



ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. Park: Denali National Park and Preserve

2. Project Description:

Project Name: Kantishna Airstrip Routine Maintenance and Minor Upgrades, Programmatic 2024-2028

Prepared by: Phoebe Gilbert **Date Prepared:** 03/25/2024 **Telephone:** 907-683-9540

PEPC Project Number: 121604

Locations:

County, State: Denali Borough, AK

Describe project:

This programmatic compliance applies to routine maintenance, repairs, and minor upgrades on the Kantishna Airstrip, located at the western terminus of the Denali Park Road. New construction or other major modifications to the airstrip are not included.

To be eligible, the activities must meet all conditions and stipulations for streamline review as identified in an existing Programmatic Agreement (PA). A list of actions taken under this programmatic compliance must be reported to the compliance team on an annual basis. As per the 2008 Nationwide PA, this streamlined activity includes the following undertakings, as well as others that are comparable in scope, scale, and impact:

1. Preservation Maintenance and Repair of Historic Properties

d. Removal of non-historic, exotic species according to Integrated Pest Management principles when the species threatens cultural landscapes, archaeological sites, or historic or prehistoric structures.

2. Rehabilitation and/or Minor Relocation of Existing Trails, Walks, Paths, and Sidewalks

a. In-kind regrading, graveling, repaving, or other maintenance treatments of all existing trails, walks and paths within existing disturbed alignments.

b. Minor realignment of trails, walks, and paths where the ground is previously disturbed as determined by a qualified archeologist.

c. Changing the material or color of existing surfaces using materials that are recommended in an approved treatment plan or in keeping with the cultural landscape.

3. Repair/Resurfacing/Removal of Existing Roads, Trails, and Parking Areas

b. Existing roads, trails, parking areas, and associated features, that have been determined eligible for the National Register* in consultation with the SHPO/THPO, may be repaired or resurfaced in-kind. The project, including staging areas, cannot exceed the area of the existing surface and cannot exceed the depth of existing disturbance.

*The Kantishna airstrip is considered eligible for the National Register.

4. Health and Safety Activities

b. Limited activities to mitigate health and safety problems that can be handled without removal of historic fabric, surface treatments, or features that are character-defining elements, or features within previously disturbed areas or areas inventoried and found not to contain historic properties.

c. Testing of soil and removal of soil adjacent to buried tanks, provided the project does not exceed the area of existing disturbance and does not exceed the depth of existing disturbance, as determined by a qualified archaeologist.

i. Removal of both natural and anthropogenic surface debris following volcanic activity, tropical storms, hurricanes, tornados, or similar major weather events, provided removal methods do not include ground disturbance or otherwise cause damage to historic properties.

5. Routine Grounds Maintenance

- b. Woodland and woodlot management (including tree trimming, hazard tree removal, thinning, routine removal of exotic species that are not a significant component of a cultural landscape, stump grinding).
- c. Maintaining existing vegetation on earthworks, trimming trees adjacent to roadways and other historic roads and trails.
- f. Trimming of major specimen trees needed for tree health or to address critical health/safety conditions.
- g. Routine roadside and trail maintenance and cleanup with no ground disturbance.
- i. Removal of dead and downed vegetation using equipment and methods that do not introduce ground disturbance.

Mitigations:

1. Vegetation removal should occur before May 1st or after July 31st to avoid nesting season and must comply with Migratory Bird Treaty Act guidelines. As approved by FWS, annual vegetation brushing within 5 meters of maintained roads and airstrips is permitted any time of year. Removing vegetation when it poses a direct safety risk to humans can occur at any time.
2. Slash (including tree boles below natural break and limbs) resulting from maintenance activities will be removed, and/or lopped and scattered, chipped, piled and burned.
3. Any unexpected discoveries of cultural, native grave sites, or other resources halts project work and must be immediately communicated to the Cultural Resource Management (CMR) Team.
4. No wetlands will be impacted. No actions will be taken that would result in dredging, filling, or otherwise impacting jurisdictional waters of the US, and are therefore subject to Clean Water Act Section 404.
5. Any fill material used will be from an approved weed/seed free source. All vehicles, equipment, gear, and tools will be cleaned prior to entering the park to ensure that no soil, seeds, or other organic materials with the potential to introduce non-native species are transported into the park.
6. Only NPS approved herbicides shall be used. Application of herbicides shall be by licensed applicators. All proposed work must be reviewed by the Integrated Pest Management coordinator in the park.
7. If other parties (e.g., inholders, State of Alaska, other agencies) request to perform routine maintenance on behalf of the NPS, park managers would issue a SUP or RWCA, which may be covered by this programmatic compliance.

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

Kantishna Airstrip

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

☐ No
☒ Yes

Source or reference:

4. Potentially Affected Resource(s):

Archeological Resources Present: No

Archeological Resources Notes: The Park Road is a historic structure, district, and CL.

Historical Structures/Resources Present: Yes

Cultural Landscapes Present: Yes

Cultural Landscapes Notes: The Park Road is a historic structure, district, and CL.

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: Phoebe Gilbert

Date: 03/25/2024

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:

2. Rehabilitation and/or Minor Relocation of Existing Trails, Walks, Paths, and Sidewalks
3. Repair/Resurfacing/Removal of Existing, Roads, Trails and Parking Areas

No Reviews From: Curator, Archeologist, Historical Architect, Historian, Other Advisor, Anthropologist, Historical Landscape Architect

C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Assessment of Effect:

☐ No Potential to Cause Effects

<input type="checkbox"/>	No Historic Properties Affected
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No Adverse Effect
<input type="checkbox"/>	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.)

2. Rehabilitation and/or Minor Relocation of Existing Trails, Walks, Paths, and Sidewalks.
3. Repair/Resurfacing/Removal of Existing, Roads, Trails and Parking Areas.

☐ 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:

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.)

Required Mitigations - For the proposed project actions to be within compliance requirements during construction and/or project implementation, the following mitigations must be adhered to:

- If other parties (e.g., inholders, State of Alaska, other agencies) request to perform routine maintenance on behalf of the NPS, park managers would issue a SUP or RWCA, which may be covered by this programmatic compliance.
- Only NPS approved herbicides shall be used. Application of herbicides shall be by licensed applicators. All proposed work must be reviewed by the Integrated Pest Management coordinator in the park.
- Any aggregate material used will be from an approved weed/seed free source. All vehicles, equipment, gear, and tools will be cleaned prior to entering the park to ensure that no soil, seeds, or other organic materials with the potential to introduce non-native species are transported into the park.
- No wetlands will be impacted. No actions will be taken that would result in dredging, filling, or otherwise impacting jurisdictional waters of the US, and would therefore be subject to Clean Water Act Section 404.
- Slash (including tree boles below natural break and limbs) resulting from maintenance activities will be removed, and/or lopped and scattered, chipped, piled and burned. Vegetation should only be burned under weather conditions that minimize the visibility of smoke and air quality effects for people nearby.
- Vegetation removal should occur before May 1st or after July 31st to avoid nesting season and must comply with Migratory Bird Treaty Act guidelines. As approved by FWS, annual vegetation brushing within 5 meters of maintained roads and airstrips is permitted any time of year. Removing vegetation when it poses a direct safety risk to humans can occur at any time.
- Any unexpected discoveries of cultural, native grave sites, or other resources halts project work and must be immediately communicated to the Cultural Resource Management (CMR) Team.

6. Assessment of Effect Notes:

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

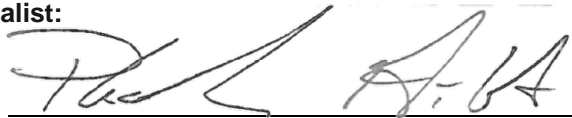
Compliance Specialist:

NHPA Specialist

Phoebe Gilbert

Liz Gonzalez

Negrete



Date: 5/20/24

Date:

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.

**Superintendent
Signature:**
