



ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** National Park Service

2. **Project Description:**

Project Name: Removal and Restoration of Corpus Christi Pass Road and Well Pad

Prepared by: Mark VanMouwerik **Date Prepared:** 05/22/2019 **Telephone:** 970-225-3507

PEPC Project Number: 88435

Locations:

County, State: Nueces, TX

Describe project:

This project would completely remove approximately 4,000 lf. of existing caliche Corpus Christi Pass Road North and Well Pad in order to allow sensitive dune habitats to recover naturally. The old caliche road on the north side of Corpus Christi Pass was built through sand dunes, coastal prairie and tidal flats in the 1960s to provide access to an oil and gas drilling site. The road is now used to provide vehicular access to the shoreline in this area. Access is unmanaged and vehicles often get stuck in low spots after rain or during high tides, creating holes that other vehicles later drive around, infinitely enlarging the impact on surrounding sensitive habitats which include emergent marsh, tidal flat (much of which is piping plover critical habitat), freshwater wetlands, coastal prairie, and documented cultural resource sites. 4WD vehicles also leave the road to drive through tidal flats and over sand dunes, further destroying habitat and wildlife. Without a clearly marked road that can be easily traveled by visitors and park staff, enforcement of park regulations is difficult. The area is often the site of illegal activity and is strewn with trash and construction debris. Road improvement costs are prohibitive, as is the cost of maintaining and managing the existing caliche road.

The project is currently in the conceptual phase of design. Although the current road prism runs through sensitive habitats, such as emergent marsh, tidal flats, freshwater wetlands, and coastal prairie, all project work will occur within the footprint of the existing road. The existing road will be abandoned, the caliche will be removed and transported off TPWD property. The well on the well pad is non-functional and any caliche there will be removed also. If there is above-ground equipment or minor infrastructure (e.g. pipes) on-site that can be removed under budget, it will be. Restoration of the well pad itself will not impact the integrity of the plugging. The site will be graded to match adjacent contours, and native vegetation will be allowed to passively restore. The site will be monitored during the first two years after road removal to detect the presence of invasive vegetation, vehicular trespassing, or other disturbances.

A construction zone would be established around the worksite for regulating public access. Likely, access to the road would be cut off completely during construction.

Area of potential effects (as defined in 36 CFR 800.16[d])

The APE for this project is relatively small. The attached map show APEs for all 15 projects, including this one. None of the four recorded archeological sites at MISP overlap with any of the APEs.

3. **Has the area of potential effects been surveyed to identify historic properties?**

 No

☒ **Yes**

Source or reference: Between 1964 and 2008 there were 12 surveys covering 1,573 acres (40%) of the park.

4. Potentially Affected Resource(s):

Archeological Resources Affected: No

Historical Structures/Resources Affected: No

Cultural Landscapes Affected: No

Ethnographic Resources Affected: No

5. The proposed action will: (check as many as apply)

☐ No Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure

☐ No Replace historic features/elements in kind

☐ No Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure

☐ No Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)

☐ No Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape

☐ No Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible

☐ No Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible

☐ No Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources

☐ No Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources

☐ No Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures)

☐ Other (please specify): _____

6. Supporting Study Data:

(Attach if feasible; if action is in a plan, EA or EIS, give name and project or page number.)

See the 10 files under project 88130 - Restroom and Parking Improvements at Fish Pass.

B. REVIEWS BY CULTURAL RESOURCE SPECIALISTS

The park 106 coordinator requested review by the park's cultural resource specialist/advisors as indicated by check-off boxes or as follows:

No Reviews From: Curator, Archeologist, Historical Architect, Historian, 106 Advisor, Other Advisor, Anthropologist, Historical Landscape Architect

C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Assessment of Effect:

☐ No Potential to Cause Effects

☐ No Historic Properties Affected

☒ No Adverse Effect
☐ Adverse Effect

2. Documentation Method:

☒ A. Standard 36 CFR Part 800 Consultation

Further consultation under 36 CFR Part 800 is needed.

☐ B. Streamlined Review Under the 2008 Servicewide Programmatic Agreement (PA)

The above action meets all conditions for a streamlined review under section III of the 2008 Servicewide PA for Section 106 compliance.

Applicable Streamlined Review Criteria

(Specify 1-16 of the list of streamlined review criteria.)

☐ C. Undertaking Related to Park Specific or Another Agreement

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under another document such as a park, region or statewide agreement established in accord with 36 CFR 800.7 or 36 CFR 800.14.

☐ D. Combined NEPA/NHPA Process

Process and documentation required for the preparation of an EA/FONSI or an EIS/ROD to comply with Section 106 is in accord with 36 CFR 800.8.c.

☐ E. Memo to Project File

3. Consultation Information

SHPO Required: Yes

SHPO Sent: Aug 10, 2018

SHPO Received: Sep 10, 2018

THPO Required: Yes

THPO Sent: May 3, 2019

THPO Received:

SHPO/THPO Notes: All five THPO compliance officers were called by telephone to discuss the consultation info. See the attached 6/7/19 Memo to File document for details.

Advisory Council Participating: No

Advisory Council Notes:

Additional Consulting Parties: No

4. Stipulations and Conditions: Following are listed any stipulations or conditions necessary to ensure that the assessment of effect above is consistent with 36 CFR Part 800 criteria of effect or to avoid or reduce potential adverse effects.

From the SHPO: 1) Above-Ground Resources: No historic properties are present or affected by the project as proposed. However, if historic properties are discovered or unanticipated effects on historic properties are found, work should cease in the immediate area; work can continue where no historic properties are present. Please contact the THC's History Programs Division at 512-463-5853 to consult on further actions that may be necessary to protect historic properties. 2) Archeology Comments: No historic properties present or affected. However, if buried cultural materials are encountered during construction or disturbance activities, work should cease in the immediate area; work can

continue where no cultural materials are present. Please contact the THC's Archeology Division at 512-463-6096 to consult on further actions that may be necessary to protect the cultural remains.

5. Mitigations/Treatment Measures: Measures to prevent or minimize loss or impairment of historic/prehistoric properties: (Remember that setting, location, and use may be relevant.)

No Assessment of Effect mitigations identified.

6. Assessment of Effect Notes:

Not only were no NHPA resources found in any of the project areas or APEs, these projects - - esp. the bollard-and-cable fencing projects - - will have the net effect of minimizing or preventing impacts by off-road vehicles to the four recorded archeological sites.

D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

Compliance Specialist:

NHPA Specialist

Shelley Todd

Shelley TB Todd

Date: 7 June 2019

E. SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL

The proposed work conforms to the NPS *Management Policies* and *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*, and I have reviewed and approve the recommendations, stipulations, or conditions noted in Section C of this form.

Signature

Superintendent:

Mark E. Spier

Date: 6/7/2019