



IDAHO STATE
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TO: Idaho Transportation Department, Contractors and Consultants

FROM: Ken Reid, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE: 27 January 2017

RE: Linear Agricultural Irrigation Resources

In June 2007, the Idaho SHPO initiated a policy relative to agricultural irrigation resources eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. At that time, it was determined that in reviewing irrigation systems in Idaho, SHPO will not consider those elements below main canals and named primary laterals, and equivalent drains, to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Recordation beyond that level is not required. The intent of this memo is to provide further clarification in the identification, recordation and evaluation of linear irrigation resources relative to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The question of how we evaluate linear resources arises repeatedly. Unless/until a linear agricultural irrigation resource has been fully recorded and evaluated, SHPO assumes that the resource, as a whole, is eligible for listing in the National Register. Consistent with guidance provided by the National Park Service, the Idaho SHPO views eligible linear agricultural irrigation resources as historic districts, made up of contributing and noncontributing features and/or segments. This, then, relates directly to how we assess effects.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5(a)(1), an adverse effect is found when an undertaking may alter, directly or indirectly, any of the characteristics of a historic property that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register in a manner that would diminish the integrity of the property's location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association. Therefore, any undertaking that renders a contributing segment or feature of an eligible linear agricultural irrigation resource noncontributing would constitute an adverse effect. Examples of diminished integrity that may lead to a feature or segment being rendered noncontributing include relocation

or realignment, a change in design, materials or workmanship. Generally, contributing segments of an eligible linear agricultural irrigation

resource possess many of the seven aspects of integrity. They exist in their original location, have not been piped or experienced a material change as in the case of earthen resources, and largely continue to reflect their original character. Not all effects to eligible resources are considered adverse. However, while Section 106 does not distinguish between major and minor adverse effects, SHPO recognizes that mitigation for an adverse effect should be compensatory to the impact.

Not all situations or undertakings are alike, thus early consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office is important. Please call 208.488.7468 with questions.