



Timothy L. Nuvangyaoma
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August 27, 2021

James Simino, District Ranger
San Juan National Forest, Columbine Ranger District
P.O. Box 439
367 Pearl Street
Bayfield, Colorado 81122

Re: Southern HD's Landscape Restoration Project

Dear Ranger Simino,

This letter is in response to your correspondence dated August 17, 2021, with an enclosed draft Environmental Assessment regarding the 35,000 acre Southern HD's Landscape Restoration Project. The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office appreciates the San Juan National Forest's continuing solicitation of our input and your efforts to address our concerns.

The Hopi Tribe claims cultural affiliation to the Paleo, Archaic and Hisatsinom earlier identifiable cultural groups in southwestern Colorado. The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office supports the identification and avoidance of our ancestral sites, and we consider the prehistoric archaeological sites of our ancestors to be "footprints" and Traditional Cultural Properties.

The Hopi Cultural Preservation Office reiterates we are interested in consulting on any proposal that has the potential to adversely affect prehistoric sites in southwestern Colorado. We understand a Class I literature review and Initial Cultural Resources Report indicate that 393 cultural resources sites and two proposed archaeological districts are located within the area of potential effect. We also understand the Forest Service proposes a determination of no adverse effect for this undertaking.

We appreciate that if any Native American human remains or funerary objects are discovered during implementation they will be reported as required by law. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Stewart B. Koyiyumtewa, Program Manager/THPO
Hopi Cultural Preservation Office

xc: Colorado State Historic Preservation Office