



Cultural Resources Survey: what are they and why do I need one?

A cultural resources survey sometimes is needed to comply with what is commonly known as **Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act**. This requires federal agencies to decide if their projects may adversely impact a historic property (an important cultural resource) and is part of the overall environmental compliance process.

What is a Cultural Resource?

A cultural resource can include: prehistoric or historic archaeological sites, buildings, structures, objects, or landscapes.

What exactly is a Cultural Resources “Survey”?

The Surveys conducted for FSA projects are completed by trained archaeologists who examine archaeological data files, walk the plowed fields, excavate small shovel samples of soil, and/or document any existing buildings and/or structures within or very near to the area affected by the proposed project.

How does FSA determine when a survey is required?

A list of FSA projects that do require consultation are found on the reverse side of this card. If the project is one that requires additional consultation, then FSA will determine if a survey is needed based on project specific information gathered during the environmental review portion of the project.

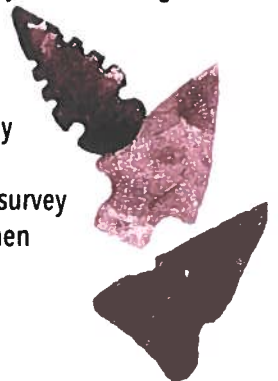
If a Survey is required who pays for it?

For FSA Farm Loan Program projects, the applicant is responsible for acquiring and paying for the qualified archaeologist, which can be then applied to the total loan amount. For Farm Program projects (like BCAP, CRP, ECP, and EFRP) FSA will pay for the surveys if Technical Assistance funds are available or seek technical assistance from another federal agency. If these funds are not available, then the applicant is responsible for survey cost. FSA staff can help locate a qualified archaeologist if needed.

What if the archaeologist finds something during the Survey?

If a cultural resource is discovered during the Survey then there are three possible decisions made by the archaeologists and FSA about the cultural resource are:

1. Determined to not be a culturally important resource and FSA would request that the proposed project proceed;
2. Considered a culturally important resource, but the project location is far enough away to not adversely impact the site; OR
3. May be a culturally important resource that could be impacted, and will need further survey and analysis. If the project location cannot be moved to avoid the cultural resource, then FSA will likely withdraw assistance or not approve the application.



How long does the Survey process take?

The length of time to conduct is dependent upon the size of the project area to be surveyed, but in general, a 1-2 acre project area should take about 15-20 days to complete. If no cultural resources are found or determined to be impacted, then FSA will send the survey report to the appropriate non-FSA official for a 30 day review period.

When can I start the project?

No part of a proposed project that involves ground disturbance or building alteration/construction can be initiated until you receive approval from FSA. If a Survey was required, this written approval should be a concurrence letter from the non-FSA official within 30 days or FSA will notify you that the 30 days has expired with no reply and you may proceed.

FSA PROGRAMS THAT **DO** HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO AFFECT HISTORIC PROPERTIES AND REQUIRE CONSULTATION

Loan Actions

- 1) Loans and loan subordination with construction, demolition, or ground disturbance below any previous disturbance;
- 2) Operating loans for livestock if it includes new construction;
- 3) Real estate purchase loans with new ground disturbance planned;
- 4) Term operating loans with construction or demolition planned;
- 5) Reorganizing farm operations if new construction planned or impacts to structures older than 50 years; and
- 6) Replacement building loans if structures are older than 50 years

Construction-

with disturbance in previously undisturbed areas or planned disturbance will exceed depth of previous disturbance

- 1) Alterations to buildings if structures are older than 50 years;
- 2) Animal trails and walkways;
- 3) Bridges;
- 4) Chiseling and subsoiling;
- 5) Construction of new farm storage facility;
- 6) Dams;
- 7) Dikes and levees;
- 8) Diversions;
- 9) Drop spillways;
- 10) Dugouts;
- 11) Excavation;
- 12) Grade stabilization structures;
- 13) Grading, leveling, shaping, and filling;
- 14) Installation of structures for water flow such as flashboard risers, gates, chutes, and outlets;
- 15) Irrigation systems;
- 16) Land smoothing;
- 17) Lined waterways or outlets;
- 18) Lining;
- 19) Livestock crossing facilities;
- 20) Pesticide containment facility;
- 21) Pipe drop;
- 22) Pipelines-buried;
- 23) Ponds, including sealing and lining;
- 24) Precision land farming with ground disturbance;
- 25) Riparian buffer establishment;
- 26) Roads, including access roads;
- 27) Rock barriers;
- 28) Rock filled infiltration trenches;
- 29) Sediment Basins;
- 30) Site preparation for planting;
- 31) Soil and water conservation structures;
- 32) Streambank and shoreline protection;
- 33) Structures for water control;
- 34) Subsurface drains;
- 35) Surface roughening;
- 36) Terracing;
- 37) Underground outlet;
- 38) Watering tank or trough;
- 39) Wells; and
- 40) Wetland restoration.

Management and Planting Actions-

with disturbance in undisturbed areas or planned disturbance will exceed depth of previous disturbance

- 1) Establishing or maintaining wildlife plots;
- 2) Prescribed burning;
- 3) Tree planting when root balls exceed 1 gallon containers;
- 4) Wildlife upland habitat management;

Other Actions

- 1) Conservation easements with planned construction;
- 2) Inventory property lease or sale without protective easements or covenants;

Obstruction removal- if any planned disturbance will be below depth of previous disturbance;



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