

PROTECTION OF PARKS AND HISTORIC SITES

No publicly owned parks or lands within the national system of trails have been or will be affected by mining conducted by SCCC. On April 6, 1979, the Spring Creek Archaeological District was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. An approved mitigation plan was stipulated (No.21) as a part of the approved SCCC mine permit. Mitigation is complete and the final report is referenced in Section 17.24.304. SCCC has provided the MDEQ with the report from the University of Montana. On December 14, 1981, the South Fork of Spring Creek addendum to the Spring Creek Archaeologic District was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. A mitigation plan was prepared and reviewed by the MDEQ.

Based on cultural resource surveys and site significance assessments conducted within the Carbone Amendment area in 1997 by GCM Services, several sites within and adjacent to the Pit 4 area have been identified to be eligible or potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Under the proposed mine plan, only two of these sites would be disturbed by mining related activities. These 2 sites were mitigated by GCM the fall of 2000. However, if adjacent Federal coal reserves are acquired the mine plan could be modified and expanded in such a way that more of these sites or portions of these sites would be disturbed by mining activities. In the event mine expansion into adjacent Federal coal reserves is imminent, SCCC will develop a mitigation plan, in cooperation with the MDEQ, which would be implemented when it is clear that the area in question would be disturbed by mining. In fact, a Memorandum of Agreement is already being developed in consultation with MDEQ, OSM and SHPO to address all Pit 4 sites.

Should any unrecorded cultural resource site(s) be located in the course of mining, SCCC will contact the Office of Surface Mining, the MDEQ and the State Historic Preservation Office and take all appropriate actions to mitigate the site(s).