

Selections related to Cultural Resources Management from

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MANAGEMENT POLICIES 2006

Note: you can keep up to date on new or revised policies by visiting the National Park Service policy website at <http://www.nps.gov/policy>

Chapter 5 Cultural Resource Management

5.3.5.2 Cultural Landscapes

The treatment of a cultural landscape will preserve significant physical attributes, biotic systems, and uses when those uses contribute to historical significance. Treatment decisions will be based on a cultural landscape's historical significance over time, existing conditions, and use.

Treatment decisions will consider both the natural and built characteristics and features of a landscape, the dynamics inherent in natural processes and continued use, and the concerns of traditionally associated peoples.

The treatment implemented will be based on sound preservation practices to enable long-term preservation of a resource's historic features, qualities, and materials. There are three types of treatment for extant cultural landscapes: preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration.

(See Decision-making Requirements to Identify and Avoid Impairments 1.4.7. Also see Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes)

5.3.5.2.1 Preservation

A cultural landscape will be preserved in its present condition if

- that condition allows for satisfactory protection, maintenance, use, and interpretation; or
- another treatment is warranted but cannot be accomplished until some future time.

5.3.5.2.2 Rehabilitation

A cultural landscape may be rehabilitated for contemporary use if

- it cannot adequately serve an appropriate use in its present condition; and
- rehabilitation will retain its essential features and not alter its integrity and character or conflict with approved park management objectives.

5.3.5.2.3 Restoration

A cultural landscape may be restored to an earlier appearance if

- all changes after the proposed restoration period have been professionally evaluated and the significance of those changes has been fully considered;
- restoration is essential to public understanding of the park’s cultural associations;
- sufficient data about that landscape’s earlier appearance exist to enable its accurate restoration; and
- the disturbance or loss of significant archeological resources is minimized and mitigated by data recovery.

5.3.5.2.7 New Construction

Contemporary alterations and additions to a cultural landscape must not radically change, obscure, or destroy its significant spatial organization, materials, and features. New buildings, structures, landscape features, and utilities may be constructed in a cultural landscape if

- existing structures and improvements do not meet essential management needs;
- new construction is designed and sited to preserve the landscape’s integrity and historic character; and
- the alterations, additions, or related new construction is differentiated from yet compatible with the landscape’s historic character—unless associated with an approved restoration or reconstruction.

New additions will meet the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation.