



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Headquarters

Annual Report 2021-2022:

National Programmatic Agreement among the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers for Phasing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for Large-Scale Multi-Year Undertakings (Phasing NPA)

**Report of the Phasing NPA's use during 12/6/2021 – 12/6/2022, pursuant to Section XI.
June 2023**



Introduction

On December 6th, 2021, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO), and the Forest Service (Signatories) executed the “National Programmatic Agreement among the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers for Phasing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for Large-Scale Multi-Year Undertakings” (Phasing NPA). This report represents the annual report for the Phasing NPA’s first calendar year.

During the first reporting period, the Forest Service applied the Phasing NPA to 10 different Projects. As consultations were early in development, no Heritage Implementation Plans were issued, and the number of projects were relatively low, signatories agreed to include a narrative section to highlight each Project and its consultation status, in addition to the tabular form required by the Phasing NPA. The Phasing NPA requires a table of the names, location (State and Forest), types of Projects reviewed under the NPA, corresponding number of dispute, CRSOs adopted, and the number of HIP commitments completed and/or initiated.

A summary of the Phasing NPA’s tailored Section 106 process is available at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/heritage/npa>.

Acronyms

ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
CRSOs	Cultural Resource Stewardship Opportunities
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Action
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
Section 106	Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
HIP	Heritage Implementation Plan
Project	Defined in the Phasing NPA as an undertaking per 54 U.S.C. 300320 “a project, activity, or program funded in whole or in part under the direct or indirect jurisdiction of a Federal agency, including those carried out by or on behalf of a Federal agency; those carried out with Federal financial assistance; those requiring a Federal permit, license or approval; and those subject to State or local regulation administered pursuant to a delegation or approval by a Federal Agency.”
Phasing NPA	National Programmatic Agreement among the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers for Phasing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for Large-Scale Multi-Year Undertakings
WO	Washington Office, Forest Service Headquarters
WUI	Wildland Urban Interface



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Required Report Table



	Project Name	Forest	State	Project Type	CRSOs adopted	Disputes	HIP Commitments initiated/ completed
1	Adin Pass Vegetation Project	Modoc National Forest	California	Aims to improve the ecological resilience of stands to natural disturbances, to reduce the chance of severe wildfire and to increase the ability to control wildfires within the wildland urban interface through standard forest harvesting operations, mechanical treatments, and prescribed fire activities. The proposed Project may include up to 4,847 acres.	0	0	NA
2	Bitterroot Front Project	Bitterroot National Forest	Montana	Aims to reduce the threat of large-scale fires within the WUI, improve forest conditions, and to provide commercial timber products through a variety of fuel reduction treatment options including but not limited to: prescribed burning; non-commercial and commercial thinning. Additionally, the Project will include transportation management and recreation improvement activities. The Project will include approximately 150,000 acres of Forest lands within the WUI.	0	0	NA
3	Calloway Project	Willamette National Forest	Oregon	Aims to 1) Provide a sustainable supply of timber products; (2) Improve stand conditions in terms of, density, diversity, and structure; (3) Manage Riparian Reserves to acquire desired vegetation characteristics to attain Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives, (4) Sustainably manage the road systems in the project area, and (5) Strategically reduce hazardous fuels to assist future wildfire management. The proposed Project is 57,832 acres.	TBD	0	NA
4	Castle Fire Ecological Restoration Project	Sequoia National Forest	California	Aims to promote forest resilience and ecological integrity by reducing fuel loads, reforestation, wildlife habitat improvement and hydrologic improvement activities, addressing the effects of the 2020 Castle Fire. The Sequoia National Forest (Forest) proposes to use a combination of mechanical and hand treatments to remove fuels. The Project will also include prescribed burns and reforestation. The Project will treat approximately 39,335 acres.	4	0	NA
5	Community Protection & Forest Recovery Project	Plumas National Forest	California	Aims to use prescribed fire, manual and mechanized treatments to maintain or reduce fuel loads, modify future fire behavior, and reduce future impacts of wildfire. The Project will address approximately 1.0 million acres within the forest administrative boundaries	0	0	NA



6	Coyote Divide Vegetation Project	Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest	Montana	Aims to reduce hazardous fuels and fire threat within the WUI and to enhance associated forest and rangeland ecosystems across the project area. The Project includes forest vegetation treatments such as timber harvests and prescribed fire on about 37,000 acres near several local communities.	15	0	NA
7	Eastern Sierra Climate and Communities Resilience Project	Inyo National Forest	California	Encompasses 56,000 acres of non-Wilderness lands administered by the Inyo National Forest (Forest) surrounding the town of Mammoth Lakes, California. Restoration work proposed to occur over the next decade includes targeted removal of live and dead trees and undesirable fuels in mixed conifer forests, aspen stands, sagebrush steppe habitats, and meadows through a combination of hand labor and/or mechanical methods, burning, and timber sales.	5	0	NA
8	Hazardous Fuels & Fuels Management	Six Rivers National Forest	California	Aims to achieve fire and vegetation resiliency across the Six Rivers National Forest (Forest). The Forest will use a series of low intensity tools to prepare for prescribed burning, apply beneficial prescribed fire and associated fuels-reduction management tools on up to 20,000 acres per year. The treatments will focus on understory forest vegetation and dead and down debris on the forest floor. The Project's area of potential effect includes the 1,272,952 acres administered by the Forest. The Project will last approximately 10 years.	3	0	NA
9	Mendocino Fire & Fuels Management Strategy Project	Mendocino National Forest	California	Aims to use prescribed fire, manual and mechanized treatments to maintain or reduce fuel loads, modify future fire behavior, and reduce future impacts of wildfire within and adjacent to the Mendocino National Forest lands. This forest-wide Project covers about 688,700 acres within the forest administrative boundaries, except for designated wilderness areas and the Chico Seed Orchard.	11	0	NA
10	Windy Fire Ecological Restoration Project	Sequoia National Forest	California	Aims to promote forest resilience and ecological integrity by reducing fuel loads, reforestation, wildlife habitat improvement and hydrologic improvement activities, addressing the effects of the 2021 Windy Fire through a combination of mechanical and hand treatments to remove fuels. The project will also include prescribed burns and reforestation. The Project 16,977-acres of lands administered by the Forest adjacent to the Tule River Indian Tribe of California reservation	4	0	NA



Phasing NPA Project Summaries

Adin Pass Vegetation Project

Modoc National Forest

The Project

The Adin Pass Vegetation Project aims to improve the ecological resilience of stands to natural disturbances, to reduce the chance of severe wildfire and to increase the ability to control wildfires within the wildland urban interface. The Modoc National Forest (Forest) proposes to use standard forest harvesting operations, mechanical treatments, and prescribed fire activities. The proposed Project may include up to 4,847 acres and is not expected to continue past 2027.

The Process

The Forest sent an official Project initiation letter in March 2022 and initiated Section 106 consultation under the Phasing NPA on 6 June 2022. Consulting parties included the California SHPO, the Pit River Tribe, and the ACHP. The ACHP declined to participate further. The kickoff meeting was held via Teams on 25 July 2022, with representatives from SHPO and the Pit River Tribe in attendance. During the meeting, CRSOs were discussed; the Pit River THPO expressed interest in coordinating with the Tribal Council to identify potential CRSOs. The Forest chose to utilize the Phasing NPA for the Project due to the multi-year nature of the undertaking. During the consultation period thus far, one disagreement arose regarding the amount of time parties had to review intermediate drafts of the HIP. The Forest resolved the disagreement by providing parties 30-days for review.

Status as of December 6th, 2022

As of December 6th, the Forest circulated a draft HIP for review twice: in August and October 2022. The Forest received comments from the SHPO in September 2022 on the August draft. The Forest revised the HIP and sent the documentation to SHPO and the Pit River Tribe on 19 October 2022. The Forest has not yet received comments back from either party. Since initiating consultation, the Forest has had one meeting with participants via the Microsoft Teams platform and has emailed several times to address questions / concerns, and update participants on progress made. Two drafts of the HIP have been shared with participants. No CRSOs have been identified or incorporated into the HIP to date; the Pit River THPO intends to discuss this possibility with Tribal Council and follow up with the Forest.



View of Adin Pass Project Area. USDA Forest Service photo.

At a Glance

- Project type:
Restoration
- Acreage:
4,847 acres
- Consultation initiated:
6 June 2022
- Consultation status:
Updated HIP draft is in review by HIP consulting parties
- Number of CRSOs:
0 proposed
0 adopted
- Number of disputes:
0

Bitterroot Front Project

Bitterroot National Forest, Montana and Idaho

The Project

The Bitterroot Front Project aims to reduce the threat of large-scale fires within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), improve forest conditions, and to provide commercial timber products for the American people. The project will include a variety of fuel reduction treatment options including but not limited to prescribed burning; non-commercial and commercial thinning. Additionally, the Project will include transportation management and recreation improvement activities. The Project will include approximately 150,000 acres of Bitterroot National Forest (Forest) lands within the WUI.

The Process

The Bitterroot Front project is still in the early stages of planning. The Forest initiated Section 106 consultation under the Phasing NPA in late June 2020. The Forest invited the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and the Nez Perce Tribe to begin discussions and development of a HIP as outlined in the Phasing NPA. All parties accepted their participation. The Forest chose to utilize the Phasing NPA given the multi-year and large scale of the Project and need to phase Section 106. The Forest has not hosted a first kick-off meeting and is considering following CRSO.

Status as of December 6th, 2022

The Bitterroot National Forest has invited interested parties and Tribal Partners to begin discussions and development of a HIP in association with the Bitterroot Front Project under the Phasing NPA to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The project itself is still in the early phases of development and preliminary discussions with interested parties, consulting partners, and Tribal Governments are on-going at this time



Segment of the proposed project area near Blodgett Canyon, known as the Bitterroot Front, circa 1930s.

At a Glance

Project type:

Fuels Reduction

Acreage:

150,000 acres

Consultation initiated:

06/30/2020

Consultation status:

Initial consultation began.

Number of CRSOs:

0 proposed

0 adopted

Number of disputes:

0

Calloway Project

Willamette National Forest, Oregon

The Project

The Calloway Project aims to 1) Provide a sustainable supply of timber products; (2) Improve stand conditions in terms of, density, diversity, and structure; (3) Manage Riparian Reserves to acquire desired vegetation characteristics to attain Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives, (4) Sustainably manage the road systems in the project area, and (5) Strategically reduce hazardous fuels to assist future wildfire management. The proposed Project is 57,832 acres. The Project will be phased and is expected to take at least ten (10) years to complete.

The Process

The Willamette National Forest is early in the planning stages of the Calloway project. Consultation letters were sent out on September 25, 2022. The Forest invited the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer to be consulting parties for the development of the Heritage Implementation Plan (HIP). During HIP development we intend to identify and propose potential Cultural Resources Stewardship Opportunities (CSRO) that may be implemented as part of the Calloway Project.

Status as of December 6th, 2022

Currently the Forest and District are still in the early stages of planning. All invitees have responded in the affirmative as participants in the development of the HIP. Our first meeting to discuss the project, HIP and CSROs is anticipated for Spring 2023.



Unit 144 above road. Courtesy of USDA Forest Service McKenzie Ranger District.

At a Glance

Project type:

Restoration

Acreage:

53,454 acres

Consultation initiated:

September 25, 2022

Consultation status:

Initial consultation completed and in preplanning of HIP

Number of CSROs:

TBD

Number of disputes:

0

Castle Fire Restoration Project

Sequoia National Forest, California

The Project

The Castle Fire Restoration Project aims to promote forest resilience and ecological integrity by reducing fuel loads, reforestation, wildlife habitat improvement and hydrologic improvement activities, addressing the effects of the 2020 Castle Fire. The Sequoia National Forest (Forest) proposes to use a combination of mechanical and hand treatments to remove fuels. The Project will also include prescribed burns and reforestation. The Project will treat approximately 39,335 acres over a span of 10 to 15 years.

The Process

The Forest notified the public of the Project in late January 2021 and initiated Section 106 consultation under the Phasing NPA in late June 2022. The California SHPO, the Tule River Indian Tribe of California and the ACHP indicated their participation. The Forest chose to utilize the Phasing NPA given the multi-year and large scale of the Project. The first kick-off meeting was combined with the consultation for another HIP development. The CRSOs proposed include erosion protection & risk assessment after prescribed fires; fuel reduction around historic properties; and inclusion of traditional ecological knowledge.

Status as of December 6th, 2022

On August 19, 2022, the Forest held a hybrid kick-off meeting. In October, the Tule River Indian Tribe signed the Phasing NPA. On November 23, the Forest circulated the first draft of the HIP for 30-day review period.



Sequoia National Forest. USDA Forest Service photo

At a Glance

Project type:

Fuels Reduction & Restoration

Acreage:

~39k acres

Consultation initiated:

June 2022

Consultation status:

Initial consultation completed and in HIP development consultation

Number of CRSOs:

4 proposed

0 adopted

Number of disputes:

0

Community Protection & Forest Recovery Project

Plumas National Forest, California

The Project

The Community Protection & Forest Recovery Project aims to use prescribed fire, manual and mechanized treatments to maintain or reduce fuel loads, modify future fire behavior, and reduce future impacts of wildfire within the Plumas National Forest (Forest). The Project will address approximately 1.0 million acres within the forest administrative boundaries. The Project will be phased and is expected to take approximately 10 years to complete.

The Process

The Forest notified the public of the Project in June 2022 and initiated Section 106 consultation under the Phasing NPA in early June 2022. The Forest invited all Tribes associated with the Forest, California SHPO, and the ACHP. All tribes and the California SHPO indicated their participation and met with the Forest to discuss the project on September 20, 2022. The ACHP declined to participate at that time. The Forest chose to utilize the Phasing NPA given the multi-year and large scale of the Project and need to phase Section 106. The first kick-off meeting was hosted virtually in September 2022. During the meeting, the no CRSOs were proposed.

Status as of December 6th, 2022

As of December 2022, the Forest has met once with the consulting parties and has circulated one draft of the HIP. There were no comments on the initial draft from the consulting parties. Comments were made by forest and Regional office staff and a second draft is in preparation for further review.



Plumas National Forest. USDA Forest Service photo

At a Glance

Project type:

Restoration

Acreage:

~1.0 million acres

Consultation initiated:

June 3, 2022

Consultation status:

Initial consultation completed and in HIP development consultation

Number of CRSOs:

0 proposed

0 adopted

Number of disputes:

0

Eastern Sierra Climate and Communities Resilience Project

Inyo National Forest, CA

The Project

The Eastern Sierra Climate and Communities Resilience Project (ESCCRP) encompasses 56,000 acres of non-Wilderness lands administered by the Inyo National Forest (Forest) surrounding the town of Mammoth Lakes, California. Restoration work proposed to occur over the next decade includes targeted removal of live and dead trees and undesirable fuels in mixed conifer forests, aspen stands, sagebrush steppe habitats, and meadows through a combination of hand labor and/or mechanical methods, burning, and timber sales.

The Process

Due to the project size, the need to field verify specific treatments and areas, and long duration implementation period, the Forest determined the Phasing NPA is the appropriate mechanism for complying with Section 106. The Forest invited 171 parties to consult under the Phasing NPA during the development of the Proposed Action. The initial HIP meeting was held on July 12th, 2022, and included representatives from the Forest, the ACHP, the California SHPO, nine federally and non-federally recognized Tribes, the California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program, the Mono County Historical Society, and project partners: Great Basin Institute, Whitebark Institute, and the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments.

Status As of December 6th, 2022

Five HIP consultation meetings have helped inform the development of the first HIP draft, planned to be released for 30-day review in late February.

The Forest has incorporated the following CRSOs into the Project design: Identification, documentation, and cleaning of traditional food collection sites; hosting site stewardship training with California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program; targeted fuels reduction around historic structures; interpretation of dendroglyphs; and vulnerability assessment for archaeological resources. In December 2022, three parties objected to the application of the Phasing NPA because it allows phasing and deferring Section 106. Follow-up meetings with the concerned parties are being scheduled.



Inyo National Forest. USDA Forest Service photo

At a Glance

- Project type:
Fuels Reduction and Restoration
- Acresage:
56,000 acres
- Consultation initiated:
5/05/2022
- Consultation status:
HIP development
- Number of CRSOs:
5 proposed
5 adopted
- Number of disputes:
0 (Applicability of Phasing NPA- disagreement)



Hazardous Fuels and Fire Project

Six Rivers National Forest, California

The Project

The Six Rivers Hazardous Fire & Fuels Project aims to achieve fire and vegetation resiliency across the Six Rivers National Forest (Forest). The Forest will use a series of low intensity tools to prepare for prescribed burning, apply beneficial prescribed fire and associated fuels-reduction management tools on up to 20,000 acres per year. The treatments will focus on understory forest vegetation and dead and down debris on the forest floor. The Project’s area of potential effect includes the 1,272,952 acres administered by the Forest. The Project will last approximately 10 years.

The Process

The Forest initiated consultation under the Phasing NPA in April 2022, inviting all 16 Tribes the Forest regularly consults and three collaboratives on the Forest to participate. There have been two formal virtual meetings (via Teams) and several informal meetings regarding the use of the NPA and development of a HIP for the Project. The Forest chose to use the Phasing NPA because the scale of the Project and the Project’s phased prescribed fuels work across the Forest requires a phased Section 106 approach. Informal consultation regarding the Project started 2019. Project planning under NEPA has been closely aligned and almost parallel to the Section 106 process. Three CRSOs have been proposed during staff-to-staff Section 106 consultation and were integrated to first draft of HIP. No disputes have been raised to date.

Status as of December 6th, 2022

The HIP draft was sent to consulting parties at the beginning of December. The next meeting to discuss the HIP is scheduled for January 20, 2023. There is general support for the Project. The Forest hosted two formal meetings with consulting parties, two separate meetings with ACHP and a meeting the ACHP and WO staff to review HIP. CRSOs include use of Traditional Ecological Knowledge survey protocols in conjunction with traditional inventory techniques, Tribal archaeological data sharing, and nomination of traditional cultural properties.



Six Rivers National Forest. USDA Forest Service photo

At a Glance

Project type:

Fuels Reduction/ Rx Fire

Acreage:

~1.2 million acres

Consultation initiated:

April 2022

Consultation status:

Second HIP meeting
1/20/2023

Number of CRSOs:

3 proposed
0 adopted

Number of disputes:

0



Coyote-Divide Vegetation Project

Helena-Lewis & Clark NF, Montana

The Project

The Coyote-Divide Vegetation Project aims to reduce hazardous fuels and fire threat within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) and to enhance associated forest and rangeland ecosystems across the project area. The Project includes forest vegetation treatments such as timber harvests and prescribed fire on about 37,000 acres near several local communities. Project implementation will likely take 5-10 years to complete.

The Process

During project scoping in August of 2022, the Forest invited the ACHP, SHPO, Tribes, and local governments and historical society to consult on the development of the HIP under the Phasing NPA. The Forest chose to use the Phasing NPA to allow for two years of Section 106 surveys during and post NEPA analysis and decision. Only the ACHP and SHPO responded with interest and the Forest held the first consulting party meeting on 10/20/22. Fifteen CRSOs were identified related to interpretation opportunities, and one was selected. The first draft of the HIP was submitted to the consulting parties in the middle of December 2022, and initial comments have been received and are being reviewed in January 2023.

Status as of December 6th, 2022

One in person consultation has occurred, one draft of the HIP has been reviewed and comments received. Those comments are being reviewed in preparation for sending out the next draft HIP for consultation. The CRSO selected is public interpretation for the project area.



Little Belt Mountains, Lewis & Clark National Forest. USDA Forest Service photo

At a Glance

Project type:

Fuels Reduction & Restoration

Acreage:

37k acres

Consultation initiated:

8/19/22

Consultation status:

HIP Draft comments received and being reviewed

Number of CRSOs:

15 proposed
1 adopted

Number of disputes:

0

Mendocino Fire & Fuels Management Strategy Project

Mendocino National Forest, California

The Project

The Mendocino Fire & Fuels Management Strategy Project aims to use prescribed fire, manual and mechanized treatments to maintain or reduce fuel loads, modify future fire behavior, and reduce future impacts of wildfire within and adjacent to the Mendocino National Forest lands. This forest-wide Project covers about 688,700 acres within the forest administrative boundaries, except for designated wilderness areas and the Chico Seed Orchard. The Project will be phased and is expected to take at least 20 years to complete.

The Process

The Mendocino National Forest (Forest) initiated public notice on October 22, 2021, and initiated Section 106 consultation under the Phasing NPA in April 2022. The Forest invited all Tribes with an interest in the Forest, the California SHPO, and the ACHP. The Forest chose to use the Phasing NPA for the Project due to the multi-year and large scale of the proposed Project. Between April 2022 and December 2022, the Forest met twice virtually with consulting parties to discuss the initial draft and the Project’s area of potential effects. An additional meeting was held for a Tribe which joined in the consultation after the initial meetings took place.

Status as of December 6th, 2022

The Forest is developing the first draft of the HIP based on comments provided during the two consultation meetings and anticipates sending the first draft in late January 2023.



Mendocino National Forest. USDA Forest Service photo

At a Glance

Project type:

Restoration

Acreage:

688,700 acres

Consultation initiated:

April 6, 2022

Consultation status:

Ongoing- in development of 2nd draft

Number of CRSOs:

11 proposed

0 adopted

Number of disputes:

0

Windy Fire Restoration Project

Sequoia National Forest, California

The Project

The Windy Fire Restoration Project aims to promote forest resilience and ecological integrity by reducing fuel loads, reforestation, wildlife habitat improvement and hydrologic improvement activities, addressing the effects of the 2021 Windy Fire. The Sequoia National Forest (Forest) proposes to use a combination of mechanical and hand treatments to remove fuels. The Project will also include prescribed burns and reforestation. The Project encompasses 16,977-acres of lands administered by the Forest adjacent to the Tule River Indian Tribe of California reservation.

The Process

The Forest notified the public of the Project in early September 2022 and initiated Section 106 consultation under the Phasing NPA in late June 2022. The California SHPO, the Tule River Indian Tribe and the ACHP indicated their participation. The Forest chose to utilize the Phasing NPA given the multi-year and large scale of the Project. The first kick-off meeting was combined with the consultation for another HIP development. Through consultation, it was determined that the Project activities, while not occurring within the boundaries of the Tule River Indian Tribe’s reservation, had the potential to affect historic properties on Tribal lands. As a result, the Tule River Tribe was invited to be a Tribal Signatory to the Phasing NPA. The CRSOs proposed erosion protection & risk assessment after prescribed fires; fuel reduction around historic properties; and inclusion of traditional ecological knowledge.

Status as of December 6th, 2022

On August 19, 2022, the Forest held a hybrid kick-off meeting. In October, the Tule River Indian Tribe signed the Phasing NPA. On November 23, the Forest circulated the first draft of the HIP for 30-day review period.



Sequoia National Forest. USDA Forest Service photo

At a Glance

Project type:

Fuels Reduction & Restoration

Acreage:

~17k acres

Consultation initiated:

June 2022

Consultation status:

Ongoing

Number of CRSOs:

4 proposed

0 adopted

Number of disputes:

0