

Northern Arapaho Preservation Society (NAPS)
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Jim Ruby, Executive Secretary
Environmental Quality Council

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Environmental Quality Council,

We are the Northern Arapahoe Preservation Society. Our purpose is to Preserve Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP's) of the Northern Arapaho. To ensure historical migratory areas of the Northern Arapahoe people are continuously being preserved and protected through the many Laws and guidelines that mandate meeting a criteria in order to be preserved through the ACHP (Advisory Council on Historical Preservation <http://www.achp.gov/nrcriteria.html>) criteria eligibility through Section #106 of the Code of Federal Regulations, under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) through the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Environmental Assessments (EA) and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) many of these eligible historical archaeological areas along with Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs) should not be over looked and ignored. Many of these laws are mandated in order to protect and preserve the Native American's culture and heritage. Through following these laws we need to make sure BLM's (Bureau of Land Management) Resource Management Plans (RMP) along with the National Pragmatic Agreement (PA) also reflect the preservation of Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs) which do include burial sites, Native American artifacts, cairns, stone circles, tipi rings, view sheds, buttes, land, air, water, medicinal plants, and animals. In our way of preserving we want to preserve and protect whatever is possible at this stage and through studying, researching such areas we can find cleaner ways of obtaining natural resources. This idea of obtaining natural resources in smart and cleaner techniques have not been followed and since only recently have become under fire because of contamination, health risks, and the significance of the Sand Creek Valley.

The significance Sand Creek Valley has to the Northern Arapaho begins in the name. Before known as Sand Creek Valley this valley was known to the Arapaho as "Deer Creek Valley" which in a bigger picture is also known to be part of the "Bear Den"