

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

2013 Operation and Maintenance Activities within Delta Meadows near the Delta Cross Channel

CEC-13-044

Prepared by:

Rain Emerson
Rain Emerson
Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 09/06/2013

Concurred by:

See Attachment A
Archaeologist/Architectural Historian
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date: See Attachment A

Concurred by:

See Attachment B
Native American Affairs Specialist
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date: See Attachment B

Concurred by:

Jennifer L. Lewis
Jennifer L. Lewis
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 09/06/2013

Concurred by:

Chuck Siek
Chuck Siek
Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 9/6/13

Approved by:

Michael Jackson
Michael Jackson
Area Manager
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 9/11/13



Background

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) owns property near the town of Locke and Walnut Grove in southern Sacramento County, California, referred to as Delta Meadows (Figure 1). A section of this property was burned by a wildfire during the summer of 2013. The cause of the fire is unknown.



Figure 1 Proposed Action Area

Purpose and Need for Action

Reclamation needs to make repairs and clean-up areas within Delta Meadows including those areas damaged by the fire.

Proposed Action

Reclamation proposes to conduct the following operation and maintenance activities within Delta Meadows:

- Remove metal debris and trash made visible by the recent onsite fire.
- Remove organic material and debris in and along approximately 2,000 feet of the onsite ditches. Material will be removed without disturbing the original contour of the ditches.
- Remove dead growth caused by the fire.
- Remove vegetation and/or limbs above Snodgrass Slough Road and inland.
- Conduct minor repairs to Snodgrass Slough Road such as filling ruts with gravel.

The activities will be done in the future on an as-needed basis.

Environmental Commitments

Reclamation and its subcontractor(s) shall coordinate with a SCCAO-biologist at least two weeks prior to any O&M activities proposed at Delta Meadows in order to determine the appropriate Conservation and Minimization Measures.

These may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Time restrictions for O&M activities to avoid disturbing special-status species.
- A qualified biologist who is familiar with area will survey along the project site area for special-status species prior to any debris or vegetation removal. Any potential habitat for special-status species will be flagged and identified as an Environmentally Sensitive Area. These areas will be avoided within the appropriate buffer area.
- A qualified biologist will monitor any O&M activities so that sensitive areas can be identified and avoided.

Environmental consequences for resource areas assume the measures specified will be fully implemented.

Exclusion Category

516 DM 14.5 paragraph C (3): *Minor construction activities associated with authorized projects which correct unsatisfactory environmental conditions or which merely augment or supplement, or are enclosed within existing facilities.*

Evaluation of Criteria for Categorical Exclusion:

- | | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. This action would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (40 CFR 1502.3). | No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. This action would have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA Section 102(2)(E) and 43 CFR 46.215(c)). | No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety (43 CFR 46.215(a)). | No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. This action would have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographical characteristics as historic or cultural resources; parks, recreation, and refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas (43 CFR 46.215 (b)). | No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. This action would have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks (43 CFR 46.215(d)). | No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. This action would establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects (43 CFR 46.215 (e)). | No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. This action would have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects (43 CFR 46.215 (f)). | No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. This action would have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by Reclamation (LND 02-01) (43 CFR 46.215 (g)). | No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |

- | | No | Uncertain | Yes |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 9. This action would have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated critical habitat for these species (43 CFR 46.215 (h)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. This action would violate a Federal, tribal, State, or local law or requirement imposed for protection of the environment (43 CFR 46.215 (i)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. This action would affect ITAs (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. This action would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898) (43 CFR 46.215 (j)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13. This action would limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007, 43 CFR 46.215 (k), and 512 DM 3)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14. This action would contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act, EO 13112, and 43 CFR 46.215 (l)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Attachment A Cultural Resources Determination



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825-1898

IN REPLY
REFER TO:
MP-153
ENV-3.00

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

August 22, 2013
MEMORANDUM

To: Rain Healer
Natural Resource Specialist – South-Central California Area Office

From: William Soule
Archaeologist – Division of Environmental Affairs

Subject: 13-SCAO-255: 2013 Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Activities within Delta Meadows near the Delta Cross Channel

This proposed undertaking by Reclamation is to make repairs and conduct clean-up activities within Delta Meadows including areas damaged by a fire. This is the type of undertaking that does not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, should such properties be present, pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 regulations codified at 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1).

Reclamation proposes to conduct O&M activities within Delta Meadows including: remove metal debris and trash, remove organic debris and material along 2,000 feet of onsite ditches, remove dead vegetation caused by the fire, remove vegetation from the centerline of Snodgrass Slough Road, remove overhead limbs blocking Snodgrass Slough road, and conduct minor repairs to Snodgrass Slough Road such as filling ruts with gravel. There is no ground disturbance, construction of new facilities, alternation of existing facilities, or change in land use associated with this proposed action.

After reviewing the materials provided for the Section 106 determination of effect for this undertaking, I concur with item 8 in CEC-13-044, which states that this action would not have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by Reclamation. This memorandum is intended to convey the completion of the NHPA Section 106 process for this undertaking. Reclamation has no further obligations under NHPA Section 106, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). Please retain a copy in the administrative record for this action. Should changes be made to this project, additional NHPA Section 106 review, possibly including consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, may be necessary. Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment.

CC: Cultural Resources Branch (MP-153), Anastasia Leigh – Regional Environmental Officer (MP-150)

Attachment B Indian Trust Assets Determination



Healer, Rain <rhealer@usbr.gov>

13-044 Delta Meadows

RIVERA, PATRICIA <privera@usbr.gov>

Thu, Aug 22, 2013 at 12:28 PM

To: "Healer, Rain" <rhealer@usbr.gov>

Cc: Kristi Seabrook <kseabrook@usbr.gov>, "Williams, Mary D (Diane)" <marywilliams@usbr.gov>

RAin,

I reviewed the proposed action to conduct the following operation and maintenance activities within Delta Meadows:

- Remove metal debris and trash made visible by the recent onsite fire.
- Remove organic material and debris in and along approximately 2,000 feet of the onsite ditches. Material would be removed without disturbing the original contour of the ditches.
- Remove dead growth caused by the fire.
- Remove vegetation from the center-line of Snodgrass Slough Road inland.
- Remove overhead limbs blocking Snodgrass Slough Road.
- Conduct minor repairs to Snodgrass Slough Road such as filling ruts with gravel.

The activities would also be done in the future on an as-needed basis.

The proposed action does not have a potential to impact Indian Trust Assets.

Patricia Rivera
Native American Affairs Program Manager
US Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Region
2800 Sacramento, California 95825
(916) 978-5194

Rain,

This could be considered administrative in nature so a determination on location of nearest ITA is not needed. If you wish to have one made please let Kristi and me know and I will amend this determination to include the location information.

In the future this determination may suffice or if you wish, resubmit your request with the determination for and updated date determination. This is a recommendation for your consideration.

Have fun today!