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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Washington, D.C. 20240

May 27, 1998

In Reply Refer To:
8143 (240)

MEMORANDUM

To: Director

From: Preservation Officer

Subject: Certifying Wyoming BLM Offices to Implement the Programmatic Agreement

I am pleased to inform you that the Wyoming BLM State organization has completed the steps needed for certification under the national Programmatic Agreement.

The Agreement, which Interim Director Sylvia Baca, the Chairman of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (Council), and the President of the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers signed on March 26, 1997, streamlines compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act. It authorizes Field Office managers to proceed without case-by-case oversight review from the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the Council, so they may approve undertakings much sooner than the standard process allows.

The Agreement obligates BLM to complete five steps before implementing BLM-tailored, streamlined historic preservation procedures. The national-level steps are (1) to establish the Preservation Board and (2) to revise the BLM's cultural resource management policies and procedures, which we have done. Then, each State is (3) to assure that its professional staff can carry out the national policies and procedures; (4) to develop a protocol with the SHPO outlining BLM-SHPO interaction and cooperation under the Agreement; and (5) to train Field Office managers and staff specialists on the nature of their changed responsibilities.

I attended the Wyoming training, where SHPO John Keck and his staff participated prominently. I reviewed the signed protocol and the staffing assessment. I conveyed my positive findings to the Preservation Board, and the Board endorses my recommendation to you to certify that the Wyoming State Director's field organization is appropriately prepared to implement streamlined historic preservation procedures, subject to review after 1 year. I so recommend.

/s/John G. Douglas, Ph.D

Approved.

/s/Pat Shea
Director

May 27, 1998
Date