



## Categorical Exclusion Documentation Form (CE Form)

**Project:** Small-Arms Firing Ranges Investigation

**PEPC Project Number:** 97414

**Description of Action (Project Description):**

The National Park Service (NPS) is soliciting bids to conduct continuing investigation at two small arms firing ranges (SAFRs) that are to be closed, and are located within the Ozark National Scenic Riverway, Van Buren, Missouri (MO). The two SAFRs include the Big Spring SAFR located near Van Buren, MO and the Upper Current SAFR located near Akers, MO.

The Big Spring SAFR dates back to the 1950s as a public shooting range, but was subjected to limited use. This SAFR became more active in the 1970s after NPS acquisition, and was used by multiple agencies for practice, training, and qualification. A wide variety of small arms were fired, and ammunition includes .40 caliber, .45 caliber, and 9 mm pistol rounds, .223 rifle rounds, and 1-ounce shotgun slugs and buckshot. The target stands were located in front of a natural hillside that acted as an impact zone. Recent use has been fairly limited, including semiannual qualification by six law enforcement personnel. Most recently, this SAFR has not been used and is considerably over-grown with understory plants and grasses. A barn (storage building) is located adjacent to the range floor. Figure 1 shows site features.

The Upper Current SAFR dates back to the 1970s for exclusive NPS use. This SAFR was used for practice, training, and qualification. A wide variety of small arms were fired, and ammunition includes .40 caliber, .45 caliber, and 9 mm pistol rounds, .223 rifle rounds, and 1-ounce shotgun slugs and buckshot. The target stands were located in front of a manmade earthen berm approximately 7 feet high that acted as an impact zone. Use has been fairly limited (e.g., semiannual qualification by five NPS Rangers). This SAFR has not been used for the past few years, with the berm being fairly overgrown with saplings, plants, and grasses. The range floor is gravelly with a short grass covering. Figure 2 shows site features.

An initial assessment was performed by Terracon Consults, Inc. (Terracon) in 2006. Terracon conducted surface and subsurface soil samples from the range floors, impact zones, areas flanking the impact zones (Big Spring SAFR), and areas behind the impact zone (Upper Current SAFR). Terracon analyzed select soil samples for total lead and also conducted a count of bullets, bullet fragments, and shot. Twenty-three locations were sampled at the Big Spring SAFR for visual and physical assessment, with 17 surface soil samples analyzed for lead and no subsurface soil samples analyzed for lead. Twenty-three locations were sampled at the Big Spring SAFR for visual and physical assessment, with 15 surface soil samples analyzed for lead and two subsurface soil samples analyzed for lead.

According to the Terracon report, lead bullets and shot were observed in samples collected from the impact zone at both SAFRs. Total lead was detected at concentrations exceeding the Missouri Department of Natural Resources Hazardous (MoDNR) Waste Unit's Risk-Based Corrective Action Non-Residential Land Use Criterion (aka screening criterion) in surface soil samples collected from the impact zone at both SAFRs. Subsurface soil sampling (below a depth of 0.5 feet) was more limited than surface soil sampling. Total lead was detected in the two subsurface soil samples above the MoDNR screening criterion at the Upper Current SAFR. Data gaps are evident and include complete horizontal and vertical extent of contamination and soil chemistry.

See attachments.

**Project Locations:**

**Location 1**

**County:** Shannon **State:** MO

**Location 2**

**County:** Dent **State:** MO

There are no required mitigations identified.

**CE Citation:** E.5 Nondestructive data collection, inventory (including field, aerial, and satellite surveying and mapping), study, research, and monitoring activities.

**CE Justification:**

Survey and data collection.

**Decision:** I find that the action fits within the categorical exclusion above. Therefore, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No extraordinary circumstances apply.

**Signature**

**Superintendent:**



Jason Lott

**Date:**

10/27/2020



**Extraordinary Circumstances:**

If implemented, would the proposal...	Yes/No	Notes
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?	No	
B. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?	No	
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?	No	
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	No	
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	No	
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	No	
G. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?	No	
H. Have significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?	No	
I. Violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	No	
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898)?	No	
K. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 130007)?	No	
L. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?	No	



# ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

## A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

### 1. Park: Ozark National Scenic Riverways

### 2. Project Description:

**Project Name:** Small-Arms Firing Ranges Investigation

**Prepared by:** Jessica Fry **Date Prepared:** 09/14/2020 **Telephone:**

**PEPC Project Number:** 97414

#### **Locations:**

County, State: Shannon, MO

County, State: Dent, MO

#### **Describe project:**

The National Park Service (NPS) is soliciting bids to conduct continuing investigation at two small arms firing ranges (SAFRs) that are to be closed, and are located within the Ozark National Scenic Riverway, Van Buren, Missouri (MO). The two SAFRs include the Big Spring SAFR located near Van Buren, MO and the Upper Current SAFR located near Akers, MO.

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See attachments.

**Area of potential effects (as defined in 36 CFR 800.16[d])**

The APE is the Big Spring Firing Range located near the Chilton Creek Barn and the Upper Current Firing Range in the Welch area. Project calls for sampling in the firing ranges to determine depth and extent of lead contamination for future mitigation measures. Testing will involve incremental sampling methodology and discreet sampling at both sites. ISM surface soil samples will be collected from 0-1 feet deep using a 1-inch diameter stainless steel soil corer. Discrete samples will be collected from 1-2 feet deep by hand using a stainless steel bucket auger approximately 2" in diameter. See NHPA Info document provided by contractor attached under basic file information. Current project is only for the sampling to determine the extent of lead impacts. Future mitigation, which may require additional ground disturbance, will be reviewed under a separate project after proposed methodology has been submitted.

**3. Has the area of potential effects been surveyed to identify historic properties?**

       No

  X   Yes

Source or reference: Big Spring CLI 2017

**4. Potentially Affected Resource(s):**

**Archeological Resources Present:** No

**Archeological Resources Notes:** Areas targeted for sampling have not been surveyed for archeological resources. However, diameter of sampling units is unlikely to damage archeological resources.

**Historical Structures/Resources Present:** Yes

**Historical Structures/Resources Notes:** Big Spring firing range is located next to the Chilton Creek Barn in the Big Spring Historic District. Sampling is unlikely to impact the resource. Crews will be informed of the historic nature of the site.

**Cultural Landscapes Present:** Yes

**Cultural Landscapes Notes:** Big Spring Firing Range is within the Big Spring Historic District. Site is also in proposed wilderness.

**Ethnographic Resources Present:** No

**5. The proposed action will: (check as many as apply)**

       No Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure

No Replace historic features/elements in kind

No Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure

No Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)

No Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape

No Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible

No Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible

No Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources

No Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources

No Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures)

Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

#### 6. Supporting Study Data:

(Attach if feasible; if action is in a plan, EA or EIS, give name and project or page number.)

#### B. REVIEWS BY CULTURAL RESOURCE SPECIALISTS

The park 106 coordinator requested review by the park's cultural resource specialist/advisors as indicated by check-off boxes or as follows:

##### [ X ] 106 Advisor

Name: Jessica Fry

Date: 09/14/2020

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* [ ]

Assessment of Effect:    No Potential to Cause Effect    No Historic Properties Affected   X   No Adverse Effect    Adverse Effect   X   Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:

Doc Method: Streamlined Review (PA)

Streamlined Activity:

8. Installation of Environmental Monitoring Units

##### [ X ] Archeologist

Name: Ashley Barnett

Date: 09/30/2020

*Check if project does not involve ground disturbance* [ ]

Assessment of Effect:    No Potential to Cause Effect    No Historic Properties Affected   X   No Adverse Effect    Adverse Effect   X   Streamlined Review

Recommendations for conditions or stipulations: Small-diameter bores are unlikely to disturb subsurface cultural deposits. Future work will likely need additional compliance.

Doc Method: Streamlined Review (PA)

Streamlined Activity:

8. Installation of Environmental Monitoring Units



**[ X ] Archeologist**

**Name:** Morgan Beyer

**Date:** 09/14/2020

**Comments:** The small size of the bores will not affect any cultural resources present. Further archeological testing will need to be completed prior to any actual lead mitigation.

**Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [ ]**

**Assessment of Effect:** ☐ No Potential to Cause Effect ☐ No Historic Properties Affected ☒ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect ☐ Streamlined Review

**Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:**

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**[ X ] Curator**

**Name:** Heather Young

**Date:** 09/16/2020

**Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [ ]**

**Assessment of Effect:** ☐ No Potential to Cause Effect ☐ No Historic Properties Affected ☒ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect ☒ Streamlined Review

**Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:**

**Doc Method:** Streamlined Review (PA)

**Streamlined Activity:**

8. Installation of Environmental Monitoring Units

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**[ X ] Historian**

**Name:** Rachel Franklin Weekley

**Date:** 09/14/2020

**Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [ ]**

**Assessment of Effect:** ☐ No Potential to Cause Effect ☐ No Historic Properties Affected ☒ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect ☒ Streamlined Review

**Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:**

**Doc Method:** Streamlined Review (PA)

**Streamlined Activity:**

8. Installation of Environmental Monitoring Units

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**[ X ] Historical Architect**

**Name:** William Harlow

**Date:** 09/14/2020

**Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [ ]**

**Assessment of Effect:** ☐ No Potential to Cause Effect ☐ No Historic Properties Affected ☒ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect ☒ Streamlined Review

**Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:**

**Doc Method:** Streamlined Review (PA)

**Streamlined Activity:**

8. Installation of Environmental Monitoring Units

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**[ X ] Historical Architect**

**Name:** Roberta Young

**Date:** 09/14/2020

**Comments:** Sampling the soils presents no issues related to the cultural landscape. The post sampling actions however would likely require additional 106 consultation.

The Big Spring firing range may be contributing as part of the larger land use of the area in the 1950.

**Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [ ]**

**Assessment of Effect:** ☐ No Potential to Cause Effect ☐ No Historic Properties Affected ☒ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect ☒ Streamlined Review

**Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:** The results of the study should be used to inform the "next steps" of the 106 process for both environmental clean up and possibility preservation/interpretation of the 1950s era Big Spring Range.

**Doc Method:** Streamlined Review (PA)

**Streamlined Activity:**

8. Installation of Environmental Monitoring Units

**[ X ] Regional Section 106 Coordinator**

**Name:** Stephen Rogers

**Date:** 10/14/2020

**Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [ ]**

**Assessment of Effect:** ☐ No Potential to Cause Effect ☐ No Historic Properties Affected ☒ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect ☒ Streamlined Review

**Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:**

**Doc Method:** Streamlined Review (PA)

**Streamlined Activity:**

8. Installation of Environmental Monitoring Units

**No Reviews From:** Anthropologist, Historical Landscape Architect

**C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**1. Assessment of Effect:**

☐ No Potential to Cause Effects  
☐ No Historic Properties Affected  
☒ No Adverse Effect  
☐ Adverse Effect

**2. Documentation Method:**

**[ ] A. Standard 36 CFR Part 800 Consultation**

Further consultation under 36 CFR Part 800 is needed.



**☒ B. Streamlined Review Under the 2008 Servicewide Programmatic Agreement (PA)**

The above action meets all conditions for a streamlined review under section III of the 2008 Servicewide PA for Section 106 compliance.

**Applicable Streamlined Review Criteria**

(Specify 1-16 of the list of streamlined review criteria.)

**8. Installation of Environmental Monitoring Units.**

**☐ C. Undertaking Related to Park Specific or Another Agreement**

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under another document such as a park, region or statewide agreement established in accord with 36 CFR 800.7 or 36 CFR 800.14.

**☐ D. Combined NEPA/NHPA Process**

Process and documentation required for the preparation of an EA/FONSI or an EIS/ROD to comply with Section 106 is in accord with 36 CFR 800.8.c.

**☐ E. Memo to Project File**

**3. Consultation Information**

**SHPO Required:** No

**SHPO Sent:**

**SHPO Received:**

**THPO Required:**

**THPO Sent:**

**THPO Received:**

**SHPO/THPO Notes:**

**Advisory Council Participating:** No

**Advisory Council Notes:**

**Additional Consulting Parties:** No

**4. Stipulations and Conditions:** Following are listed any stipulations or conditions necessary to ensure that the assessment of effect above is consistent with 36 CFR Part 800 criteria of effect or to avoid or reduce potential adverse effects.

**5. Mitigations/Treatment Measures:** Measures to prevent or minimize loss or impairment of historic/prehistoric properties: (Remember that setting, location, and use may be relevant.)

No Assessment of Effect mitigations identified.

6. Assessment of Effect Notes:

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

Compliance Specialist:

NHPA Specialist

Jessica Fry



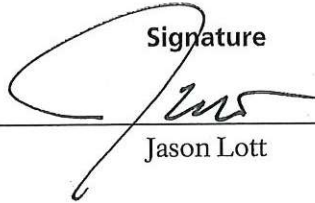
Date: 10/16/2020

E. SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL

The proposed work conforms to the NPS *Management Policies* and *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*, and I have reviewed and approve the recommendations, stipulations, or conditions noted in Section C of this form.

Signature

Superintendent:

  
Jason Lott

Date: 10/27/2020