



## SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Cultural Properties Review Committee  
Historic Preservation Division  
407 Galisteo Street Suite 236  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

May 18, 2009

To the Members of the New Mexico Cultural Properties Review Committee:

The Society for American Archaeology (SAA) would like to express its strong support for the nomination of the Mount Taylor Cultural Landscape as a Traditional Cultural Property eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, as well as the New Mexico State Register of Cultural Properties.

SAA is an international organization that, since its founding in 1934, has been dedicated to the research about and interpretation and protection of the archaeological heritage of the Americas. With more than 7,000 members, SAA represents professional archaeologists in colleges and universities, museums, government agencies, and the private sector. SAA has members in all 50 states as well as many other nations around the world.

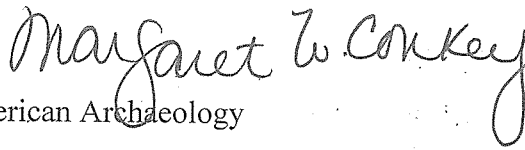
It is our understanding that five Native American tribes, including the Pueblo of Acoma, Pueblo of Laguna, the Navajo Nation, the Hopi Tribe, and the Pueblo of Zuni, have nominated the Mt. Taylor Cultural Landscape on the grounds that it meets three of the eligibility criteria outlined in 36 CFR Part 60 and in National Register Bulletin 38. The area's spiritual significance to the nominating tribes and others is well-documented. Historically, Mt. Taylor served as an important landmark during the migrations of numerous peoples across the region, during both the pre- and post-contact eras. The significance of the site for so many native tribes is compelling.

In addition, the limited area inventoried so far by archaeologists has already yielded a substantial number of archaeological resources, indicating the presence of a great many as-yet unknown sites. This invaluable archaeological record must be preserved for future generations.

Listing the Mt. Taylor Cultural Landscape on the National Register of Historic Places and State Register of Historic Properties will ensure that the spiritual, historic, and archaeological values will be taken into serious consideration in any future actions, especially those that might incur damage and destruction. SAA urges the Cultural Properties Review Committee to take these issues into consideration when it makes its decision.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Margaret Conkey  
President, Society for American Archaeology

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret W. Conkey". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.