

Cultural Resources Site Clearance for Soil Conservation Projects

Objectives

ARCHEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE, survey and site clearance are routinely implemented by the CRP as part of Soil Conservation (SC) projects in order to systematically identify, document, and mitigate any adverse impacts to cultural properties that may be affected. Project review procedures are undertaken in order to assure that any known historic or archeological properties subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act will not be adversely affected by SC projects. Results of any archeological investigations undertaken by the CRP as part of the review of SC projects are reported annually to the SHPO pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36CFR Part 800.

Procedures

All excavations and other ground disturbing activities that are essential to the mission of the ENRD SC projects are subject to CRP review and must be coordinated through the ENRD (AFZA-PW-E, telephone 910-396-8207). There are two types of Soil Conservation projects and each may enter the review process in a different way. In-house SC projects (any -SC project that requires a 4283 work-order request) must be reviewed by other branches of the ENRD including the CRP and notification of pending projects must be initiated by the ENRD Soil Conservation office. Out-sourced or contractual projects must also be reviewed, but in this case notification is provided to the construction Management Division (AFZA-PW-C) who in turn notifies ENRD.

Notification of an impending project must be provided by SC to the ENRD no later than 30 days in advance of the anticipated start date. The ENRD must be provided with information sufficient to determine the exact location of area of potential impact (API) and other ground disturbing activities (maps precisely locating the API), a brief description of those activities, the dates proposed for implementation, and a Point of Contact (POC) in the SC office. In addition, the SC POC must contact the office of CRP and arrange to meet CRP personnel on site to establish the exact API. Once this information has been received and determined to be sufficient, the ENRD initiates a Project Review Form (PRF). Upon receipt of the PRF the CRP will initiate systematic reconnaissance, site survey, and significance assessments. The CRP will make the results of these procedures known to the offices of the ENRD and SC as soon as possible, depending on the scope of the proposed project. In most cases, the CRP anticipates response will be within five working days of notification. Such results will include a determination of presence or absence of potentially significant sites in the API and a determination of their significance. If the proposed activity is determined to have no effect or no adverse effect on subsurface archeological deposits, the CRP representative will approve the project and submit the PRF to the Chief of ENRD accordingly. If warranted, CRP staff may coordinate with SC POC to monitor or observe any on-going excavations on the installation. If cultural properties are discovered within the API and if the proposed activity is determined to have an adverse effect on subsurface archeological deposits, the CRP will notify the POC for the proposed SC project in order to discuss alternatives to the proposed activity. If no alternative can be found that will not have an adverse effect, and it is determined that the project can only be accomplished as planned, the project will be put on hold. The CRP will then proceed with the implementation of a timely Section 106 Review of the project as stipulated in 36CFR800 in consultation with the appropriate Federal, state, and tribal agencies.