

## SDS DEIS Issues Paper

### SDS Impacts on Cultural Resources

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The Southern Delivery System (SDS) Project Alternatives being considered in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) may affect cultural resources either directly or indirectly. Direct effects would be caused by factors associated with reservoirs built for the project including flooding, waves, changes in reservoir levels and area, and also ground surface area disturbance during construction. Indirect effects would be caused by increased public access to site locations. However, these sites might be better preserved by SDS construction activities because preservation rules apply to public agencies, but not to private owners.

**Key DEIS Finding:** Numerous studies have been conducted to date for cultural resources in the project area. There are a significant number of historic and prehistoric site remains that constitute an important part of the legacy of human presence on the land. However, no Paleoindian, large prehistoric habitation villages or deeply buried trader sites have been found within the project area. No Indian Trust assets have been identified within the SDS Project analysis area.

#### **No Action Alternative (Alternative 1), Proposed Action (Alternative 2) and Highway 115 Alternative (Alternative 7)**

The following table summarizes the direct and indirect effects of Alternatives 1, 2 and 7.

**Number of Identified Sites that may be Included  
in the National Register of Historic Places**

<b>Alternative</b>	<b>Direct Effects</b>	<b>Indirect Effects</b>
No Action Alternative (Alternative 1)	94	153
Proposed Action (Alternative 2)	84	147
Highway 115 Alternative (Alternative 7)	89	147

*Excerpt from Southern Delivery System Draft Environmental Impact Statement, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, 2008, Table 114, p. 457.*

#### **Mitigation Measures**

Although specific individual cultural resources and how they will be affected cannot be determined until later in the final project design, various mitigation approaches and agreements have been completed.

- A Programmatic Agreement among Reclamation, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Colorado Springs and the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office specifies the measures to be taken to identify and evaluate historic properties, to develop a treatment plan to resolve adverse effects, and to address the unanticipated discovery of historic properties or human remains and for the curation of those finds (Appendix F of DEIS Report).
- A Conceptual Cultural Resources Mitigation Plan has been prepared (Appendix G of DEIS Report).
- Specific mitigation measures will be developed after an Alternative is selected.