

California-Nevada Border Areas Cultural Resources Compliance Procedures

Pursuant to the existing agreement between California Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Nevada NRCS, (California – Nevada Border Working Arrangements: April, 2005), California NRCS administers projects located in northern Washoe County (NV) and the Tahoe Basin (CA and NV), while Nevada NRCS administers projects in Alpine County (CA) and a portion of Mono County (CA). Additionally, it should be noted that the servicing FSA office for Inyo County (CA) is located in Yerington (NV). The following describes the procedures that should be followed for cultural resources review and compliance in these California and Nevada counties.

I. All Programs with the Exception of Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) (Attachment 4)

- A. If the project is located in Alpine or Mono County, the NRCS Minden Field Office (FO) will:
1. Complete a California Cultural Resources Initial Review Request Worksheet (Step One) form (Attachment 1).
 2. Send the completed Step One form along with a 1:24,000 Cultural Resources Map showing the project area and area of potential effect (APE) (Attachment 2) to the California NRCS State Archaeologist (CNSA) in Davis, California.
 3. California NRCS will complete a files search and notify the NRCS Minden FO as to whether the cultural resource survey will be completed with assistance from the California NRCS or whether the NRCS Minden Module 1-9 trained field office personnel may complete the cultural resources survey.
 - a. Generally, if the project is 20 acres or under in size and the files search indicates that no previously recorded archaeological sites have been located within the project (APE) then the NRCS Minden FO will be able to complete the cultural resources survey.
 - b. California NRCS will determine who completes the cultural resources survey.
 4. If the California NRCS decides that the NRCS Minden FO may complete the cultural resources survey, then the NRCS Minden FO will complete the cultural resources survey, complete the California Field Office Report of Cultural Resources Ground Survey Findings form with the appropriate Positive Findings or Negative/Isolates Findings box checked (Attachment 3), and submit this form to the CNSA.
 - a. For negative or isolate-only survey findings, the CNSA will inform the NRCS Minden FO whether they concur with the findings and the project may proceed, or if further work is needed.
 - b. If cultural resources are found within the APE (i.e., Positive Findings), then the California NRCS will complete the cultural resources survey, with assistance from the NRCS Minden FO, and propose avoidance measures to mitigate impacts to the cultural resources found. The CNSA will notify the NRCS Minden FO if all impacts to cultural resources can be mitigated through avoidance and the project may proceed.
 5. If the project is over 20 acres in size and/or previously recorded archaeological sites are located within the APE, the California NRCS will complete the cultural resources survey, with assistance from the NRCS Minden FO if required. If the survey is negative, or if all impacts to cultural resources can be mitigated through avoidance, the California NRCS will notify the NRCS Minden FO and the project may proceed.
 6. All required consultation related to cultural resources compliance will be completed by the California NRCS.
- B. If the project is located in northern Washoe County, the Alturas FO will:
1. Complete a California Cultural Resources Initial Review Request Worksheet (Step One) form and 1:24,000 Cultural Resources Map (Attachments 1 and 2).
 2. Send the completed form and map to the NRCS Nevada State Archaeologist (NNSA) in Reno, Nevada.

3. The NNSA will complete a files search and send a files search notification to the NRCS Alturas FO. The NNSA will determine whether the cultural resources survey will be completed with assistance from the Nevada NNSA, or whether the NRCS Alturas Module 1-9 trained field office personnel may complete the cultural resources survey.
 - a. Generally, if the project is under 20 acres in size, and the files search indicates that no previously recorded archaeological sites have been located within the project APE, then the NRCS Alturas FO will be able to complete the cultural resources survey.
 - b. Nevada NNSA will determine who completes the cultural resources survey.
4. If the Nevada NRCS decides that the NRCS Alturas FO may complete the cultural resources survey, then the NRCS Alturas FO will complete the cultural resources survey. If no cultural resources, or isolates only, are found in the APE, the field office will complete the California Field Office Report of Cultural Resources Ground Survey Findings form with the appropriate Positive Findings or Negative/Isolates Findings box checked (Attachment 3), and submit this form to the NNSA.
 - a. For negative or isolate-only survey findings, the NNSA will inform the NRCS Alturas FO whether they concur with the findings (i.e., No Historic Properties Affected), or if further work is needed.
 - b. If cultural resources are found within the APE (i.e., Positive Findings), then the Nevada NRCS will complete the cultural resources survey, with assistance from the NRCS Alturas FO if required, and propose avoidance measures to mitigate impacts to the cultural resources found. The NNSA will notify the NRCS Alturas FO when all impacts to cultural resources have been mitigated.
5. If the project is over 20 acres in size and/or previously recorded archaeological sites are located within the APE, then the NNSA will complete the cultural resources survey, with assistance from the NRCS Alturas FO if required, and notify the NRCS Alturas FO when the project may proceed (i.e., that no historic properties will be affected, or that all impacts have been mitigated).
6. All required consultation related to cultural resources compliance will be completed by the Nevada NRCS.

C. If the project is located in the California Tahoe Basin area (Placer or Eldorado Counties) the South Lake Tahoe FO will:

1. Comply with standard California cultural resources procedures.
2. California will be responsible for all cultural resources consultation.

D. If the project is located in the Nevada Tahoe Basin area (Washoe, Carson, or Douglas Counties) the NRCS Minden FO will:

1. Comply with standard Nevada cultural resources procedures.
2. Nevada will be responsible for all cultural resources consultation.

II. Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) (Attachment 5)

A. If the ECP project is located in Alpine or Mono County, the NRCS Minden FO will:

1. Complete a California Cultural Resources Initial Review Request Worksheet (Step One) form and 1:24,000 Cultural Resources Map (see Attachments 1 and 2), identifying it as an ECP request, and send them to the CNSA.
2. California NRCS will complete a cultural resources files search for the project, notify the Yerington Nevada Farm Service Agency (FSA) concerning the file search results, and copy the results to the NRCS Minden FO.
3. The NRCS Minden FO will complete the CPA-52 form indicating that the cultural resources compliance is pending completion.

4. The NRCS Minden FO will notify the Yerington Nevada FSA that the CPA-52 has been completed, and that no cultural resources survey has been done, but that a California files search has been completed.
 5. It will be the responsibility of the Yerington Nevada FSA to complete all cultural resources surveys and consultation as required by Nevada FSA policy.
- B. If the ECP project is located in Inyo County, the NRCS Bishop California FO will:
1. Complete a California Cultural Resources Initial Review Request Worksheet (Step One) form and 1:24,000 Cultural Resources Map (Attachments 1 and 2), identifying it as an ECP request, and send them to the California NRCS cultural resources specialist (CRS) for its service area.
 2. California NRCS CRS will complete the files search, and notify the NRCS Bishop California FO, as well as the Yerington Nevada FSA, concerning the results of the files search.
 3. The Yerington Nevada FSA will be responsible for completing all cultural resource surveys and consultation.
- C. If the ECP project is located in northern Washoe County, the NRCS Alturas FO will:
1. Complete a California Cultural Resources Initial Review Request Worksheet (Step One) form and 1:24,000 Cultural Resources Map (Attachments 1 and 2) and send them to the NNSA.
 2. The NNSA will complete a cultural resources files search for the project, and a files search notification will be sent to the Fallon Nevada FSA, with a copy sent to the NRCS Alturas FO.
 3. All ECP cultural resources projects will be completed with assistance from the NNSA.
 4. The NNSA will complete, with logistical assistance and project delineation from the NRCS Alturas FO, the cultural resources survey and write a short report along with a recommendation of effects on historic properties, and will submit this report and recommendation to the Fallon Nevada FSA.
 5. The NNSA will notify the NRCS Alturas FO about the results of the cultural resources survey, and the NRCS Alturas FO will submit the CPA-52 form to the Fallon Nevada FSA.
 6. It will be the responsibility of the Fallon Nevada FSA to complete all consultation, and to complete any further mitigation actions required resulting from consultation.
- D. If the ECP project is located within the California Tahoe Basin, Sacramento FSA will:
1. Follow standard California NRCS cultural resources compliance procedures for California ECP as outlined above .
 2. California FSA is responsible for all California consultation and cultural resource surveys.
- E. If the ECP project is located within the Nevada Tahoe Basin, Fallon FSA will be involved with the project if located in Washoe County, or the Yerington FSA will be involved if the project is located in Carson or Douglas Counties.
1. Standard Nevada ECP procedures as outlined above will be used for Nevada ECP projects.
 2. Nevada FSA completes all Nevada consultation.
 3. The NRCS Minden FO covers projects located in the Nevada portion of the Tahoe Basin.

Attachment 1. California Cultural Resources Initial Review Request Worksheet (Step One).

CULTURAL RESOURCES INITIAL REVIEW REQUEST WORKSHEET
STEP ONE

Field Office	<hr/>	Date	<hr/>
Contact Person	<hr/>	Phone/Fax	<hr/>
Est. Start Date	<hr/>	Contract #	<hr/>
Owner/Operator/ Tribal Rep	<hr/>		
Location Address	<hr/>		
County	<hr/>	7.5' USGS Quad	<hr/>
Township	<hr/>	Range	<hr/>
		Section	<hr/>
Practices	<hr/>	APE	<hr/>

1. Description of ground disturbing activity, include depth, length, width, estimated total area and equipment to be used.



2. Discuss with Owner/Operator/Tribal Rep: Are they aware of any prehistoric items in the area of the proposed projects? This would include flakes/chips of stone like obsidian, arrowheads, mounds of dark soils, broken shell (mussel/clam), non-local rock. Do stacked rock walls, ditches, trash dumps from the 1800s to about 1950, old homesteads, mines, etc. exist in the project area?

3. Describe past agriculture practices, such as deep-ripping, depth of previous tillage, land leveling, etc. in order to ascertain present ground conditions.

4. Area of Potential Effect (APE): Attach 1:24000 scale topographic map (instructions follow). Show practice polygons buffered by the APE.

Note: Inform the land user that Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its regulations at 36 CFR 800 **may** require a field investigation for cultural resources.

CULTURAL RESOURCES REVIEW (by a CRS or other qualified archaeologist)

- An on-site investigation is **not required**. The project may proceed.
- An on-site investigation **is required**. A cultural resources technician (CRT) who has completed NRCS cultural resources training, Modules 1-8 may conduct the work.
- An on-site investigation **is required**. A cultural resources specialist (CRS) or other qualified archaeologist will conduct the work.

Signature of reviewer _____

Title _____ Date _____



Attachment 2. California Cultural Resources Map (header and footer template).

Cultural Resources Map



Contract No.:
Date:
County:
State: California
Location Information: xx xx, Section x, T xx, R xx
USGS Quad(s):

Field Office:
Agency: USDA-NRCS
Map created by:
Approximate APE Acres:
Practice Codes:



Legend

Approx. Scale 1:24000
when printed on 8 1/2 x 11 paper



Attachment 3. California Field Office Report of Cultural Resources Ground Survey Results
(with continuation sheet).

FIELD OFFICE REPORT of CULTURAL RESOURCES
GROUND SURVEY FINDINGS

CHECK ONE

POSITIVE FINDINGS:

NEGATIVE/ISOLATES FINDINGS:

Field Office _____	Date _____
Contact Person _____	Phone/Fax _____
Program _____	Contract/Application# _____
County _____	7.5' USGS Quad _____
Township _____	Range _____
Practices _____	Section _____
	1/4 Section _____
	APE _____

Step Two is required if ground survey is requested.

1. Ground Survey Report of positive or negative/isolates only findings. Give a description of ground survey.



2. Landowner knowledge of project area history or record search results.

3. Report of discussion with Tribal Representative:

4. Comments/Recommendations:

Name and Title:

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Title: _____



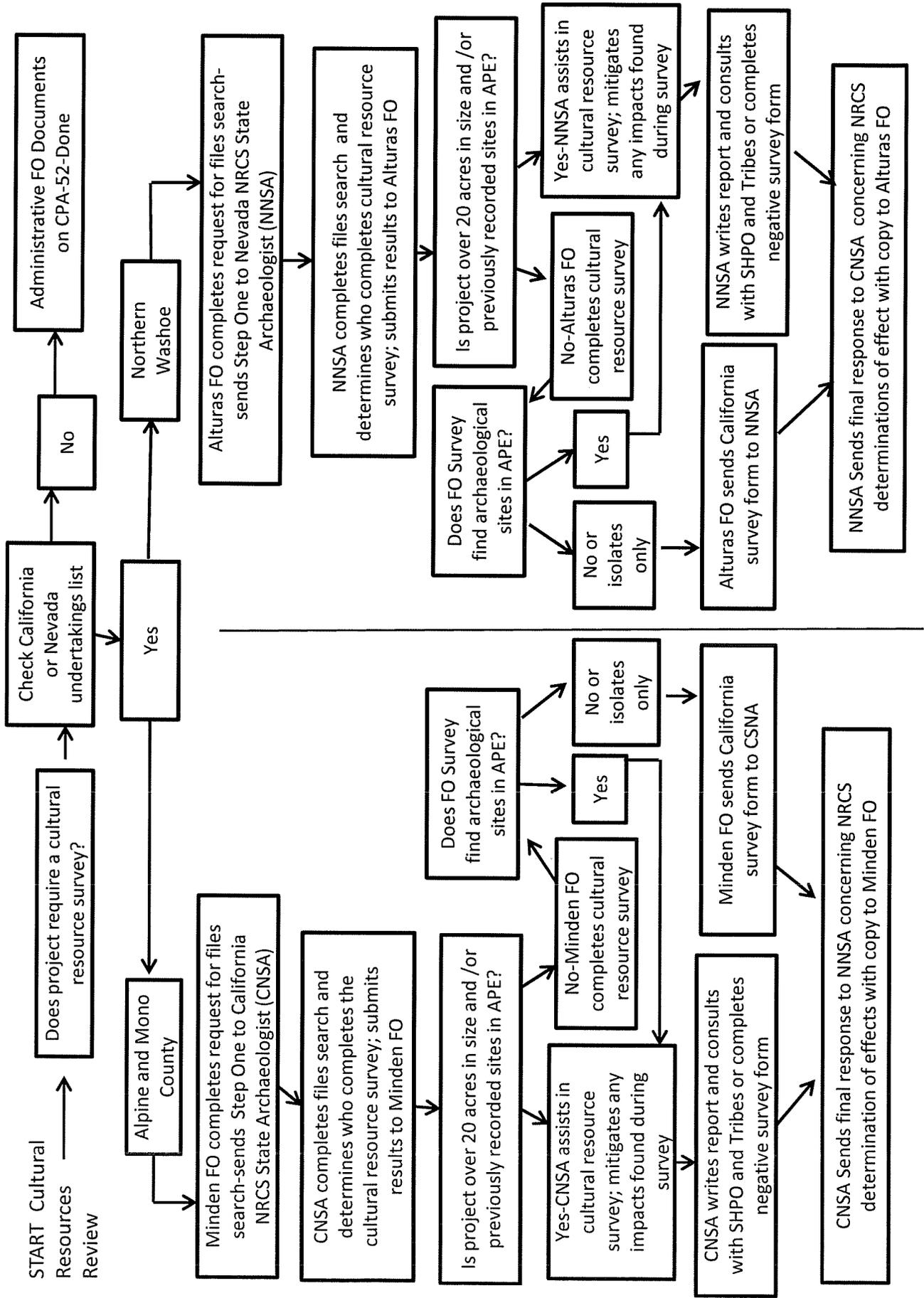
FIELD OFFICE REPORT of CULTURAL RESOURCES
GROUND SURVEY FINDINGS

1. Ground Survey Report of positive or negative/isolates only findings. Give a description of ground survey (continued).



Attachment 4. California/Nevada Cultural Resources Review Procedures (Non-ECP).

Attachment 4. California/Nevada Cultural Resources Review Procedures (Non ECP)



Attachment 5. California/Nevada Cultural Resources Review Procedures (ECP).

Attachment 5. California/Nevada ECP Cultural Resources Review Procedures

