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NATIONAL CULTURAL RESOURCES PROCEDURES HANDBOOK

190 – ECS

AMENDMENT NC01

SUBJECT: ECS – National Cultural Resources Procedures

Purpose: To supplement Part 601 of Title 190 to the National Cultural Resources Procedures Handbook with North Carolina material.

Effective Date: This amendment is effective upon receipt.

Filing Instructions:

Insert Page NC190.601.C (1), Amend NC01, August 2007

Insert Page NC190.601.G (1), Amend NC01, August 2007

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary K. Combs". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of a vertical red line.

Mary K. Combs
State Conservationist

Attachment

PART 601 – NATIONAL CULTURAL RESOURCES PROCEDURES

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SUBPART C – PROCEDURES FOR COMPLYING WITH SECTION 106 OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT AND RELATED AUTHORITIES

NC601.22

NC601.22 Procedures for the Consideration of Cultural Resources in NRCS Undertakings: Identifying, Avoiding, and Determining Impacts to Cultural Resources

North Carolina Planning Procedures for Complying with Cultural Resources Policies

National policy requires planners to identify and protect cultural resources early in the planning and environmental evaluation processes of all assistance activities classified as an undertaking.

Step 1: In addition, all NRCS planned practices will receive a Cultural Resources Survey (note: only the Cultural Resources specialist or individuals who have completed the Cultural Resources Training may make this determination). A survey shall be conducted for all the practices being considered for all fields being planned. Documentation of this Cultural Resources Survey should be located in the case file on the NC Inventory of Planning Area form and NC-CPA-52, or on the optional NC Cultural Resources Survey Documentation form.

Step 2: A NC Cultural Resources Review Form shall be completed for all NRCS planned activities or programs that have the potential to affect cultural resources.

- In almost all cases, a NC Cultural Resources Review form should be submitted when the plan includes practices located on the first page of the Undertakings List.
- Practices listed on the second page of this list are generally considered to have a low potential to impact cultural resources unless the practice is intrusive into previously undisturbed soil.
- It is rare that practices located on the third page of this list will have the potential to impact a cultural resource.

Step 3: The Cultural Resources Specialist completes the Cultural Resources Review, in consultation with the SHPO and/or the THPO. The Cultural Resources Specialist determines if an on-site evaluation by the Cultural Resources Specialist is required. The Cultural Resources Specialist will provide the results of the Cultural Resources Review back to the field office. The planner should expect the Cultural Resources Review to be completed in two to three weeks. The completed Cultural Resources Review should be filed in the case file.

Step 4: Based on the Cultural Resources Review, the planner will ensure that the practices planned and practice designs protect cultural resources in their original location to the fullest extent practicable by avoiding adverse impacts. If the effect of an undertaking is determined to be adverse on historic properties, NRCS, in further consultation with SHPO and/or THPO, participants, and other interested parties as appropriate, will develop appropriate mitigation measures before completing the assistance or beginning the construction phase of implementation.

NC601.60 Glossary of Terms

Definitions

The following definitions shall be used to ensure compliance with NHPA and state laws:

Cultural Resources Review in North Carolina is a more formal review that is conducted by the CR Specialist, and is initiated when a NC CR Review Form is submitted by the field staff. This Review will include a study of existing CR information in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) or Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO). An on-site evaluation may be required in some cases.

Cultural Resources Survey is the initial on-site evaluation conducted by a qualified Cultural Resources Specialist (CRS) or trained NRCS personnel to assess whether it is likely that cultural resources will be impacted by the planned practices.

NC Cultural Resources Review Form in North Carolina should be completed by the field staff and submitted to the CR Specialist in all cases when there are indications that NRCS planned activities or programs have the potential to affect cultural resources. The form also identifies the information (e.g. photocopy of topographic map) that must be submitted with the form.

Undertaking in North Carolina is considered for the purposes of planning to be any practice that has a potential to impact a cultural resource. The planner has the responsibility to initially determine whether the assistance requested is an undertaking. Section II of the FOTG categorizes all practices into three lists: List 1 – conservation practices considered to potentially affect cultural resources; List 2 – practices considered to have a low potential to impact cultural resources, unless intrusive; and List 3 – practices generally considered to have a very low potential to impact cultural resources.