



MARS SAMPLE RETURN – CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resources include prehistoric and historic archaeological sites; historic buildings, structures, and districts; and human-made or natural features important to a culture, a subculture, or a community for traditional, religious, or other reasons.

Proposed Action: (see Proposed Action and No Action Alternative Factsheet)

Programmatic Analysis

Transportation of the Earth Entry System (EES) to a Sample Receiving Facility (SRF) would not be expected to result in any cultural resource impacts. Operation of an SRF would not be anticipated to impact cultural resources; the main impact driver for this resource is the development of an SRF. Construction activities that may impact cultural resources are all ground-disturbing activities, including land clearing, earth moving, excavation, and vehicle and equipment operation on unpaved surfaces. These activities may result in physical disturbance of any surface or subsurface archaeological resources that may be present in the areas disturbed. Direct adverse effects would result if any of the archaeological resources are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Potential impacts associated with SRF development would be related to the location, type, and size of the facility.

Cultural Resources are Governed by Federal Laws and Regulations:

- National Historic Preservation Act
- Antiquities Act of 1906
- Historic Sites Act of 1935
- Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974
- American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978
- Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1970
- Native American Graves Protection and Reparation Act of 1990
- 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 800, Protection of Historic Properties
- 36 CFR 79, Curation of Federally Owned and Administered Archaeological Collections
- 40 CFR 7, Protection of Archaeological Resources
- 36 CFR 60, National Register of Historic Places
- 36 CFR 63, Determinations of Eligibility for Inclusion in the National Register
- 36 CFR 68, Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties
- Cultural resources also may be covered by state, local, and territorial laws

NASAfacts

Site-Specific Analysis (Utah Test and Training Range (UTTR) / Dugway Proving Ground)

In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), NASA has initiated Section 106 consultation (in accordance with the NHPA) with Federally recognized Native American tribes, the Utah State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), and other entities regarding the effects of the Proposed Action to historic properties. This consultation is ongoing. To the extent there are any historic properties located within the “Area of Potential Effect,” ground disturbance associated with on-site mission preparation (to include testing, rehearsals, and landing site preparation), EES landing, and EES recovery could result in adverse effects to historic properties that cannot be avoided during vehicular transit to/from each object location, or if an object is located within an archaeological site eligible for listing on the NRHP. Any potential adverse effects would be mitigated through execution of a Programmatic Agreement between Hill Air Force Base (the responsible land manager of the UTTR), the Utah SHPO, and the ACHP, which includes stipulations for range clearance activities.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, the Mars Sample Return Campaign would not involve the landing of Mars samples at the UTTR and an SRF would not be developed. Therefore, the No Action Alternative would not result in any additional impacts to cultural resources within or adjacent to the proposed landing site outside of those associated with ongoing and potential future military operations and other activities occurring at the site. Potential impacts associated with development of an SRF would not be realized.



*The UTTR is home to a rich cultural history encompassing Paleoindian landscapes to historic military complexes.
Photo credit: Department of the Air Force*