



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pacific Northwest Region
909 First Avenue
Seattle, Washington 98104-1060

300/0-27

SEE D-2
for DEA

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L7617(PNR-RE)

JUN 15 1995

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument

From: Interim Deputy Field Director, Pacific West Field Area

Subject: Transmittal of Approved FONSI

Reference: Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument, Site Selection Study/Environmental Assessment, Package 102, Project Type 06

The subject Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is approved. The original signed FONSI is being retained at the Seattle SSO central files. Copies are being transmitted to HAFO and DSC for your records. We would suggest sending a copy of the FONSI to any agency, organization or individual that commented on the Site Selection Study/EA.

One point of clarification regarding the "stop work" clause related to site archeology. Even though the proposed museum site has been surveyed and cleared for archeological resources, where there is an unanticipated discovery of an archeological resource during construction, in accord with 36 CFR800.11, all work shall stop in an area of discovery until the SSO archeologist has been notified, and the Idaho SHPO and the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation have been given an opportunity to comment.

Please note that the current 10-238 regarding this project will need to be revised, but we would recommend delaying its revision until after the entire 10-238/construction priority system is revised sometime during FY 1996.

William C. Walters

Enclosure

cc:

DSC/TWE, RErnenwein w/enc.
SSSO/RC, Stoothman w/enc.

PLEASE RETURN TO:

TECHNICAL INFORMATION CENTER
DENVER SERVICE CENTER
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SCANNED

5/25/01

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT/DECISION NOTICE

Research Center and Museum, Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument

Project Description

The National Park Service (NPS) has prepared a site selection planning study and environmental assessment for the Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument research center and museum. The site is located approximately 1½ miles southwest of the town of Hagerman, Idaho. A new facility is necessary to conduct scientific and educational studies and to increase the interpretation opportunities of the monument, as directed by the monument's enabling legislation (Public Law 100-696, title III).

A complete description of the proposal and the alternatives considered is included in the *Draft Site Selection Planning Study/Environmental Assessment for the Research Center/Museum, Hagerman Fossil Bed National Monument, March 1993*.

Compliance

The National Park Service has determined the proposed action can proceed with no significant adverse effect to natural or cultural resources as documented by the EA. Site specific environmental compliance will be done at the time of the facility's design as appropriate. A summary of the impacts is as follows-

Bald eagles winter and migrate near the site; however, there will be no adverse impacts to these eagles or other wildlife as a result of the proposed project. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has been consulted regarding this project.

Approximately 4 acres of soils and land surface would be impacted due to construction of research/visitor and maintenance facilities none of which is prime farm land or special soils.

There would be no long-term adverse impacts on air or water quality. At the time of design and construction, measures will be taken to ensure minimal runoff from the site.

The NPS, in consultation with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, signed a Memorandum of Agreement to mitigate adverse effects to the Bell-Gisler Homestead. The Bell-Gisler homestead will be documented prior to construction activities. An area survey conducted by the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer found no evidence of significant archeological resources.

If previously unknown cultural resources are discovered during design and/or construction phases, every effort will be made to avoid impacts to them according to the requirements of 36 CFR 800.11 and, as appropriate, provisions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990. If avoidance is infeasible, the National Park Service will develop mitigating measures with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

The proposed action complies with the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplain Management) and 11990 (Protection of Wetlands).

Public Review

Public review of the draft study and environmental assessment (EA) was conducted from April 1993 to May 1993. Public meetings on the draft study were held in Hagerman, Twin Falls, Buhl, and Gooding, Idaho during May 1993. During this review period the only substantive comments received were regarding a potential increase in traffic. The National Park Service has funded a traffic study in conjunction with preparation of the General Management Plan now in progress. The impacts from increased traffic and appropriate mitigation will be addressed in the GMP.

Finding of No Significant Impact

I find that the proposed action does not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1508.9), an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

Decision

It is my decision to implement the proposed action from the Hagerman Fossil Beds Research Center and Museum Site Selection Study and Environmental Assessment.

Recommended: Nel King 06/27/95
Superintendent, Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument Date

Approved: William C. Walters 6/15/95
Interim Deputy Field Director, Pacific West Field Area Date