

## **Overview and Instructions: Cultural Resources Compliance Procedures for NRCS Field Personnel**

- After you have completed the national Cultural Resources Training program <[www.nedc.nrcs.usda.gov/catalog/cultures.html](http://www.nedc.nrcs.usda.gov/catalog/cultures.html)> 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 importance regarding cultural resources. 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.
- Follow these steps on every conservation practice you plan that is ground-disturbing:
  - Submit a Technical Assistance Review form to the Okla. Archaeological Survey via fax (405.325.7604). If the response is **YES** in the “Sites in Project Area” section, complete the Cultural Resources Survey Form, send it to the NRCS archaeologist, and schedule a ground survey of the project area.
    - When completing this form, sketch the layout of the conservation practice(s) on a USGS topographic map. Reviews will not be performed without a map.
  - During your field review, if you find any cultural resources that require reporting (e.g. wagon road, CCC or WPA structure, arrow head, or pottery), complete the Cultural Resources Site Inventory Record form and mail it to the NRCS Archaeologist at the State Office.
- Only two forms pertaining to cultural resources should be in the client case file:
  - CPA 52 and supporting data, and
  - Technical Assistance Review form **or** correspondence with the NRCS archaeologist.
- Always be alert for human remains, and if found, do the following:
  - 1) DO NOT DISTURB,
  - 2) Protect the remains,
  - 3) Call the NRCS archaeologist, and
  - 4) Call the County Sheriff (911).