United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Rocky Mountain National Park
Estes Park, Colorado 80517

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H4217 (ROMO)

Reference: **ROMO Rehabilitate Kawuneeche Visitor Center and Administrative Headquarters and Improve Accessibility and Replace Deficient Exhibits at Kawuneeche Visitor Center**

Dear Reader:

Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP, or Park) is planning to rehabilitate the Kawuneeche Visitor Center (KVC) (B-0392; 5GA.1285) and attached administrative offices on the Colorado River District (CRD). KVC is a one-story Park Service Modern-style building constructed in 1968–1969 with additions constructed in 1989 and 1999. The work will include rehabilitation of the building and surrounding landscape, including the parking areas and utilities to bring it into good condition and to meet modern code requirements and needs. This will include meeting accessibility standards. In addition to the rehabilitation work, the exhibits in the KVC lobby, installed in 1992, will be replaced. The building was determined eligible at the local level of significance under National Register Criteria A and C on June 10, 2022. Additional information on the project can be found in the files on the public facing PEPC project #85954.

The park intends to use the Program Comment on Stewardship and Management of National Park Service Mission 66-Era Facilities (1945-1972) to complete the Section 106 compliance process for this project. The park finds that the majority of properties to be affected by this project are historic properties dating to the Mission 66-era. The park finds that an external review process for certain no adverse effects findings is necessary under this program comment, since conditions, including archeological monitoring and salvaging of historic materials that will be required.

The building originally consisted of three wings: the central lobby, the office wing to the north, and the comfort station to the south. The office wing is connected to the lobby via the information corridor; a covered walk extends from the south entrance of the lobby and connects to the comfort station. In 1989, an auditorium addition was constructed along the east (rear) elevation of the lobby. An original storage closet at the southeast corner of the office wing was expanded south into the open bay to create a larger closet. In 1999, the comfort station was expanded with an addition to its east elevation, and in 2008 a gable roof was added to the comfort station (Anderson Hallas Architects 2018:7). The employee parking lot was expanded between 2011 and 2013.

The APE for the undertaking includes the area described above, the Kawuneeche Visitor Center, including the administrative wing, and the landscape surrounding the building. See attached drawing set for the proposed limits of disturbance. Ground disturbance will occur related to landscaping and paving work, as well as the installation/replacement of utilities. The buildings have been documented in several reports, most recently in the determination of eligibility in 2022 referenced above. The area that has the potential to be disturbed has also been surveyed multiple times, including by Brunswig in 2002 (Brunswig 2002A), and several trails surveys in 2017 and 2018 (Briggs and Chance 2017, Engleman, et al. 2019). The only eligible resources identified, besides the Visitor Center itself, are Harbison Ditch (5GA02943.01; determined eligible September 14, 2020), Trail Ridge Road (5GA00307; listed

November 14, 1984). The Tonahutu Spur Trail (5GA04729.01) is also in the area, but was determined not eligible on June 10, 2022.

The park assembled a CRM team to review this project:

Nicole Arendt, Section 106 Coordinator and Archeologist
Kelly Dick, Tribal Liaison
Brenda McLain, Curator
Cheri Yost, Historian
Paul Woodruff, Historical Architect
Mark Miller, Historic Architect
Rose Lang, Landscape Architect
Amy Pallante, Other Advisor (Section 106)

This CRM Team met on May 15, 2025 to review and discuss this project. After this discussion, the CRM team agreed with the assessment of *No Adverse Effect* and their review comments are documented in PEPC #85954 and in the Assessment of Effect form for this project.

Per the Mission 66 Program Comment, the review period for this package is 15 business days from the receipt of this package. Written comments or objections may be submitted through the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment website or through email to the park.

If the Qualifying Undertaking is not substantively executed as documented in the ERP, including any resolution summary, if applicable, NPS will consult with Qualified Personnel and/or the CRM Team to determine whether the matter can be resolved and documented appropriately (*i.e.,* in the Consultation Record). If the matter cannot be resolved, and the initial effect findings would change, the Park Superintendent will reopen Section 106 and accomplish compliance for the proposed project via the Program Comment (*i.e.*, a new or updated ERP or IRP) or another means (*i.e.*, standard Section 106 review, a park-specific programmatic agreement, or an undertaking-specific memorandum of agreement).

Project information is attached to this memo and also accessible on the PEPC website, https://parkplanning.nps.gov/KVCRehab . Should you have any questions or comments, or require additional documents or information that is not provided on the public site, please contact Section 106 Coordinator Nicole Arendt at nicole_arendt@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

CALEB WATERS Digitally signed by CALEB WATERS
Date: 2025.07.21 13:09:21 -06'00'

Caleb Waters
Acting Superintendent