

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist (CEC)

Replacement of Temporary Horseshoe Pits – Stony Gorge Reservoir – Orland Project

NCAO-CEC-16-02

Prepared by: B. McElroy Date: February 17, 2016
Bon McElroy
Water and Lands Assistant
Northern California Area Office

Concurrence by: See Attachment 1 Date: February 18, 2016
Megan Simon
Northern California Area Office Designee
for Tribal Trust Assets

Concurrence by: See Attachment 2 Date: February 22, 2016
Mark A. Carper
Archaeologist
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Concurrence by: Paul Zedonis Date: 03/02/2016
Paul Zedonis
Environmental and Natural Resource
Division Manager
Northern California Area Office

Approved by: for Donald Barajas Date: 3/2/2016
for Federico Barajas
Area Manager
Northern California Area Office



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid Pacific Region

February 2016

Proposed Action

Stony Gorge Dam, which forms Stony Gorge Reservoir (SGR), is part of the Orland Project, Reclamation's first water conveyance project in California. The concrete slab and buttress structure is located approximately 20 miles west of the town of Willows and 18 miles downstream of East Park Dam in western Glenn County, California (Figure 1). Completed in 1928, the dam has a structural height of 139 feet and a crest length of 868 feet and provides 55,000 acre-feet of storage capacity for irrigation water diverted and impounded from Stony Creek. Stony Gorge Reservoir is 5.25 miles long and encompasses 1,280 acres of surface water. Recreational opportunities at Reclamation's Stony Gorge Reservoir include fishing, swimming, boating, kayaking, water skiing, hiking, wildlife viewing and camping. Among the campsites at Stony Gorge Reservoir is Grimy Gulch I campsite, located east of Stony Gorge Dam, due northeast of Stony Gorge Reservoir.

Reclamation proposes to replace two existing temporary horseshoe pits, adjacent to the Grimy Gulch I campsite, with permanent pits. These temporary horseshoe pits have been re-installed seasonally by the public for over 20 years. The purpose of making the pits permanent fixtures is to increase the value of the camping experience at Grimy Gulch I while isolating the disturbance created by re-installation of the pits and ending the need for continued, annual disturbances.

The remnants of previous horseshoe pits in the referenced location will be replaced with concrete frames. The pits will be augmented with sand. A singular metal post will be inserted approximately 8-inches deep into the middle of each of the pits with concrete to hold them in place. All work will be completed using hand tools; no heavy equipment will be used. There is no change in land use associated with the Proposed Action, which would be implemented in spring 2016. The work would be completed within two weeks, including concrete curing time.

Exclusion Categories

Bureau of Reclamation Categorical Exclusion – 516 DM 6, D(1): Maintenance, rehabilitation, and replacement of existing facilities which may involve a minor change in size, location, and/or operation.

Extraordinary Circumstances

Below is an evaluation of the extraordinary circumstances as required in 43 CFR 46.215.

1. This action would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (40 CFR 1502.3). No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
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 ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
3. This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety (43 CFR 46.215(a)). No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐

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|---|--|
| 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; and 43 CFR 46.215 (g)). | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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)). | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <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)). | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. This action would affect ITAs (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993). | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. This action would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898; and 43 CFR 46.215 (j)). | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13. This action would limit access to, and ceremonial use of, | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |

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).

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)). No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐

Regional Archeologist concurred with Item 8 (email attached).

ITA Designee concurred with Item 11 (email attached).

NEPA Action Recommended

☒ CEC – This action is covered by the exclusion category and no extraordinary circumstances exist. The action is excluded from further documentation in an EA or EIS.

☐ Further environmental review is required, and the following document should be prepared.

☐ EA

☐ EIS

Environmental commitments, explanations, and/or remarks:

Cost Authority Number to review this request: 16XR0680A4 RX.00224994.1000000 RR02330000

Six Federally-listed species were identified in the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) Information for Conservation and Planning (IPaC) report for the subject site. Vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*), Delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*) and steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) are fully aquatic and would not be present at the upland site. Likewise, the site is removed enough from water that it would be inadequate habitat for amphibious species such as the California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*). The site is already disturbed and the surrounding area subject to human activity. Further, the work would be initiated and completed in an expedition manner. In addition, there would be no trees trimmed or removed or nests affected by the Proposed Action. Therefore, the remaining species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the Northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*), and 17 species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act also listed in the IPaC report, would not be anticipated to be impacted by the Proposed Action. There is no Critical Habitat and no wildlife refuges present at the subject site, according to the IPaC report. No sitings of species Federally-listed under the ESA have been reported in the Project Area, according to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB).

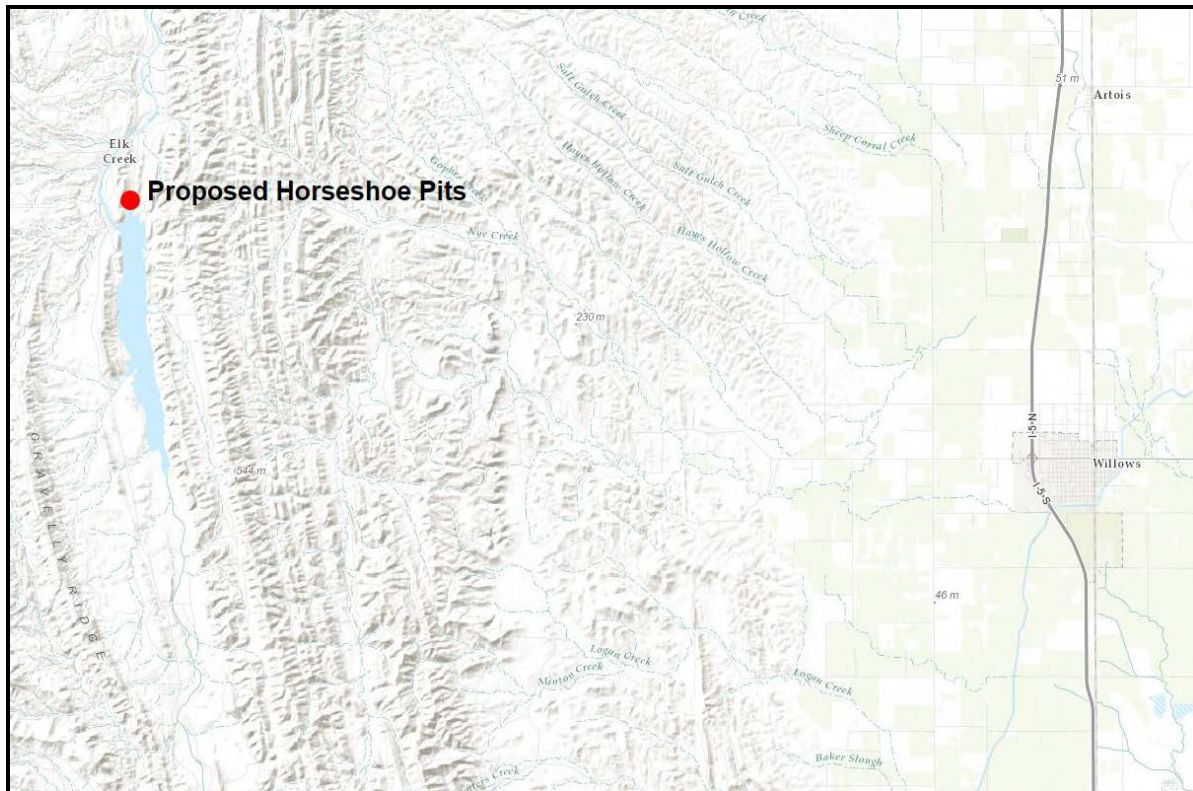


Figure 1. Vicinity map



Figure 2. Site location map



Figure 3A. Photo of location of horseshoe pits created and re-established annually



Figure 3B. Close-up of pit re-established in 2015 with residual sand and fine gravel



Figure 3C. Example of permanent horseshoe pits to be installed at campground

Attachment 1. Indian Trust Asset



Simon, Megan <msimon@usbr.gov>

ITA Review - Replacement of Temporary Horseshoe Pits – Stony Gorge Reservoir – Orland Project

1 message

Simon, Megan <msimon@usbr.gov>
To: Paul Zedonis <pzedonis@usbr.gov>

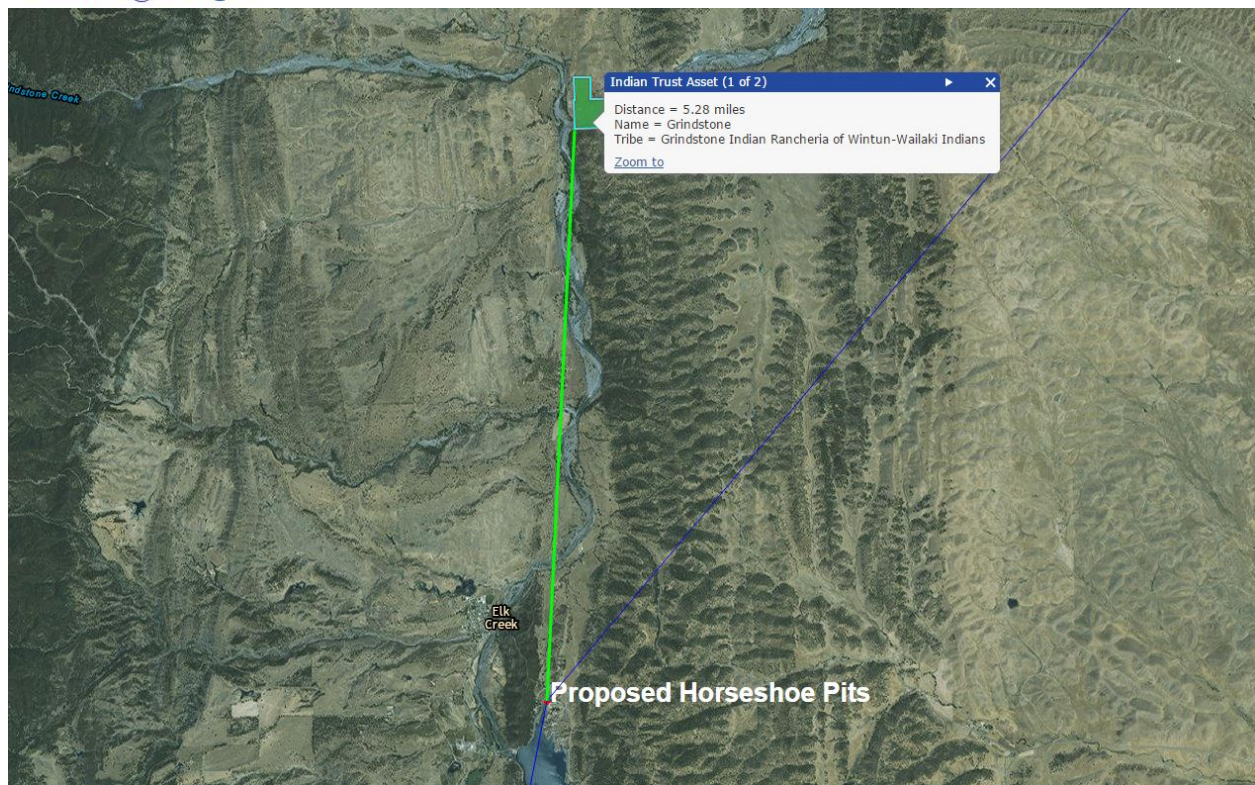
Thu, Feb 18, 2016 at 3:14 PM

I have examined the proposal for the referenced project and have determined that these facilities would be at least 5 miles from the closest Indian Trust Asset. I have determined that there is no likelihood that these facilities will adversely impact Indian Trust Assets.

—

Megan K. Simon

Natural Resources Specialist
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Northern California Area Office
16349 Shasta Dam Blvd.
Shasta Lake, CA 96019
(530) 276-2045
msimon@usbr.gov



Attachment 2. Cultural Resource Review

CULTURAL RESOURCE COMPLIANCE
Mid-Pacific Region
Division of Environmental Affairs
Cultural Resources Branch

MP-153 Tracking Number: 16-NCAO-075

Project Name: Replacement of Temporary Horseshoe Pits – Stony Gorge Reservoir – Orland Project

NEPA Document: NCAO-CEC-16-02

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Mark Carper

NEPA Contact: Megan Simon

Determination: No Potential to cause effects

Date: 22 February 2016

**MARK
CARPER**

Digitally signed by MARK CARPER
DN: c=US, o=U.S. Government,
ou=Department of the Interior,
ou=Bureau of Reclamation,
cn=MARK CARPER,
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This proposed undertaking by Reclamation is to replace existing horseshoe pits installed annually for over 20 years by visitors to the Grimy Gulch campsite at Stony gorge Reservoir. 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 NHPA Section 106 regulations codified at 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). Reclamation has no further obligations under NHPA Section 106, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1).

The proposed project is situated within a disturbed context already covered by fill material. The proposed concrete horse pits would be installed to a depth of 8 inches within the disturbed fill.

After reviewing the CEC for the proposed project, dated February, 2016 I concur with item #8 which states that this action would not have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places.

This memorandum is intended to convey the completion of the NHPA Section 106 process for this undertaking. 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.