

Cultural Resources Flowchart for Field Offices

Purpose: To ensure that cultural resource reviews and investigations are conducted according to policy.
Scope: When NRCS is the lead agency and conservation practices are being planned.

Producer Name _____

Twp _____ **Range** _____ **Sec** _____

Tract _____ **County** _____

Practice(s) _____

Attach a map of the project

Prior to ranking, TRAINED field office personnel shall determine if the conservation practice under consideration qualifies for exclusion from review in accordance with the Iowa Programmatic Agreement; or, failing that, if cultural resources/historic properties may be present within the Area of Potential Effects.

Circle appropriate actions taken for each of the items listed below.

Do some or all of the conservation practices have potential to affect a cultural resource (See Appendix A: Table 1)

No

Yes

Determine your Area of Potential Effect (APE) including access roads, borrow areas, and staging areas. Then conduct the background and field research, by answering **all** of the questions below.

Project Area BACKGROUND RESEARCH

1. Is the location a high probability area? (refer to the Cultural Resource Procedures Doc.)
2. Are there historic buildings or structures visible in the 1930s-1970s aerial maps of the project area? (i.e. barns, railroad, mills, bridges, etc.)
3. Are there cultural resources noted in historic plat maps in the project area? (i.e. cemeteries, schoolhouses, etc.)
4. Does ISITES identify archaeological sites in the project area section?
5. Does LIDAR show possible mounds, buildings, villages sites, or unusual anomalies?

I certify that I did background research on the project area:

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Project Area FIELD RESEARCH

1. Has the landowner ever collected artifacts within the project area?
2. Does the landowner know of any buildings, structures, or sites that are 50 years old or older within the project area?
3. Are there low standing structures, foundations, or surface anomalies visible on the surface in the project area that were not apparent on aerial maps? (i.e. mounds, dams, ruins, railroad, well, etc.)
4. Are there artifacts exposed on disturbed or exposed soil? (plowed fields, cow paths, root throws, cut banks)
5. Did shovel tests in low visibility areas produce any artifacts?

I certify that I made a field visit to the project area:

Signature: _____

Date of visit: _____

During research, if human remains, mounds, or cemeteries, are discovered, stop work and contact the NRCS State Office

If you answered NO to ALL the above questions

If you answered YES to ANY of the above questions, the project location may have significant cultural resources. Is there an alternate practice or location available?

No

Yes

Process completed.
 Record on CPA-52 Environmental Evaluation Worksheet and attach completed flowchart to CPA-52.
In the event that during construction there is a discovery of cultural resources, stop work immediately and contact state office.

Submit GeoPortal Cultural Resource Request to the State Office

Repeat this process on a new flow chart for the adjusted project area or conservation practice.

Did the NRCS Archaeologist determine that a historic property is located within the APE?

No

Yes

The NRCS Archaeologist assesses effects and treatment options through consultation with SHPO/Tribes (30 day minimum process) or the Field Office terminates the technical assistance and notifies the producer.

Signature: _____

Date: _____