempt from historic preservation review, as outlined in Appendix A of the PMOA (DOE, 1984). The remedial action of these properties did not affect their potential historic significance. Additional HBIRs are expected in subsequent years until all VPs are completed.

4.0 GUNNISON

The final environmental assessment (EA) for the Gunnison UMTRA Project site was published in 1992; the selected remedial action is to relocate all contaminated materials by truck to the Landfill disposal site. Remedial action began in 1992 and is anticipated to be completed in 1995.

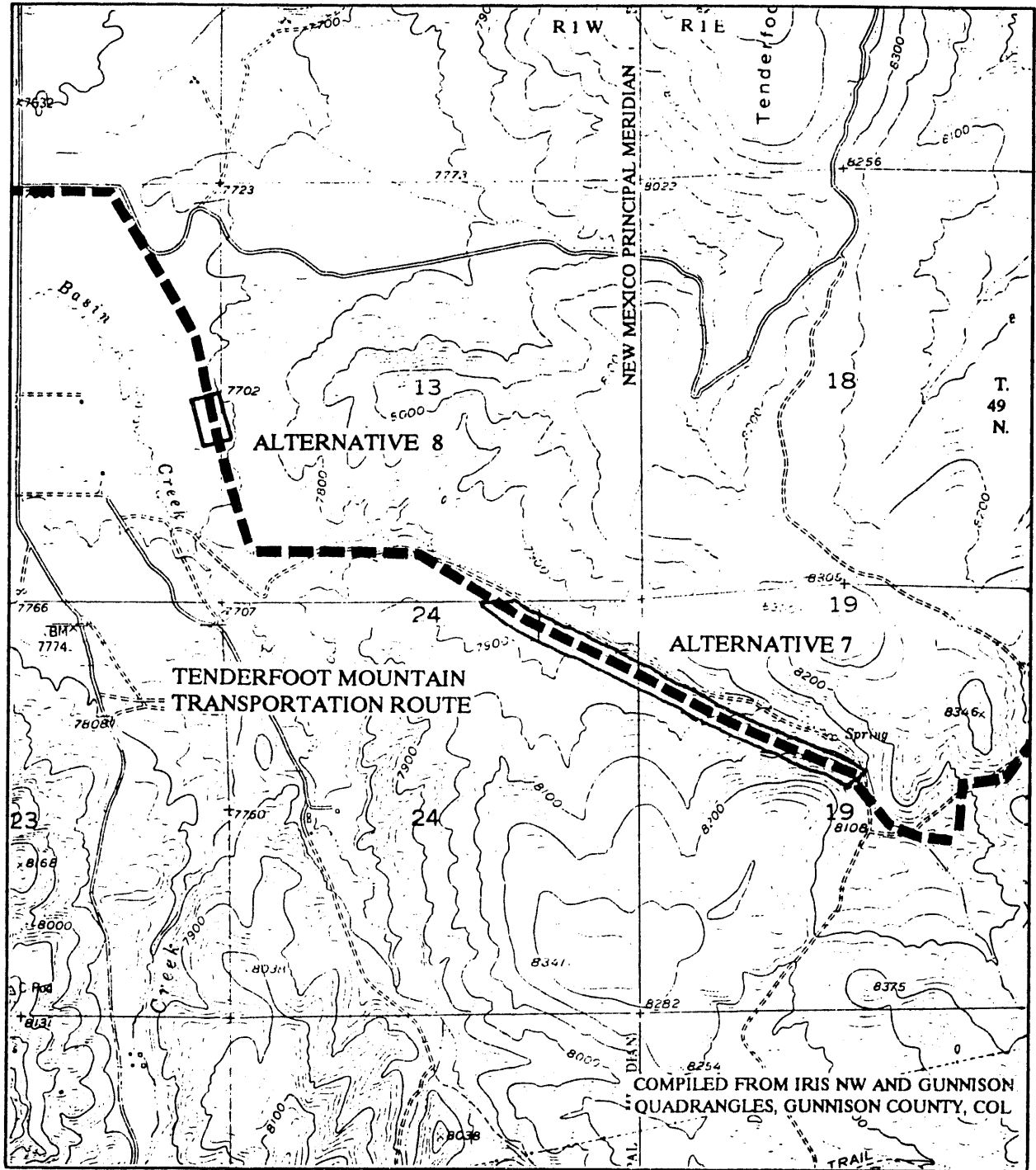
4.1 STATUS OF CULTURAL RESOURCE ACTIVITIES

Two cultural resource surveys were undertaken in the Gunnison area in 1992 by Grand River Institute (GRI).

An intensive Class III cultural resource inventory of 30 acres (ac) [12 hectares (ha)] was conducted in November 1991 and May 1992. Two areas were surveyed to determine whether two segments of the proposed Tenderfoot Mountain transportation route could be realigned to avoid known cultural resources. Two discrete areas, comprising 25 ac (10 ha) and 5 ac (2 ha) and labeled Alternative 7 and Alternative 8, respectively, were evaluated (Figure 4.1). A 100 percent, pedestrian Class III cultural resource survey of the study area was conducted by one person walking a zigzag transect that covered a 200-foot (60-meter) wide corridor. No cultural resources were identified during the survey. It was recommended that the alternate route segments be used instead of the original alignment in order to avoid disturbing known cultural resources or conducting additional studies. It was also recommended that, due to the proximity of the known cultural resources, initial construction work along these routes be monitored (GRI, 1992a).

The second cultural resource survey was an evaluative testing of site 5GN810. This site is described as an extensive open lithic-scatter/campsite. It had been recorded in 1980 and appeared to be outside the area of construction for the proposed Tenderfoot Mountain transportation route (Figure 4.2). During field inspections in April 1992, GRI and Bureau of Land Management archaeologists determined that the site overlapped the proposed road. Testing for this site included surface mapping and collection of all artifacts within the construction area and subsurface testing, as determined necessary in the field. The primary goals were to determine the vertical and horizontal extent of cultural resources and to define the nature of the deposits (GRI, 1992b).

It was determined that a section of the area to be affected by the proposed road upgrading is part of a larger, previously unrecorded ephemeral locus within the larger site area. Artifacts were encountered primarily as surface manifestations and included portions of projectile points, obsidian flakes, and chipped stone tools. During excavations, a rock-lined hearth was found that contained carbon layers. All surface artifacts in the area potentially disturbed by road construction were collected, and the area to be directly affected by construction activities was field evaluated as not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The area to the north in which the hearth was located



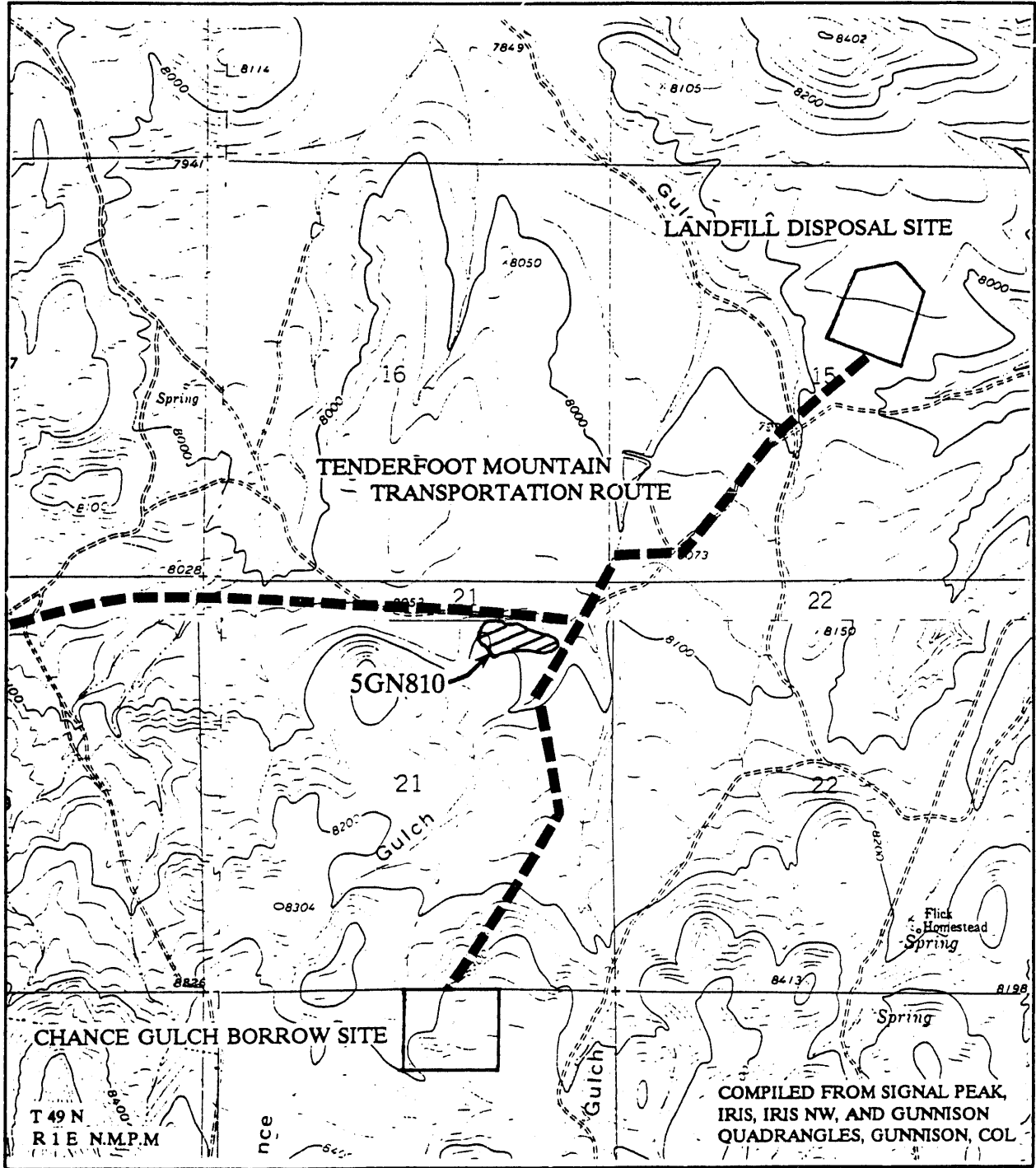
Ref. GRI, 1992a



SCALE 1:24000



FIGURE 4.1
LOCATIONS OF AREAS SURVEYED FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES ALONG THE
TENDERFOOT MOUNTAIN TRANSPORTATION ROUTE



Ref. GRI, 1992b

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 AND 40 FT

SCALE 1:24000



**FIGURE 4.2
LOCATION OF SITE 5GN810**

(and excavated) appears to have the potential for additional cultural resources to be found. The site area in general was evaluated as eligible for listing on the NRHP. To ensure integrity of the area, monitoring was recommended for this portion of the road (GRI, 1992b).

4.2 HISTORIC BUILDING INVENTORY RECORDS

No HBIRs were submitted for VPs associated with the Gunnison UMTRA site.

5.0 MAYBELL

A draft EA on the proposed remedial action for the Maybell UMTRA Project site was under preparation in 1992. The proposed remedial action is to stabilize all contaminated materials at the location of the existing tailings pile. Remedial action is anticipated to begin in 1994.

5.1 STATUS OF CULTURAL RESOURCE ACTIVITIES

No cultural resource activities were conducted at the Maybell UMTRA site in 1992. Additional surveys may be conducted before remedial activities begin, should there be a potential to disturb previously unsurveyed areas or the four sites previously identified.

5.2 HISTORIC BUILDING INVENTORY RECORDS

There are no VPs present or associated with the Maybell UMTRA Project site.

6.0 NATURITA

A draft EA on the proposed remedial action for the Naturita UMTRA Project site is scheduled to be completed in 1993. The proposed remedial action is to relocate all contaminated materials to a proposed disposal site named Dry Flats. Remedial action is anticipated to begin in 1994.

6.1 STATUS OF CULTURAL RESOURCE ACTIVITIES

No cultural resource activities were conducted during 1992 at the Naturita UMTRA Project site or sites associated with this remedial action. It is anticipated that cultural resource surveys will be conducted in 1993 to support planned activities for this site.

6.2 HISTORIC BUILDING INVENTORY RECORDS

No HBIRs were submitted for VPs associated with the Naturita UMTRA Project site.

7.0 RIFLE

The final EIS for the Old and New Rifle UMTRA Project sites was published in March 1990; the selected remedial action is to relocate all contaminated materials by truck to the Estes Gulch disposal site. Remedial action began in 1992 and is scheduled to be completed in 1996.

7.1 STATUS OF CULTURAL RESOURCE ACTIVITIES

No cultural resource activities were conducted for the Rifle site in 1992, and no further cultural resource surveys are planned at this time.

7.2 HISTORIC BUILDING INVENTORY RECORDS

No HBIRs were submitted for VPs associated with the Rifle UMTRA Project site.

8.0 SLICK ROCK

The draft EA for the North Continent and Union Carbide Slick Rock UMTRA Project sites is due to be completed in 1993. The proposed remedial action is to relocate all contaminated materials by truck to the Burro Canyon disposal site. The remedial action is planned to begin in 1994.

8.1 STATUS OF CULTURAL RESOURCE ACTIVITIES

No cultural resource activities were conducted during 1992 at the Slick Rock site. Cultural resource surveys are planned for 1993.

8.2 HISTORIC BUILDING INVENTORY RECORDS

No HBIRs were submitted for VPs associated with the Slick Rock UMTRA Project sites.

9.0 LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

The following individuals contributed to the preparation of this report.

Name	Contribution
Southwest Environmental	Overall document authorship
C. Slosberg	Text processing
D. Thalley	Technical editing

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