



Natural Resources Conservation Service
210 Walnut Street, Room 693
Des Moines, IA 50309-2180

April 5, 2010

HANDBOOKS (H)
190 – ECS
AMENDMENT IA2 (Part 601)

SUBJECT: ECS – ECOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Purpose: To amend Part 601 – National Cultural Resources Procedures Handbook, 601.22.

Effective Date: Upon receipt.

Instructions:

Amendment replaces
190-H, IA Amendment 1, February 2009

This amendment contains policy and procedure for Iowa NRCS to follow and updates the procedures in using the NRCS-CPA-52 Environmental Evaluation Worksheet.

/s/Richard Sims
State Conservationist

Attachment

E

Part 601 – National Cultural Resources Procedures Handbook (NCRPH)

601.22 Procedures for the Consideration of Cultural Resources in NRCS Undertakings: Identifying, Avoiding, and Determining Impacts to Cultural Resources

NRCS field office employees will follow the procedures below to consider cultural resources in conservation planning and application.

A. Prior to design and during the initial planning process (scoping), trained field office personnel shall determine whether an undertaking has the potential to affect a cultural resource. See *190-H (NCRPH), IA Amend 1, 601.69 – Appendix A, Conservation Practices Potential to Affect Cultural Resources*.

B. Should the undertaking not affect a cultural resource, then the cultural resources process is completed. Should the planned undertaking potentially affect a cultural resource, then the field office investigates the area to determine the presence of resources following steps 1-6 below. If a resource is present and cannot be avoided, NRCS terminates (scopes out) the undertaking and the cultural resources process is completed.

- 1) Determine if the undertakings are on an area that has little or no potential to contain a cultural resource. See *190-H (NCRPH), IA Amend 1, 601.69 – Appendix B, Areas of Little or No Significant Cultural Resources Potential*.
- 2) Ask the landowner if potential cultural resources sites are located in the planning area (arrowheads, pottery shards, old foundations etc.).
- 3) Conduct a literature search. This search shall consist of checking I-Sites at <http://maps.gis.iastate.edu/isites/>, and if there is a hit in the section where you are working, use the NRCS internet procedure to determine the exact location of known cultural resources at [Requesting State Office Assistance for Potential Archeological Impacts](#), checking the National Register at http://www.nr.nps.gov/iwisapi/explorer.dll?IWS_SCHEMA=NRIS1&IWS_LOGIN=1&IWS_REPORT=100000042, and checking historic maps, including GLO maps and atlases that are to be on file in the field office.
- 4) Trained personnel will conduct a field check. This should be done in a systematic way, and if necessary, use shovel testing where visibility is lacking.
- 5) Alluvial fans are hot spots for cultural resources and will be identified. These fans should be avoided unless a soil scientist has determined that any ground disturbance will be confined to post settlement alluvium (PSA), or a hydric deposit.
- 6) If there has been an existing professional cultural resources survey that you are aware of, you may use that to determine the affect of the undertaking.

C. Performance of these actions prior to design determines whether the undertaking has the potential to affect cultural resources. Not all of these actions may be appropriate to a given undertaking. In the cases of uncertain and complex situations, the field office shall contact the area office or the State Archeologist for assistance during scoping.

D. Should the field office discover a cultural resource that might be affected by a possible undertaking, then they will try to identify an alternate practice or location. Should this not be practical, the field office shall consult with the State Archeologist. Should the State Archeologist concur that the undertaking will affect, the field office shall terminate the undertaking. This completes the process. Should the State Archeologist determine that the undertaking will not have the potential to affect a cultural resource, the undertaking will proceed. This completes the process.

E. When the process is complete, document this on the CPA-52, attach an initialed and dated 190-H (NCRPH), IA Amend 1, 601.69 – Appendix C, Cultural Resources Flowchart for Field Offices, IA-CPA-420, and a map showing the location of the undertaking. This process should be documented in Performance Results System (PRS).

F. Should there be a situation where a cultural resource was missed earlier and discovered during construction, notify the state office immediately. Should the contractor work for NRCS, the agency should order the contractor to cease work. If the contractor works for the landowner, you can only request that the contractor cease work.

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601.69 – Appendix A, Conservation Practices Potential to Affect Cultural Resources

Code	Conservation Practice Name	Rating
560	Access Road	Y
365	Anaerobic Digester, Ambient Temperature	Y
366	Anaerobic Digester, Controlled Temperature	Y
316	Animal Mortality Facility	Y
575	Animal Trails and Walkways	Y
370	Atmospheric Resource Quality Management	N
310	Bedding	N
314	Brush Management	N
584	Channel Stabilization	Y
326	Clearing and Snagging	Y
360	Closure of Waste Impoundments	Y
317	Composting Facility	Y
327	Conservation Cover	N
328	Conservation Crop Rotation	N
656	Constructed Wetland	Y
332	Contour Buffer Strips	N
330	Contour Farming	N
340	Cover and Green Manure Crop	N
342	Critical Area Planting	Y
589c	Cross Wind Trap Strips	N
348	Dam, Diversion	Y
402	Dam, Floodwater Retarding	Y
349	Dam, Multiple Purpose	Y
356	Dike	Y
362	Diversion	Y
554	Drainage Water Management	Y
432	Dry Hydrant	Y
647	Early Successional Habitat	N
592	Feed Management	N
382	Fence	Y
386	Field Border	N
393	Filter Strip	N
396	Fish Passage	Y
399	Fish Pond Management	N
511	Forage Harvest Management	N
666	Forest Stand Improvement	N
410	Grade Stabilization Structure	Y
412	Grassed Waterway	Y
Legend	Y Potential to Affect N No Potential to Affect	

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601.69 – Appendix A, Conservation Practices Potential to Affect Cultural Resources

Code	Conservation Practice Name	Rating
561	Heavy Use Area Protection	Y
422	Hedgerow Planting	N
494	Irrigation Land Leveling	Y
442	Irrigation System, Sprinkler	Y
443	Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface	Y
430	Irrigation Water Conveyance, Pipeline HP Underground Plastic	Y
460	Land Clearing	Y
466	Land Smoothing	Y
468	Lined Waterway or Outlet	Y
634	Manure Transfer	Y
353	Monitoring Well	Y
484	Mulching	N
590	Nutrient Management	N
500	Obstruction Removal	Y
582	Open Channel	Y
512	Pasture and Hay Planting	N
595	Pest Management	N
516	Pipeline	Y
378	Pond	Y
521-A	Pond Sealing - Flexible Membrane	Y
521-B	Pond Sealing - Soil Dispersant	Y
521-C	Pond Sealing - Bentonite Sealant	Y
462	Precision Land Forming	Y
338	Prescribed Burning	N
409	Prescribed Forestry	N
528A	Prescribed Grazing	N
533	Pumping Plant for Water Control	Y
566	Recreation Land Grading and Shaping	Y
568	Recreation Trail and Walkway	Y
329A	Residue Management, No Till and Strip Till	N
329B	Residue Management, Mulch Till	N
329C	Residue Management, Ridge Till	N
344	Residue Management, Seasonal	N
643	Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats	N
391	Riparian Forest Buffer	N
390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover	N
558	Roof Runoff Structure	N
570	Runoff Management System	N
350	Sediment Basin	Y

Legend	Y	Potential to Affect
	N	No Potential to Affect

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601.69 – Appendix A, Conservation Practices Potential to Affect Cultural Resources

Code	Conservation Practice Name	Rating
632	Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility	Y
574	Spring Development	Y
578	Stream Crossing	Y
395	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management	Y
580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection	Y
585	Stripcropping	N
587	Structure for Water Control	Y
606	Subsurface Drain	Y
607	Surface Drainage, Field Ditch	Y
608	Surface Drainage, Main or Latera	Y
600	Terrace	Y
980	Tile Intake Replacement	Y
591	Treatment of Agricultural Waste	N
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment	N
620	Underground Outlet	Y
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Manageme	N
472	Use Exclusion	N
635	Vegetated Treatment Are	Y
630	Vertical Drain	Y
367	Waste Facility Cov	Y
313	Waste Storage Facilit	Y
359	Waste Treatment Lagoon	Y
633	Waste Utilization	N
638	Water and Sediment Control Basi	Y
614	Watering Facility	Y
642	Water Well	Y
351	Well Decommissioni	Y
981	Wellhead Protection	N
658	Wetland Creation	Y
659	Wetlands Enhancement	Y
657	Wetland Restoration	Y
644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	N
380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	Y
650	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation	Y
490	Woodland Site Preparation	Y

Legend	Y	Potential to Affect
	N	No Potential to Affect

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601.69 – Appendix A, Conservation Practices Potential to Affect Cultural Resources

When installed according to NRCS standards and specifications, practices that have a potential to affect historic resources are indicated by the Y. These practices are to be considered as undertakings with the potential to affect those aspects of cultural resources that are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

When installed according to NRCS standards and specifications, practices that have no potential to affect to historic resources are indicated by the N. These practices can include management-related practices, practices without physical effects, or practices that experience indicates do not impact historic properties. These practices are not undertakings with a potential to affect historic properties and do not require cultural resources considerations.

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601.69 – Appendix B, Areas of Little or No Significant Cultural Resources Potential

In the case of human remains, burials, or burial mounds in the scoping area, stop planning activity, notify the state office, and await guidance.

The following is a list of areas where there is little chance of disturbing significant cultural resources. This is due to either a lack of cultural resources or a lack of significant cultural resources. Significant cultural resources are those which are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Non-significant cultural resources may be present on some of these areas but have lost their integrity and therefore their significance.

Field office personnel and the State Archeologist may determine that those portions of the project area that fit into one or more of the following categories are areas of no affect for significant cultural resources.

- 1) Hill and valley wall slopes that are greater than 9%. Exceptions are in the vicinity of springs, flint bearing rock outcrops, rock shelters, benches, cemeteries, and caves. Prehistoric and historic cultural resources on summits erode down slope, often quite dramatically. Such slope-washed artifacts lack integrity and therefore lack significance.
- 2) Post settlement alluvium (PSA) is sediment that has washed into place since European agriculture was introduced into Iowa. This area of no affect extends only to the depth of the PSA, and not below it.
- 3) Hydric deposits (fluvial, organic, or lacustrine deposits exhibiting a hydric soil), excluding peat. This area of no affect extends only to the depth of the hydric deposit, and not below it.
- 4) Ground that can be documented as thoroughly disturbed by previous modern earth disturbance (such as existing plow zones) where the undertaking will not exceed the depth of disturbance.
- 5) Subsurface areas composed of saturated deposits where examination would be dangerous or require extraordinary measures.
- 6) Deposits beneath the depth of project ground disturbance including compaction.
- 7) Access routes that have been driven over previously by tractors, except for portions of the route that may need to have earthmoving.

The field office may consult with the State Archeologist to exclude the following portions from an area of potential affect:

- 8) Low order stream valleys with “v” shaped cross sections incised in bedrock, bedrock and talus, or glacial drift. In other words, valleys high up the drainage network, with steeply sloping walls, and little or no floodplain.
- 9) Deposits older than 12,000 years whose surfaces have been disturbed by cultivation or earth moving equipment in the last 50 years and are unlikely to have had intensive occupation that would be expected to have produced deep subsurface features. This applies to survey work for prehistoric sites, not historic sites.