

**File Code:** 1560; 2360**Date:** January 7, 2022**Route To:****Subject:** Notification of Availability – National Programmatic Agreement for Phasing Section 106 for Large-Scale Multi-Year Projects**To:** Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Deputy Chiefs, and WO Directors

I am pleased to announce the execution of the *National Programmatic Agreement for Phasing Section 106 for Large-Scale Multi-Year Projects* (Phasing NPA) under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The Phasing NPA provides the Forest Service an optional alternative process to comply with Section 106 for most large-scale multi-year projects. Examples of projects the Forest Service can use the Phasing NPA for include landscape restoration, fuels reduction, and utility and transportation infrastructure improvements.

Under the standard Section 106 process, the Forest Service must complete Section 106 prior to a project decision. The Phasing NPA allows the Agency to complete Section 106 after a project decision, provided the Line Officer or Unit Leader initiates consultation early in project development, and documents their Section 106 commitments in a Heritage Implementation Plan (HIP). Under the Phasing NPA, HIPs are like project-level PAs, but they do not require SHPO or other consulting party signatures.

Line Officers and Unit Leaders who choose to use the Phasing NPA may plan for its use immediately but will need to meet training requirements before formally initiating a HIP. Training and other resources will be available within 90 days of execution of the Phasing NPA on an internal SharePoint site and on the Phasing NPA website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/heritage/npa>.

The Forest Service has committed to a two-year monitoring period to assess its implementation and consider any amendments to improve the Phasing NPA. During this time, the WO Heritage Program will receive and analyze comments on the Phasing NPA's implementation. Non-tribal parties may send comments to SM.FS.HeritAgrmnt2@usda.gov. Tribal parties may send comments to SM.FS.HeritAgrmnt@usda.gov.

If you have any questions about the Phasing NPA, please contact Doug Stephens at douglas.stephens@usda.gov or Deirdre Remley at deirdre.remley@usda.gov.

X 

Signed by: RANDY MOORE
RANDY MOORE
Chief



Enclosure

cc: Regional Recreation and Heritage Directors, Regional Heritage Program Leaders, Regional Tribal Relations Program Managers, Doug Stephens, Deirdre Remley, Reed Robinson, Rebecca Hill