

## Considering Cultural Resources During the Conservation Planning Process

During the conservation planning process, if the Natural Resources Conservation Service staff know the exact location of the practice (undertaking), they should submit the appropriate SD-SSC-1 “Cultural Resource Inventory,” or SD-SSC-2 “Request for Known Cultural Resources Site” form to their area cultural resource specialist (CRS). If the actual location of the project is only approximated, then staff should record any negative results of their general cultural resources background research\* (Archeological Resource Management System (ARMS) search, national and state register searches, and any known consultation concerns) under the SD-CPA-52 “Environmental Evaluation for Conservation Planning” “notes” portion of the cultural resource help sheet. If the background research is positive (i.e., known cultural resources in area), a CRS should be contacted so as to identify the specific location(s) of concern so it can be addressed in planning. This level of background review will document that known resource concerns were addressed during the National Environmental Policy Act planning process. Once the final project location or alternates are identified, federal regulations require that the cultural resources work be completed (SD-SSC-1, SD-SSC-2, or cultural resource specialists report) prior to project implementation. This should be completed as soon as possible to avoid any potential delays.

\*Sample: “A preliminary background search of existing cultural resource information (i.e., ARMS search, national and state register searches, and any known consultation concerns) has not identified any known concerns for the proposed project location. The final field survey and documentation will be completed prior to project implementation.”