

Cultural Resources Protocol for coordination with the Land Restoration and Management Branch

Objectives

THE MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT of cultural resources properties necessarily requires coordination with all agencies whose mission and responsibilities may involve ground disturbing activities, including Land Restoration and Management (LRAM). LRAM's responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the clearing and maintenance of artillery gun positions, and the repair or stabilization of eroding landforms and landscapes. Both of these actions can adversely affect any cultural resource found in project areas. The CRP coordinates with LRAM concerning these activities to mitigate any potential adverse affects to historic properties within project areas.

Procedure

Artillery gun positions are located randomly throughout the training areas of Fort Bragg. Typically, these positions are open fields, cleared of forest vegetation. Over time, due to natural succession, the forests begin to encroach on these areas creating hazardous conditions for artillery personnel. When this encroachment reaches a critical limit, LRAM attempts to reclaim designated artillery training positions. LRAM personnel go to the site and demarcate the limit that must be cleared in order to meet the safety restrictions set on artillery firing teams. Once this boundary is marked, LRAM coordinates with the CRP, requesting that area be surveyed for cultural resource. If the area lies in a previously surveyed parcel, then any existing Potentially Eligible or Eligible sites, determined using NRHP criteria, are clearly marked and protected, or

assessed archeologically before ground disturbance to reclaim the position is initiated.

An additional action requiring the coordination of the CRP and LRAM is the restoration of eroded and unstable landscapes. These projects may also create adverse affects upon any cultural resources in the project area. However, most of these projects are much larger in scope and impact than those described above. Planning these projects requires coordination between the CRP and LRAM to ensure that cultural resource inventory surveys are conducted in the project area to identify any historic properties. After the sites are identified and marked the coordinating parties determine what management strategy should be implemented. If Potentially Eligible sites will be protected through deposition of overburden, evaluation or mitigation is unnecessary. However, should the project have intrusive and adverse impacts on the sites, evaluation and data recovery are necessary to, first determine absolute eligibility status, and then to mitigate the impacts on sites that have conclusively been determined to be Eligible using NRHP criteria. Only after these determinations and actions have been completed is the project allowed to continue.