

## **OVERVIEW:**

### **Cultural Resources Compliance Procedures For NRCS Field Personnel**

After you have completed the National Cultural Resources Training Program, you will have the level of training required by a National Programmatic Agreement to meet the compliance procedures of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. You are the first line of defense for NRCS to protect cultural resources that may be impacted as a result of the conservation practices you plan.

NRCS knows that you are not a trained archaeologist. You are not being asked to make decisions of significance regarding cultural resources (i.e., whether or not a cultural resource is eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places). You simply need to be alert for the kinds of cultural resources you might encounter depending on the environmental setting in which you are working.

#### **Always be alert for human remains, and if found, do the following:**

1. DO NOT DISTURB
2. Protect the remains
3. Call the NRCS Cultural Resources Coordinator (CRC)
4. Call the County Sheriff or have the CRC call (the CRC will also call the State of Oklahoma Archaeologist who will want to come out).

#### **Follow these steps on every conservation practice you plan:**

1. Complete the short form entitled Environmental Evaluation Procedures in Nonproject Activities. If planned practices are capable of affecting cultural resources, complete step number 2 below (if practice is ground disturbing the answer is nearly always yes).
2. Send the Cultural Resources Technical Assistance Review Form to the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey, Attn: State Archaeologist, 111 E. Chesapeake, Bldg. 134, Norman, Oklahoma 73019-0575 or fax to 405.325.7604. To avoid processing delays, when completing this form, under legal description, provide a sketch of the impacted area and layout of the conservation practice on a map.
3. During your field review, if you find any cultural resources that require reporting (refer to your Pocket Reference for Cultural Resources card), complete the Cultural Resources Site Inventory Record, following the directions at the bottom of the form. You are only required to report cultural resources you find in the area affected by the conservation practices you are planning. However, it may be to your advantage to report cultural resources you find outside these areas, and file this information for future use.
4. Only two forms pertaining to cultural resources should be in the client's case file; 1) the Environmental Evaluation Form and 2) the Technical Assistance Review Form. All other information regarding cultural resources, particularly relating to directions to cultural resource sites and types of cultural resources, should be filed in a separate file coded 420 and clearly marked "Not For Public Release". This information is not covered under the Freedom of Information Act and we DO NOT RELEASE TO THE PUBLIC.
5. If you are ever in doubt about anything, call the Cultural Resources Coordinator.