



SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

**October 24, 2016
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Assessing the Big Picture: Society for American Archaeology Publication Addresses Archaeology and Landscape-Scale Policy Issues

Washington, D.C.—The Society for American Archaeology (SAA) has made the May 2016 issue of *Advances in Archaeological Practice* freely accessible. A themed issue devoted to landscape-scale management, it contains three key reports on landscape-scale cultural heritage management of interest to non-archaeologists. The three multi-authored reports combine centuries of personal experience by distinguished practitioners in archaeological survey, documentation, and valuation.

A short review by former SAA president Jeff Altschul of the national-level concerns that led to the creation of three SAA task forces sets the stage for the reports, which present recommendations for landscape-based approaches using past survey data and other approaches that parallel those already used by natural resource managers.

While these reports were written with an eye toward U.S. energy development on federal lands, they are readily transferrable to other regions. They also address the need to rank and prioritize cultural resources during a period of rising sea levels and other climate-based changes affecting archaeological sites and regions. SAA provides these reports as a resource to government, nongovernment, and professional organizations as discussion points and planning tools.

Introduction to the Reports

[The Society for American Archaeology's Task Forces on Landscape Policy Issues](#) by Jeffrey H. Altschul provides the context and history of the task forces, particularly the cultural resource management challenges facing federal land-managing agencies leading to the selection of the topics of the published reports.

Reports

[Archaeological Survey Data Quality, Durability, and Use in the United States: Findings and Recommendations](#) by Richard H. Wilshusen, Michael Heilen, Wade Catts, Karyn de Dufour, and Bradford Jones draws upon a survey of State Historic Preservation Offices, a review of current literature,

and the authors' own experiences to assess archaeological survey quality, data utility, and durability for current and anticipated future uses. It offers suggestions for moving forward.

[Incorporating Archaeological Resources in Landscape-Level Planning and Management](#) by William H. Doelle, Pat Barker, David Cushman, Michael Heilen, Cynthia Herhahn, and Christina Rieth reviews three current approaches to landscape-level planning in archaeology and calls for increased commitment to advancing their development and effectiveness.

[Values-Based Management of Archaeological Resources at a Landscape Scale](#) by Francis P. McManamon, John Doershuk, William D. Lipe, Tom McCulloch, Christopher Polglase, Sarah Schlanger, Lynne Sebastian, and Lynne Sullivan considers how archaeological resources can be managed at a landscape or regional spatial scale in ways that take account of the full range of their values.

The full May 2016 issue of *Advances in Archaeological Practice* is available [here](#).

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About the Society for American Archaeology

The Society for American Archaeology is an international organization dedicated to the research, interpretation, and protection of the archaeological heritage of the Americas. With nearly 7,000 members, the Society represents professional, student, and avocational archaeologists working in a variety of settings, including government agencies, colleges and universities, museums, and the private sector.